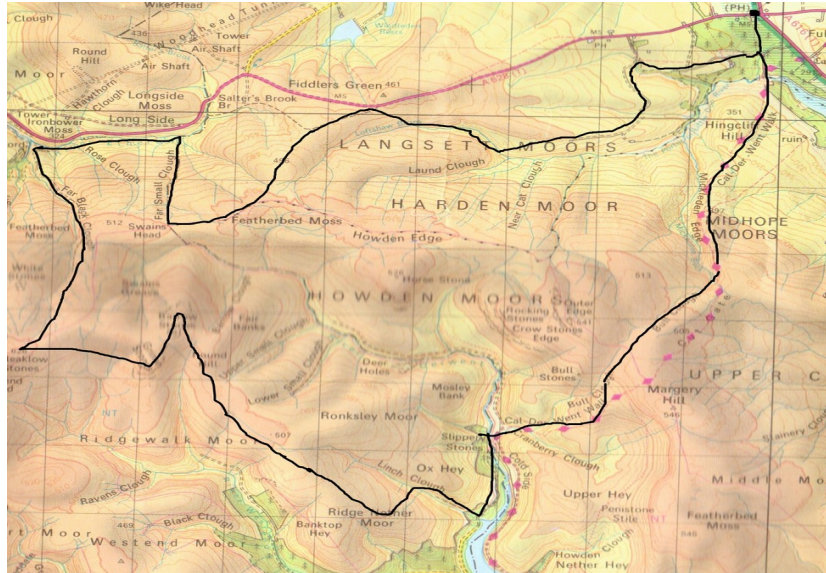


WALK 97.
FLOUCH INN 97.
25.7 miles. 7 hours 20 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Flouch Inn (1970150). Walk 100 metres W from the cross roads, then go L (S) at a metal sign erected in 1924 by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society indicating the way through Cut Gate. Go over a stile, then walk on a narrow path to a stile that leads out to open space in a plantation. Go straight on, wall on R; cross a small stream, and follow a wall, turn R and walk on a wide track, trees either side and come to a metal gate with a small gate for walkers on its L. continue on the track, going W to go through a gateway to leave the trees behind.

Now walk on Swindon Lane having passed two bridle signs, and enter a lane, wall on either side. Soon at a fork in the lane, turn R and come to a gate with steps on its R. walk along the lane and pass over a cattle grid; a large building on the L, lonely and isolated. Go through a metal gate and soon enter open country as indicated by a sign.

Go straight on downhill to a track and wall. Ford a small stream, then take the hard track that goes S uphill. This is Hordron Road that runs to Hordron Farm and takes shooters to their shooting butts. This is now open moorland. Drop into Long Moor Clough then out and proceed SW. At a gate, keep to high ground and the shooters track and walk W with wall on L. before the end of this section, go L through the wall to where a fine building stands, surrounded by a wall high enough for a castle. Drop down a bank and make for a foot-bridge at 174993.

The aim now is to go NW up Loftshaw Clough and make for Lady Cross, so walk W with river on the L. in several hundred metres, come to a junction of streams: Laud Clough from the W and Loftshaw Brook from the N. turn R and go NW here up Loftshaw Clough. There are signs of a worn path here and there, use the polished technique of Clough Hopping, crossing from side to side, looking for feet holds to stop sinking to the knees in water scrambling up steep banks always looking ahead for interlocking spurs that hide the view. The ascent is very gradual.

The clough turns so walk W in the higher reaches; at the appropriate point, go NW out of the Clough and walk through the rough land to meet a track turn L and walk W to lead to Lady Cross

(149997) a stone base holding the remains of an upright. This is an ancient marker on a salteway. Now head to Round Hill, so turn L and follow a worn track that goes SW, and soon level out on Round Hill (144991).

