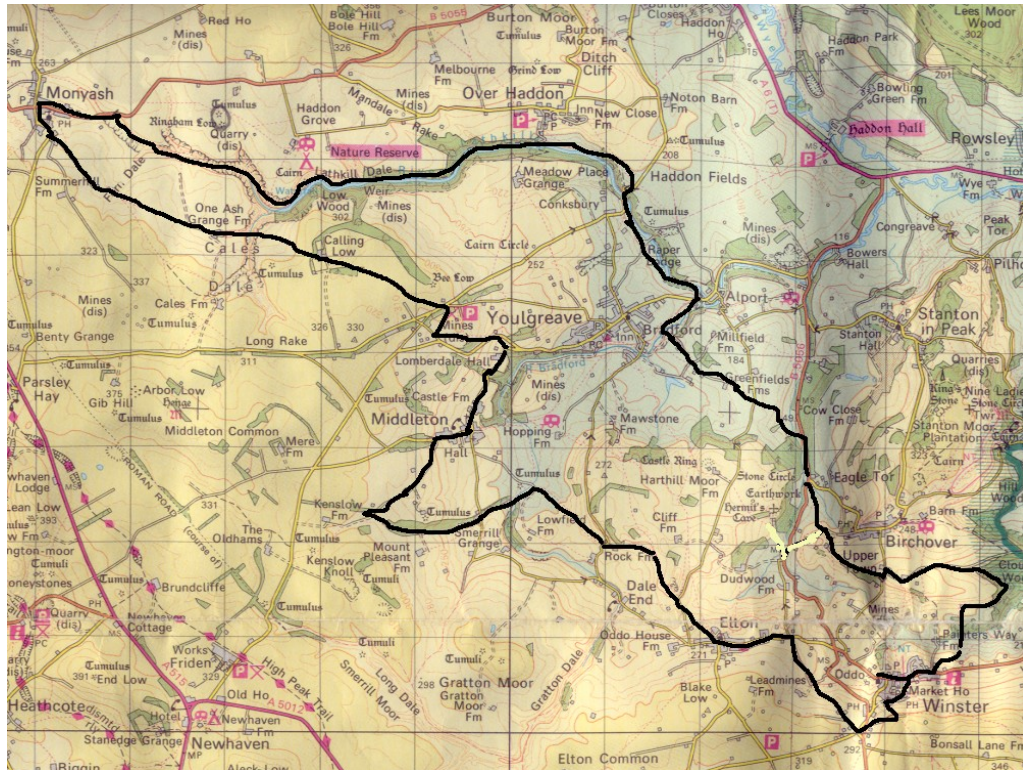


WALK. 28.
WINSTER.28.
MAP. WHITE PEAK.
21.8 Miles. 6 Hours 10 Minutes.



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Start at Winster (240605) against the church on the Elton Road. Walk E through the village to the old Market Hall. This was constructed in the 16.C. The village has the feel of an old lead- mining centre with its rows of lead miners' cottages clinging to the hillside on the N side of the village. Just before the Market Hall turn R to go steeply N uphill on the road to where it levels out at a cottage on the L called Pinfold Cottage (240603). Go up a path at the side of the cottage then walk uphill through a field, passing close to Wyn's Tor on the left; an outcrop of stone, (there are several in the area), and make for a stile in the corner. Enter a lane, turn R to walk WSW down to a road at 238601. Turn R and walk a few yards to a road junction, then turn L and walk SW along the road for 100 yards, then turn R to walk along a lane, Grey Tor on the R. In 600 yards, go over a junction of tracks, then go straight on uphill, passing an old farm building of limestone whose door and window dressings are of good solid gritstone. Continue down to a road at 229610 then turn L and walk through Elton.

Elton was a lead-mining centre in the 18th and 19th centuries; its church was rebuilt in 1812 to replace an earlier building, which had collapsed in 1805 due to mining subsidence. Opposite the church, there is a splendid café with its fine tin plate old advertisement boards and good country cooking.

Turn R just past the church and walk down Well Lane for 80 yards to a sign on the L indicating footpath to Youlgreave. Angle to the L in the first field NNW to go through a broken wall to the left corner of the second field, and out on to the road at 218613.

