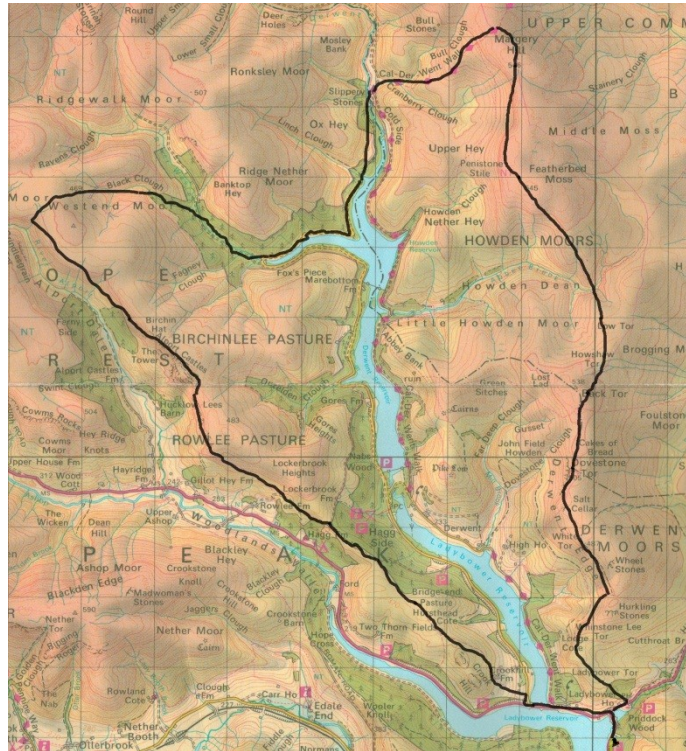


Walk 66.

Heatherdene Car Park at Ladybower Dam.66.

23 miles

Map Dark Peak. SK28/38. SK29.



“Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey”

Crown Copyright NC 02/30874.

Start at Heatherdene car park at 200864. Walk W, go over two viaducts, and then turn R up the road signed Derwent. Walk 150 metres with reservoir on the R, and then go L up a bank to a small wooden gate in fence to enter a field. Walk NW uphill to a farm gate, then proceed through the next field, wall on the R, far, ahead, Crook Hill making the backcloth to the buildings, and Derwent Edge towering up on against the sky to the R. In 150 metres, go over a ladder stile then make for Crookhill Farm. Choose the correct gate (smaller one) then go through the farm yard, house on L. go around the end of the building to a gate, then go R, wall on R, Crook Hill on L. Keep to a good hard drive with wall on R and come to a gate: go through and continue on the track which changes to a firm grassy path. To the L Woodlands Valley and Lose Hill. Now walking NW, a wall not far on the L. Far R, in a corner, is a ladder stile n the L of a gate, this leads into a field, through this at the middle, this leads to a small wooden gate in a fence.

The path is less steep now as Bridge-end Pasture is traversed towards a plantation, before which is a small wooden gate in a wall. Then walk with plantation close on the R, the path dropping slightly. Another ladder stile is taken, then continue to drop slightly to yet another ladder stile on the R at 171885 where a path goes off R through the trees down to Derwent Reservoir. But go through a farm gate, no stile. Continue NW, trees on R, level going through Open Hag with Hag Side to the R. look on the other side of the Ashop a roman Road can be seen descending the hillside.

Soon come to another junction of paths near Woodcock Coppice 164890. To the L a path goes N down to Hag Farm Youth Hostel. Cross the jumble of well-worn paths and make for a sign to open country, then uphill to a prominent ladder stile over a wall and walk through grassy area for 200 metres to another ladder stile and another open country sign. Walk with wall on the L; Kinder can be seen to the SW. continue NW on good ground up to Alport Castles. Pass quite near to the castles on the L; the path is firm making

walking relative easy. The sun catches Alport Farm below the broad valley. Proceed ahead and the valley narrows, the spurs jut out more fiercely, and the impressive Alport Dale diminishes in size.

