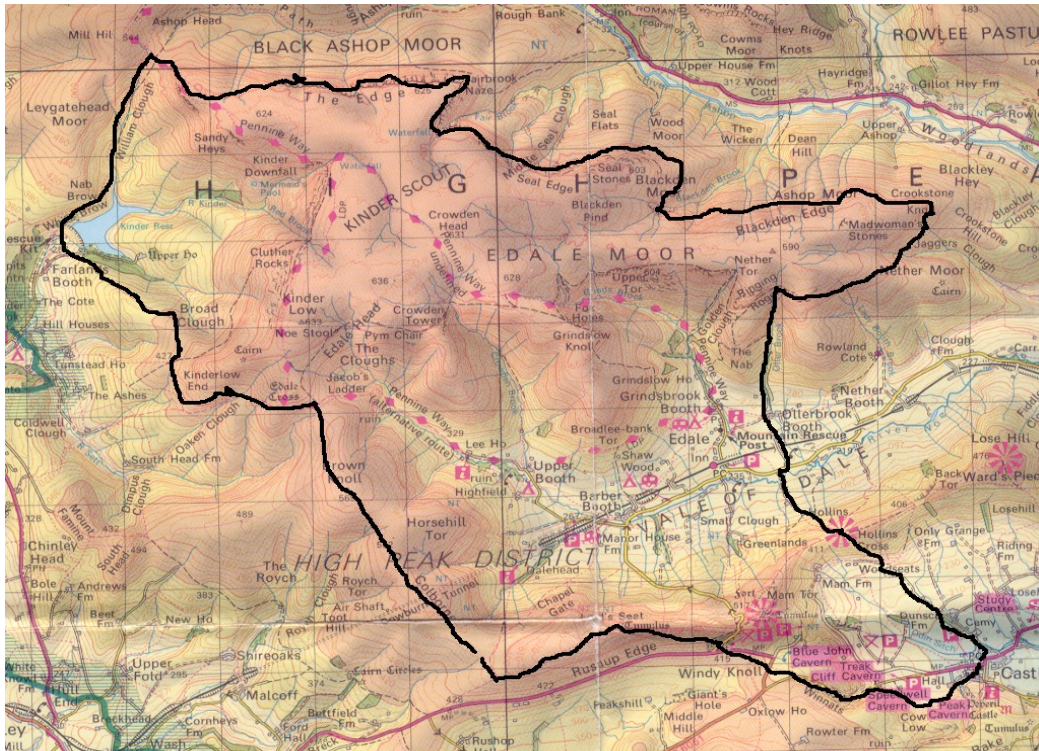


WALK.33
KINDER SCOUT.33.
25 Miles.
Map Dark Peak.



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This walk must not be attempted without knowledge of map and compass reading; it also requires a certain standard of fitness, good weather to appreciate the views.

Start in Castleton at the car park 150829. Walk W on the A.625 for 200 yards. About 30 yards past the Methodist Church, go to the R at a sign and walk through a narrow jitty between houses to a bar stile then into a field; keep the hedge on the L to arrive at a wall in front with a stile in it, the stream nearby on the R. walk NW close to the wall on R: there is a line of trees on the R. the hills rise up around. Go through another stile in a wall and continue with a fence on the R. This is marked on the map as "Odin Sitch". The word "sitch" is found elsewhere in Derbyshire; it is a Celtic word for wet place, example Dinas Sitch near the Snake Inn. Come up to a poor stile, then 5 yards to the same again; this comes out to a farm drive. Go R over a bridge, then, on the L is a sign directing to a stile on the L. Go diagonally across a field to a fence with a farm gate, a single tree and bar stile. Dunscair Farm is to the R. this leads to a narrow field, hedge on L and trees on the R, come to a farm gate with a stile on its L. Go R over a tiny stream, going between two lines of trees, then turn L to walk close to a fence to come to a stile, then 2 yards to a wooden step and bar stile and so into a field. Keep close to the fence on the L; note a dam built on the other side of the fence, come up to a stile and enter a field, rising a little alongside the line of a former hedge, now gone, Woodseats Farm is to the L. Over a bar stile then go 30 yards to a stile then 10 over a farm drive to another stile, then turn R. There are now good views back over Castleton to the ugly chimney at Bradwell.

