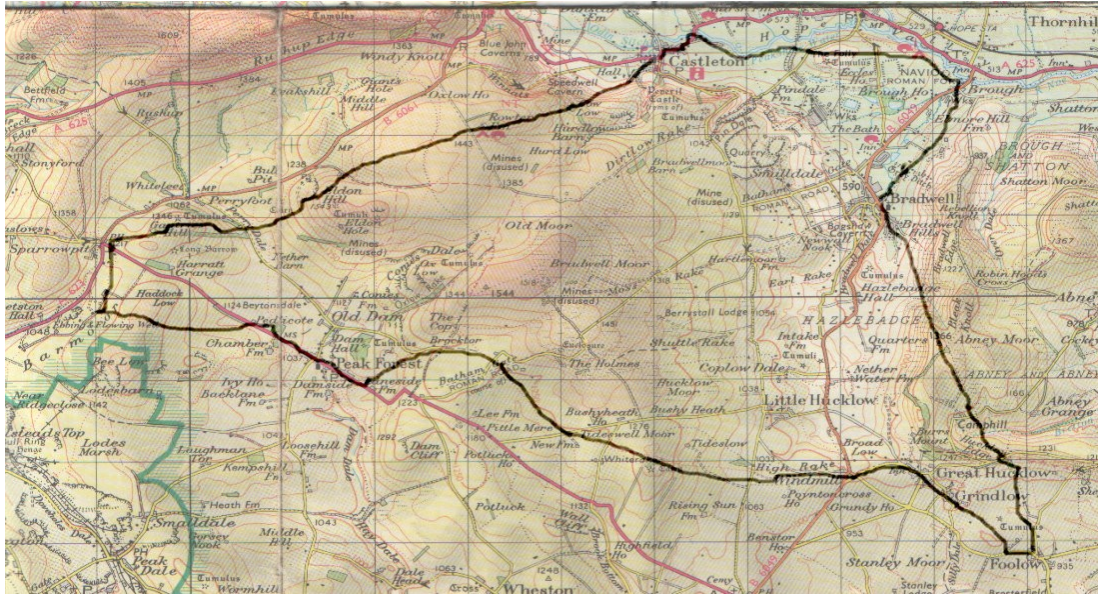


Walk. 42.
Castleton. 42.
20-7 Miles.
Map- White Peak. Dark Peak



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Start at Castleton (150829). Leave on the S side along a lane near to Goosehill Hall that comes to a gate at 147826, then proceed to Speedwell Cavern: a large cavern where a boat can be used underground along a stream. Cross the road, from the gate, go steeply uphill; there is no worn path. Soon there are remarkable views of Castleton. On reaching the top, make for a gate in the wall, there is a slot on its L in 10 yards there is a sign post (142821) indicating there is a choice of ways: either to Old Moor or Rowter Farm. Take the path to Rowter, go uphill on a feint track, passing a ruined stone building on the R which has an interesting and usual arch. The area now in contains many relics of extensive lead lining. In 400 metres arrive at a ladder stile; continue in the same direction wall near the L, the grass providing a comfortable surface among the mounds and depressions scattered around. The ground levels out; follow the wall to a corner; 10 metres away are steps in a wall. Soon Rowter Farm comes into view. In 100 metres, cut the R hand corner and make for a step stile with a slot on its top. Keep with the wall on the L to a stile in the top corner. Rowter Stands below with caravans in season, a sign indicates ample provisions obtainable there

Go L now over stone steps to the L of a gate to go down a good lane. Go R off this lane through a gate on the R, no stile, and walk SW slightly uphill, mounds and depressions again, to a stile in 400 metres: a stile in a fence. Continue in the same direction on grassland between old pit shafts down to a junction of footpaths at 126814 with a sign get over a wall and there is yet another sign to Peak Forest. This is the destination but by another route. Walk N now on a fine hard track, another sign comes up: to Peak Forest. Hasten past the industrial workings and gain the road at 113815. bear L and walk SW downhill for about half a mile to a sign post on the R. at this point (107813), go L over a bar stile, walking S over rough land mid mounds and depressions: on the R the soft landscape of Perry Dale soon to walk. Continue S through a field down to the road at 108805.

