

Walk. 40.
Bakewell. 40.
26.3. Miles.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Bakewell (217685). Walk NE over the bridge, turn L to walk alongside the river to leave by a white gate and proceed past Holme Hall, then past Lumford Cottages and out on to the A6 at Ferneough's Works. Turn R and walk uphill for 400 metres, then go R through a slot on the R of a gate and walk down hill NW to a poor wooden step stile into a jitty between houses. Cross the road into another narrow jitty between houses and emerge into fields, woods to the R also weirs originally made to provide water power for the works below. Go over bar stile and make for a wooden step stile to be followed by another in 20 metres; the river Wye on the R, then on to a wooden gate that goes out onto the A.6 again at 200694. Turn R walk into Ashford; bear L at shop so as to pass the Church, bear R and walk uphill to Highfield Farm. Turn L at 195700 and walk NW up a lane.

Follow the lane as it turns and goes out to a gate with stone steps on its L, and so into a field. Turn L and walk W uphill close to the wall on the L to the top L Hand corner where on the R of a gate, are steps and a slot. In the next field, turn R and walk 40 metres close to a wall on the R to a wooden gate which leads to a lane, going N to the next gate and a field again, level going. There is a good view down to Monsal Head. In 40 metres, come to a gate with a slot on its R and the continuation of the lane to its end at a gate with a ladder stile on its R. bear R and walk

NE on a high path, wall on R. the views into Monsal Dale and beyond are exceptional. Go over a wooden stile and soon the path goes out to Monsal Head. Go L down the steps on a path that leads to Upper Dale, but in 40 metres, go L on a path going SW down to the Viaduct and the Monsal Trail. Walk NW taking note of the interesting information provided on the wayside, passing Monsal Dale station where the platform was a long one for the lonely spot. Leave the trail at the next tunnel and take the FP clearly signposted: it goes down to the Footbridge at Cressbrook Mill which was one of the several cotton mills started by Richard Arkwright. It began in 1783, but before then it was the site of a distilary for peppermint and aromatic herbs. Arkwright's mill was burned down two years after it was built; the replacement came to be known as the Old Mill. The imposing Georgian building dates from 1815. The bell in the cupola summoned the workers to their toil, the workers being child apprentices brought from the city workhouses and then lodged in a row of cottages next to the mill. The battlemented building was erected as a folly. The original power was supplied by water from the dams specially constructed for this purpose, and as more power was needed, the River Wye was dammed. The mill pond in Water-cum-Jolly dale now makes an attractive lake. Eventually, steam engines and turbines replaced the water wheels. Manufacturing ceased in 1965. A diagram shows the layout of the works.

The new FB leads into the storage area for large pieces of stone. Make for a sign and another bridge, then walk NW with the millpond on the L; the views are superb. The short walk comes to Litton Mill; pass on the R, a porch above which are cog wheels together with two forges. Leave the mill through impressive gate piers with ball finials and walk W on the road for about 300 metres to prominent limestone outcrop on the R and a sign up Tideswell Dale (157731). Leave the road and cut off up R this charming dale, level going through trees on a good hard path. Do not take the FB on the R but continue N to the new building, helpfully provided with facilities and information. Go out on to the road here; turn R and walk N, and through a road walk, this is, in fact, quite pleasant. A road goes off to the R to Litton but continue up to Tideswell (1527570).

Go into this interesting town for about 300 metres. Come to the Horse and Jockey, and, a little further on, go L up Sunny Back lane to a road at the top. Straight across the road is a good slot stile that can be taken; but instead, go L along this road for 100 metres or so. Primrose Lane comes up from the L; just before that, go R through a good slot stile that leads into a field to walk W uphill close to the wall on the R to a slot stile in the corner in 100 metres. Continue uphill with a glance back to Tideswell, the church tower (late 1300) rising above the houses, then come, in 100 metres, to another slot in a corner, this time near a group of trees surrounded by a wall. In the next field, go 200 metres uphill, wall on R, and pass more groups of trees within their own walls, and come to a slot on the R into yet another field where, in 100 metres, come to the last of such slots before you enter a lane.

Cross the lane to a gate and a stone steps to a slot which goes into a level field, good walking, wall on R and a view towards Taddington Moor on L. in 200 metres come to a good slot in a wall and enter a smaller field and go in 40 metres to the next slot. From this height, there is a wide view over limestone fields. With wall on the R, go in 100 metres to a broken wall; it seems there was a stile in the gap, pass through. The next stile in 80 metres is a good stone steps up to a slot to bear L and make for a partly blocked slot in 100 metres. Bear L yet again and come to another partially blocked slot, then go across the middle of a field for 40 metres to a slot and enter a narrow field or a lane to cross to two massive gritstone gateposts now walled in, and get over on the R. this field slopes down follow the broken wall on the L down to a corner where there is a jumble of stones and a wooden bar or two to indicate where to get over the wall. This goes into a narrow field going uphill; make for the far R corner; but go through a gap in the wall just before the corner, then sharp L and the wall just before the corner, then sharp L and the wall in 10 metres or so where, again, there is only the faint resemblance to a stile that is normal in Derbyshire. Now enter a lane at 138750.

