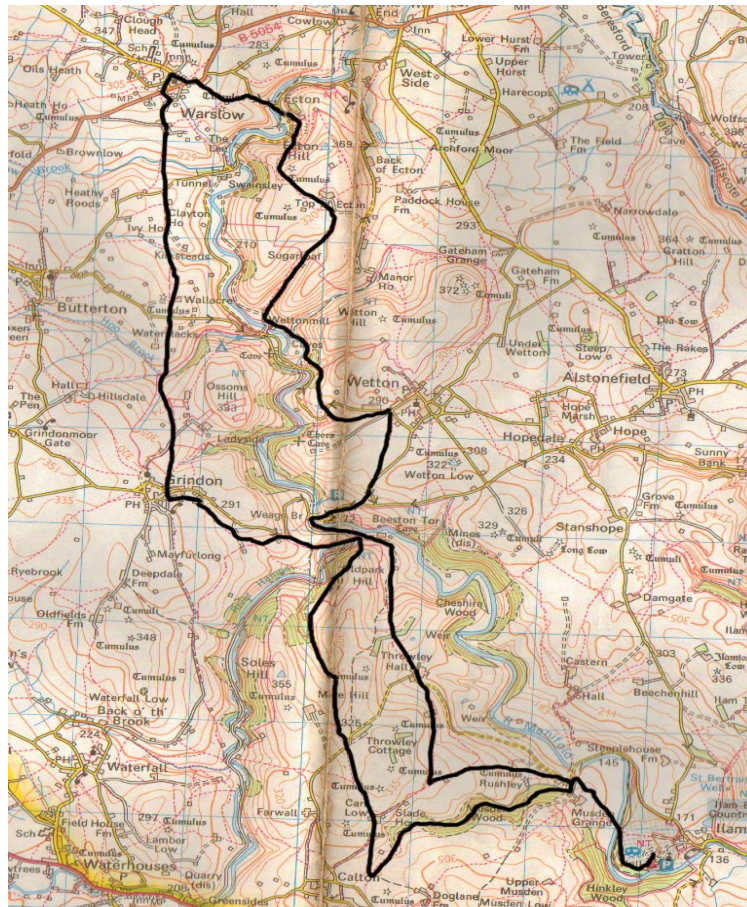


Walk. 47
Ilam. 47.
18.7 Miles.
Map- White Peak.



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Start at Ilam at 131507. Walk S to the river then W along Paradise Walk, then N, river on L, passing the Battle Cross on the way. Arrive at a gate and wooden step stile, then go L over huge stones on to a footbridge and leave by more huge stones. Enter a field and walk NW straight across to a slot stile between two poor uprights, then enter a field and bear R to walk NW, cutting the R corner and making for a slot between two large uprights in a wall near a tree. The next field is quite large; bear slightly to the L and climb gently across the contours while observing the view over the valley on the R. ahead is a wide gap, no gate, but there is a slot stile at the side, no longer used. Continue NW, wall near on R, and make for another wide gap in a wall, no gate, but a slot at the side. Mused Grange Farm is up to the L. the farm name "Grange" is sometimes an indication of a former farm controlled by the lay brothers of a monastery; it has been suggested that a level area at this farm is the site of such a grange; Musden Grange belonged to Croxton Abbey. A mediaeval way led from the Grange to Upper Musden (123504) via Abbots Bank and Abbots Gate which the Monks would take on their journeys over the Weaver Hill to Croxton. In the next wall is a slot between two uprights from which drop down, then up past a huge silage container and go to a fence and a wooden slot and bar which is not in the place indicated on the map: it has probably been moved.

Enter the farm drive: turn L and walk up to Rushden Farm (123515). Keep the farm buildings on the L and curve to the L at the far end to come to a sign: Calton 1.5 miles. Bear R and walk 20 metres to a stile; enter a field and walk with fence and low wall on the L. In 50 metres arrive at a

muddy patch and a gate, no stile, and notice that a Dale has been reached, high banks, level base and trees round about, a fence and wall on the L, trees coming down to them. Go forward and enter a more wooded area. A metal gate soon spans the path; continue on a curving path to another gate to enter an open area: like an amphitheatre, then walk on through the interesting dale until it becomes narrower at its head with a few trees. A short section of wall has a slot in it with handrails to enter a field; broken wall on L. go through four fields, and come to a wall with a slot in it to drop in to a muddy area, a lane going to the L (107505).

