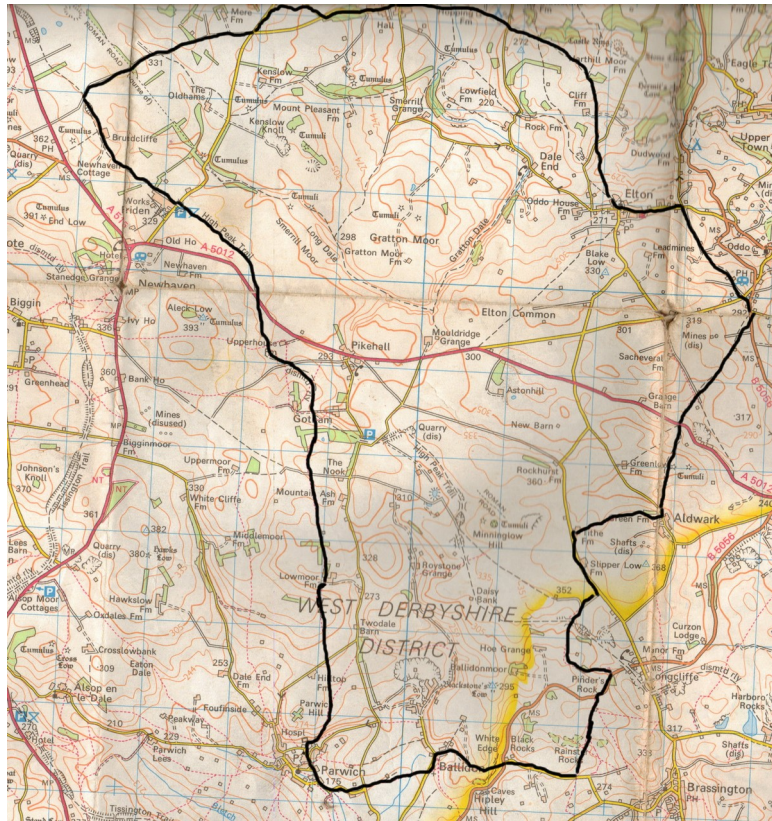


WALK.51.
PARWICH 51.
20 miles 5 hours 30 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start in Parwich (188543). Walk E along the road to a junction at 196542. Go straight across the road to the hedge where there is a sign to Ballidon and a slot stile between two worn upright. Walk NE through a field with hedge close on the L to the far hedge which holds a narrow footbridge, and so into the next field, walking in the same direction, bear R level going, cutting the R corner to gain a stile in hedge, then through the next field walking in the same direction to the far hedge and over a small footbridge into another field. Walk E with hedge on the L to a stile with a sign (to Parwich) and so out on to the road at 203544.

Turn L and go R in 40 metres through a stile in the wall used by worshipers as well as walkers, and continue on a narrow concrete path made difficult for the worshipers by the cows. The handsome small church at Ballidon called All Saints was thoroughly restored in 1882 that the Norman features were lost. The font came here in the C.15. Go E up the steep bank to a wall and good slot to the L of a gate where two worn upright have long done their duty, this gives a good view over Cow Close Farm. Continue E uphill, passing trees in a tiny dale on the L, and, in front, a single stone upright isolated in the middle of a field where once, perhaps a gate stood. Go over the crest then down a steep bank to a wall and through a slot and out on to a road at 211545.

Cross the road and walk E along the road to Brassington for 900 metres to a point at 220544 where a footpath crosses the road going N to S; there is a sign on the R. go to the L through a slot in

the wall and enter a field, walking N downhill then uphill to Rainster Rocks which stand out boldly and prominent against the sky. One can easily understand why the Romans and their Iron Age predecessors chose this place for habitation. Go E downhill through rough ground and a few trees to a wall where, to take a L turn and walk N with the wall on the R. Pass an old farm building on the R and come out on to a road via a gate at 221553.

Turn R and walk uphill for 300 metres to where the road curves then go L off the road at a sign, walk NW down a short lane to its end. Just before the end, on the L, go over the wall at a nondescript stile and walk with wall on then R to the far corner, then onto the next corner then onto the third corner to then walk close to the wall on the R, then scramble through trees and over huge rocks to get to the next field so as to walk NE close to the wall to come to a wall with a gate; no stile. Turn L and walk along a wide lane which curves to the L. Do not follow it but go straight ahead, walking N wall on either side, up to a gate with a slot on its R. Walk uphill close to wall on the L, heading for the High Peak Trail which is marked by a single arched bridge. There are strong gates but no stiles. From this walk NE through a field, wall on the L, to a gate, then in another 10 metres to a gate and a stile on its L and so on to a good lane. Walk NE down to the road at 222565.

