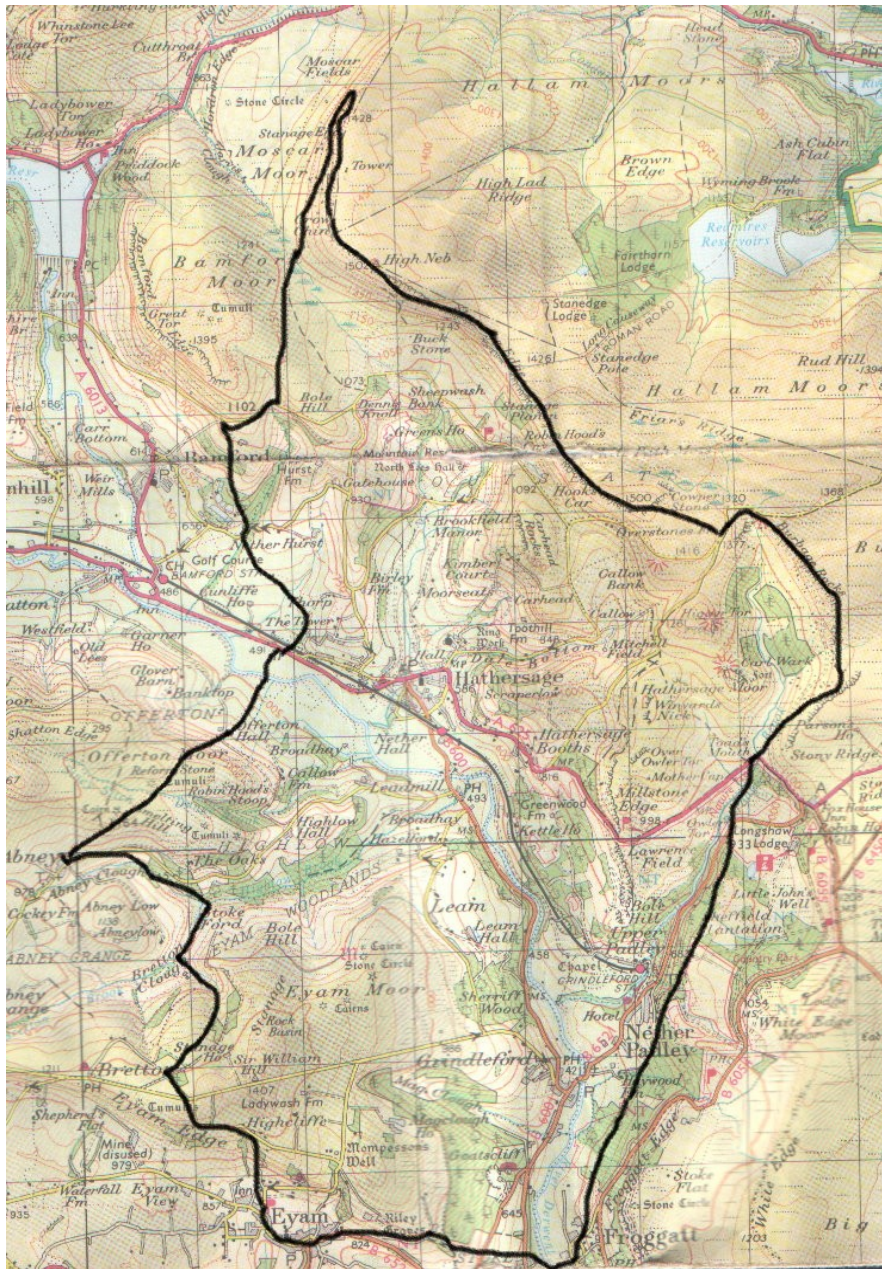


**Walk. 43.
Eyam. 43.
23-8 Miles.
Map- White Peak. SK 28/38**



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Start at Eyam (215767). Leave by the road going E to Grindleford. Just after the last house, go L at a fork in the road, signed to the Riley's Graves. They are situated in a field on the L; a group of six headstones and tomb of the Hancock family who died of the plague. The tomb of the father is in its original place but the other ones were gathered together from different points in the field. Where the road goes off to the L go R down a short lane to an old metal gate with a slot on its R, then walk on good path through the woods, a pleasant spot with views though the trees of Stoney Middleton and Coombs Dale. Follow the path, going SE down to the road at 235762,