Bear R and walk NW along the road to a prominent band of trees along Rake Vein. Enter this area by a step stile on the L and climb the steep bank, then continue to the W. Gautries Hill stands to the N as this remarkable line of trees is followed to a bar and then a step stile to enter a field on the L continuing to walk W to a stile near a single tree. Enter a short section of a lane, very muddy, a copse to the L, then walk with wall on the L to stone steps leading into the next field. Precede down to a fence and go to the extreme L where there is a wooden stile. Go to a road; turn L, to come to the road junction in Sparrow Pit at 091807.

Walk SE along the A.623 for a 100 metres, then go to R of the road through a gate into old farm buildings and leave by an old gate, walking R for 30 metres to the opposite wall to find a step stile and slot. In the next field go down here up to a slot stile in the far corner, then enter a field and walk close to the wall on the R to another slot between uprights in a wall which is fringed with a line of trees. Higher Barmoor Farm now stands in front: first go through a gate then make for the L of the farm and a gate next to a building of breeze blocks. Proceed through the farmyard to a drive. Change to the White Peak Map at 0918001. almost at once, enter an open area where the farm drive goes off to the R. proceed into a lane for a few yards only, before a farm building is reached, go L at a farm gate on the L of which are stone steps at 091799, then walk uphill through a narrow area for 300 metres to a wall where, in the R corner, go through a gap. In the next field; rough, bear somewhat to the L and make for the wall in front where there are two gates, there is a slot at the side of the L one. Enter a field, going downhill, wall on R, to the R corner where there is no stile in the low wall. In the next field, make for a gap in the middle of the wall in front. Then go for the L corner of the next field to a gate. Proceed now through mounds and depressions from former workings to a bar stile in the wall, then cut the R corner going to a gateway in the wall ahead, no gate, continue in the same direction to the far L corner where there is a pound. Just to the R are stone steps in the wall: turn sharp L to further stone steps in the wall, and so out onto a road at 106797.

Turn R and walk SE uphill on the A623 then down to Peak Forest. Pass the reading room on the R; note the splendid Venetian window which was once the E window of a C.17 chapel (Ionic columns, pilasters, freeze with triglyphs, dentils, keystone). The chapel was said to have been built by a Countess whose son was killed fighting for his King; this might count for its dedication to King Charles the Martyr. The parish Church now takes its place, having been built on the same site, with the same dedication, to the wishes of the seventh Duke of Devonshire in 1876-7. It holds memorials to the Cavendish's, one especially recalling the tragic death of Lord Frederick Cavendish who was murdered in Phoenix Park in Dublin. The chapel had a special privilege that allowed runaway marriages to take place there, a kind of Gretna Green in Derbyshire that was ended by an act of 1753, though the parsons went on marrying them for another fifty years. In 1758, a young couple, on their way to get married in Peak Forest, were robbed and murdered in Winnets Pass and their bodies thrown down Speedwell Mine.

Pass the Devonshire Arms on the L and Dayside Lane on the R. Pass the sports ground on the R, then an old water pump and note the stile that leads into the Dales, but continue along the busy road and climb the hill for 100 metres. At 118789, there is a stone step stile over a low wall on the L of the road near the boundary wall of Landside Farm; some trees grow at this point. Walk NE downhill through a field close to a wall on the R and come to a good slot stile with two good uprights; then go several hundred metres, wall on R pleasant walking, to the next stile in a corner, a few bars across the mearest hint of stone steps in a wall. Dogmanslack Farm is away to the L. Continue near to the wall on R in the same direction for 300 metres and come to stone steps. Go over these, then go sharp R to another stile in the same corner. These allow one to continue in the same direction as before, but with wall now on the L. pass a house at the top on the L and so up to a minor road at 124793 gate, no stile, but there are several gaps in the wall.