A feature of this type of walks is the way the streams cut into the hillside and make one walk into the little valley then back out again, particular Glethering Clough. Another feature of this area just below the ground level, there are remains of trees roots and stumps: this shows that the area must have been woodland at one time and the climate must have been warmer. W across the valley is Grindlegrain Tor; to the N, the stream flows around very tight spurs. A little further on N walk into Miry Clough. At this point, (119938) turn and leave Alport Dale, striking out to the NE for Ravens Clough; a compass bearing of about 52 degrees. In less than half a mile of fairly easy walking, pass the watershed and find the early stages of the clough.

Scramble down Ravens Clough, going roughly to the E, an awkward and tricky process of finding a foothold in a narrow valley cut by a tiny stream; walkers seldom come this way. In the distance to the E a dirt road can be seen climbing the hillside. Eventually come to waters flowing down from Deep Grain, near to Grinah Stones to the N. walk E alongside the River Westend for several hundred metres to where Grinah Grain joins the Westend. The river turns to flow roughly S; its swollen waters have more power to level out a possible path for walkers; there is now a worn path to follow. Eventually arrive at the lower section of the dirt track seen previously; the valley is now much wider now and planted with trees, walk through a plantation. Arrive at a foot-bridge to cross the river and walk through very pleasant woodland on a flat smooth path down to a gate and stile on its L and so out onto a road at 155927.

Turn L, walk with the waters of Howden Reservoir on the R, a long slog on a good road to the E then N. Come to a roundabout where the mini bus terminates, then go through a wooden gate, the tarmac road becomes a dirt track. Eventually come to Derwent Bridge, a C.17 Packhorse Bridge brought here from the village of Derwent which was submerged, with the Ashopton, when the reservoirs were made, the bridge was originally constructed in the middle ages but was repaired in 1682. This area now in is called Slippery Stones (169951). Go over the bridge to the first of several signs erected by the Peak District and Northern Counties Footpath Society. Take the path to Langset and Flouch, an old packhorse route to Penistone through Cut Gate. A document of 1671 referred to it as Cart Gate; did this mean that carts went up there?

Cross the footbridge; in 50 metres there are more signs, one to Flouch Inn. Turn R and walk along the path to Flouch Inn, via Cut Gate, level at first until the confluence of Cranbury Clough and Bull Clough. Cross the stream and strike steeply uphill on a bank to the NE. soon there are views of Bull Clough where the stream has cut its way down the gritstone, the climb then eases off, and Cranbury Clough can be seen to the R (S), in front is the ridge to be aimed for. Eventually come to Cut Gate End, where a worn path going roughly N-S, turn R and walk S up to a trig point at Margery Hill (189956).

The Problem, now, is to get to Back Tor (198910) on the narrow ridge which is the watershed between Stainery Clough, Cartledge Brook and the many streams flowing E. Go roughly S on a faint path for about half a mile; then turn E for about 500 metres over rough grass, no path. Back Tor can be seen black against the sky. Look out for the infant Cartledge Brook; keep just to the L of it, then make for the high ground to the SE which is marked by a patch of bare ground easily seen. This is now round hill. From above, Cartledge Brook can be seen to the R cutting its way deeply down the rock below. In mist, this entire route finding can be very difficult. Carry on and not far away now, is a well-worn path. Having found it, walk S towards Back Tor which can now be seen; the route following Cartledge Stones Ridge, pass a stone with WF neatly carved on it. There are more like it on the route to Back Tor with its trig point 198910. Now look back over the immense basin made by Cartledge Brook and Abney Brook which have just been traversed.

Walk S on a well-used path along Derwent Edge, passing Bradfield Gate Head where a footpath from Strines to Abbey Grange crosses the one being walked. Like most routes in these mountainous parts, it is a long slog. Pass those striking rock outcrops known as Cakes of Bread, Dove Stone Boulder, Salt Cellar, White Tor and Whinstone Lee Tor; always to the R there are views of the reservoir below. The Edale Valley Lose Hill Mam Tor can be seen in the distance. Just below White Tor another Footpath crosses: it connects Moscar and the Derwent. Soon the path goes off L around the hillside and descends towards the Ladybower Valley, giving a long view down over the Ladybower Reservoir and a glimpse of the journey's end. A wall comes up on the R and leads down to the road near the Ladybower Inn (205865). Bear R and walk down to the viaduct; cross it and so on to the start.

checked