then bear R and walk up to a curve in the road at 234759. A lane goes down past the unusual church in Stony Middleton worth a visit if time allows this is in a place called the Nook. The church is called St Martins; it is a very unusual and beautiful building octagonal in shape: the only other is in Teignmouth Devon. Joan Eyre built the church in the 15 C. in thanksgiving for the save return of her husband from Agincourt (1415). A normal shaped church that stood here was destroyed by fire and in 1759 it was then replaced by the octagonal building; all the pews face the centre of the church. But if the church is not to be visited, do not take this lane and just before a curve in the road is a stile and sign. Walk E down through a field near a wall on the L, the prominent wooded ridge rising up in front to Curber Rocks and white edge beyond. Then come down to a corner and a farm gate with a stile on its R. then walk down through a field to a wall and stone steps and sign; and so over the wall and get on to a road at 239759. Notice on the L as you came down the road through the field, an impressive boundary wall which encloses the coach house and stables of Stoke Hall. Stoke Hall just across the road, was built in 1757, an imposing building of two and a half stories. The door has Tuscan Columns.

Cross the B.6001 and continue down the road to Froggatt. Come to the bridge over the River Derwent it is C.17 with two archers each different shape. Go over the bridge and turn L to walk along the road passing the little chapel on a corner, then proceed uphill along the road for several hundred metres to a lane on the L at 246766 where, on the L of a farm gate is a swing gate and a N.T sign to Froggatt wood. Through the gate and walk N along the old lane which has old broken walls either side. This is a pleasant track through the woods, but it eventually divides into other paths, keep low down. The route comes to another path turn here and walk N some houses on the L. this then comes out onto a road at Nether Padley 251783.

A late Victorian house across the road illustrates the eclecticism of those days: the use of brick, stone and rendering; a circular tower and pepper pot roof; half timbering. Compare that with the intractable gritstone cottages and even the Lord of the Manor, where a quite dignity and a Minumem of decoration seem entirely pleasing.

Go forward 10 metres to a sign "Public Footpath to Haywood car park by Froggatt Edge". Go R here along a short drive and enter the woods on a good track, climbing steadily to a ladder stile over a wall on the R, then immediately L on pleasant grass, wall on L, trees on R (Oaks Wood). The path curves to the L to another ladder stile. Bear R walking N, fields on the R, and on the L a steep bank dropping down to the road and railway, with good views over Upper Padley. Underneath lies the Totley Tunnel., a pleasant area for walking. Carry on walking N along a good path to come to a swing gate and approach a fence over which there is a view of Longshore House standing grimly against a hill. Turn L and go down to a swing gate and out onto a road at 258800. Turn to map SK28/38.

Cross the road then through a gate and sign stating "Longshaw Estate" Longshaw Lodge. "Strange mountainous, misty, rocky, wild country." so wrote a C.17 traveller about this area, which contains the Longshaw estate of over 1000 acres, now, the property of the NT. It is sometimes difficult to think that Sheffield is only a few miles away, at least in stormy weather when this dramatic landscape of bleak hillsides and gritstone outcrops is distinctly unfriendly. No wonder that Charlotte Bronte chose the Fox House Inn. Just N from the Lodge, is the place where Jane Eyre was set down from the coach during her flight to "Morton" (Hathersage). Longshaw Lodge was built as a Hunting Lodge for the Duke of Rutland 1827, an elaborate building for that purpose, being a long house with five gables of unequal size. The windows have strong hood moulds; the tower is embattled. There is even a separate chapel for religious sportsmen, as well as extensive stabling, and of course, adequate servants quarters. One is fortunate to be able to walk near the dark and forbidding house that the Duke sold and his 1000 acres estate in 1927 for £22,000 to a group of dedicated Sheffield people led by a Mrs E. B. Haythornthwaite, but do not go past this and go down to a stream which is crossed by a narrow footbridge, then go right to walk on the right of the stream up to a rustic footbridge cross this and so up to a wall and swing gate with sign and so out on to the road at 262806. Turn R and walk uphill SE for 50 metres; the Fox House Inn is just above, then cross the road and go L into open

