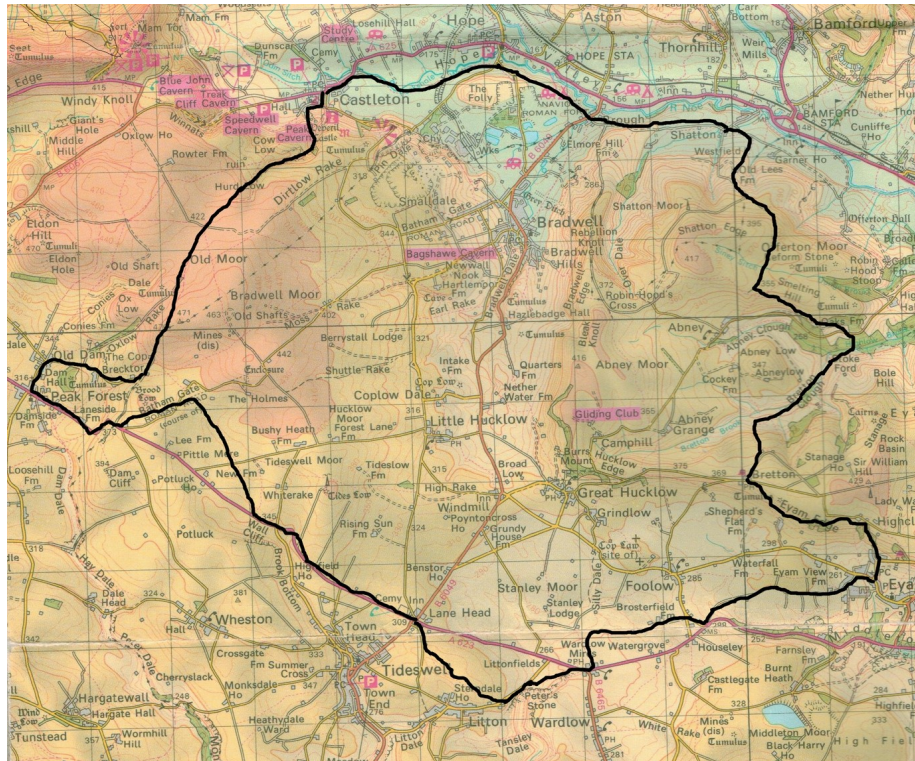


WALK 70.**EYAM 70.****24-6 miles. 6 hours 54 minutes.****Map White Peak. Dark Peak. SK28/38.****“Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey”****Crown Copyright NC/02/30874.**

Start at Eyam (218764). This historic village dates from Saxon times; formally a lead mining centre: it is famous for events of the Great Plague of 1666, when villagers halted the spread of the disease by breaking off all contact with the outside world. A large proportion of the villagers died as a result; many plaques on houses remind outsiders of the deaths. First record of the church was in 1250; the N isle has a font of Saxon origins and Norman pillars may rest on Saxon foundations. There is a C.8 Celtic cross in the churchyard. Walk 300 metres up the road W from the official car park past the church. Then go L at fork up a lane through trees, the lane narrows to a track but climbs up to the road at 215774. One is surrounded by former lead mining in this area: Bole Hill indicates smelting lead ore. Turn L and walk E along the road past Highcliffe; substantial stone house. Pass two fields on the L, no stile (211775); enter here and walk S down to trees, wall on L, where, there is a slot on the L of a gate. Go L on a worn path down to a wall in 20 metres, then bear R and walk with wall on L, trees covering the bank on the R, lose height as walked.

Keep to the wall on the L and come to a wooden stile and enter an area to walk with wall on R. In 70 metres, enter trees and come to a gap in wall with three wooden bars across, now enter a field and get a striking view of Black Hole mine. Walk through a field, Eyam Edge up to the R, to a gap with a stone for a step and enter a second field. Make for the point where the wall gives way to a fence and stile. Enter the works and pass through a great deal of rusting machinery. The office door has on it: Fine Grinding Ltd. Go to the R and leave the works on a grassy lane; in 100 metres arrive at a gate with a sign. Cut off R through a slot and climb gently up the bank through thistles and gorse on an ancient track to a wall where on half-way up there is a slot, then continue on a worn path up to half slot on top and continue on a worn path, forward

then through a field, wall on L, still climbing up to a metal gate, on the R of this is a stile through a wall and sign and so out on to a road at 201779.