Walk N of E along this road passing some cottages named Brecktor, then go through a gate. Leave the road which goes off to the L. Go straight ahead for 10 metres to a step stile in a fence. The route now goes through a bar stile on the L then through a gateway ahead, then to the R to a ladder stile next to a disused mine. This area is called "Adam's Well" on the map, but go straight

forward in a few hundred metres past Wheston House Farm to the L which gets to a ladder stile and sign, and so out on to the road at 134793.

Cross the road to another ladder stile and sign and walk SE across Tideswell moor. On the R, a wall makes a right angle; on the L another wall. Walk between them across Batham Gate, the site of a Roman Road, (the route from Brough to the Baths in Buxton.) The name occurs as far back as 1400 in a document; in this area a section of the road was excavated: it revealed two different layers of limestone. Walk through thistles and weeds to the wall on the L passing a circular concrete water trough (on the map); just after the second wall there is a bar that might be called a stile. Continue SE diagonally up through the next field; the Holmes Farm lies in a shallow valley away to the L. Ahead, in the far L corner, go 10 metres to the R to another indifferent stile; get over this and continue diagonally to another indifferent stile; get over this and go diagonally to the far L corner where there is no stile at all. In the next field, walk with wall close to the L down to a gate on the L is a stile. Do not follow the worn track, but go somewhat to the R to the far wall where there is a good bar stile; this is where the road is at 138783.

Turn L and walk E for 200 metres to the first wall that comes up in the field on the R. Go R here in to a drive that leads to New Farm where, in season, caravans may be seen. Once inside the gateway, off the road, do not go down the farm drive, but bear L off the drive towards the wall which you pass through by means of one of many gaps, no stile, cross the next field in the same direction SE to a good step stile in the wall; farm and belt of trees to the R. In the next field bear R down a gap in the wall with bars. Make for the corner to the R where wall comes up from the R to a drinking trough, then surmount the wall where it is broken and assume that it was once a stile. Walk closely to the wall on the R to the corner ahead and a stile, and so out onto a road at 145782.

Cross the road to a farm gate slightly to the L, no stile, and enter the field. There are huge mounds of disturbed ground to the R in what obviously was a lead rake. In 40 metres, go R into this disturbed and worked ground; there is a reasonable path that winds in and out of the mounds up to a wooden stile. Continue uphill wall on R towards the TV Mast which has been seen for some time. At the top is a view over Tideswell Rake; very prominent; views all around. Through the moonscape the path is clear; it is a step and bar stile before coming to the road at 160778. Cross the road into an area of low trees and walk E on a hard track that comes out on a road. This is at a group of houses called Windmill. Go to cross roads and walk to Great Hucklow which is soon reached at 177779.

Go E through this pleasant village turning to the R at the Methodist Church (1800), then come to another church in 100 metres, the Unitarian Chapel, a fine building, built in 1796 of stone, with round-arched windows, a graveyard alongside. At its far boundary wall on the roadside there is a good stone stile, the first of several. Go SE through a field keeping close to a wall on the L, a narrow field, but long. In a corner ahead, there are more stone steps; then go 30 metres along another long and narrow field to stone steps, then 40 metres to the next stile, then 100 metres to a slot between two good gritstones, which leads into someone's pleasant garden. Go 10 metres to a stile on the R, then turn L go 25 metres then turn R. This is the village of Grindlow. Go forward 100 metres along the road to a prominent building ahead. At this point the road swings sharply to the R (at 182774). Leave the road, go straight forward SE down a lane; a sign indicates the way.

This is a pleasant lane to walk, fields either side. Part of it is of flag stones, to keep above the water in bad weather. At the end of the lane, go through a slot between four uprights and walk SE along a pleasant field to a slot that can be seen ahead, level going. From this field go to a stone step stile, then continue forward over a farm drive (farm on L) to the next stile to emerge out on a road 188769. Turn L and walk E down into Foolow, a scene of quite repose where the village green has the traditional duck pond, village cross and a walled enclosure drinking place for animals.