country at 263805. Go through a small gate at a farm gate. Then go to the R and make for the top of the rocks passing unfinished mill stones and their silent stories. Walking NE then NW over Burbage edge. Burbage moor to the E. the rocks peter out and the path is difficult to detect; several cairns help to regain the edge again. Then walk NW with views to the L of the shallow valley of the Burbage brook to the powerful Stone Age fortress of Carls Walk: with its large boundary stones. Continue along the edge to the boundary and wooden step stile and pole on the roadside at 262829.

Walk W up the road over Burbage bridge, then in 400 metres and leave the road to go R at a sign to open country, go along a good wide path to climb through Cowper Stones to Stannage Edge. Go NW along Stannage Edge; the scene of much climbing activity at various times (many a top climber has learnt his trade on these rocks). Carry on the edge until a point where the path joins a track from Stannage Pole and cuts down below the rock face at 239846. This is sometimes regarded erroneously, as the Roman Road.

A choice here is to go downhill under the rocks to go along a road to the R of woods to a car park at a point at 216839. but the purists will walk under the edge then look for a ladder stile to the R, go over this and continue along a good path going under High Neb on the R. pass Stannage End; the path goes on towards Moscar Lodge, but at 230875, do a about turn so as to take a footpath back towards Bamford: Winn Hill and Lose Hill are quite prominent, and there is a view of Ladybower. Walk more or less S over difficult terrain: fern, long grass and bog in due season. Go over Moscar Moor to a wall at 215848, then to a quarry at 215843, and so down to the road at 216839.

Walk W for 100 metres. The ever present chimney at Bradwell intrudes the view again. Bear L down a steep and stony lane (Leaside Road) into Bamford to take the L which is Joan Lane (209836) and proceed to a cross roads in just half a mile. Turn R into Saltergate Lane (a salt way went here), and in 10 metres go L at a slot stile into a golf course at 212829. Walk SE to a footbridge and continue through the golf course, passing Shawhay Barn and making for a farm gate and stile and sign, then through a field to a stile with a pole to help the weary. Turn R and go down 20 metres to a metal gate and stile.

Now enter a rough lane with large stones lying about; fortunately in seven metres go L over a good wooden stile. Bear R and walk close to a fence on the R for five metres to a sign that directs up the field to the R. climb up through the field to a prolific hedge above on the L; the lane is now below on the R. go through a wide gap in the hedge, no stile but a yellow arrow there is helpful. Walk up through the second field on good grass surface to another hedge with gap in it. Then in the third field go R to the far R corner and a slot stile. Enter a fourth field and make for Thorpe Farm; there is slot stile and sign in the wall ahead; ignore this and go to the L corner of the wall, then follow it to the R to a white gate: on its L are good stone steps in the wall. Walk seven metres to an entrance to a gate to another wall with good stone steps in it. There is a helpful sign and a yellow arrow. Walk with farm buildings close to the R and go forward to a lane (the farm drive) and walk uphill passing a farm building; then pass an interesting cottage, "Polly Croft" which has low mullioned window. In ten metres, go R up to a stile and enter a field to walk S uphill to the far top L corner where there is a wide gap almost big enough for a gate; discarded a the side are two gritstone uprights one lies flat the other leans at a awkward angle. Thorps Farm now lies down below on the R: there are long views up the valley to Win Hill, then the gap to Lose Hill, Back Top and Mam Tor. In front the hillside climbs up to Offerton Hall which is soon to be taken.