Bear R and keep close to the wall on the R for 100 metres, then turn R with wall and keep close to it on the R to walk N with the head of the dale below on the R; there is a old farm building to the R in the fourth field, come to a gate at the top with a slot on its R. A footpath goes of SW here to Calton, do not take this but go N on a firm farm track, level going, wall on R to come to Slade House, a disused farmhouse with outbuildings, all have an appearance of being prosperous in their day. Continue NW on a good farm track wall on L, Cart Low away to the L. passing two fields on the L, come to a gate with stile on its L. Continue N level going, wall on R with a good view of Throwley Cottage surrounded by protective trees, and a glimpse ahead of a valley the walk will enter. A gate has a slot on its L; cross a farm drive and continue N past a well made circular walled pond to a wall to be kept on the L: Throwleymoore Farm up to the L. Go through a gate, and walk S, wall on L, along Soles Hollow, Soles Hill up on the L with a trig point at 1164 feet. Go through a gate, no stile, the wall curving away to the R, and see the Dale deepening, now walking in a sunken; lane down to a gate, slot stile on its R. The path narrows and becomes stony, awkward for walking; descending still, trees either side to reach the old Manifold Light Railway at 101535 via a N.T. sign: Old Soles Wood.

Cross the road to a slot and walk N then W around a spur, rising to a level platform with fine views of the Hamps Valley. Keep to the R and gradually climb the bank keeping trees on the L and enter a small depression like a valley fenced across at the top and decorated with two domestic baths. In the L corner is a slot which like many others, could be missed. Passing a circular concrete water trough, go W of N, climbing gently through a field, a farm building on the R. Go over an old farm drive and make for a gate ahead, 30 metres to the L in a corner of the wall is a slot stile. Make for a gate ahead on the L is a poor slot, then in the next field, keep the hedge near on the R, walking NW to the wall ahead with a step over stile. The next field is quite large and is L shaped, still rising, to a wall and slot. Buckfurlong Farm ahead, keep to the L of the farm and make for a slot between two uprights near a tree to the L and enter a narrow field and walk diagonally, farm buildings to the R, to a slot, a post indicating where it is. Pass a chipped out water trough, cut the R hand corner and go 30 metres to the L of a gate and slot together with a pole and sign, then make way into Grindon (087544).

The church is Victorian 1845, but contains a Norman Font. The Cavalier Inn is an attractive building with massive lintels and quoins. Walk E with church on the L, passing a row of modern houses at the end of which is a footpath sign directing L up a short lane to a slot on the L of a gate. Walk N through the field, wall on L, and church away to the L; descend to a brook then rising up a bank past a single tree. Go to bushes at the top which hide a slot and emerge into a field, walking N close to the hedge on the L with a road to the L of this and come to a corner and slot. Cross the road at 088549 to a wooden slot and continue to the N to a similar stile at the R of a gate. To the L rises the spire of Butterton Church, another Victorian building. Keep to the hedge on L, dropping slightly to a wooden gate with stile on its R; not easy to see. Cut down fairly steeply in the next field, hedge on the L; this is an area of miniature dales; an interesting spot. Another small wooden gate is reached with stile on its L. go forward down to the L until a solid footbridge is reached with handrails and a swing gate at either end. Go W uphill, wall on L, climbing to a wall containing a swing gate.

Broadmeadow Farm lies to the L, the views on this walk are constantly changing with little level ground and many hillocks typical of a limestone area. It also means that the walker gains and loses much height. Go forward to another swing gate. In the next field walk on a stone surface specially laid; for what? Go through a gap in the hedge in front, an old farm building away to the R, then come to farm gates, and so out on to the road at 087562.

Cross the road to a slot on the L of some woodwork and continue to walk N in a level field, pleasant going to another swing gate in the hedge in front, then another field, wall close on the L and Wallacre Farm to the L. it has an interesting gabled dormers which are popular in these parts. Go across the farm drive and pass a gritstone gatepost on the ground. Drop gently through the next field, hedge close on the R, and come to a poor slot into a field, hedge on R, land rising up on the L and a good view into the Manifold. A wall comes up on the R; keep close to it to go forward to an untidy corner on the R to an awkward gap. Now enter a narrow field which drops down to the R; go across it, walking N, to the wall in front where a gap is closed by a pallet yet again. Kirksteads Farm on the R is perched on a hillock, like a motte and bailey castle of long ago. Walking N drop down to a little stream to cross at a muddy area to another gap filled by a pallet, then climb up a bank in the next field, hedge on the R. Go through a gap and cross a field to a cattle grid and walk on a hard drive, wall on L, level going, the land gently falling away to the Manifold on the R. come to a slot stile; Clayton House is on the R, and arrive at a road at 086574.

Enter the next field through a slot stile and descend sharply; notice the sunken lane on the R. go steeply down to Warslow Brook which is crossed by a narrow footbridge. Climb uphill along the old sunken lane to the R. At the top there is a stile at the side of a gate. Go forward in the sunken lane that has been followed, houses ahead. A good slot admits into a lane alongside some old cottages, neatly restored. Together they make a pleasant hamlet. Go along the farm drive and, notice on the L a house with strange battlements. Further along on the R is a low farm building with a Tudor doorway encased in huge dressings and lintel, nearby is another gabled dormer with pediment, then arrive at Warslow (088586).