Bear L. What a striking viewpoint this is! The land to the S, carved into fields by limestone walls. The Barrel Hill here is dated 1697 and lies on the road built as a result of the Turnpike Trust set up in 1758 to connect Sheffield with Buxton. Turn R at the Inn and walk N along a minor road, and get a glimpse of Bretton Youth Hostel. In 500 metres down the road, where it curves to the R, go L off the road down a narrow path, the wall of a house on the R, field to the L; soon come to a wooden stile. The view now becomes an appealing scene of a wooded valley, and beyond that, the interlocking spurs round which Bretton Brook flows. Walk downhill through a field, wall on L. Eyam Mast up to the R. At a gate, there are wooden steps to then walk on a path through fens and bushes, losing height as an attractive well wooded valley is entered. The path then zing zags down to a stile, then continue with fence on L into open country. Going N now through a small valley Abney Low Barn is up on the L. There is a path met going R along a lane but ignore this but cross the little valley by means of a pleasing dell on a path getting firmer all the time.

Take a step stile and walk through trees, the stream below on the L; walking now along the contour; soon to arrive at Stoke Ford (211795). Here Abney and Bretton Clough meet. Cross over Bretton Brook by a wooden footbridge, go through a gate and over another footbridge then bear R. Go over a wooden step stile and take a grassy path through trees, walking gently uphill NE to a stile to leave the trees to continue NE through a field up to a gate on the R is a stile and so out on to the road at 213798.

Cross the road to a stile and a sign to Bradwell and Shatton, and walk on a stony drive which curves to the R. A sign signals no entry and another on the ground shows the footpath route. So over the stile and walk on a soft grassy path; fine views to the L. climb gently with wall on R then go R so as to walk around Oaks Farm to strike out NW on a path uphill through ferns. This soon crosses a footpath; disregard this and continue in the same direction NW as before but take. The next path to meet is Smelting Hill; more evidence of former mining activity. Now map SK28/38.

Bear R here, walk NE on the new footpath and soon gain the top where it is level going across moorland with a view to the N of Stanage and Derwent Moors. Go through broken wall where two inverted V's stand as a stile and cross Sidney Sitch by a simple footbridge. Soon arrive at Offerton Edge where the view is enhanced by the valley of the Derwent. Descend fairly rapidly down the hillside and note that the field boundaries are hedges not walls. Arrive at a stile and so out on to a road which is side of Offerton Hall and House. One of the delights of walking in Derbyshire is the constant appearance of some interesting historical feature, and one of them is here. True or not tradition has it that Robert Eyre built a hall for each of his seven sons: Offerton Hall was one. It seems that Robert Eyre was living here in 1473. However, by 1640, the hall was stated to be in ruinous condition. It was then rebuilt by Robert Glossop in 1658. It has mullioned windows. There is a Cruck Barn in the yard.

Just downhill past the hall, go through a gate on the R to enter a field next to the hall, and walk downhill NE every step of the way enlightened by the wide and spectacular view over the Derwent. At a gate, take the wooden steps side of the wall on the L; and at the end of the next field, do the same again, and the path levels out near the river. Turn L and walk with river on the R, passing the delightful stepping stones which form a glorious picture as the sun breaks through the trees to illuminate them.

Walk on short grass, river on R; climb up steps up a bank and take a slot at a gate. A little further on, take a well-made footbridge, then, in 40 metres a stile with cross bars, and continue this pleasing walk. Another footbridge appears on the other side is a gate, the path narrows as it comes to a wooden stile, then proceeds through a narrow field with river always on the R. go over a footbridge and walk through a rough overgrown area to a slot and sign and so out onto a road at Shatton (203826). The A.625 is only a few metres away to the R, but bear L and walk up through an area of private houses for 100 metres to a fork in the road, and then take the R one untill the road peters out.

On the L of this cul de sac is a slot to then enter a field. Cross it to a wooden stile into another field to walk with fence on L to another stile, and go into another field of turnips? For a change; fence still on L to another stile then down some steps and so out onto a lane at 198824. Walk W along Townfield Lane between very high banks: How did this originate? Arrive at a fork with a cattle grid on the L; but go R through a gate and sign and walk on a farm track for 100 metres, then strike off R across the field, rising slightly to give good views. Drop down to a step stile, then turn L and walk NE down a ridge to a gate and stile. Continue NE on level ground to the river's edge and a wooden stile to an overgrown area. The wall to arrive at, has a step through it under a trees difficult to find, then straight out on to a road at 184826.