Turn R and walk N for 250 metres to a road and Monksdale House (137752), then turn L and walk L down to the entrance into Monksdale at 130753 to go R off the road. A sign states "National Nature Reserve Derbyshire Dales Monksdale." The stile is a poor one. Walk NW through this Dale which soon enters Peter Dale, the path varying between good grass and awkward stone, pass between grassy banks with an occasional limestone outcrops to Dale Head. Go over a wall then bear R and in 40 metres, bear L over a wooden bar stile, and so enter Hay Dale. Now walk on pleasant grass, level going. The path goes NW between walls to a bar stile. Carry on to a copse and a bar stile. A gap on the L leads into Small Dale but, bear R and walk NE along a wide lane for 200 metres, then go L at a stone stile, the lane goes off to the R. Enter Dam Dale walking N on a stony path near a wall on the L. A farm building is passed; negotiate a stile and arrive at Dam Dale Farm; the path then goes through a wooden gate, then 40 metres to a slot in the corner. Go L to Damsdale Farm and walk down the lane to the road. This is Peak Forest.

The road A.623 is quite busy, walk to the R SE. there is an old water pump near by. At Holmestone Lodge go L and climb the hill for 100 metres, cross over to a copse of trees on the other side, just before these find an obscure little stone steps in a wall at 118789. Go over into a field, walking NE downhill, Laneside Farm away to the R, trees and wall on the R to soon come to a good slot stile. Go several hundred metres, wall on R pleasant walking, to the next stile in a corner where there are a few bars across and only the hint of stone steps in the wall. Away to the R, vehicles can be seen climbing the hill which is parallel to the way being walked. Dogman slack Farm is away to the L. Continue with wall on the R in the same direction for 300 metres to come to a stile and into a field of rough grass, going uphill towards a house ahead, at the far corner there is a stile, continue in the same direction, continue in the same direction with the house now on the L up to a minor road at 124793.

Walk ENE along this road, passing some cottages name "Brecktor"; go through a gate and go R off the road. Go forward in the same direction as before for 10 metres to a good wooden step stile over a wooden fence, now go to a bar stile clearly seen 100 metres to the L, go over it into a field, then walk E through long difficult grass, a house now behind, to a wall ahead where there is no stile but plenty of gaps. This area is called Adam's Well. Bear R and make for a fenced enclosure (disused mine), where there is in the corner a ladder stile, and you are back in the field you have just left. The moral of this tale is that if you had simply walk straight up, you would have got here much more easily and quickly (but the map should be followed). Go L through an open gateway, no gate no stile level going past Wheston House Farm away to the L and over a stile and out on to a road at 134793; there is a sign here also.

Cross the road to another ladder stile and another sign and walk SE. In front, on the R, a wall comes up and makes a right angle; similarly on the L, walk between them, and go over Batham Gate, a Roman Road, the road from Brough to the Baths at Buxton. The name occurs as far back as 1400 in a document. In the area you are crossing, a section of Bathgate was excavated: it revealed two different surfaces of Limestone. It is interesting to think even now, local limestone is being used for the same purposes. Make for a wall on the L and look for two walls on the other side. Pass on the R, a circular concrete drinking pond for animals, walking through thistles and indifferent grass to a point just beyond the second wall where there is a bar across a disturbed section of wall. Continue SE up diagonally through the next field. In the far corner, go 10 metres to the right and find yet another indifferent stile, a few stones missing from the top. Get over and continue diagonally to the next corner where there is no stile. In the next field, walk close to the wall on the L down to a farm gate on the L is a stile. Do not follow the farm track, but go to the R of it and make for a bar stile ahead and so out on to the road at 138783.

Turn L and walk E for 200 metres to the first wall that comes up from the R and a drive going down to New Farm where, in season, caravans may be seen parked on this caravan club site. Go R and once inside the gateway, turn immediately L to walk SE across the field to a gap in the wall ahead, no stile. Cross the second field in the same direction to a wall where there is a good gritstone step; farm and a belt of trees to the R. in the third field, encounter a barbed wire

fence the farmer has put across the path; go L to a sort of gate in this fence, and continue to the wall where there are bars across a gap, more barbed wire; but a stile. Make for the corner to the R; a wall comes up from the R in a curve to a drinking trough, and surmount a broken wall in the corner, no stile, and then walk with wall on R to a good stone step in the corner ahead and so out on to the road at 145782. Whiterake Farm is away to the R.