There are good views all around, with Gratton Moor to the W and Anthony Hill in front. Walk uphill to the N on the road for 150 yards until the road turns sharply to the right;

leave the road at this point to go straight on. Walk NW along a lane dating from the days of the horse and cart, pass a pile of stones from quarry workings to come to a stile in a gritstone wall and so into a rough field. Walk through gorse; do not drop down at all; the path is pleasantly grassy; it leads to a wooden slot stile. Enter the next field to walk slightly to the L going NW. Ahead is a knoll with trees clustered around its head. The next stile is a gritstone slot in a poor wall. In the next field keep NW and pass through a gap in the wall, no stile; make for a bar stile and enter a rough area overgrown with gorse, level going. The next stile is a wooden step and bar, then go to a gate into a lane with the knoll on the R and Rock Farm on the L; it is a simple building, but has kneelers on the gables and strong mullions on its windows: a famous writer and broadcaster lives here.

Leave the farm drive through a slot on the R of a gate, walking W out on to a road that goes R to Youlgreave, but go left to walk downhill for 50 yards then go R at 209619, walking NW along a narrow lane, overgrown, a wall on the L and Gratton Farm down to the L. go through a slot on the L of a farm gate and enter a boggy field; electric cables overhead; Black Nursery Plantation up to the right. Continue to walk NW through the field where reeds grow in abundance, to head for a slot in a fence. Continue through rough grassland to another wire fence and another bar stile. Pass a few trees growing in a heap of large gritstones on the L, and go down an old lane (or sunken hedge) on the L; the electric cables on the right, Beech Wood close to the R. Eventually you come to another wooden slot stile, keep going downhill, (sunken hedge on the L), to a metal gate with stile on its L. Enter a farm drive from Lowfields Farm at 202626 then turn R. in a few yards to a stile in the limestone wall on the R and one on the L: take the L one. Walk SW on good short grass, level walking close to the stream on the L to enter a minute dale on the right where trees grow and miniature limestone outcrops give the appearance of a much larger dale. Note to the L, how more limestone outcrops indicate the direction of Rowland Brook, which runs in a delightful little dale of its own. This is another of those small areas which one comes across where the scenery has a charm of its own in a style peculiar to Derbyshire. Cross the small dale to a slot stile, and walk uphill through fields. On the R, as height is gained, the trees grow more thickly in the tiny dale. Eventually a limestone wall is reached where, to the L of old metal gates, there is a good step stile. Drop down the bank to a road that is entered by a broken stile (197623). 400 yards to the S lies Smerrill Grange, probably a monastic foundation.

Cross the road to a bar stile to the R of a gate, and walk uphill SW through a field to a gap in a wall, then keep going in the same direction. To the R, there is a wall with Kenslow Wood to the right of that. The farm drive from Mount Pleasant Farm is reached; how appropriate is this name (from Pilgrim's Progress) for this farm. Bear right to a gate standing directly under a limestone outcrop, and go NW along a farm drive. On the R, the land falls away sharply into the trees of Kenslow Wood, a pleasant dale. On the L, limestone outcrops jut out. In 600 yards from the gate, the drive opens to another drive at 185623. Go to the R to a metal gate and enter Whitfield Lane, walking NE to Middleton, meeting the road at 192631. Turn R and walk down into this interesting village. It seems remarkable how most of the cottages built in limestone have gritstone dressings and quoins. Interesting, also, are the dripstone hood moulds over the doors and windows, all of which indicate, probably, the taste of the original owner. Pass three trees enclosed within a circular wall; note several fountains. The date 1822 is carved on the wall of a house, and 1876 on a well. Bear to the L on the road and notice the immense gritstone dressings around doors. What an elegant building is the old chapel of 1826 (congregational). Bateman's tomb is close by on the left, shaded by two yews and surmounted by a stone model of a Bronze Age cinerary urn. He made his name by digging old tumuli and burial places; some of his findings are in a museum in Bakewell.

