

Walk. 44
Robin Hood Baslow. 44.
23-8 Miles.
Map- White Peak. SK 28/38



Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey.
Crown Copyright NC/02/30874.

Start at the side of the Public House on the A.619 E above Baslow called Robin Hood (279721). Walk W downhill on the A.619 for 200 metres to go L at a wooden slot down several steps then over a foot bridge, go several yards to a wide track. Proceed W on a good wide track to a farm gate with a stile on its R. pass a gritstone outcrop on the L, where some climbers can try out there technique; then continue on a level track over two stiles at the side of farm gates; both over high walls. The path now goes downhill in the Chatsworth Estate with the Hall on the R. where the track meets a wood go to the L of it and make for a good track to go L on it to walk to Chatsworth house. With the house on the L, go over Pains Bridge of 1790 to walk on a good track, to the R of a road to get to Edensar. This remarkable village where every house is different from its neighbour, where gables, turrets and battlements may be seen, was all built between 1839 and 1842, when the sixth Duke of Devonshire wished to remove the old village out of sight from Chatsworth. He gave the task of planning it to his gardener Paxton who not only created the gardens at Chatsworth, and made the many plantations, but also went on to design the Crystal

Palace. The church was built later by Sir George Gilbert Scott; it contains monuments to the Cavendish's, to the servant of Mary Queen of Scots, to Paxton himself, and, more recently to Katherine, the sister of President Kennedy who married a Cavendish. Go through this fascinating village, walking W along a lane uphill to a road at 235697.

Turn R here, and immediately get a fine broad view over the low-lying land to Longstone Moor. Walk NE then N along this roadway to a T junction, 239706 go straight across the road to a stile go into a field walking N, level going. In 100 metres, arrive at the far wall where a fine solitary tree stands guardian over a stone stile. Now enter a lane, wall on side, an interesting stone farm building on the L, go 400 metres to where the lane branches to the R; ignore this and continue in the same direction as before for 80 metres to a gate on the L: on the L of this is a slot stile. From this enter a field; cut down steeply NW to a broken wall. Note the stones sticking out of it; what is the purpose of these? In 50 metres, come to a slot stile, in a wall, then enter a lane and turn L walking W between hedges, quite pleasant, until a road is reached at 234713.

Turn R and walk 40 metres towards Baslow, then go L off the road at a gate with a step on its L, and walk NW towards Toad Bank Wood. Ahead, notice a stone building with prominent arched windows. Go through a gate, then walk with trees close to the R to enter the woods and walk W down to a stream, then up the other side on a narrow path between strong hedges and abundant nettles to arrive at a wooden gate, hillock on R, wall on L. Level going to come to a gate with a stile on its R to enter a lane, limestone walls each side, and so down to the road at 223721. bear R and walk N to Hassop where the All Saints RC church catches the attention even though it faces away from the road. It was built by the ubiquitous Eyre family in 1816 in the style of an Etruscan temple front. The magnificent gateway nearby leads to Hassop Hall, also a home of the Eyres; it was the widow of a younger son of the second Robert Eyre of Padley who bought the estate in 1498. A 16 Century house was completely rebuilt and replaced by the present hall in 1827-33 now a hotel, a sad end to a family that once owned 20 manor and 20,000 acres in Derbyshire.

Turn L and walk W uphill towards Great Longstone, but where the road levels out, go R, (opposite a gate into Hassop estate), at 217727, to a stile in a wall then 5 metres to a slot in a fence. Walk diagonally up through this field, pass a few trees and make for a section of wall where there is a slot and step. Go now for the cottage ahead where there is a bar stile; in a wooden fence then a slot that leads to a road at Rowland at 215725.

Turn R and walk NE through the Hamlet for 300 metres before turning L up into a lane that climbs steeply uphill for 300 metres to a metal gate and sign. Go straight forward for 20 metres to a gate with a slot on its R (215731); do not turn L here but continue on a narrow path between shrubs, going N uphill: pass a tremendous spoil heap on the L and a line of trees on the R. at the top go through a metal gate and go out onto an industrial road; and impressive wide views. Bear R and walk E pass a drive on the R to Bleaklow Farm (218736): go L here to a bar stile then another in ten metres to a signpost and barn on the L. walk downhill NE towards Coombs Dale, first going through a stile in a limestone wall. Quite suddenly come to a steep drop in the wall of the dale and striking views down to workings at Rough Side; Sallet Mine now shut; the mineral was mined by a railway into a tunnel at the base of the dale. The path gently edges its way down the hillside to a sign and a bar stile and on to an industrial road at the base of the dale.

Walk, NE, for a few hundred metres. At a farm gate, go L off the road through some bushes to a stile that cannot be seen from the road: a good wooden step stile over a fence, 10 metres down from the farm gate. Walk N uphill past an interesting if small outcrop, then, near the top, go through a gap in a broken wall and walk in the same direction on pleasant grassy surface to a slot in a limestone wall. The field now entered is level. The wall ahead has a good slot, then, follow, worn path through the grass to the next wall. Go through another good slot in the next wall: a pleasant grassy walk now to the next stile; easy to follow in the worn grass to the next stile, this time to a sign post with three arms: Stoney Middleton Vicarage, Coombs Dale and Stoney Middleton. Go through a slot and walk with wall and some houses on the L to a sign (Great Longstone) and wall with a step and stile to a road at 229754.