This interesting village merits a glance at some of the stone houses. The church was built in 1820 before the Victorian Gothic had been established. Leave on the road which goes E to Hulme End, but in only 100 metres from the road junction, go R through a good slot on the R of a gate at Hobcroft Farm. Keep close to the farm on the L and go through a slot next to a water tank. Walk SE through the next field close to a wall on the L, Ecton Hill rearing up above the Manifold. At an angle in a wall, go through a stile and go downhill and catch the sight of a building with a copper spire. Near the bottom walk parallel to a road wall on L. there is a good stile hidden in bushes at a telegraph pole on the L. Descend steeply down to a bar stile and so out on to the road at 094585. Turn R; go over the Dale Bridge. The path along side the Manifold railway crosses the road; go forward to a road junction at Ecton. There is little evidence now of the former copper and lead mines which brought so much work to the area and wealth to the Duke of Devonshire. Packhorses were very busy traversing the walk which walkers now sometimes take.

Go R along the road for 10 metres, then go L up to a road, climbing steadily past a house; the Hillocks, this would attract anyone's attention, it has low arch, battlements, a protruding wing, a balcony, different levels, a lancet window, two stone heads of maidens now rather worn, a gable timber-clad and more. It was built in 1931 as a castle folly. Proceed through the yard, keeping to the L, going under an arch connecting two buildings to a gate, then in 10 metres to stone steps and a slot stile. Bear R and begin the long steady climb to Ecton Top, going S up the flank of the hill, the views becoming more and more extensive the higher attained. The site of a mine is revealed. Soon the foothills are revealed Swainsley Hall is revealed it was built in 1867 by a gentleman named Roscoe, a London solicitor and extended in the 1890s by Sir Thomas Wardle a director of the Manifold Light Railway. The tunnel was built to keep traffic away from the hall. Mark Twain visited the Hall. The path levels out. In several hundred metres, go L up a nearby wall in which there is a good stile, then walk E through a field close to a wall on the R, climbing a little to a gap in the corner ahead, no gate or stile. Keep near to the wall in the next field, going E to the corner where there is yet again no gate or stile, go into a field to bear R and walk SE diagonally across the field to the far corner; a line of trees ahead, and long views E. In the far corner is a stile that leads into a lane of only 10 metres length, then enter a field; Summerhill Farm is to the R and Broad Acton Farm away to the L. Go diagonally downhill, crossing a farm track and coming to the far corner where there is a gate, a water trough but no stile. In the next field, go L, wall on L down to a gate in a muddy corner, no stile, then out on to the drive (to Broad Acton Farm) at 101573.

Turn R on the farm drive and walk S for 10 metres to a curve to the L in the road. Leave the road at this point and continue S in a field, wall on R, to a wall in front where there is a gap, no gate or stile, continue S, wall on R, and abundance of thistles in the grass, the land rising to the R and L, and the path dropping gently to a farm gate on the R there is a wooden stile, that is good one side and a drop on the other, in the next field pleasant walking downhill, wall on the R with a view of a distant church; probably Grindon. Go through a gateway into the next field, the fourth and at its end, go R so as to walk with a fence and trees on the L, the land either side rising as progression in made. Come to a high fence with one part a six bar stile. Climb over and go sharp R for 10 metres to a slot and bar stile and a sign directing the walker going in the opposite direction. The path then descends between tiny outcrops; trees either side and away to the L is the Sugar Loaf, a strange reef knoll. Descend on a stony path that becomes a farm drive to Dale Farm to enter by a slot on the L, then proceed through the farm yard down to Wetton Mill (095561).

This spot has been familiar to travellers for many generations, packhorses carrying the Duke of Devonshire's ore came this way from Ecton in the C.17 and later, though there was no bridge marked on an estate map of 1617. Darfur or Darfar bridge a little lower down was marked on the map; and there is a record that, in 1807, at a cost of £184, the Duke of Devonshire replaced Wetton Bridge which had been swept away by floods. It is assumed, therefore, that the packhorse trains used the bridge from about 1770 onwards, and that the road from Ecton to Wetton Mill had been maintained by the Duke. The name Wetton Mill, suggests the existence of a mill; a corn mill was working here in 1617 and possibly early as 1577. It closed in the C.19; the wheel was situated where the dairy now stands. Wetton Mill is now a café.

