

WALK 63.
ILAM. 63
19-8Miles.
MAP White Peak.



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Start at Ilam Hall (131504). Walk W down to the path alongside the River Manifold where the waters reappear from their underground journey, and pass on the R the “Battle Cross”, found in the foundations of a cottage during rebuilding of 1840. Take a wooden stile to the L of a gate, then go over some huge stones on a footbridge and more stones on the other side. Go 40 metres NW over a flat field to a slot between grit uprights, then, in the next field, bear R and cut the R corner, walking slightly uphill NW to a stile in a wall. Musden grange farm just above on the L. Go 150 metres to a wall to a slot on the L of a gate; another 150 metres to another gateway with another slot on its L. then go 100 metres downhill where there is a slot in a wall. Drop down to a muddy section in the next field, the up to a fence with a slot and bar of wood Rushley Bridge. Just below on the R is another of those interesting bridges seen frequently.

Bear L and walk SSW to the farm to pass on the L. go round the corner to the L where there is a sign at a gate to Musden Low and Calton (straight on) and to Callton to the R. go R before the gate to a stile in 15 metres and a metal gate in 25 metres, then walk SW, wall on L, up through the pleasant wooded valley of Musden Wood until a stile is reached at 109504 and thus enter fields to proceed through a stile, hedge on L, to a road via a bar stile to the R of a gate (106500). A sign here indicates a footpath. Turn R, walk W. Calton Lees; is to the L, its bell turret easily visible among the roofs, its figures licked out in gold. At a fork in 200 metres, go straight on for another 300 metres to where the road curves sharply to the L. Here (101501), go R up a lane, walking N for 200 metres, then go into a field, walking WNW to the far corner, level

going, good views. Go through a gap in the far wall. Turn sharp R and walk N, wall and hedge on the R, into the head of a small wooded valley round which walk into a field, then downhill steeply to a hedge bearing a stile, cut the L corner, make for a gate and a former railway, now a footpath at 094510.

Turn L and walk S along this firm and easy track, passing over a substantial bridge over the river on the other side go R off the track through a farm gate to walk W uphill through a few trees on a worn track up to a broken wall then into a field where the going is pleasant. Going through Pitchings Farm and continue W, (not along the farm drive) wall on R slightly uphill for 150 metres to a slot on the R. Go diagonally uphill NW through the next field to the far corner where there is no stile, so enter the next field and walk W uphill with hedge close on L for 50 metres, then go L through a gap in the wall and walk W uphill close to wall on the R. at the top, go through a gate, no stile. At this point, take a bearing NW over large sections of concrete to a gateway at the top of this field. Lamber Low is to the L. In the far NW corner, go through a gateway and descend through the next field, cutting the R corner and making for a gap in the wall in 40 metres. Cross this narrow field and go over the wall, no stile, then descend through the field to a small slot stile between stone uprights, and so out on to a lane at 085511

Turn L and walk only 20 metres only passing two minor roads going off L. Come to a road fork; on the R is a gate with a slot on its R, go through this and walk NW close to wall on the R, going downhill to a wall in front containing a stile. Go 25 metres to another stile in a wall, then go forward to a stone cottage in front where to turn L and walk 20 metres to a slot stile among sheds: the cottage is named Blow Oram (066519). Cross a farm drive to a stile and walk downhill to the River Hamps for 30 metres to another stile. Here is a flat area here near the river used by campers. From the stile, turn R and walk NE uphill close to a fence and large farm building on the R. The land falls steeply to the L. Come up to a stile in a fence, then climb steeply up to the far fence and stile. Keep close to the fence on the L below which trees grow. In 20 metres, go through to the L (no stile) into trees and walk N through a large area towards a small brick building where another footpath comes from the road on the E. here a line of trees form a field boundary (E to W). Continue n through the middle of the open field to the corner of two hedges which enclose a field ahead. To the R is the road. Continue N with a thick hedge on the R to go through a gap in the hedge into the field and keep walking N, hedge now on the L. At the end of this field, there is no stile, so go L into the field on the L and continue walking N as before through a large field, uphill then downhill to farm buildings. The map indicates that the path goes up to the R of those buildings; that may be difficult, so go to the L of the buildings, over a bar stile in a fence, then walk close to the buildings on the R to a small gate that opens to enter a drive for the buildings.

Turn R and walk E between the buildings for a few metres, then turn L and walk N through the filthiest mud ever encountered but soon enter a dry field and walk on high ground overlooking the River Hamps below. Drop steeply down to a gate, then bear L and go through farm buildings, some of which are derelict, then walk N with the river on the L, now walking on green lane to a footbridge and stile. Continue on a farm drive until it goes off to the R, then leave it at this point and go straight ahead to a stile then walk NW into muddy area, then along a drive to a slot stile side of a gate and so out on to a road at Ford (065539).

Bear L and walk W past an interesting house with mullioned windows, hood moulds, strong lintels and all dressings tooled. Do not go over bridge but go R through the farmyard instead, leaving on a farm drive to then enter a good clean field and walk NW, fence on the R. the Hamps is away on the L. when the drive goes off to the R to a distance house, go straight ahead to a simple slot in 10 metres. Drop down to the flat alluvial land and see the steep bank each side. Eventually, go to the R of a fence, then walk with fence on L to a wall in front where there is a slot to then drop down through a clean field and make for a fence and hedge containing a wooden slot and so out on to a road at Onecote (051553).