Walk N out of the village and note how the limestone walls have gritstone gateposts; the gritstone is less friable and so can be carved in to larger pieces. Pass Castle Farm which looks rugged and strong; it was probably a fortified house long ago. The land climbs to a ridge on the L; below on the right lies Middleton Dale, and ahead there are glimpses of Bradford Dale. The road makes a pronounced zigzag where a stream makes its way down to the dale below, and soon comes up the high wall of Lomberdale Hall; this was the home of

Thomas Bateman, the C.19 excavator of burial places whose tomb was passed earlier. Bateman built Lomberdale Hall in 1844 to display his collections, his money coming from the Manchester trade. However, his son sold the estate in 1893 to the Melland family who sold it to the Waterhouse family. They still live there.

Where the estate trees end and a field begins, there is a slot stile on the L side of the road at the side of a white gate. Leave the road at this point (199640) and walk uphill through a field to a road above, over a step stile, turn L and walk W for 100 yards, then go R off the road over steps in a wall, (there is a sign), then walk W fairly steeply uphill to a wall, and a wide gap; then up a bank, continuing W, trees to the L. Bear R and walk NNW past old limestone walls embedded in the ground to a gate with steps on the R, then along a good path with wall on R, passing an official picnic area. Reach a road at 194645, turn L and walk W. In 150 yards, a road junction is reached. Cross the road to a far wall in which there is a stile: enter the field.

Continue to walk W diagonally to the far corner where there is a large gap, no gate, no stile. The next field is larger, level going, short grass, comfortable walking NW with wall close to the R. Leave this field by another gap WNW and enter the next; this time there is a stile in the far wall. Cut the corner of the next field and go 20 yards to stone steps in the wall on the R and walk WNW to a sign that can be seen in the distance. At the sign, bear a little to the L so as to make for the R edge of Low Moor Plantation. Enter the N end of the woods and make for a wall on the R where there is a sign and a wooden step. Continue to Calling Low Farm and pass around the farm through gate into trees and so into a field. The long farmhouse has good gritstone dressings on doors and windows, and a date 1879. Go downhill WSW then WNW through fields, striking views of the impressive limestone bastions of Lathkill Dale to the N, and Cales Dale ahead. The way goes through gaps in walls, and down to a wall with good stone steps; there is a sign here stating the area is a National Nature Reserve. Go with care very steeply down the bank into Cales Dale, a narrow deep gash in the hillside marked by limestone outcrops: another striking miniature characteristic of Derbyshire where great beauty is packed into a small area.

Climb the opposite bank and go through a gap between limestone outcrops to a stile where on the L, there is a large limestone upright. Carry on W to One Ash Grange; the name suggests that it was a monastic property run by lay brothers. Local legend states that this farm was once a place of confinement for unruly monks. Later the Bowman family who were Quakers owned it; the whole area was something of a Quaker Centre including Monyash. Climb some awkward steps, an unusual feature in this area, a hay barn on the R, and pass another feature where a hollow has a carefully made arch and jambs. Is this evidence of older work? Continue past old stone-built pigsties in good condition but no longer used, then go out to the top of a lane; bear R through a gate. From this point, continue W to go over a wooden stile, hedge on left, through a field. Proceed to the wall ahead but take the stile in the wall on the left, to walk in the same direction with the wall on the R, the land rising gently all around, and a pleasing view of Summerhill Farm ahead surrounded by protective trees. Come up to a wall in front and cross it by good steps, then come down to the corner where stands a sign. Go through a slot stile and enter a rough area containing mounds and depressions from former lead workings; cut the R corner and make for the wall to the R and good stone steps. Good views to the N over Fern Dale down to Lathkill Dale, the land rising beyond that. Go 40 yards, wall on L, to a corner where there are very good stone steps to the L of a farm gate, and enter a lane, wall either side, and walk NW to Monyash at 150662.