Turn L and walk NW for about 700 metres to Tithe Farm. Turn R down the farm lane and pass the farm on the L; it is worth a glance: windows placed symmetrically in three stories, the house painted white but the dressing in black. Come to a gate and cemented stile in the wall, over this and walk E. At the end of the field; go through a gate, then through a large field where a spring wells up in a dip. At the end of this large field stand two large uprights making a good slot. From this point the map seems to indicate the footpath lies to the L of the wall: but if the walker keeps to the top of the rocks, there are stiles. The first one is broken, but at the end of the second field there are good stiles. Halfway through the third field go off L through a stile which enters a rough wooden area to walk for 200 metres. Go through a stile on the R hand so back into the fields again. Make for farm buildings. The first is quite old, go through barriers to the front of this building and see marks of quality; good dressings and quoins windows mullioned, and more important, the date 1686 carved above the door. Go down to the road in Aldwark at 229574.

This small village has always stood on an old route; at one time, it had no fewer than four inns. Leave the road going NW past Lidgate Farm, but in only a few metres, go R off the road at a sign and slot, then go N downhill through a long field to the bottom then climb to a fence in 25 metres. Follow the wall on the R uphill to a corner and stile. Level going in the next field; Green Low Barrow on the high ground R, is a Neolithic Chambered Tomb retaining a single paved chamber and paved entrance passage; fragments of Neolithic pottery, some of the early Grim stone Ware and beaker shards were found here, along with Stone Age fragments, and a leaf arrow head of flint. Both chamber and passage contained human bones; good long views before dropping downhill to a broken wall. Go down to the L to a slot on the R of a large gap crudely closed, then walk up through a field, wall on L. drop down fairly steeply to the R corner and sign; the stile is almost unrecognisable. Go on to the road at 230585.

Cross the road to a poor slot and go diagonally R to the far corner. Ivanbrook Quarry is to the R. At a wooden gate, there are two uprights in a wire fence, then a good slot between two stone uprights, the path then leads NE to the far wall; make for a point to the L of a gate where there is a slot in a wire fence. Enter a lane which is crossed and it is again NE to the far corner where on the R, is a broken stile. Go NE to the wall on the L at a point where overhead cables cross the wall to a stile between stone uprights which leads to a stile in an electric fence. Bear R and make for the wall in front then walk with wall on R to an unbelievable good slot. Cut the L corner and go to another well-made stile in an electric fence and now drop down to Winster. Cut the R corner and go 15 metres to a broken wall and gap. In the next field, go to a slot between uprights near an old farm building. In the distant corner, is a slot leading to an old lane, cross the lane to enter a field, at the far end is a broken wall with prominent stile, and the same again in the next field. Bear R and make for the road by a stile at 237598.

Turn L and walk towards Winster (which this route avoids though a visit is always worthwhile. Go L in 200 metres, go straight across the road and enter a lane and walk NW, passing on the R an old limestone farm building whose roof spars stand out stark against the sky; it has good gritstone

dressings, the mark of style in a former age. Birchover clinging to the hillside in the distance. The lane reaches the road at 229610 then turn L and through Elton which has several interesting old houses, one with a fine old stone hood over the door, the Youth Hostel has a date 1668, the parish Church was rebuilt in 1812.

At the church go R down a lane (Well Street) for 100 metres, then, at a sign to Youlgreave, go L along a lane to another sign, a gate, but no stile. Enter a field, there is a fine view of Anthony Hill, but first drop down to the L to a stile in a broken wall; then go down to the far L corner and a slot slightly to the R. Go sharply to the R between two gritstones. Go sharp L to the wall and out on to the road through a stile at 218613. Turn R and walk N along the road for 100 metres, then, where the road curves to the R, go straight ahead, off the road, to a slot and sign on the R of a gate. The walk then goes to rough ground at the foot of Anthony Hill which is to the R. walk NW to a broken wall into somewhat rough ground with woods and a prominent rock outcrop away on the R, then walk N. A wall comes to join on the R then approach a wall in front and an open gateway. Do not enter but, instead, turn R and walk uphill, wall on L, to reach another gap in wall on the L. Go through it and walk diagonally to the top corner; there are stone steps in the wall. Walk NW through a field close to the wall on the R; on the L is a prominent wooden Knoll. The path levels out to approach a corner at the top to go through a stile and enter a field which is large and level. Then walk N towards farm buildings and a gateway. Go 20 metres towards a gate with stile on the L which goes to the corner of the next field. Continue to walk N with wall on the L. Blacks Nursery Plantation is to the L. come to a corner and a stile in a fence and a slot in a gritstone wall. Go only 20 metres through a narrow belt of trees to leave by a slot into a field which is quite large. Walk NW and enter the next field which drops in front.

