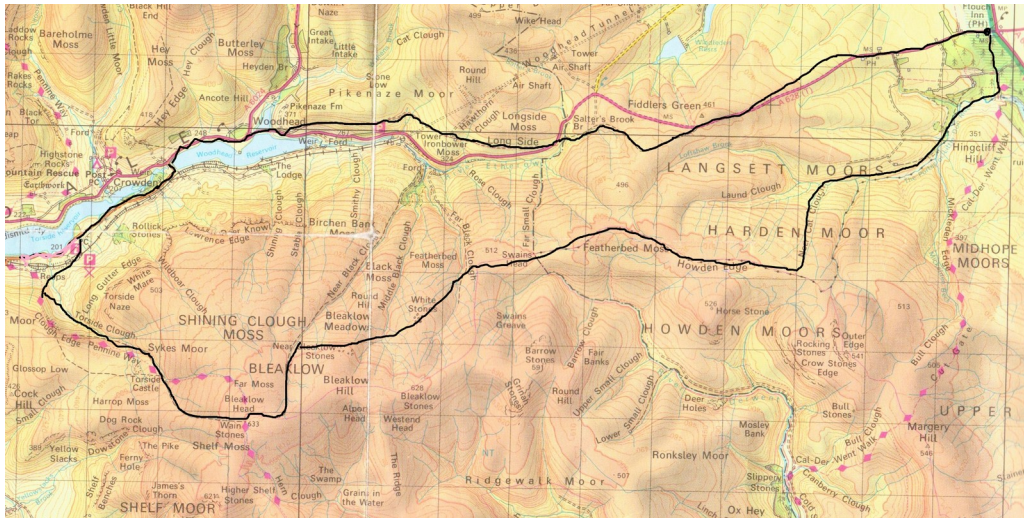


WALK 96.
FLOUCH INN 96.
23.5 miles. 6 hours 40 minutes.
Map Dark Peak. SK29/39.



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Start at Flouch Inn (198015). Walk W on the A.628 for just over a mile. Go R at the Dog and Partridge through a gate signed public bridleway and walk W on a grassy track; marked on the map as Snow Road. On the L is a fence to stop snow drifting on to the road, which is regained in about a mile, continue W for half a mile, then go L off the road at a sign public bridleway and a stile on the R of a gate and a sign open country.

Walk SW on a grassy track. In half a mile, on the L is Lady Cross (149997) a square socket and shaft; an ancient marker on an old route for this was an old salt-way. Continue W on this grassy track to cross Salter's Brook by a fine stone bridge, another sign of its former use by the first Earl of Chester and others who brought salt this way into Yorkshire. The track makes its way to the road at 134998.

Cross the road to a metal gate, then walk W on a good wide grassy track; look forward down the valley where the reservoirs lie; on the L the moors rise to Bleaklow. Continue to a gate with a ladder stile on the R. the track then drops rapidly to another gate with stile on its L. pass a farm building on the L, over a cattle grid and so on a farm drive that comes down on to a road at 096999 where a sign points to Pikenaze Farm.

Bear R and walk W on the A.628, crossing the Woodhead Bridge. In half a mile, go L down the B.6105 (to Glossop) and walk W for a mile to see on the R a sailing club, and on the L a Peak Park Information Centre. Go L off the road here and go up a concessionary path. It ascends the bank to a stile that gives access to a bridge over the railway and another stile on the other side. The track climbs steeply through grass under Long Gutter Edge, the way marked by wooden posts until it reaches and drops down into the tremendous Torside Clough.

Either ascend up onto the Pennine Way or walk up the Clough at water level. It is abounding in charming features created by the stream as it flows over rocky slabs with numerous rock outcrops lining the route; the ascent is precarious in places with no worn path; this means that not many seek this way up or down.

Having reached the ford at 080964, go L and walk E, following Wild Boar Grain. Walk with the Clough on the L to reach Bleaklow Head (092959). Go now E over peat that goes up and down through small groughs with a few stakes to give aid to direction. In misty weather all navigation gifts are required and a small amount of wet weather obliterates the path, go over a section of moonscape where the peat has been eroded and head for Bleaklow Stones (112964).

In fine weather the views are extensive. Set off now on a long slog E, taking the N of the three paths that go E; two make for Grinah. Now keep to the staked path that veers off NE away from Grinah and Barrow Stones, then Goes N on a narrow strip of level ground between the Derwent Valley on the R and Cloughs on the L. the path then turns E and traverses the high ground that is between the Valley of the Derwent to the S and Longdendale to the N. Pass Swains Head where a solitary circular rock has a date strongly carved in large letters 1894. Dean Head Stones and Shepherds Stones are on the R. eventually Hoar Stones appear on the R with Horse Stone Naze beyond and soon come to the head of Stainary Clough which is overlooked by Crow Stones.

This is the point where the walk drops down to the N, so that exact place has to be found; there are several available. At Cat Clough Head, go downhill N through heather past several stakes to near Cat Clough and soon pass shooting butts on a worn path, and see on the other side of the valley, the track taken by Land-Rovers used by the shooters. When at the base of Hordron Clough, there is a footbridge crossing the stream (174994). To the L is Laund Clough, a huge valley which has been carved out of the N flanks of Bleaklow. It is a fascinating area to study and little used.

Walk E down the valley of the Porter or Little Don River which is on the L. a feint path appears here and there in wet ground. Cross the river and a path reappears to provide easy walking, level going on short grass. Cross the stream again and soon come to the most impressive sheep-fold (marked on the map) built of stone walls with battlements; obviously someone had time and an interest in doing good work to provide decoration to this unromantic construction. Once again walk with stream on the R, and now a wall imposes itself between the path and the water, a few trees now grow here.

Arrive at a point where Mickledon Beck joins the Porter and walk down the river valley, the path comfortably provided with short grass. A long, well-made bridge crosses the river, take this. The path now rises sharply, passing on the L a stile but do not take it, but walk up to level ground to overlook the river on the R.

Catch a glimpse of a stone bridge, but do not take, but go L up to a stile with steps to reach it, go through trees, cross a small stream and come to a wide track which comes from a bridge on the R. Go L along the wide track to come to a sign erected by the P.D. and N. C Footpath Society number 50 dated 1924. Go L here down a bank then forward on a path to a stile, from here the path is narrow. Carry on over good old-fashioned steps then on to a wooden step stile and so out on to the road at the Flouch Inn and start.