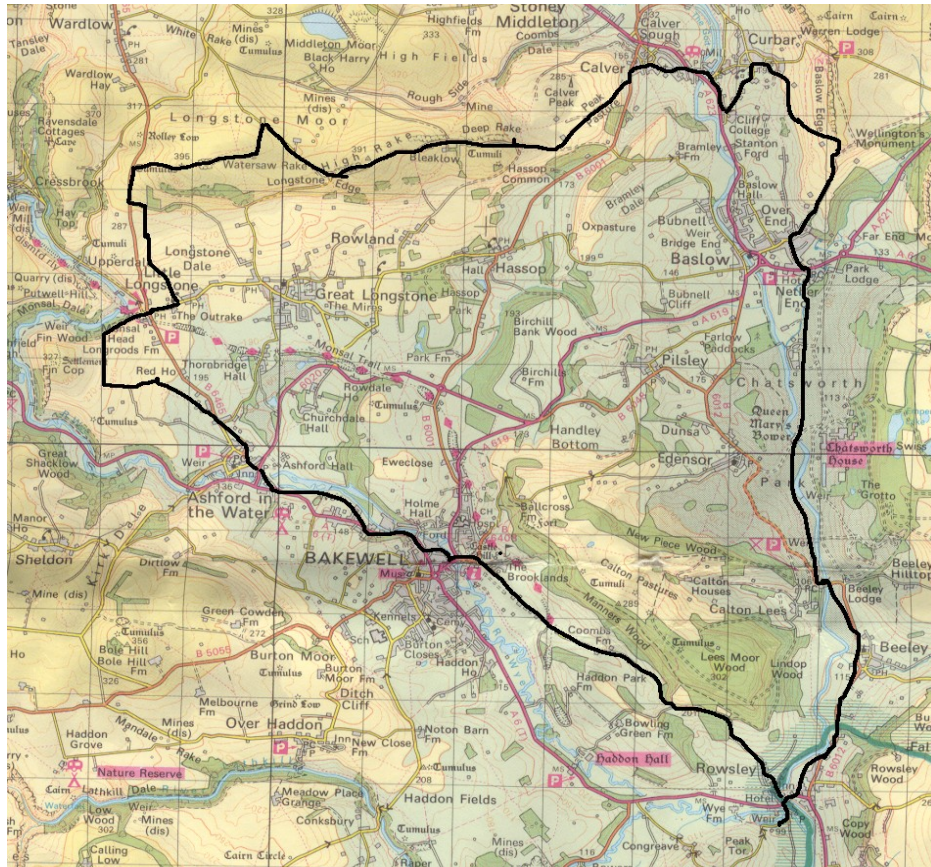


WALK 19.
ROWSLEY 19.
21 miles. 6 hours.
Map White Peak.



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Start at the football field and recreation ground at the back of the old mill at (256657). It is a grade 2 listed roller flourmill; it was built in 1874 by John Cauldwell. A mill has stood on this site for 400 years. Walk N over the River Wye Bridge, past the school on the right and on to the A6 and the Peacock Inn. It was built in 1652; it has symmetrical gables and mullioned and transomed windows. Over the embattled porch stands a magnificent peacock in stone. Inside the hotel, there is another peacock: a ceramic bird made by Minton in 1850. It suffered a shipwreck off the coast of Australia in 1878 when the Loch Ard went down, but was recovered and ended up here. Turn right and go over the River Derwent Bridge. It was built in C.15, was repaired in 1682, and widened in 1925 from 16 to 40 feet. It has kept its five pointed arches in the old masonry on one side but have five rounded on the other. Facing you is the old railway station built by Paxton, now incorporated in to the retail park, but was never used, as the Duke of Devonshire would not let the railway pass through Chatsworth Park, so it had to go behind Haddon Hall. Then on to the Grouse and Claret, go past the front then angle through a small field then go across the car park of the Retail Park and out of the other side into a narrow track with fence on the right. Go into some allotments (although at this time not many are cultivated) through these and approach the River Derwent on the right, go uphill on a path to reach a road at (262665).