This is Brough. Turn L and walk SW on the Roman Road to Bradwell but only for a couple of hundred metres, passing the mill on the R, and going over the River Noe. Bear R at a gate and note the sign Peak and Northern F.P. Preservation Society, No 38 erected in 1909 directing walkers during the last 100 years to Hope and Castleton via the Roman Station Anvil, altitude 616ft. The casting is nicely ornamented. Go into a field and make for the gate above which has a good ladder stile to the R, and enter the site of Anavio known as the Halstead, built in AD.78 by Agricola. Peaceful now, the site knew more violent times when units were sent out to curb the tribes who did not miss the chance to attack their Roman enemies. There is little to see now of the fort whose walls of gritstone were 20 ft. high and 7ft thick. A C.19 writer named Glover stated that then three of the sides were still nearly perfect; and Dr Pegge of Chesterfield had himself seen walls of stone and a double row of gritstone pillars.

Part of a tile has been found bearing the letters C O H, probably the complete inscription would be Cohort 1 Aquitanorum. Other tiles so stamped have been found at Hadrian's Wall. Finds, here have included coins, lead ore, glass etc. and missiles for catapults. The first fort was abandoned in AD 140; a second was required and built in AD 158 when the Brigantes were again threatening the stability of the Pax Romania. The occupation was ended in AD.360. Italian history suggests that the early natives of Anavio became full Roman Citizens who were included in census returns, and (history never changes) paid taxes. (Such history deserved a few lines)

Go forward through the camp to a footbridge then through a field to a stile, walking NW to a gateway. Enter trees which overshadow a wall with a slot near a gate, then walk on a wide grassy track which leads to a gate, and so out on to a road at 171832. Go R downhill for 100 metres then bear L and go uphill for 100 metres to then go R over a stile and walk on a good path, river on R and Hope beyond, with a glimpse of Peveril Castle ahead. The next stile has a massive lump of gritstone. Continue to a stile over a fence to then cross a railway line to another stile, then come to a wall and gate with a stile at side, then 40 metres to another wall with gateway 70 metres to next wall and stile.

Continue to a tree at a fence and stile just above, then make for the stream which is channelled into weirs. Not far beyond there is a stile and from this get into a lane and down to the road at Castleton at 154831 and another metal sign P.D and NCFP no 35 dated 1908 to Hope. Turn L and walk into Castleton. Go round a sharp corner to the L but do not go R along the main road; instead, go straight on so that the church is on the R and reach the village green where the war memorial stands. Bear L then go R to Cave Dale (signed) between the houses and rock outcrop and at a gate is a stile. Proceed uphill along a stony path to the very impressive limestone amphitheatre overlooked by Peveril Castle, and then continue up Cave Dale.

At a metal gate, walk NW uphill past rock outcrop to the other half of the dale which is completely grassed over; going is pleasant indeed. Go over stone steps on the R of a metal gate; the path levels out and come to more steps; Rowter Farm is away to the R; the path passes old railway waggons used as sheds and enter a lane through a gate to another gate in 30 metres where a stone step is one of the most massive one has seen. Go forward 10 metres to a slot and now walk on grass track with wall on R.

Proceed SE on grass and arrive at a slot at a gate. There is choice of ways here: do not take the Limestone Way to the L, but continue along a lane with fence on L and broken wall on R, climbing gently past mounds and depressions on the R, evidence of lead workings in Oxlow Rake. The track soon loses height and come to stile and gate and then continues down to some

sparse trees; continue down to some sparse trees. At a gate there are steps in a wall, and go forward on a farm track through trees which, on a sunny day, allows light to break through in a dappled effect on the path.

Pass on the L, a fine, big ladder stile and do not take, then come down to a gate and out on to a lane. Go straight across two drives to steps in a wall and enter a field to walk W. On the L, to the S, stands a wooded hill on the other side will be eventually walk. With wall on the R, go forward to a stile in a corner, then go L diagonally across the next field towards the far corner, but before reaching it, go R to a step in a wall and go through the middle of the next field towards a farm. In the next corner, there are steps in a limestone wall. Go 10 metres forward, then L through a gateway among farm buildings, bear R, farm on R, the little gate between two o gritstone uprights, then turn L and walk down a lane to Old Dam (116797).

Go 50 metres through village, and then go L along a lane with a field on R containing a pond. Enter this field by a stile in the corner and walk S, wall on the L, pond on the R, to a stile on the L. Go over into a field, bear R and walk with wall on the R, then houses on R. one of the buildings is so low that the roof stiles can be touched as a stile in the corner is traversed. Go through a field close to a wall on the R and come to some stones in a wall, over this and enter a field to walk between farm buildings and out on to a hard drive which leads to a gate on to a road in Peak Forest (115791).

