

**WALK 95.**  
**BOLSTERSTONE 95.**  
**24.1 miles. 6 hours 45 minutes.**  
**Map Dark Peak. SK28/38.**



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Start at Bolsterstone (271968) whose church is Victorian (1878), but the churchyard holds two gigantic stones, perhaps the lintel stones of an ancient stone circle' E of the church, across the road, are the remains of a gatehouse of a castle.

Walk S from the church, going down the hill to the L of the school. In a few hundred metres, go R off the road through a slot into a jitty much overgrown with grass and nettles, wall on R soon go R through a slot in the wall then down stone steps into a field and begin the steep descent into the valley where Moor Hill Reservoir can be seen. Go to the R corner where there is a massive stone through a wall. Continue the descent downhill, wall on L to a fence with stile that enters into someone's garden. A white chain keeping one at a discreet distance from barking dogs. Go down steps to road at 272963.

Turn L and walk downhill to come to water level and walk E on the S side of Moor Hill Reservoir. Soon climb the hillside. Soon come to a junction, and turn R to take the road signed Bradfield. Just before a group of old houses at Brightholmlee, walk S uphill for a few hundred metres then turn L up a lane at a sign.

Gain height and with it the view of the Don whose E bank is well wooded, and soon arrive at Swinnock Hall whose name is grander than the building. Go straight on, hall on the L, through a gate and walk through a wet field. Drop down S towards trees in a small valley to go through a fence with stile then enter dark woodland which is soon shown to be a park adapted for use by the public.

Cross Tinker Brook by a stone bridge, walk on a hard path, then bear R to go to a wall with a stile in it, to enter a field to walk on the L. In one hundred metres, come to two stiles: take the first

on the L, and enter a field, walking at right angles to the previous direction. Come to a stile in a field to cross and enter another field where a stream flows. Keep to the L and in 50 metres come to a stile on the L. Enter another field and walk uphill in the same direction with hedge on R. This area is called Foldrings. In about a hundred metres, go through a gate into a field and make for a house ahead. Walk with wall on R to the house to pass on the L, then go through a drive, past a second house, then 40 metres to a sign and out on to a road at 293938.

Bear R and walk N uphill for a few hundred metres to Bradfield P.C. sign high up on the L bank. Scramble up the steep bank on over grown steps to a slot stile. Walk through long grass and climb up a steep hillside through trees and fern to a wall with a stile. Continue SW up to a slot stile, enter a field and walk W with wall on the R, rising gently. Now approach Hill House Farm gates, take that on the L and enter a field to climb steeply, wall on R, to the corner with steps and out on to the road which is higher than the field. Here stands a Bradfield sign. (286936)

Bear R and walk W on Lumb Lane, going straight across a road junction, in several hundred metres. In a further hundred metres, there is another sign to Bradfield and stile on the L. walk SW through trees then across flat, open grassland to a fence and stile. Go over a step stile, and yet another, then a ladder over a wall onto level ground that soon drops to a wall with stone steps and so out on to Delf Road where another Bradfield sign at 274929.

Cross the road to another sign and steps over a wall and enter a field to walk SW, wall on L, faced with a wide panorama of hills around the basin which holds Agden Reservoir. Just down below is the fine C.15 church hidden by trees that also surround Bailey Hill. Go through a slot and walk through a field down to a fence which has a stile then wade through a muddy section. Pass a building, go through a gateway, then proceed down through mud to the road and the church (267925).

St Nicholas is a large church, battlemented through-out and pinnacle. The W tower is probably C.14; its window like the E window of the N chapel is earlier. Walk past it on the N side; go through the churchyard to a gate, then out on to a field then to a stile. At this point take a look at the remains of a motte and bailey castle.

Proceed now in the same direction as before on a path through woods, the land falling away to the L. Come to a corner to turn L, and then it is downhill for a hundred metres to a metal swing gate. Go straight over Rocher End Brook, go straight on wall on L through the field and come to a stile at a gate. Walk on the grassy lane and enter a field, walking NW. Take a ladder stile in the corner into a higher field, then it is level going to a ladder stile. Walk in the same direction on grass and enter an area of desolate buildings; the stones neatly carved.

Walk on the path gently rising to a gate with a slot on its L and so out on to the road and a sign at 254937. Bear L and in 30 metres go R at a junction to walk NW. this comes to a junction at 248940 to turn R and walk uphill. In less than half a mile, go L off the road to a sign and wooden gate (245945), then set off on Duke's Road that leads W on high ground to the area between Abbey Clough and Margery Hill.

In its earlier stages, the track is stony and wide, so to make good progress. Soon cross a stream (Rushy Dyke) by means of sleepers. The path becomes narrow but well-trod. Come to the first of many cairns, some of them set on a kind of moonscape where gritstone sand appears above the peat. Pass a stone with RRW carved on it; and a sign tells that in this featureless landscape, it is the end of a bridleway and the start of a footpath.

Armed with this information continue in the same direction without noticing the difference and eventually go through a narrow gap to arrive at a post set in a heap of stones. Nearby another stone carved with RRW (207934). Take the route to Margery Hill, going on a clear path through heather. Cartledge Brook on the L. at a fork, go R uphill and keep to the narrow path until it goes into the bed of Cartledge Brook to follow for some distance, shooting butts on the R. the path is now more elusive but it is there, on the high side of the brook . Eventually come out to a cairn on Howden Edge S of Margery Stones; superb views.

Bear R and walk N on a path that becomes clearer. Pass Margery Hill with Trig. Point (189957), then come to Cut Gate (186960) which was referred to as Cart Gate in a document of 1571. Bear R and walk NE along Cut Gate, dropping all of the time. Come to a sign by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 50 erected in 1925.

Bear R walking NE on a good wide path stony and hard, rising at first then dropping gently, the outlook filled with stimulating views to the E and N. the stone being walked upon is white like limestone. The track passes several cairns. This track then drops down through ferns to the boundary of woodland and a wide, hard track in an area marked on the map as North America (203997).

Bear R and walk E on this good track, fern on R, trees on L (Mauk Royd), then cross a stream (Thickwoods Brook) that flows into the reservoir seen on the L. Then proceed through a gate at side of a metal gate into a plantation of the Yorkshire Water Authority. This wide concessionary track comes out to the road at 214995 to then bear R and walk SE on the road (Gill Royd Lane). At a road junction (234985), go R and continue to walk SE, climbing now with ridge on L.

When the highest point is reached of this road get glorious views down the valley. Go down the other side for a few metres to 239975 to go L off the road over a fine stile marked by a sign to Bolsterstone and another sign erected by the Sheffield Co-op Ramblers. Enter a field and walk with wall on L to come to a stile with stone steps in a wall, continue in the same direction, wall on L, level going on the contour to another stile and proceed with wall on L until it branches off L. go round the corner to the L for 20 metres to steps in a wall then walk NE wall on L through a field, uphill to the far end to a stile in a broken wall.

Go R now down a lane, walking SE on level walking on the contour. Pass some farm buildings and arrive at the point where the walk earlier met (250971). Go uphill to the L, wall on R, until it levels out at the top where a track comes from the area of the Underbank Reservoir. Go forward, wall on R, a good hard track. This leads onto a road at 258969 (Hunger Hill Farm), a stile on the L leads to Mucky Lane! Walk E along Heads Lane, trees on R, and so back to the start.