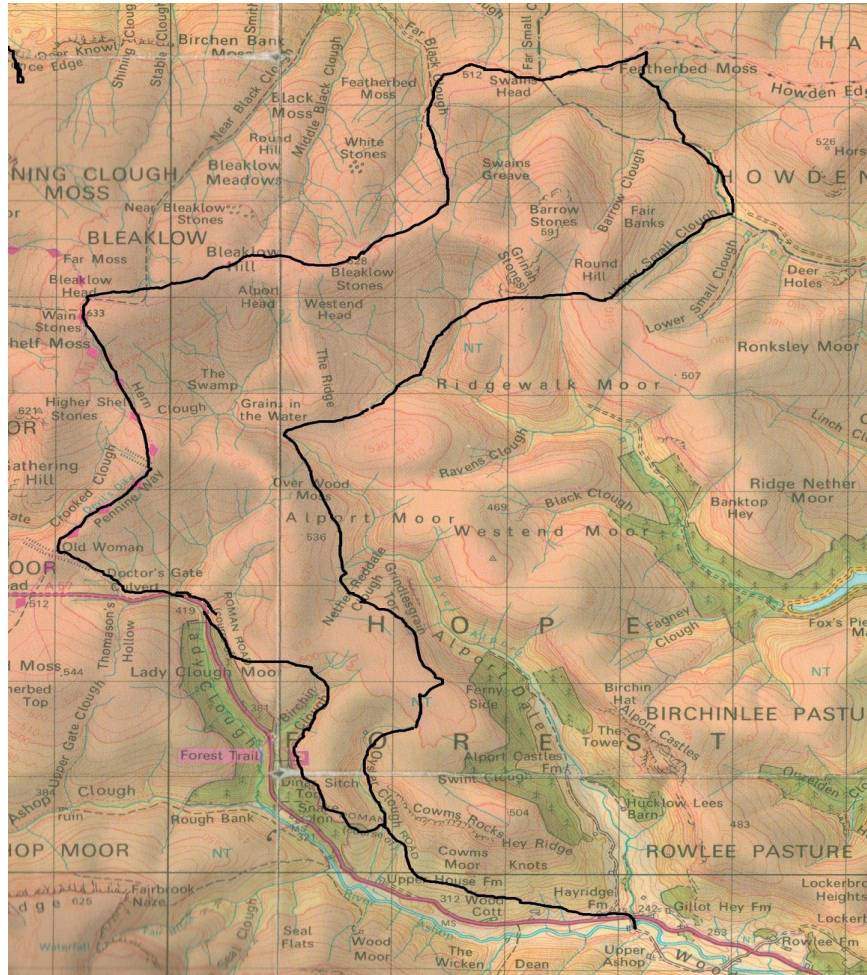


WALK 67.
ALPORT 67 on A.57.
25.2 miles. 7 hours 13 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start Alport on the Snake Road at 141895. (Limited space for early birds only!). Leave the road A.57 at the point where a sign erected by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society No 106 dated 1948. Take a good wooden step stile and proceed under trees, the dry bed of a stream on the R. a ladder stile soon comes up in 30 metres, then up to a double step stile to lead to a hard stone drive. Bear L and make for Hayridge Farm then come up to another of those fine metal signs by the same society No 71 dated 1932 to Oyster Clough, Glossop, Alport Hamlet and Alport Bridge.

Pass through the farm keeping to the R of the farmhouse (139896) to then come out into a field. Now walk where the Romans once marched, walking uphill with fence on the L and views to the A.57. The steep bank of Ashop Moor towers up on the L. Come to ladder stile on the L of a gate from which drop down to a tiny stream and continue on a worn path, climbing a little with wall on the L. Pass Blackden View Farm on the L: behind on the other side of the A.57 is the Blackden Brook that comes down a striking clough from Blackden Edge; one of the area's best walks and scrambles.. Next on the route is a ladder stile over a wall, then continue to climb on good grass, wall on the L, up to a gate where on its L stone steps are firmly cemented in the wall. The next wall is crossed by another ladder stile, a sign indicated open country. Cowms Moor rises up on the R. continue on the path, wall on the L, but in a few hundred metres, leave the wall and go through the middle of the field to a fence and stile, in front is a view of Oyster Clough which will soon be ascended.

The faint path being used brings to a gate and fence attached to a wall. Large stones help the stile; pass over a tiny stream then drop down to a gate and continue to drop steeply, wall on L, to a stream. On the L of Oyster Clough, the steep nose of Dinas Stitch Tor juts out: Dinas is a Celtic word meaning a hill stronghold; it is a common place name in Wales today. The Roman Road went L up the steep bank then down the route of the modern road (A57.). Proceed up Oyster Clough at stream level; there is no worn path. High up on the L, a path keeps to high ground, but down here, find the way best as one can. An interesting walk and scramble. Pass a shooting cabin (117916) and continue up to more level ground at the top.