Continue in the same direction on a worn path, but it ultimately peters out at a junction with a track going E-W. This is the well-worn track on Outer Edge. Turn R and walk W for a short distance to a prominent stone that lies in the path. This stone, round like a toadstool has the date 1894 carved on the top. It is a useful marker for all walkers, (but not marked on the map). Continue W on the path. In about 600 metres, come to one of the stakes where a track goes off to the N; this is Swains Head (133982).

Go N down Far Small Clough and soon catch a sight of the A.628. Approach the base of the valley, and come to a fence. Go L of the fence so as to avoid difficulties later on, then descend a little, turn L so as to walk W looking for a track. One exists just above the River Etherow and it leads to a pleasant glen where Near Middle and Far Black Cloughs join forces to enter the river. A wide track leads to the water's edge, where crossing could be difficult in wet weather. Immediately come on to a wide track to walk S into the glen (117996).

Walk into the Glen on a good sandy track overhung with trees, and soon come to cottages. At this point, go L off the main Clough and enter Middle Black Clough, walking S up to Bleaklow Stones. This Clough is full of character; in its lower stages it has rocky grandeur where the stream flows fiercely over the boulders between walls of stone. The valley narrows in parts to produce a deeply-cut section where it has difficult to traverse the edge overhanging the stream, the views of the overhanging spurs create suspense. What is noticeable in this Clough is the amount of rock outcrop in its walls producing in parts rock-climbing pitches; more and more appears as the Clough is followed. All this powerful scenery has been created by the force of water.

Needless to say, those who do not wish to walk upon the side of the stream itself can find a worn path higher up the bank, which comes down to water level in the higher reaches of the Clough. The stream now flows gently between muddy banks in its infant stages, before it gathers force to tear through its Clough. Continue S until Bleaklow Stones are reached (112965).

Turn now and walk E to Grinah (130961) on a good direct path, then turn and walk NE to Barrow Stones (134969).

The aim now is to get down to Slippery Stones, so set off on a good path that goes SE downhill towards Round Hill which is soon reached, then onwards SE over Ronksley Moor walking in a straight line that is set by a wide drain (manmade or not!), level going, passing on the L the heads of Upper and Lower Small Cloughs. When the drain runs out, follow the terrain to the L. drop down very steeply into Linch Clough, a plain and unremarkable Clough, and get views over the reservoirs. Cross a small stream and walk SE into the plantation, a sign to open country nearby.

Drop down to the road and walk N to Slippery Stones and the old Derwent Bridge (169952). This fine Pack Horse Bridge was removed from the Derwent Village before it was submerged, and was rebuilt here in 1959 in memory of John Derry who fought for access in these hills we walk today with impunity, the bridge was built in mediaeval times and repaired in 1682. A C.14 Charter stated that it lay on the common way which leads from Sheffield to Derwent.

Signs abound here one from the P.D. and N.C. footpath society with no number or date? Cross a small footbridge (170952) and walk E on level ground, the last for a while. Soon reach the disarming approach to Cut Gate. This is an old route that led to Penistone, a packhorse track from Woodland Valley still mentioned on a sign at 164891. Cut Gate was once called Cart Gate: a document of 1571 refers to it as such. Carts surly did not climb certain sections of this route with its severe ascends before reducing its severity before climbing the N face of Margery Hill where the height is 1700 feet. Views from this track are wide and sweeping.

At the top the track levels out on to a hard track that eventually drops down to Mickledon Edge with Mickledon Brook below on the L. arrive at a sign (191986), number 50 erected in 1925 pointing the way o Flouch. Do not go R here on the original Cut Gate, but continue down to a sign

to open country (192991), walking on Cal-der-Went walk, then dropping on a pleasant track surrounded by views.

At the boundary of Crookland Wood, pass a sign to open country (199004) and walk on a narrow path hemmed in by a fence and trees, reaching a stone bridge over the Little Don. Take the road with the new track on the R to get to another sign of the P.D. and N.C. footpath society, number 50? dated 1924. Go L down the bank here and walk to the wooden step stile used earlier on. Go R over the stile and walk on the narrow path through woods to two more stiles and out on to the road at start and Flouch.