

WALK 91.
RESERVOIRS 91.
24.2 miles. 7 hours
Map Dark Peak. SK28/38. SK29/39.



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Crown

Start at Heatherfield Car Park near Lady-Bower Reservoir (202859). Walk N, then over the viaduct. Turn R, then go L off the road at the Ladybower Inn and walk NE on a good bridle path running alongside the road. Go through a gate and carry on with the moorland on the L to cross a stream that tumbles over large gritstone slabs. Go through a gate here and walk on narrower path with moorland to the L. Go over a large stream in its little clough, then approach a dark wall with firm steps either side, now walk with wall on the L, pleasant walking on short springy grass.

Go through a farm gate where stands a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society erected in 1933 Number 75, walk with wall on the R up to Moscar House Farm, a typical gritstone farmhouse with rustication over the doorway, an outbuilding has a arch over the doorway suitable for taking carriages, there are massive lintels over doors in the cowsheds. Proceed on a good grass path between walls up to two gates; go to the L to a gate where there are steps.

With a wall on the R that soon becomes a fence, walk onwards NE towards a road where a stile has been inserted (224885). Do not take it, but turn here and walk NW following roughly the line of boundary stones; the aim is to get on to Foulstone Road. It is possible and certainly more interesting to walk up Rising Clough to 212893 where a stream comes down from the W.

Walk N now and cross the higher reaches of Strines Dike, then continue N to cross Running Moss Dike. To get to Foulstone Road, continue N over heather until a wide stony track is reached at 210908. Turn R and walk E with the stream on L, losing height and passing a hut above on the R; probably accommodation for shooters.

Here is the boundary wall of a large plantation where there is a stile at the R of a gate. Walk down the wide track between walls, Foulstone Dike on the L to reach a road at 220909. Turn L and

walk SE over the waters of Foulstone Dike. In about half a mile, go R down a farm drive signed Broggin House, Stubbin Farm and Bridleway. Walk SE down this hard track, wall and trees on L, fence and fields on the R and the Strines Reservoir in front. Pass Brogging, then Stubbin and approach Hallfield, a gabled house with mullioned windows, there is an external chimney which upsets the symmetry. The footpath is diverted around the house, and continues on a grass with a view of Dale Dike Reservoir on the R to approach Thompson House. The path goes to the L of the house to reach a road at 239919.

Walk NE along the road for half a mile; the gritstone walls are laid and made very well in this area. At 246920, there is a sign to public bridle way, so go L up a steep bank to a stile at the side of a poor gate and begin the short climb N through a rough area, fields on L, to reach a step stile in a wall and proceed up to the road at 244926.

Begin now a trudge along the road uphill to 244926, here, there is a car park on the R; go off the road to a small swing gate near a farm gate and a Bradfield P.C. sign. Begin walking WNW along Dukes Road Hard track most of the way, climbing only gently. On the R pass an upright gritstone with R.H.R.W. carved on it, and a little further on a similar one with C. carved into it. The path encounters peat that becomes difficult when wet. Cairns have been erected here and there to help with direction.

At Flint Hill (216946), the track changes direction, so a compass bearing could be useful, it directs to signs erected by the B.P.C.: end of Public Bridle Way. The important feature, now, is, to avoid taking the path that leads along Cartledge Stones Ridge to Back Tor, so keep to the R near Cartledge Brook so as to Abbey Brook down to Abbey Clough, this section in mist could be dangerous with steep sides. The path is narrow; it eventually drops down the steep side of the valley where the stream in wet weather, laden with storm water, thunders below. Climb the bank to a point at 200924 where the footpath then turns W and makes its way down the rewarding Abbey Clough. The track is wide, and, at the start, cut out of the hillside. On the R Abbey Brook flows; Gravy Clough demonstrates its proportions on the side of the water, walk now in the sheltered valley in these gaunt hills that tower above. The path narrows; it enters Cogman Clough, then climbs steeply out of it. Come to a ladder stile then walk with Abbey Plantation on R.

Do not take the beaten path down through the woods to the lakeside, but continue walking with the wall on the R. in a few hundred metres, (171918), notice on the R a small gateway in the wall. This is the point where the track comes up from the lakeside; join this path, leaving the wall, turning L and climbing the hillside (Abbey Bank) very steep. This path is a sunken track.

The climb is steep but the views are stimulating. Come to a sign, continue climbing until the gradient lessens and walk with a broken wall on the R to come to the ruins of Bamford House (175912). Take a wide track now which follows the wall about ten metres from it, and come to a sign by the P.D. and N.C. F.P. Society, continue on the wide track that comes to a ladder stile.

Continue in the same direction, wall on R level going, and come to a sign that simply states "Footpath", Dike Low is to the R. the path comes to a wall in front, and another sign directs to the L, down then to a ladder stile. The path goes downhill now on pleasant short grass that is a dream to walk on compared to previous. The views are stimulating over the reservoir sign to open country stands near a broken wall to go through, losing height all the time, walking now on a farm track that drops to the farm where a N.T. sign stands. Go straight forward through a gate, farm on R, and proceed on a sunken lane down to a step stile, then still descending, wall on R. pass a sign and step stile; this path is really sunken with high sides. Over a double step stile and drop down to the road at lakeside level, bear L and walk SE until a gate across the road diverts L to a stile and a metal sign by the P.D. and N.C. F.P. Society erected in 1932 no number at 187884.

Walk uphill through the field, following a fence around to old farm buildings to go through by a small gate. The path then crosses a small stream that flows down Grindle Clough, then goes through an open gateway and passes another sign. The path then begins to climb relentlessly, wall on R. Go through a gate and still climb steeply past a plantation, fence on R wall on L, up to a gate and stile to enter open ground; the climb is now less severe. Go through a gap in the wall ahead, then bear R and walk on a level path on ground that drains into Grainfoot Clough.

The path is a good one to arrive at a farm gate from which go forward through trees and soon drops fairly steeply to a farm gate, through this and 20 metres to another gate, then through a sunken path with short grass that climbs to a strong wall on the R. now drop down on an easy but long walk to find the way to the Ladybower Inn, and thence back to the start on the road.