Walk NE uphill on a narrow path to a stile, then turn L and walk NW on a wide track that climbs steeply via a step stile up to Hollins Cross (136845). Where there are good views all around, with a clear picture of the route ahead over Ringing Roger.

Descend on a good wide track N then bearing NW to the L, broken wall on the R. at a sign to the L to Barbers Booth, turn R and go down to a stile in a wall that goes to farm buildings on the R. Peter Barn is on the L as the route goes to a gate with a stile on its R; the track goes down to another gate with a stile on its R, then across a concrete bridge and so up to a stile in a wall and so out on to a road at 129853

Turn R and walk 140 yards to a farm building on the L; here, go to the L on a farm drive that crosses a railway and comes up to Ollerbrook Booth. You catch a glimpse of the front of the farm on the L, an elegant building with a pediment over the door, pilasters, and mullioned windows, to arrive at a road that goes EW. Go N straight across it, into a small farmyard, where there is a sign to open country. In 20 yards, go through a slot stile into a field where a sign directs to the R on to a farm drive. This turns N and follows a wall which skirts a line of trees through which flows the Oller Brook, pleasant walking uphill to a gate in a corner on the L is a stile. The eye in a morning catches the early morning shadows in Grinsbrook that emphasise the rock outcrops. The farm drive goes up to another farm gate on the R is a stile and so into a field. The gentle slope is disarming: the hill above and in front will eventually be more steeper. Wall, trees and stream are still on the R, the path now climbs steeper to a gate and the L is a stile, over which to enter open country as the sign indicates. Do not go R on a farm drive but go L on a good path that goes uphill SW then N in order to get around the spur of Ringing Roger, then follow the path N to get to the summit path that circles Kinder Scout; with its magnificent Edale Valley views.

Turn R on the summit path with Rowland Cote Moor on the R and Druids Stone on the L. the path curves to the NE, and the views expand to include Lose Hill. The path goes past an impressive Clough on the R down which Lady Booth Brook runs, carving out its way around the swelling spurs that bite each other; below this Rowland Cote Youth Hostel. Lady Bower Reservoir now comes in to view, and as the path goes around to the N, Jaggers Clough comes up, its name suggest that packhorse men came this way. Their little ponies could go where wagons could not; but their hoofs must have had crampons on to transverse the top section.

Just a little further on a good path leaves the summit to go down near to Hope Cross to join the old Roman Road from Brough to Melandra (Glossop). Carry on around the edge, to come to Crookstone Knoll (145883) to enjoy the view of the Lady Bower and Alport Dale; the route to Bleaklow. Turn now, to walk W on the N edge of Kinder with views to the R of the Ashop Valley. The path skirts Blackden Edge, and the monotony of the fine views of the walk is relieved by the outcrops of gritstone that have been windswept in to strange and intriguing shapes which are wholly acceptable to the artistic taste of our times. The Blackden Brook has carved its path deep into the hillside, which negates the path to go around the side of the valley to cross the bed of the stream. Wonder at the power of water and weather to eat into gritstone to carve prominent watercourses in the strata and to structure the magnificent feature of gritstone boulders like giant statues.

Attain the promontory (115888), to look ahead to see another in the way Fairbrook Naze, which looks even more formidable, look to the R from the viewpoint to see the Ashop Valley with the Snake Inn, which is clearly visible. Continue W to come to the deep cut of Fairbrook Naze, negotiate this to pass another such; though smaller valley made by Nether Red Brook; and now, down to the R, the Snake Path winding its way in and out of cloughs, two of which appear to be extensive; and see how the Ashop Valley below broadens out. The path continues W with the River Ashop on the R until the Pennine Way is reached. Go R on the Pennine Way Path for 250 yards then at 063902 drop down into William Clough on a narrow and winding path that goes from side to side across the stream.