Turn left and walk N along the road to Beeley. This tiny village contains interesting houses. One of them is an early C.17 hall of two and a half storeys, its first floor windows being

mullioned and transomed, but the rest are mullioned only. It retains, inside, some contemporary panelling and staircase. Some of the houses are the work of Paxton (again) in 1838-41. The over-restored church of St Anne has a C.14 tower with pinnacles and battlements from the C.15. Beeley Bridge was built in 1761 to replace the Mill Bridge; the mill was dismantled and rebuilt at Chatsworth. The village is well worth a walk around: very pretty with its houses and small stream. Opposite the church, at (264676) there is a wooden gate on the left which gives you access to a field. Go NNW across the field on a farm track to a bridge over the Derwent, through a gate on its right. Go over the narrow hump back bridge of 1761 that was never designed to take a large amount of traffic, and immediately go right through a gate in to Chatsworth Park.

Walk N with the river on one's right, past the old corn mill on the left (was this the one from Beeley?), through the pleasant park designed by Paxton (he must have had a army of workers) on to Paine's Bridge 1760 at (257701). It is difficult to refer briefly to the glories of Chatsworth and the beauties of its grounds. Sir William Cavendish and his wife, the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick, began the Elizabethan House in 1552; only the Hunting Tower and Queen Mary's Bower remain from this period. The first Duke employed Talman to rebuild Chatsworth (1687-1707); the sixth Duke trusted his additions to Sir Jeffrey Wyatville (1820-1842). Today it is rich in furniture, pictures and all other precious objects accumulated by its owners; but death duties have already caused the sale of some of these. The grounds were laid out by Paxton for the sixth Duke. The great conservatory, the model for Crystal Palace, has now gone; but the Emperor Fountain is still there. We come across Paxton's name again, because the Duke wanted to move all his tenants away from sight of Chatsworth, so he built a new village at Edensor, and moved all but one who refused to go; his walled house is at the side of the path from Chatsworth to Edensor. President Kennedy's sister is buried in Edensor Churchyard; he visited and prayed at the grave during his Presidential visit.

You come to Paine's bridge over the Derwent 1760 at 257701. Cross over; turn left and go through a gate; walk N along a good track, passing Queen Mary's Bower where the ill-fated Queen of the Scots is supposed to have spent much of her time when she was a prisoner on the five occasions at Chatsworth between 1570 and 1581. Continue N to a tall metal gate that leads out of the Ducal park (258718) and along a lane that leads you past a thatched cottage, then left over a stone arched bridge into Baslow. Cross over the walled grass area, then cross the road and go uphill NW then NNW through houses. Bear right at the top to go NE first on tarmac road then a rough track uphill for 400 yards until a farm gate is reached on the left (258729). On the right of this is a slot stile that leads into a field where there is a farm track that leads gently uphill. Note, on the right, an example of a chipped out, gritstone water trough. In about 300 yards, you come to a gate with a wooden stile on the right, and so on past an interesting Water Board gate on the left with two magnificent gritstone gateposts. The view W across the valley is extensive. The track enters a narrow area, wall on either side, and a wall in front with a good ladder stile to give entrance to another narrow area; Baslow Edge stands above on the right, the area around littered with huge rocks. Soon, you come to a farm gate with a little wooden gate on its left. A sign proclaims that this is the boundary of open country.

Turn left and go downhill, wall on left, until you come to a level track. Turn right on this and walk N, passing on the right a Water Board building, and, on the left, a field containing many large erratic gritstones. The path passes a pathetic reminder of bygone suffering: a plain, small stone says that these are the graves of the Cundey family, victims in 1632, of the plague that was to devastate Eyam and London 34 years later (256743). Cut down left to a wall where in 30 yards, there is a gritstone slot stile leading into a field, going WNW downhill, a striking residence away to the right. Make for the right corner; on the right, you will see an interesting small building whose roof is neatly built on square walls. This was a place of confinement for prisoners waiting to be transferred elsewhere. Nearby is a farm gate with a slot stile on its left; go through this, and in 40 yards go left down a lane for 150 yards to a house on the left. Opposite this, on the right is a gritstone slot and step stile in a wall. Take this and walk NNW, wall on left,

to houses ahead through which you pass on a narrow jitty with a strong beech hedge on the right, and so on to a good step stile in a wall then out on to a road at (252746).

