

WALK 93.
RESERVOIRS 93.
21.6 miles. 6 hours 5 minutes.
Map Dark Peak. SK28/38. SK29/39.



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Start at Heatherdene Car Park near Ladybower Dam (202859). Walk N on the road over the viaduct, then turn R and walk NE on the A.57 as far as the Ladybower Inn to go L off the road on a good track walking parallel with the A.57. Continue to rise on a good track to a gate where there is a sign Nature Reserve. Walk with wall on R through this pleasant area. The wall gives way to a fence and slowly the scene changes to heather and moorland on the landscape that raises all round. To the R, the N edge of Stannage looms up.

Approach a number of wooden fences, (sheep pounds), and find stone steps in a wall in front. Over the wall and walk with wall on L, the white gables of Moscar Lodge looms up ahead as a gate is approached and a sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 75 erected in 1933 indicating the route to Derwent Edge. Take this route, walking W through moorland, wall on the L up to a gate, then beyond to Derwent Moors. Cross a small stream and climb gently passing some posts and shooting butts to come to the popular track on the Derwent Edge.

Bear R and walk N passing wheel Stones, white Tor, Cakes of Bread; these interesting landmarks give a powerful character to the area. Would there be more of these in the barer regions of this landscape. At Bradfield Gate Head (198907). Back Tor lies just ahead, but turn R and walk E on Foulstone Road, another good, hard track that goes downhill; a fair speed can be obtained and soon arrive at a wooden gate at 216811, the entrance to a plantation. Take the stile on the R of the gate.

Walk on a wide track through the plantation to the road to turn L and walk around the Clough where streams merge to flow into Strines Reservoir. In just half a mile, come to a point at 227909 to turn R off the road at a sign indicating Broggin and Stubbin Farm. Walk down a lane, wall and plantation on the L, fence and field on the R with a fine view over Strines Reservoir ahead, and, on high ground on the other side of the water, an impressive stone tower that can be seen from Derwent Edge (is it built as a folly). This land here belongs to Yorkshire Water Authority whose colour, blue, on gates, stands out. A walk now between farms on a grassy lane.

The lane comes to an old house, Hallfield, obviously C.17 in its mullioned windows of two three and eight lights, it can be seen that in all those long years no attempt has been made to rebuild it. The path has been diverted around the house via a gate and stile then another similar gate to then regain the lane. Soon a rustic sign direct up to the L and so regain the road at 239918.

Turn R and walk along the road, passing more water buildings, well maintained as are the gritstone walls. In half a mile, at 246921, go L at a sign, and climb a steep, muddy bank to a gate, then ascend fairly steep land taking a stile on route, and come to a road above. Bear R and walk about a mile uphill, passing Agden Bridge then climbing fairly steeply to a point at 246945 to there go L off the road to a gate and take Duke's Road, walking W on a high path that overlooks Hobson Moss Dike below on the L.

It is now a long hard slog, but the going is good on a path that is well worn and easy to see. At one point on the R, what looks like a boundary stone carved RHRW. Cross a small stream over wooden sleepers provided at some cost. Several cairns have been built and change direction from W to SW. The track now comes to a sign stating the path becomes to a footpath from a bridleway.

This point is now called Cartledge Stones Ridge where Cartledge Brook flows S to Abbey Clough. Go forward a short distance through a small gap at a post supported by a cairn. Nearby is another boundary stone as before RHRW. Now take the route back to Back Tor which can be seen in the distance. A compass bearing is better used and keeping to the high ground will prove helpful.

From Back Tor walk S on the popular highway along Derwent Edge passing Trig Point (198907). walk past the gritstone architecture that was passed earlier and come to a sign at 199883 (Moscar and Derwent) where the E-W path crosses, carry on S to another point at 198874; there to turn L on a path that goes E through Derwent Moors, losing height as the path goes down to a ford over Highshaw Clough and Cutthroat Bridge which acquired its gruesome name in the C.17. A document of 1635 reads: found a man with a wound in his throat in Eashaw Clough and carried him to the house at Lady Bower,

Bear R and walk S on the good track just above the A.57, to attain the road near the Lady Bower Inn. Then proceed back over the viaduct and back to the start.