Bear R on a road at 151663 just before the village centre. No one would call Monyash beautiful but it is another of those pleasing Derbyshire villages of character. It was named in the Domesday Book as Menies, which is thought to mean many ash trees. Its main preoccupation is now farming and tourism, but it was an important lead-mining centre from mediaeval times to the end of the 19.C. and had its own Barmote Court. The village cross dates from 1340, when Monyash was granted a licence for a weekly market and two annual fairs. Note on the R, a house with gritstone dressings and quoins and the figures carved: JC 71. Go down Church Lane past cottages which have gritstone lintels and quoins. Such

buildings will last for centuries. Pass through the churchyard: the church repays a careful study; then come out on to the road. Turn R and walk E on the Bakewell Road down to a sign at 157665, then take stone steps in a wall on the R and enter Lathkill Dale. Take a glance back to the L up Bagshaw Dale before walking SE on pleasant, soft, smooth turf, a line of neat, limestone outcrops marking the way on the R; reach a gate with good steps in a wall on its L then continue on this pleasant section of the dale down to junction of paths where a route goes off S towards One Ash Grange. But carry on down the dale; it gets narrower; there are outcrops on each side; the path underfoot is more stony; a scree lies to the L. At a slot stile, there is another of the many signs indicating a National Nature Reserve. From a cave on the R, known as Lathkill House Cave, water only issues in wet weather, mainly due to the water table being lowered with the many soughs in the area; it is now uncertain underfoot, and the view ahead shows more screes creeping down the hillside. High up on the L, stands a noble limestone cliff at the junction of Ricklow Dale with Lathkill Dale. From Ricklow Quarry, here, was obtained a crinoidal limestone that was polished and sold as "Derbyshire Figured Marble".

It is difficult to imagine today that this charming dale was once the scene of great industrial activity as men worked to extract lead from the relatively rich seams. For the more expert observer, the lead-mining was interesting because of the unusual layout of the watercourses and aqueducts, which were constructed to provide power for the water wheels which drove the pumps. Water was the eternal enemy of the lead miner. The River Lathkill itself drove at least three of the water wheels, one of which was 52 feet in diameter, an enormous wheel. Steam power was later brought into use. Today, little is left to see of the mines; what there is, has been mercifully covered by the healing processes of nature.

Continue down to a wooden stile; note high up on the L, a rugged limestone outcrop that resembles a medieval castle tower. On the R, an adit known as Holmes Groove marks the spot where a group of lead miners named Holmes from Monyash worked over a 100 years ago. From this point onwards, the dale was extensively worked; one can imagine how busy it was then. Nothing now remains of the mining now.

At this point small issues contribute to the infant stream. A footbridge crosses the stream at the confluence with Cales Dale; to the L, steps go straight up the steep hillside to Haddon Grove. Ahead, the view is blocked by the spurs creating interesting views especially where in the wall ahead there is an enormous limestone cliff. At the base of the scree in this area are the remains of Smallpenny Vein Sough; a drainage channel which dates back to 1814. Pass a stile in a wall; the path is now a little more even, and the river grows all the time; just here it flows over a small waterfall made of calcareous tufa. A little further on, there is a grit millstone on the L and a pillar standing isolated; it has a benchmark on it. A route goes off up a small dale to the L. In a few yards enter Palmerstone Woods through a slot stile and walk on a well-worn smooth path. This walk soon leads to an open area where isolated stone pillars indicate that they once formed part of an aqueduct, which conveyed water in a wooden trough to Mandale Wheel, which was installed in 1840 to pump water out of Mandale Mine. The Mandale Mine Company commenced work in 1797 and had to continue for 23 years before they struck a rich vein of lead. They were not the first, however, to work the mine for it is confidently believed that miners worked here in C.13. Despite the installation of the water wheel, water was still blocking progress, so, in 1847, a steam engine was installed. Remains of the engine house, still impressive, may be seen on the L a little further down the dale. Little remains of it now, but the agent's house, in a ruinous state, may still be seen at 194658. This is generally referred to as Bateman's House after James Bateman who was agent to the Lathkill Dale Mining Company from 1836 until the mine closed in 1842. (Was he related to Thomas Bateman of Lomberdale Hall?)

A slot stile on the L of a gate leads on to a road that goes up to Over Haddon. On the R, a clapper bridge crosses the river. But carry on alongside the river passing Lathkill Lodge on the L, where, once there was a shaft in the garden. Its site is now marked by a hand pump, which may still be clearly seen, still in working condition to provide water when needed by the gardener. Pleasant walking, now on level ground, though the view shows the river

trickling its weary way through grass and reeds. The path climbs up a bank on the L: the river now looks full mainly because of weirs built to dam the water. This is the area of Lathkill Dale Sough; another mine drainage channel. Continue down the L side of the river to a road; turn right and cross Conksbury mediaeval bridge, which has high, walls and low arches. Climb the hill for 100 yards to a slot stile on the L, to follow the river down to Alport, an easy and pleasant walk on green sward, through good stiles, passing over a lane with Raper Lodge on the right, an interesting house which featured in a film. To the left is an old Packhorse Bridge.