Turn left: go downhill and turn left again at crossroads, then walk downhill through the buildings of the well known Methodist Cliff College, and so down to the A.6 at (248738); turn right and walk along the road. Go past the front of the public house and over the footbridge at the side of the old road bridge; a predecessor of this is mentioned in the late C.15. It was washed away in the great flood of August 1799. Nearby is Calver Mill, originally a cotton mill built in 1785-6 on a site well served with water, the spun yarn then being transported on two turnpikes to Leicester and Manchester, but rebuilt by Arkwright in 1803-4. Inside, it has cast iron pillars. It was used for some scenes of the Colditz Story.

Go 200 yards along a road, then turn left down in to the village of Calver. Pass the Methodist Chapel 1860. Turn left at the well or fountain commemorating the Silver Jubilee in 1977, then walk SW uphill, passing a little further up, a curved arch over, presumably, a well. It contains three chipped-out gritstone water troughs. At the top, cross the road B.6001 at 238745 to a stile in a low wall, then walk SW uphill, away from the wall on the right, and getting on to a farm track. In 400 yards, the track comes up to a wall on one's right. Walk SW with the wall on the right, a TV mast away to the right. A fence appears on the left, and soon you come up to a gate with a wooden step stile on its right. Continue up the lane: the wall soon swings away to the right; the fence is still on your left, but eventually the wall returns to join the fence at a gate with a wooden step stile on its right. Walk, now, through field close to the wall on the right, level going. Again the wall curves away to the right, and at this point there is a large, corrugated iron structure to the right. In 200 yards, you come to an open gateway with a poor stile on its left, then continue with fence on right over what appears to be disturbed ground, the result of mining. The path becomes a good stone track, fence on right, climbing gently to level ground where a path comes up from Calver via Coombs Dale: turn left, S, and walk 150 yards to a good track, which goes from E to W at the side of Deep Rake at (226736).

Continue on the good track, climbing a little, good views S. On the right, Deep Rake, once deep and menacing, now filled in; on the left a thin band of trees, planted maybe, to keep cattle out of ground which has been worked for lead. This was done frequently by farmers (who were also lead miners). At 218736, a drive goes off left up to Bleaklow Farm, however continue WSW on stone road at the side of High Rake, which still goes uphill. At the time of writing it is being churned up by frequent large lorries. The trees on the left peter out; marvellous views over Great Longstone as the road now descends to a point where there was a small mine on the left at 205732. From here continue W to a cattle grid and a stile that leads out to a road. Turn right and walk along this road NW. It eventually goes up to Foolow. In 450 yards, a drive goes off to the right to Longstone Moor Farm; continue for another 450 yards to a cattle grid with a step stile on its right (197738); turn sharp left at this point through a farm gate (no stile) to walk S along a track for 250 yards passing some sheds on one's left. Turn right and walk WSW on a poor track for 600 yards, then go W along side a low wall, and then near a fence on the right, which brings us up to a tumulus, a good marker for this walk (189733). There are remarkable views over Monsal Dale.

Continue W down to a road at (183732) then turn left and walk 320 yards on a road S to a lane that goes off E to one's left. Go along this for 100 yards, then go right through a wooden slot stile at a sign and walk S towards Little Longstone. In the first field, make for the far left corner where there is a good slot stile. In 30 yards, there is a good stile of stone steps. In 50 yards, there are some iron bars in the left corner making a kind of stile. Go 200 yards downhill, and near the right corner is a step stile in the wall and another one like it in 20 yards. Go diagonally to the left corner where there is a slot stile leading into a small area and another in 10 yards leading out of it to a field where you make for the houses you can see in the distance. Avoiding the desire to go through a gateway, go to its right where there is a poor step stile in the wall. However there is a much better step stile in the wall on your right in 150 yards. Beyond this is a short walk down to a gate leading to a farm area and so down to the road in Little Longstone

at 190717. This tiny hamlet has the remains of old stocks. The hall or manor house was built in C.17. The date 1575 on another house goes well with its small mullioned windows. The Monsal Dale viaduct was built in 1860's; its handsome stone arches spanning the dale. Of it Ruskin said: "you might have seen the gods there morning and evening...but the valley is gone and the gods with it, and now every fool in Buxton can be in Bakewell in half an hour, and every fool in Bakewell at Buxton."