Turn L and walk uphill for about 600 metres to 223753 to turn down a little-used lane, some bars across it, and find that is overgrown with grass. Walk N, wall either side and bear L in 200 metres to come to some more bars across the way, walking N of W to a gate across the way and a lane now high in grass for the last 20 metres to enter a field to turn R and walk N with wall on R passing a farm building to the far corner no gate or stile.

At this point 220755 the path goes W to Zig Zag down the dale? Only the sure footed should attempt this as the path is not very worn and difficult to follow but eventually goes out onto the road A.623 by a wooden footbridge

Turn L on the road, then R to go uphill on the road into Eyam, At the Village turn R and walk uphill then L between houses going N up a lovely glade through which flows Hollow Brook, pleasant walking up through the woodland; the stream cutting its bed deeply on the L to eventually going out onto a road at 222770 through a good gritstone slot. Turn R and walk N, passing Mompesson's Well on the L; where during the plague the villages left money in the water and people left food ect in its place (the water they thought sterilized the money so that the plague would stay in the village. Rev Mompesson was the vicar during the plague and he helped to organize the villagers so panic would not happen).

Continue N passing Ladywood Mine and the Mast on the L to approach a road junction at 225780. Here are two ladder stiles facing in the wall ahead: the one on the L goes to Stoke Ford; one on the R leads to Leam, Hazelford Hall and Laeadmill Bridge. Take the one on the R and walk NE across Eyam Moor the fence on the R with long distant views to inspire the spirit. Wet Withens lies to the L: a Stone Age encampment; Carls Walk rears up ahead. A walk like this is deeply satisfying in fine weather. In any weather it is good to be here.

Go down some stone steps and onto a road at 231793. Bear L; walk N passing Leam Farm. In 500 metres the road bends sharply to the L; at this point, leave the road, go straight on through a stone wall and descend steeply through a field to Hazelford Hall (234800). This is one of seven halls built, so it is said, by a C.15 member of the Eyre family for his seven sons. Hazelford Hall was rebuilt much later, in the early C.17, for Lawrence, third son of Adam Eyre of Hathersage. It is L shaped, with three bays, a porch, four and five-light mullioned windows, ball finials on the gables, and prominent, diagonal chimney stacks.

Change to SK 28/38. Go through stile of stone steps and slot on to a lane that goes down N to the B.6001 at 235803. Turn L and walk W of N to Leadmill Bridge. Just over the bridge, turn R at a sign down a lane and walk E then S along the riverside, very relaxing, and even more enjoyable when the path takes to the smooth short grass after passing a house with an enormous arched window. Change to white peak map. Carry on to a stile at the L of a gate to continue along side the River Derwent that flows in the lively fashion over huge grit tones in its bed, continue to a little swing gate on the R of a farm gate and enter woodland. Look for a path that goes L up the hillside through the trees to come to a ladder stile over a wall into a field. Cut the L corner, and, in 30 metres, to go over a railway bridge. Over this, then walk E, uphill, to meet a worn track. Go R on it to come to Padley Chapel at 247789.

Padley Chapel has seen so much history. Here was built one of the seven halls, which is supposed, were provided for the seven sons of the Eyre family in the C.15; (Hazelford was such another). Robert Eyre married Joan Padley when he returned from Agincourt where he had been taken prisoner; the portraits of Robert and Joan remain in brass in Hathersage Church. The adherence of the Eyres to their faith was to bring them tragedy. The little chapel is all that remains of the great house which was allowed to fall into ruin after the capture in 1588 of two priests and John Fitzherbert who were all executed brutally at Derby. The Eyre estates were confiscated; the chapel became a cowshed and a barn; but all through its period of disgrace, it kept a piscine and four carved hammer beams in an upper room which had been the private chapel of the great hall. It was reconsecrated as a R.C. church in 1933; the alter stone was set up again after lying in a cowshed for centuries, and the site has become a place of pilgrimage.

Proceed downhill, then turn R onto wide track to the old railway station, passing over the railway at the entrance to Totley Tunnel; one of the longest in Britain, past the railway café to go

L through a white gateway up a steep bank to the road above at 252786. Turn R and walk S for 10 metres before going L up a road to Nether Padley to a point where there are two signposts: the first leading back to Longshaw; the second, which has to be taken, leading up to the Haywood car park through pleasant woodland with good views. Go over a step stile at the car park, then over a second before descending to a stream and climbing the steep bank to a gate and road at 255755. go R and in 40 metres, go through a swing gate and begin the long walk along Froggatt Edge and Curber Edge to the Curber Gap, level going in general, pleasant in any weather but especially so when the sun shines and the fine views are clearly revealed.

Cross over the road and walk S past the eagle stone; it is stated that local youths had to climb the stone before being married. Come to Wellingtons Monument to cut straight down the bank to a path below to turn L and walk roughly E following the wall on the R to turn R still following the wall. Walk with house on the L over a single arched bridge over Bar Brook, then come up to the A.621 at 268733. cross the road to a neat little step stile, then with house on R, take a wooden step stile before walking SE gently uphill on a good path, Gardom Rocks up on the L, then, from the top, down to the A.619 at 278721, then L back to the start at the Robin Hood.

checked