Continue down the path to reach the reservoir and walk along side it close to the wall on the L to reach a wooden gate which stands next to the main entrance to the reservoir (052880). Go forward 5 yards, then turn L to walk between the beautiful blooms of rhododendrons (in season); go over the overflow, then steeply up a grassy lane SE to a metal

gate, then out on to a tarmac drive where stands a sign with three arms: to Carr Meadow, Booth and Edale. Cross the tarmac drive, pass a sign to open country, go through a small wooden gate, then climb SE up a fairly steep stony road with trees on the L, another small test of fitness.

The steep path levels out and comes to metal gates with steps on the R. From this point, bear R, walk uphill SE close to the fence on the R, to a very sound ladder stile on the R of a farm gate, then up to a broken wall where a fence goes off to the R, then turn L, walking SE, climbing uphill to a wall in front. Go through a gap; walk with wall coming ever nearer on the R to come to a wooden gate and sign to open country (065871). Kinder is now nearer but still grim, and Mount Famine can be seen to the S. Once through the gate, go R, walking S up a grassy lane. In 500 yards, the wall goes off to the R, bear to the R and make for a gate ahead where there is a good stile on the L. Bear L on a narrow path through heather, going S, then swinging E around Kinder End. Follow the contour around the hillside, as the path swings around, the track is seen coming down from Edale Cross to Stony Ford. As the track is attained at 072862 Stony Ford, there is another metal sign erected by the indefatigable Peak District and Northern Counties Footpath Preservation Society (they would not get away with such a long title today) No3, 1964 which points to Hayfield or Edale via Jacob's Ladder. Their magnificent work is seen all over the Peak District; some honour is required for their tireless work.

Cross the brook and go E uphill to Edale Cross (077861), which, a metal sign states, is a monument of national importance protected under the Ancient Monument Acts. Edale Cross was known as Champion Cross, a corruption of Champayne, the name of the southern part of Peak Forest. Near to this point three Forest Wards met: Longdendale, Ashop and Edale, and Champayne. The cross is, therefore, likely to have served as a boundary stone and guide stone. Continue W, proceeding down a lane for 400 yards to a metal sign giving directions to Pennine Way walkers; go R here SSE with wall close on the R, climbing uphill until the wall turns to the R. The path follows it, going S. In 500 yards, go off to the L, walking SE to the trig point at Brown Knoll (083851). Pause here to admire the views all around. Continue SE on a faint path that soon comes up to a strange ditch (is it man or nature?); follow this. The view over the Edale Valley reveals another aspect of this charming valley. Undoubtedly the most striking feature is the long spine from Mam Tor to Lose Hill, but is rivalled by the dark outcrops of Grinsbrook. Underneath is the Crowburn Railway Tunnel; away to the right is its prominent airshaft, a useful marker being 400 yards to the R. The way meets the path from Barbers Booth to Chapel en le Frith called Chapel Gate; hence its name. It is deeply hollowed by centuries of use by Packhorses. Here is another sign erected by the PDNCFPS, it is No 98 1939 with directions to Hayfield and Upper Booth.

Turn sharp R and walk S uphill on the worn path, just met, that soon arrives at another sign No124 at 099829 where the path goes L along Ruship Edge; another Packhorse Trail. This is a good ridge walk with views both N and S. Pass Lords Seat with magnificent views of the Edale Valley to the L; go over two stiles then just before Mam Tor bear R downhill to a gate with stile on its R, and so out on to a road at 125834. Cross the road, go over a stile then walk S downhill on smooth grass to another substantial stile, then cross another road, the A625 to a similar stile. Over this; bear SE to the L to attain a third road; cross it and make for Winnats Head Farm. Go through two stiles close to the farm, and then come out on to a road at 131828. Bear L and walk through Winnats Pass (Wind Gates). This is the conclusion and climax of the many different views witnessed on this walk: the limestone cliffs tower above; a magnificent aspect of one of the best parts of Derbyshire scenery. In fact this was made by a gorge that was once a limestone reef in a shallow lagoon, while outside the reef lay deep seas. Pass the Speedwell Cavern, go R through a stile at the side of a farm gate, then walk SE on level ground to a metal gate with slot at its side, then proceed NE down to Castleton and the start.

CHECKED. 15 APRIL 2005