Turn right and walk WSW to Monsal Head. Cross over the front of the Hotel to a facing wall with two stiles in it; take the one on the left that takes you on to the high level path walking SW, marvellous views and opportunities for photography. In 600 yards turn left at 180712 through a good ladder stile on left of a gate, and into a lane. Continue S on this for 500 yards to 179706, negotiating some farm gates and stile en route; then bear left through another slot and step stile. Walk downhill for 300 yards E, then go right into Pennyunk Lane which you follow for 1000 yards first S then E to a stile on the right which takes you through three fields first SSE then SE to

Ashford

at

(194698).

From ancient times, there was an important crossing here of the River Wye. The portway was a major highway, (part of it now is the road to Wardlow). It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that there was once a castle north of the church, its presence proved by the many names containing "castle". There are three bridges, one of them the C.17 sheep wash and its fold still able to live up to its name which is "a print on many a calendar"; in fact, because of its layout and convenience, it attracted sheep farmers from as far away as Flagg and Monyash; one can imagine the confusion and mixing of flocks. The other old bridge is dated 1664. It is now accepted that in the late C.16 as many as 300 packhorses laden with malt from Derby passed this way each week; and there can be no doubt that the traffic did not diminish because in 1776 it was stated that "Ashford Bridge is so extremely narrow that it is dangerous for carriages to pass over the same and that the Battlements are very frequently knocked off by Carriages." Dr Thomas Brushworth of Ashford wrote that he had seen as many as eighteen coaches pass through the village in a single day.

Ashford was the centre of the Black Marble industry, which used local material from Sheldon Quarry, opened up in 1748 by Henry Watson. His works were still in use in 1905, but now they lie under the A.6. Henry Watson made ornaments of black marble, beautiful objects that graced many a home, palace and tomb. Henry's father, Samuel, was responsible for the splendid carving at Chatsworth.

Holy Trinity Church was almost completely rebuilt in 1868-70, but the tympanum over the S door is Norman, and the tower is C.13 in its lower part.

The corn mill is believed to be of ancient origin. It belonged to the Dukes of Devonshire until the 1950s. It had two wheels powered by water from leats either side of the building. Only ruins of the former mill remain at 190694.

Walk through Ashford to the old bridge; go over this to the A.6. Walk along the A.6 SE for 20 yards or so then go left through a gate into the fields that lie alongside the river then walk E then SE, taking in three poor wooden step stiles, then enter a jitty between houses. Cross the road: go through another jitty, then into a field and up to the A.6 at a slot stile to the left of a gate (209691). Turn left and walk downhill into Bakewell. In 350 yards, go left over the river passing a factory on the left. This was established by Arkwright in 1777. Pass houses on the left with large gardens to Holme Bridge an old packhorse bridge built in 1664. It has five segmental arches, two smaller arches, cutwaters and recesses. Opposite the bridge is Holme Hall built in 1626. It has embattled bays. Proceed along the road for 150 yards ENE, then go right into fields alongside the river and walk to Bakewell's famous bridge built in C.1300. It has five, ribbed, pointed arches and breakwaters. There is the base of a cross on the S parapet.

This fine market town defies brief description: it is rich in history from many periods: Ball Cross is a small iron age fort; Castle Hill earthworks date back to 923; the bridge is C.1300. There are so many fine buildings that have been preserved that Bakewell requires a great deal of time for their examination; a museum with many artefacts of the area found by Thomas

Bateman ; but, above all is All Saints Church, the chief glory of this remarkable town. Bakewell is no place to include in a long walk: it requires a day to itself, and what a rewarding day that can be. Its most popular feature is the Bakewell Tart made by a servant in mistake; while making a pudding, she made the base as the top and the top the bottom, but people enjoyed it so much that it became famous,

Cross the road on the N side of the bridge, and go SE along Coombs Road, houses on the left, and a monstrosity of a building on the R that looks as if it came out of the Arabian Nights: it is the The Cattle Market: I have never seen such a beautiful town more spoilt by such a building. Proceed up the road to a railway bridge at 230679, go under this and continue up past Coombes Farm and so up to a point at 244700 where footpaths cross. Do not go right nor L but straight on E continuing on a prominent track through woods which angles right to go down a lane with views of Rowsley and tree-lined Peak Hill in the distance. The track becomes a road, which takes you past St Katherine Church; it is a rebuilding of 1855. It contains the tomb chest of Lady Catherine Manners the first wife of the 7th Duke of Rutland who died in 1859, and so back to Rowsley and the start.

Checked 31 January 2003.