Walk SW tall hedge on L, level going on good grass to a wooden fence with stile; go over rough grass to a lane that goes to the L; ignore it, and go downhill on a good track, where it goes off to the R leave it and go straight down a narrow track, hedge on L, fence and field on R, a road is reached down some substantial steps at 221817.

Turn R; go over the railway bridge down to the A.625. Walk NW for 200 metres then turn L off the A.625 at 218818 to a farm gate with a good slot stile on its R to come to another of the invaluable signs of the P. D. and NC F.P. Preservation Society. This one is dated 1912 number 26.

This is a tribute to their far reaching aims. It states that this is a F.P. to Millers Dale by Abney, Great Hucklow and Tideswell and declares the altitude to be 491. Shortly the walk increases this figure.

Go through the field, hedge on the R to a gap, good level walking through the next field to a wooden stile then down steps to the river which is crossed by the most delightful stepping stones: in wet weather the water goes above the stones and can be dangerous to cross. On the far bank, signs indicate the route to Leadmill, Shatton and Offerton. Soon begin to climb the relentless track and pass two venerable gritstones standing firmly on their own; long will they remain. Come to a gate with steps in a wall on the L, then continue to another gate above again with steps in a wall. Then proceed up to a gate and a lane at 213811; this is Offerton Hall.

It was originally built in 1550 by the Eyres. There are mullioned windows, some have arched tops, some with transoms, there are hood moulds. There is a stair turret at the back. The house went out of the Eyre family and was rebuilt in 1658, evidence for which still remains inside as well as out: a groundfloor chimney breast is 40 feet in circumference. There is a crook barn in the yard. The Hall is a reminder to the romantic walker of the Eyres who were a powerful family in these parts in feudal times. A William Le Eyre held land in Hope of Henry 111 by service of the custody of the Forest of the Peak. His descendant was Nicholas Eyre, father of Robert Eyre who it was said, built a hall for each of his seven sons, one of whom Ralph was living in Offerton in 1473. Each of the halls were in view of either one and if one was in trouble a beacon could be lit and they would all come to aid of each other. The hamlet was mentioned in the Domesday Book as "Uftune".

Just around the corner is a step stile. Go straight uphill to Offerton Edge. After the stiff uphill pull, the track levels out and good views are seen. Over the little wooden foot bridge; then scene is delightful. Come to a farm gate with a stile on its L, then in 30 metres another stile. Bear L and walk with the wall on the L down through a field with a ladder stile on its R, then 30 metres to another stile over the wall on to the road at Abney (199799).

At Abney, go through a gate into a muddy and stony lane, walking SE to a gate with step on its L, then on a good path through the pleasant wooded glen of Abney Clough, down to Stoke Ford at 211795 where there are several signs. Go over one footbridge to a wooden gate, then over another footbridge and then go R alongside Breton Brook. Do not cut up L on the well worn track, but go S on a good path that climbs gently up the hillside to a good wooden and step stile on the L of a gate. The path then goes L into a clough down which flows a stream that comes from Jubilee Plantation; cross this and climb the bank or hillock in front, keeping to the L. Before the top, cut off to the L on a level track that goes into the Clough. In 100 metres the track curves sharply to the R and goes SW uphill as a lane between banks, the views getting longer to the N and E. The rough lane becomes a good path close to a wall on the R, fields to the R and the hillside climbing through the moorland on the L.

Go over a ladder stile in front, and walk on good short grass, wall on the L, to a metal gate and ladder stile on the R into a lane at 297780. Turn L and go SE for 400 metres to a road. Go L then follow the road as it turns to the R. Note the mast to the L and view of Eyam. Go S on this road and follow it as it turns E. Where it passes Highcliffe on the L. go R down a narrow path at 215773. Go downhill with Jumber Brook on the R. and follow the track back to Eyam and the start.

Checked.