Cross the road to a farm gate, no stile and enter a field; disturbed ground, now overgrown is to the R. in 50 metres leave the field, go R into a wooden area and find the way round the mounds and pits to a step stile and bar. Go uphill towards the prominent TV mast that has been seen for some time, proceeding through a narrow area of workings to the top, then passing the mast and go downhill through a similar area; Tideslow Rake lies straight in front. The path then down is firm and clear. Go over a good step and bar stile then down to the road by poor stone steps (160778). Cross the road into an area of low trees, walking to the E on a hard track and come down to a road that goes E to a group of houses at Windmill. Find the way through a double road junction and get on the road to Great Hucklow (177779).

Go E through this pleasant village, turning to the R at the Methodist Church 18C, and coming, in a hundred metres or so, to another Unitarian Chapel built in 1796 of stone, a neat, pleasant building with round arch windows, a graveyard alongside. At its boundary is a good step stile into a field, walking SE close to wall on the L, a narrow field but long. In the corner ahead are more stone steps; go 30 metres to the next stile of stone steps, then 40 metres to another, and 100 metres to a slot stile between two good gritstones that leads into someone's back garden. Go 10 metres to a stone step stile on the R; turn L, then in a few metres, go R. this is Grindlow. In 100 metres or so, the road turns sharp R at 182774; leave the road, farm building and a F.P. sign on the R, then go SE down a lane, pleasant walking on a firm grassy surface. There are flagstones provided for part of the way. At the end of the lane, leave by a double stile. Walk SE across a pleasant field to a slot in the distance and find a well made stile. Through this and continue over a farm drive and find the next stile in the wall ahead to come out onto a road at 188769. Turn L and walk into Foolow.

Pass the little early 19C church and the green and duck pond to turn R at the Pub, walking S, go R at a fork and come up to the busy A.623 at 193759. Go straight across the road and down a lane at the side of Housley House. In 40 metres, go R through a slot stile, then walk S close to a wall on the L to the far end and a stile on the R of a gate; a footpath sign stands near. Go diagonally through the next field to a good stone stile, and enter a field, trees ahead surrounding Castlegate Stud Farm. Keep near to the wall on the R to come to a good slot between two uprights and so into the next field. Follow the wall on the L as it curves around, and note how it is well maintained. Make for the far corner walking diagonally across the meadow to a wooden stile. Go straight across the farm drive to stone steps in the wall, then cut the R corner, and take the stile in the wall. This leads out on to a road at 193752.

The walk is now a long trek to Bakewell. Cross the road to a sign and a stile; difficult entry. Go S uphill and go through a gap in wall on the L. continue walking S with wall on the R to the far wall, cutting the right corner where there is a prominent tree, 25 metres from that corner is a good stile. In the next field, continue in the same direction, going uphill slightly: good view to the R. go through a gap in the wall ahead to come to a worn track. Go straight across the drive and across the field to the next wall to go through a gap and make for the road by a good step and slot. (193745).

Cross the road to a sign and broken gate, get over at the R of the gate; it takes sharp detection to find the stile. Walk S away from the road on the L to a stile ahead which can be seen, this goes into a field where the wall is kept to the R, in 200 metres come to a corner to strongly made stone steps in a wall. The path rises gently to the next wall with good steps. Now for the long slog to the top of Longstone Moor where a sign is reached with extensive views. Then descend to an area of previous workings (Watersaw Rake), part of a two-mile area which has been worked to a depth of 30 metres, but now mostly restored. Bear to the L, go forward, rising gently, then descend to a stile in a fence. Go down through black plantation and come out on to

the road to Great Longstone at 196728. Walk S to this charming village with its C.13 church, C.18 hall mediaeval cross and interesting stories of the past.

Just past the hall, turn R, walking S down to the last street going off to the L. Take this and near the far end, turn R down a space between the houses to a slot in 20 metres. Turn L in the field and go through a gate into the next field to a slot in fence. Cut the R corner to a limestone slot, and then enter a fine park land diagonally to the far corner. The trail forms one boundary of this field, go R over a stile, then sharply L alongside the wall to a road at 206710. Go R under the bridge, then L then L to go E along the Baslow Road for 300 metres or so to the second wall in the fields on the R to a stone stile leading into a field. Walk S to Cracknowl Wood to enter by a swing gate to walk up through the trees on a good path that deteriorates as it rises. At the top come to a stile and enter field walking SE to a metal gate to rise, wall on L and go S for 500 metres to a stile on the L, then bear L down to a gate with a slot on its L. This path then joins one from Toll Bar House. Then descend to a slot L of a gate, then proceeds down an industrial road to Holme Hall and the road. Across the way, stands the packhorse bridge. Go L, walk through meadows alongside the river and back to the start.
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