From this point striking views over Youlgreave which, when shrouded in a lake of morning mist, make an incredible and moving sight.

Go L, NW, down to the wall on the L, where there is, thankfully another good slot stile. Now climb up through a field to the wall which makes the skyline to find good stone steps and a good view. To the R are the trees in Middleton Dale; in front low ground that climbs gently to the distance where the path leads to the High Peak Trail. Below is Hopping Farm with its neat lines of caravans. The land falls steeply down, then make for the bottom L corner to go through a slot between two wooden bars, then over a wall into a lane at 208630.

Cross the lane; step up to a slot stile then go again down a slope to a stile in a wall on the L. Proceed only 15 metres to another stile on the R and continue downhill, hedge on R and a farm ahead. Go through two good gritstone uprights on the R of a walled-up gateway between two gritstone gateposts. Go forward to a gate and a slot on its R. this is Hopping Farm; the caravans are now on the R. Go to another gate; there is a slot on its L. enter a field and make for the wall ahead to a slot in a wall, then proceed downhill through the next field towards the trees in Middleton Dale. Go through a slot and make for the dale which is entered in an unusual way by going down wooden steps. Cross over a footbridge and walk for a few hundred metres with the stream on the R to where the stream is crossed by a bridge on both sides of which are the ruins of buildings. Go L here and walk up to a lane between trees and fine imposing rock outcrops. On the L a farm is breached this has a very high unbroken wall; there is an old pump nearby; and so Middleton is entered.

Get the impression at once of an estate village where the buildings conform to a pattern; the result is a pleasing dignity. There is an abundance of gritstone dressings and quoins, some of them huge. Here lived Christopher Fulwood, a J.P. who raised troops for King Charles 1 and was shot at the place now known as Fulwood Rock. Just behind the congressional Chapel (1826) lies the grave of Thomas Bateman who excavated many barrows in Derbyshire. He lived in the nearby Lomerdale Hall (1845). Middleton lay on the old Peak Way which was mentioned in a C.13 document. This walk soon uses part of that way.

Leave the road that goes W, a long slog uphill. In about a mile go over a road junction at 179628 and continue on a good lane (Green Lane) that was once part of the Peak Way. Away to the R is Arbor Low a well preserved bronze\age monument. This is an area of great antiquity where

Neolithic men worked and walked; sadly we can not now walk the old routs and the Roman Road that passes the monuments.

Cross the Roman Road and reach the High Peak Trail at 160620. Turn L and walk SE just over two miles until there is a glimpse of another ancient site: Minninglow, one of the most impressive of Derbyshire's prehistoric tombs, and a point on an old route. At Gotham's curve, go off the Trail to the R at 189583, over good stone steps in a wall, then walk S with wall on the L up to a gate. Go now 20 metres through a band of trees, Chapel Plantation to the R and Gotham Plantation to the L. on the R of a gate are steps in a wall. Go diagonally SW across the field to another wall and, again, good gritstone steps, well carved and firmly embedded. Bear R, going SW to the far corner near trees and a step stile. Proceed down to a wall and an open gateway, on the R is stone steps. Go S through a field to the far wall and a gate; on the R are stone steps leading into a lane at 188578.

Cross the lane to step stile and enter a field criss-crossed by traditional limestone walls, many now broken. Follow the wall on the L to step stile in the corner. From this point, aim for Lowmoor Plantation to the S. just ahead are stone steps in a wall. Good steps in the next wall, then proceed to another wall with sound stone steps over it to then walk to a small copse, wall on L, to come down to the next wall and stone steps concreted in the wall. Follow the wall on the L past farm buildings on the L where again sound evidence of good building methods: gritstone dressings in limestone buildings. There is no stile at the next gate, then 25 metres to the next gate, then proceed across a field to a wall where at the L of the gate is a step stile. Go down a lane for a short distance to steps in a wall on the R of a farm building, cross a drive to a wall and stone steps, and then climb up a bank.

At the top of the bank, in a wall stone steps, then continue to climb, wall on L to level out to a corner and a good slot. With wall on L, walk past old farm buildings, going through a gap into a field, then down to a slot then through a field to the far R corner where there is a stile on the R of a gate. Enter a lane at 191556, cross it to a sign and rough steps, then go S, wall on L, Hilltop Farm to the R behind trees. Go through a slot then through a field to a wooden step in a wall, then bear R to steps over a low wall near the corner. Drop down to the L to trees; do not go too far down but come to a post with an arrow on it to go through a gap into a field. Go downhill to the L to a slot and into a lane and make for the start passing on the way a house with an old cruck exposed, and glancing back to the Hall rebuild in 1747. The church too was rebuilt in the C.19 but retains some original features: the N doorway in the tower, chancel arch and an interesting Norman tympanum.

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