Now strike NE to Alport Dale at a compass bearing of 55 degrees on level moorland until the plantation on the W side of Alport Dale appears. Turn and walk N on a narrow path that disappears and reappears at intervals. Down below the dale shows its magnificent shape; to the NE the moorland rises high above the dale. Pass Grindlegain Tor and walk W around the hillside into Nether Reddale Clough, a formidable, deep valley running roughly NE-SW. Cut down the stream then climb up the other side on a tiny worn-path that emerges out of the clough and round the nose of the hillside and back into another clough; Upper Reddale Clough and a much smaller cutting it is. Sometimes a definite path other times very little. Walk N and go in and out of another small clough.

Where the waterfalls are seen (117937) drop down to the river and walk N up the dale for about 400 metres beyond the waterfalls, then cut up to the R, climbing up the hillside on a gentle slope that makes a kind of pass in the ridge; there is a faint worn path to follow.

Now make for the valley of the River Westend, so take a compass bearing of 13 degrees and walk for a short distance to the head of a clough that leads down into the valley of the Westend. The shoulder of Grinah Stones stands out clearly to the N from which Deep Grain and Grinah Grain flow down to join the Westend. Where the valley bottom widens and the river meanders, there is enough room to walk though there is no worn path; walk through a narrow cutting and a few trees appear and the stream tumbles about the stones in little waterfalls. Pass ruins of an old building and on the R descends Ravens Clough.

Come to the confluence of Grinah Grain and the Westend, and, from this point, (138947), go straight up the steep bank and climb until the dirt road is reached, (for Grouse shooting), turn L and walk uphill on this track; the views very interesting. At the top, leave the road and enter a long straight channel cut out of the peat, obviously man made. This leads into Lower Small Clough, walking NE to see ahead how the stream has cut out a deepening valley out of Ronksey Moor.

A good worn path gives good walking on the L of the stream and comes to a good grouse shooting area where two cabins have been erected. Soon descend to the River and valley of the Derwent: the river that has made a great contribution to the history of Derbyshire. Cross the river at 153967 and go uphill on the other side, then turn L and walk NW with the river on the L. the path drops down to the river as the valley closes in ahead; at Humber Knolls, the river is cutting a narrow, deep valley for itself. Soon the path curves around to go W. After walking several hundred metres to the W, turn R at 144977 and walk up Hour Clough, a steep but short pull up to the edge above; a choice of walking up the side or clamber up the stones in the bed of the stream. At the top, bear L and walk across to examine Sheperds Meeting Stones, then look at Dean Head Stones.

Now is the need to find the path that goes around the watershed and leads to Bleaklow; fortunately a stone can be seen resembling a toadstool. Make for it and find that it bears, among other carvings, the date 1894. The stone stands on the path that is required. Turn L and walk W on the new path. Down below on the L is the infant Derwent that starts on its momentous journey. Higher up, to the S Barrow Stones are easily seen; they are rarely out of sight. Now begins a long slog on fairly level path that winds its way in and out of peaty groughs; stakes help to show the route; do not underestimate the difficulty of route finding in mist. Go W as far as 125981, then continue on a path as it turns S. In just over a half a mile, the path turns to the SW; Barrow Stones lie now to the W. Bleaklow Stones are eventually reached.

Bear L and walk S on the Pennine Way; soon pass Hern Clough going down on the L; then Alport Low. Soon follow Devil's Dike going SW; then come to Old Woman at 089933 where Doctor's Gate comes up from Old Glossop. The theory is that Doctor's Gate is that it is an ancient track-way built by the Romans to link the forts of Ardotalia in Glossop with Navio in the Hope Valley. Turn L and walk SE on a hard track that is occasionally swampy and it is downhill to Doctor's Gate Culvert on the A.57. Turn L and walk E along the roadside. In just about a mile reach a point at 109911 to go off L off the road into trees, and here is another of those fine, metal signs, No56 or (58), dated 1924. "A Roman Road," it states, going via Oyster Clough to Alport Bridge.

Take the Roman Road, a good path through trees; it rises to a single wooden step stile near which is a sign to open country. Walk uphill on a good path through a field; trees to the R. come again to Dinas Sith

Tor. Another sign appears No 60 dated 1928: Footpath via Oyster Clough to Alport Bridge and Hope. Cut steeply downhill to a wall below, then with wall on R, s

Descend to a stream, then go R uphill, wall on R, to a gateway, and a little further up, a wooden fence and gate. Get over the fence by step stones. The path curves round the hillside through a field and makes for a gate near a wall on the R; but look to 50 metres above on the L, there is a wooden step stile in the fence taken earlier on. Proceed to the next ladder stile, wall on the R, and a sign to pen country. It is then, a short way to good step stile cemented in a wall at the side of a gate. Pass Blackden View Farm. There are several more ladder stiles to overcome to then pass through Haybridge Farm and out on the farm drive for 100 metres down to the A.57 and the finish of the walk.