

**WALK 71.**  
**RESERVOIRS 71.**  
**22 miles. 6 hours 20 minutes.**  
**Map Dark Peak. SK29/39.**



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Start at the picnic area just below the Derwent Dam (171898), then take the road that goes E below the dam, and walk just under a mile down the road, reservoir on the R, to where Mill Brook enters the reservoir. A hundred metres just before this point, go L up a farm drive and walk N past some disused farm buildings to a stile in 100 metres. Continue to climb on the farm drive on the R, the valley of the Mill Brook; on the L the steep sides of Pike Low, and high up on the R the sharp skyline of Derwent Edge. In several hundred metres of gentle climbing, come to a wooden stile; the path levels. Across, on the other side, a worn path which will be eventually taken. At a farm gate, use a wooden stile to then drop to a stream to then cross. Dovestone Clough comes down from the NE. Take the worn path, and climb N up the hillside of John Field Howden with Mill Brook below on the L, to then walk high up on the R bank of Far Deep Clough. At last to attain the top.

From this point, see back to Lose Hill and Mam Tor, and up to the Trig point on Back Tor. Make way laboriously E up the Derwent Edge (NE) along a good path to Back Tor and trig point (190910). Just before this, however, pass a green sign at Bradfield Head: Abbey Grange to the L; Strines to the R. go forward to Back Tor then drop down on a good path to the NW; on a clear morning see your shadows on the horizon in front. Climb up to Lost Lad (194912) where stands a cairn and a panoramic plan erected “in memory of W. H. Baxby” from this point; the view is indeed panoramic wide sweeping views. Drop down and walk W along Greystone Moss, skirting

the clough that goes down N into Abbey Brook to then come to a fence. A fine wooden ladder stile, erected by the N. T., stands to the L of this. Turn R and walk N, fence on R.

The path develops into a wide, stony cart track descending steeply to Abbey Tip Plantation (172919). Bear R and walk E up the Valley of Abbey Brook, fence and plantation on L, stream below on L, the path proving to be grassy and easy going. A gate appears: on its L a fine, strong wooden stile erected by the N.T. Continue on a good track, the trees having been left behind save for the other side of the stream (New Close Wood); climb steadily but gently and soon get a view of the interesting spurs ahead which turn out to be strong tongues of land carved out by the brook. This is typical gritstone scenery: rounded banks of steep cloughs with occasional grit outcrops, the stream cutting out those dramatic spurs, the path now tucking into the hillside to cross a minor stream then return out of the clough. When Bent Clough is reached, the path forks: one going up to Cartledge Stones Ridge, the other turning N to follow Abbey Brook, (take this)

Now reach the top of a platform of level ground and walk NE with stream below on the L, Crooked Clough coming down from the N. Soon, on the L, look down steeply into a short butt and massive gorge with steep sides of grit outcrop. Then, suddenly, the Abbey Clough reaches a shallow head where the Cartledge Brook flows; the path narrow but visible, traverses a shallow saucer to walk N on a narrow strip of land that makes a watershed. The next landmark to be reached is Margery Hill. Soon hit the path from Back Tor to Margery Hill and walk N along it passing a cairn with a post and soon reach a gritstone post with RRW carved on it. This marks a fork in the footpaths; one the Dukes Path goes N: but take the other path going NW over Round Hill. It is relatively easy to follow in fine weather save for one section where there is a tiny stream to cross then to pick the path up further on. Without this narrow, thin path, and others like it, progress through featureless moorland would be difficult and strenuous. In misty or fog the traveller must be used to map reading and compass work. The path eventually reaches the path on the Howden Edge to then walk N on a good path to Margery Hill at 1899957. Stainery Clough on the R.

Look down R at the Derwent: to the S there is a glimpse of Howden Dam and gleam of light on water. The great gash of West End Clough lies to the SW. to the W look over Ronksley Moor to Grinnah Stones. Beyond all these rise the surrounding hills. Continue NW to reach Cut Gate Path (186960) which comes up Cranberry Clough on its way to Flouch Inn. At a cairn here, bear L and walk downhill on a path on a good path (beware of cyclists and horseback riders.) In only 100 metres go R on a thin path; following it will develop a tracking sense second only to the Apache Indians, follow it to reach Bull Stones (179962). Bull Clough goes off S to Cranberry Clough but continue on the thin path, past the sad remains of a war time wrecked plane, one of many that crashed in these desolate hills, and soon come to Crow Stones (169970), a prominent landmark formed by a large gritstone outcrop, some of which are shaped like piles of pancakes.

Look S get a view down the Derwent Valley over two reservoirs that marks the view back to the start. Cut down steeply SW towards Stainery Clough, struggling through heather to a path that straggles along Oaken Bank and passes impressively named Lord Edward's Spring. Proceed down Swine Side. Cranberry Clough goes off to the L; this is where Cut Gate goes. There are signs here: a National Trust sign to Derwent Estate; then a three armed sign to Langsett and Flouch, Derwent Valley and Banford, then Westend, Alport Castles and Hope woodlands via packhorse Bridge. In this area it is often relatively busy.

Continue on the; long walk back to the start going S with the reservoirs on the R; pass Howden Clough then Abbey Clough where the walk passed long ago. There is a sign here; one set up by the P.D. and C.F.P.S. to Bradford and Strines. There is much to see around as the last few miles are passed. Gaunt hills rising from the waters of lakes to skylines that suggest immensities of wilderness beyond; cloughs gashing open hillsides, and always the prospect of those powerful towers rising up from the dams whose gritstone holds back the waters, releasing only a trickle. Even as the walk progresses at the side of the waters, hear in the imagination, the roar of those Lancaster's in training for their dam- busting mission long ago. And so back to the start.