Packhorse routes passed through Onecote bearing ore from Ecton and Mixon copper mines for smelting; later, a turnpike tollgate was established here on the road to Newhaven. Bear R and walk NE uphill for half a mile to a slot between two low gritstones on the R of the road. Walk E uphill through a field, bearing to the L in 200 metres from one old. Walk E uphill through a field, bearing to the L in 200 metres from one farm building towards another, the next stile can be seen ahead, to then enter moorland (National Trust) for 200 metres. Cross a road at 061559 to a gate and slot, the spire of Butterson Church beckoning, then proceed down a farm drive, going past Twistgreen Farm towards a fascinating landscape. Drop down, trees on R, and in about 400 metres, go L close to a derelict building to walk over a large stone to a wall with stile to be faced with another farm building with strong dressings. Continue N uphill to a wall on the R; just below a small stone building, go N through a gateway, then bear R and walk NE close to hedge on R to a gate in 100 metres. There is a slot on its R, level going close to hedge on R to come to another gate to then enter a farm drive and walk past New House Farm (069563) which is on the R. the last building on the R is a black one at a gate and stile. Here go L into a field, no stile, and walk NNW, wall on R, through this and a second field and so out on to a road at 068566.

Turn R and walk E into Butterson. Leave to the S, going downhill to a ford, then go S uphill and walk SE; note on the R above, a circular wall filled with earth. What is it? The Hoo Brook flows 40 metres below on L. at the end of this field; there is a slot in a wall. From here, bear L and walk SE up through a field, passing the angle of two walls on the R. go through a gap in a wall ahead. Enter the next field and walk in same direction, avoiding a curving wall to the R and bearing L to a stile in a low wall. Continue SW downhill through a field, walk down to small stream that flows L down to Hoo Brook. Here, there is a stile in a fence. Walk S uphill close to wall on the R and proceed to a lane that leads to Hillsdale Hall (079554) the oldest part of which has mullioned windows: Hillsdale Hall, dated 1620, was once on the packhorse route from Ecton via Wettonmill, the horses coming up the same lane that has just been walked.

50 metres beyond the farm, go R along a lane which reaches the next farm (Oxclose Farm); go straight through the farmyard, then go R into a field. From this farm, go SE down through the centre of a field for 40 metres to the bottom where there is a stone step and stile. Go through another muddy area into a field, climbing gently, fence on L; Grindon Spire ahead. Bear to the R; there is a valley to the L, then a stile and enter another field, hedge on R. go through a stile and enter a field, hedge on R. at a ruined building, there is a gate and slot and access to a road at 085545 near Grindon Church.

Bear R and come to the Cavalier Inn. Bear L and, in 300 metres, come to a house painted white adorned with metal containers which once held hay for horses. Go R here; in 20 metres there are a sign and a stile; go over into a field and walk S through fields very close to a lane that runs alongside on the R. go through eight stiles. Emerge at a sign, then walk in the last stretch of a lane, going uphill to a gate, no stile. Drop a little now, a wall on the R. Come down to a large gate and go through into a field, dropping now steeply. There is a dogleg here in the path: go down to a circular pond on the R. take stone steps in a wall, then follow the wall on the L, climbing now to a farm ahead which yields the date 1858. Go straight through a farm and out on a lane that eventually curves to the R. Here, go straight ahead through a gate (091522) and walk with wall on L and a row of mature trees on the R, going downhill in the sure knowledge that you will have to walk all the way up the other side! Go through a similar gate and continue to descend, limestone wall on L, passing, on the L, an isolated farm building. The wall disappears; the land falls from R to L. Go through a hedge into the next field and make for a poor gate, then 80 metres where a gate should be, then 100 metres, a slot between uprights. In only 15 metres, go L through a slot into a field, then walk at the head of the field with a hedge on the R, passing another isolated farm building and reaching a stony track which then goes through two gateways, then down to a wicket gate and so out on the former railway at 093515.

Cross the track and go over a footbridge. Note that sometimes the River Hamps disappears directly under the Footbridge so that one side, the river flows normally; the other the

bed is dry; interesting! Walk uphill to the E passing Lee House and entering woodland. The way is steep as was foreseen; eventually arrive at a road at 101515 near a cattle grid. Go straight over the road and enter a field, wall on L. Go through the wall to the L and walk E through a large flat field making for the far corner where, in a wall, there is a gate and stile. Enter a narrow area, the continue SSE on a good path down to a conspicuous and derelict farm buildings of Slade House. Go L before the farm building and walk NE above Musden Wood. Go through a gateway, then through a narrow field. Pass on the R, a small farm building then come down to two gates. Take the one on the L and enter a narrow area at the other end of which is an old mine. Continue NE with wall on R, and pass another old building. A path goes off N to Throwley Hall with its Tudor ruins.

On a fine day this is a most pleasing finish to a walk. Come to a wooden stile, then walk E down through the middle of the next field to two gates: take the one on the R and walk downhill with wall on the L. go through a gate and continue with wall on L down to a ladder stile, and beyond that, Rushley Barn. Go down through the middle of the next field to a stile in the wall, then cut down to another stile in the R corner and out on to a firm track that goes up to Throwley Hall. But go R, here, the L in 50 metres, the R in 30 metres over a slot stile in a fence and walk E, farm on R, up to a slot in a wall, the Se up through field to gateway with slot on its R. continue SE, level going, Musden Grange Farm high on the R, the come to a gateway; slot on its R, then down to a wall and slot. Cut the next L corner and go 40 metres down to a slot on the wall on the L, then across a flat field to a footbridge. Bear R to a gate and stile, then across Paradise Walk back to Ilam Country Park (NT) to the start.

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