At Alport, go through a slot stile on to a road at 221646. Cross the road and go down a drive to a white gate, slot on the R. Just here the Lathkill and Bradford join forces before they shortly join the Wye. Walk SW on a good wide track, passing a limestone outcrop on the L where climbers may sometimes be seen. A little further on, Rhenstor Plantation is on the left. Just past this, go L through a slot in a walled up gateway to go out on to a minor road, walking SSE. Cross another minor road, which leads to Hollow Farm. Continue SE past Lower Greenfields Farm into a field. Go to the far R corner to a wooden gate, walk now through the middle of a large field and come up to a gritstone slot at the side of a wooden gate and so out on to a road at 225635.

Cross the road to a slot at the L of a gate and enter a large field, walking in the same direction to Stoney Ley Wood ahead. The path dips over the far edge of this field where the walking is pleasant and comes to a footbridge with a strong wall either side under which flows Ivy Bar Brook. Walk uphill to a gate, slot on R to gain a road at 230633. Turn R and walk along the road for 600 yards to a road junction, then bear L on the road to Birchover. In 150 yards, go R along a lane for 40 yards to a broken wall on the L, go over this and walk up a bank to get into a field to walk SSE uphill towards the wooden knoll high up in front. Somewhat to the L stand Rowter Rocks. As the climb goes uphill, the view of Cratcliffe Rocks and Robin Hood's Stride is impressive. Continue uphill through a large gap in the wall ahead and make for a gate in the top R hand corner, no stile, to emerge on a worn path to Birchover. Bear L then R along this path and ascend to a gate and slot stile on its right to go around the right side of Birchover. Pass a ruined building on the R, then keep to the path as it goes around to the L; keep close to the wall on the L as it climbs up to a gritstone slot in a wall, then continue uphill, wall on R and a wooded knoll close on the L, walking ESE: views to Winster on the R. Pass a ruined building on the L and a gritstone outcrop a little further on; then pass Rocking Stone Farm on the L. Continue along a good path going ESE on the edge of a ridge covered with the trees of Birchover Wood, and go through a slot on the L of a farm gate; before the trees block the view note the tower of Elton Church and Anthony Hill on the R. The path enters a field, then goes through three more fields in the same direction to lead into a lane flanked by gritstone farm buildings, and so out on to a road at 230617 where a sign tells where the path has come from at 230617.

This small Hamlet is Upper Town. Bear L and in 20 yards, go R, but first note a pair of stocks on the L. Could a use be found for them now? Walk E along the road and note the strong gritstone dressings around the doors and windows of the fine old buildings on the L. In 400 yards, pass the point where the path from Winster crosses to Stanton Moor. Carry on E then in another 400 yards, go R into a field at a point where a former gateway is firmly blocked by strong wooden bars. Go through a marshy section to head for the woods ahead on a path below the wall on the R to a stile on the left of a barbed wire fence and so enter Clough Woods. Go downhill for 150 yards and look for a poor path on the right which circles to the right first E then curves W about half way down the hillside to do a half circle to come out on the fields called Greatclose: the best way to follow this section is by close map reading. Go into the field; there is no definite path in the fields so keep on the same height E until the second set of trees come up on the L at a distance of 400 yards. Head to the L to these trees to follow a muddy track downhill S down a tiny dale through the trees to a footbridge over a stream. Cross the poor footbridge and walk S uphill alongside the line of a former hedge. Near the top, go to the corner to go over a wooden stile where two hedges meet. Enter a small area, still walking SSW uphill, keep close to the hedge on the R to curve to the R, and go

uphill WSW through a narrow field; it has several mounds and depressions from former workings. At the top there is a stile at the side of some buildings. Walk through Winster and so back to the start.

CHECKED 18 APRIL 2004.