Bear L and walk SE along the busy A.623 for a few hundred metres to farm buildings on the L where the road begins to rise. Get over the wall, at the far end of the buildings and enter a field. Walk E uphill to the far corner where a slot stile is painted white; the junction of another footpath from Dam Dale. Walk NE through a field, wall on R, to the next stile in a wall. Climb gently, wall on R, to the next corner and stile in a wall and go sharp R over steps in a wall, bear L and walk in the same direction uphill past cottage with large, picture windows to stone steps in a wall on the L and so out on to a lane at 124793. Bear R and walk along the lane, passing some cottages (Brecktor) and come to a farm gate. Go through this, then go R off the lane and make for a stile with footpath sign. Go 50 metres forward, then make for a bar stile on the L and enter a field marked Adam Well on the map. Go over a broken wall into the next field, then go R to a stile near a disused mine and resume the path E so as to pass Wheston House Farm away to the L and make for a low wall with a ladder stile near a footpath sign at 132792.

Cross the road to another stile over a wall and walk SE over Tideswell Moor. First, go through a long field overgrown with thistles, crossing on the way Batham Gate; the site of a Roman Road in the third field down on the L, making for a stile but it is in the site of a broken wall. Climb diagonally through the next field to the far L corner, a little to the R are some steps in a wall which then comes to the corner of the next field. Go diagonally through this long field to the distant L corner to go over a broken wall in front and walk with wall on L through next field down to a gate on the L is a stile, then, in the same direction, make for the road ahead to attain this by a stone step and bar. (139783)

Cross the road to a stile in a wall and walk S through a long field, rough but level, to the far wall and gate; then cut the L corner in the next field and make for wooden uprights in a wall, and so go forward into a field to a road at the far corner, no stile. (140776).

Turn L and walk SE along the A.623 to the road junction at Anchor Farm where here is an Inn also. (159762). Turn R and walk 30 metres towards Tideswell on the B.6049, then go L along a minor lane, walking uphill for several hundred metres to Bank Farm on the L. enter the garden then go R to the corner where there are steps into a field. Walk SSE uphill to the far corner where there is a gate and stile in wall. After the wearisome walk along the A.623 (unavoidable), now then walk becomes more pleasant along Litton Edge. With wall on R go to next corner; 20 metres to the L of the gate is a stile in wall. Continue with wall on R to a third stile; the view over Litton is superb. Move away from the wall on the R and do not go down lane to the R; instead go forward through a broken wall into a field with mounds and depressions from former workings. Keep close to the wall on the R and another good stile. From this vantage point there is a commanding view over Litton and surrounding area; the S surrounded by dales. Go downhill

through a narrow field, wall on R, to the bottom R corner where to go through a gap, no gate, and continue down to a gate, then down a farm drive, wall on L to a road at 169751.

Turn L and walk NE down the road for 400 metres, then go R off the road at a stile and a sign to Cressbrook Dale Nature Reserve. Bear L and walk with wall on L and a thrilling view of Peter's Stone in the Dale to the R. In 300 metres at the end of the first field, go L through another stile and walk NE through the field. There is a good step stile in the far wall. Go through next field wall on L, to a gap in wall into a narrow field to a slot stile in the wall near a footpath sign and so out onto the road at 179756. Bear R and walk E to Wardlow Mires.

The old Portway passed near here. But the village achieved fame in the C.18 when Black Harry, a highwayman, was hung in this vicinity. But this was not the last gruesome deed to be enacted here: Antony Lingard robbed and murdered a widow who kept the tollhouse on the turnpike; he was hung in a field since known as Gibbet Field. This small and insignificant place lay on the Chesterfield Turnpike and was mentioned in the Turnpike act of 1759, and also in the Derby Mercury in august 1771.

Pass the pub and come to a farm next door; go L through the gate, the L again, (signed), the R into a small grassed area where there is a rudimentary stile in the L corner. Walk N through the field, wall on L, and come, in the corner to a gritstone stile in a wall. Climbing gently now to another similar stile in the next corner, then bear R in the next field and make for the R corner where there is a slot stile. Pleasant walking with wall on L to the next corner and another slot. Climb a little, wall on L to a gate with slot on L, then pass farm buildings on the L. the proceed to a farm drive; caravans on the R and Brosterfield Farm on the L. go up farm drive to the road at 193762 where there is an attractive wrought iron farm sign.

Bear L along the road, the R in 20 metres and approach the A.623 but just before the road, go L down a lane signed unsuitable for motors, and walk on hard surface between hedges E to Eyam and the start.