Take the road going N, the little church on the R. In 50 metres, go past a farm drive on the L; on the R of the road is a single tree. In a few metres, go L off the road at a sign over stone steps into a field where, again, walking is pleasant though the view the steep ridge ahead with less pleasure than it gives to the glider pilots overhead. A long walk up to the corner of this field comes to a stile in a corner, then enter a rough area, wall on R to a high wooden stile. The fit will think nothing of the short but steep pull to the top. Cross the road at 189780 to a sign and stile in the wall and enter a field, fate deals you another cruel blow; descend a very steep bank to cross a footbridge, then climb a equally steep bank the other side to a bar stile. Continue up a field for 100 metres wall on R. then walk up to Grange Farm; keeping it on the R to come to a stile in a wall and so out onto a road. Go L along this road for 200 meters to where it joins the road to Abney at 188786. Go R, walking NE along the road for only 100 metres to a sign post and double wooden bar stile.

A good walk has variety in it: this section N to Bradwell provides that. It is a pleasure to walk on a good wide path such as this one over moorland, generally level with good views which give a feeling of great space, in contrast to the sometimes claustrophobic atmosphere of certain of the Dales. Familiar spots come into view: a glimpse of Lady Bower, Winn Hill and Kinder Scout. (Change to the Dark Peak Map at 185800.) The moorland walk soon ends at a double stile and sign at 185801 to enter a lane which at certain times is crowded with vehicles of the hand gliding enthusiasts. Turn L and go 100 metres to a farm gate, then go L to a substantial stone stile in a corner and walk through a pleasant field, wall on L, to a corner in 200 metres to a slot stile, then similarly to another slot to get a sudden and exiting view down over Bradwell, the feeling of space is tremendous. So then down the track to Bradwell at 175810.

Walk N passing the parish church on the R. then cut down Softwater Lane (174811) where the stream flows directly under a building. Pass the British Legion building on the R, then make for a gateway leading to a field of weeds; or that what it was, and a sign directing the way to Brough. Cut the LH corner and in 20 metres go through a good slot. Now follow a good path through fields level going through 5 fields then hedge on R. pass a farm building on the L, then make for a hedge in front to then change the pattern to go down to a farm gate on the L and get through a bar stile and walk with hedge on R to another slot on the R of a gate. Go 80 metres to a gate with a slot on its L, then continue to a sign and two uprights no longer used. From this point, go diagonally to a small gate on the R of a farm gate then proceed down a short lane to a sign. Turn R and go through the back of houses to come out on a road at Brough at 182825.

Bear L: cross the bridge, pass the interesting stone roof tiles stacked up, then go R to a farm gate and another metal sign set up by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society. This one is No 38, 1909 and reads Footpath to Hope and Castleton via the Roman Station Anavio. Altitude 616 feet. Use the step stile on the L of a gate, then go uphill through a field to a prominent ladder stile that admits one to the Roman Camp; now silent and deserted: was made of wood very little now left. Leave by a footbridge to go forward to a stile on the L of gateway, then a slot at the R side of a gateway, and proceed to trees ahead to a slot on the R of a gate. This leads into a field and a track to a gate with a stile on its L, and so out on to a road at 172832 after a pleasant walk from Brough to Hope.

There is a stile in the hedge across the road which leads into a field overgrown with weeds. Leave by a poor bar stile on to a road at 171832. Cross the road to an entry into a field via a bar stile at a gate. Now take the pleasant walk from Hope to Castleton, stream on the R, trees lining the route for most of the way. Proceed on a good path to a bar stile, then make for a wooden step stile. Cross a railway line to another wooden stile, cross a field to a slot stile near a metal gate in a wall, go through gap in next wall, then 50 metres to a step and slot with metal bars in a wall. Looming up on the L is the tall chimney (looking out of place in this magnificent valley) of the Bradwell cement works. Go 50 metres to wooden stile in a fence, then to a bar stile at the side of a stream (River Noo) that is channelled between concrete sides then come to a stile with a strong stone at its base. Not far from this enter a lane and come out into Castleton where there is a

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another sign by the PDNCFP Preservation Society with its long name (No 25 dated 1908) and so on to the start.

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