Cross the bridge rebuilt in 1807, turn L and walk down the former railway for over half a mile, admiring the way the spectacular limestone outcrops that catch the sun. Cross Dafur Bridge and cross over a road so as to remain on the trail to a point (098551) to turn L. on the R is a N.T. sign "Ossoms Hill". Go over the strong foot Bridge and start climbing up through the woods, taking a good slot stile at the beginning and leaving the woods by another. On the R is the important Thor's Cave, a huge hole in a high cliff that rises 300 feet out of the river. It is easy to understand why primitive people chose to live here, even sacrifice here perhaps. Excavations have yielded valuable evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation extending through several centuries, arrow heads, bronze broaches and an iron adze among them. A complete skeleton, thought to be Neolithic was found buried in an upright position. There is a fine view back to Grindon Church. Plod uphill to a slot in a wall; then uphill all the way to a farm gate on the L is a slot with a marker pole and so out on to the road at 106552 in Wetton.

Turn R and walk about 50 metres to a stile on the R and a sign to confirm that the path goes into someone's well kept lawn, leave by stone steps then enter an area where farm machinery is stored. Walk S to a gate, on the R is a stile. Walk along a concrete track, wall on R, to two gates: take the one on the L and enter a field. The slot in the next field has been damaged leaving a gap, so into the next field to see the next slot in the distance. Go through this to the next field, go L to the far corner where a good stile leads out on to a road at 105546.

Turn R: the views S are absorbing. Count two fields on the R then go R through a slot in a wall and descend steeply to join the road again via steps in a wall to the R of a gate. Turn R and walk W down the road which was much used by the packhorses, hence the zig zags, where it turns to the L. leave the road and go straight ahead down a bank to Weag's Bridge (100542). Turn L to regain the old railway track and walk E accompanied on the R by a second road along side this. Soon the site of Beeston Tor comes into view. This is where the beds of the Manifold and Hamps meet; the Hamps runs underground in dry weather. This is where, also excavations in St. Bertram's Cave, in 1924, yielded Saxon coins and jewellery dated 871-4. Beeston Tor was purchased by the N.T. in 1976.

Go through a slot on the R of a farm gate; the dry bed of the Manifold follows on the L, then cross the dry Hamps by a footbridge; a sign states that Throwley Hall is 1.5 miles away. Come to Beeston Tor Farm; keep to the R of it on a hard road that begins to climb on its route to Throwley, going E then S, passing through a metal gate, no stile, then passing four trees in a row on the R, then a farm building on the L. A wall now accompanies one on the L until a gate is reached on its L is a stile. Walk S now up through an open field making for a copse of trees on the brow of a hill. In a wall

to the L of the trees is a ladder stile, then gaze down on Throwley Hall Farm and beyond this Ilam and Thorp Cloud. Walk S downhill on a farm track towards the house but go R to a copse of trees where there is a bar stile in a fence. Go through a over grown area to a slot in a wall then remerge into the farmyard, going R past a Footpath sign. On leaving note the farmhouse must be 200 years old, but on the R is the stone building known as Throwley Barracks, has all the features of an even older building, particularly its mullioned windows. Go through a gate, continue down the drive for 100 metres, then cut off R and make for a copse ahead. On the way, stop and look back at the ruins of Throwley Old Hall built, it seams, in the early C.16: the windows are typical of those in the time of Henry the V111. Throwley Barracks were contemporaneous with the old hall which was the home of the Meveralls whose tomb is in Ilam church. Years later Charles Cotton owned the site.

Continue S uphill, passing g the copse and coming to the far R corner and a stile. Go S uphill through the next smaller field to another ladder stile, and from this, keep close to the wall on the L until it goes off L at a right angle NE, then go diagonally across the field to the far E corner enjoying good views of Castern Hall. Both this and Throwley Hall were built to enjoy good views. Go over a good step stile in the corner then go diagonally E down through a field to the far corner where there is a gate. Walk SE down, close to the wall on the L, to a stile and continue in the same direction, wall on the L to a ladder stile that can be early seen. To the R is Rushley Barn. Descend through a small field to a wall and slot, Rushley Farm and stone bridge can now be seen. Make for the R corner below and go over the bar stile (which does not seam to be in the position of the map): turn R and go downhill to the farm. Bear L with the road and in 40 metres go R through a stile which again does not seam to be in the position shown on the map.

Enter a field and pass the silage to go towards a bank and a stile in a wall. In the next wall, there is a large gap, no gate, but a good slot, and it is same in the next wall. From this, go through the next field, and come to a stile in a wall; then cut the L corner in the next field and drop to a prominent tree which marks a slot stile. Level going to a footbridge at the other side of which to go R to a wooden step stile, then walk down Paradise Walk, or Happy Valley (in George Elliot's "Adam Bede") to the Ilam House an start.

A visit to the church is worthwhile to see St Bertram's Shrine, the Meverell Tomb and the Chantry Monument commissioned by Mrs Jesse Watts Russell.

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