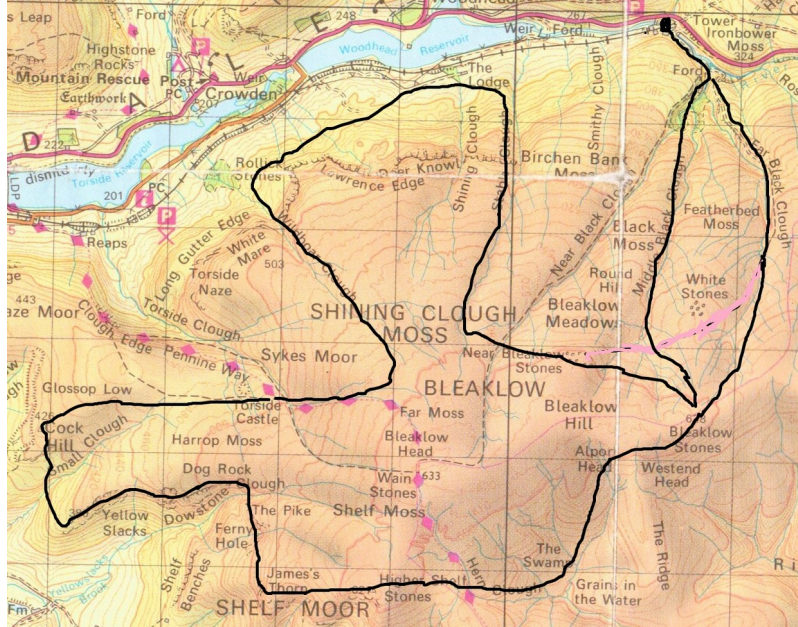


WALK 99.
WOODHEAD TUNNEL (114998) 99.
22-4 miles. 6 hours 30 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at a lane near to the Woodhead Tunnel (114998). Go a few metres down the lane to a gate, then cross a bridge over the River Etherow. (The Woodhead railway Tunnel now disused is on the R), then immediately go L at a sign to open country over a wooden step stile. Walk SW on a good track; on the L is the river which at one point fills a reservoir for the few houses below. Near a gate go over a step stile and continue in the same direction, then follow a track that turns to the R to enter a charming glen, that is popular with people who picnic. The huge boulders show how fierce the stream can be in bad weather.

Take note here that three Cloughs join to make one. Before the shooting cabins a Clough goes off to the L ignore that; walk past the cabins with stream on the L, but soon cross the stream; rock outcrop peeps out to give a grim outlook to the otherwise soft landscape; the stream tumbles over stones which give small rills and waterfalls. The scene is far removed to what lies ahead.

Push on over the stony path, and soon come to a fork where two Cloughs join. Go L he leave the other Clough to another day. Flat slabs of rock provide a bed for water to slide over and a track for walkers when needed. Progress is slow on a worn path that winds its way upwards. This is Middle Black Clough. Featherbed Moss is on the L; Black Moss on the R. nearer the top the path gets thinner.

Climb the ridge, always going S to eventually reaching Bleaklow Stones. The views are extraordinary. Despite it, many will agree that far too often the view from the stones is shrouded in mist. Strike off NW from the Stones with the aim of passing Near Bleaklow Stones(105969); a group of rocks, all close together, with a scattering of other stones nearby. Continue along the contour and pass a feature where a rock placed on one another is spoon shaped, survey the wide drainage basin below. Now reach a worn path that comes up from the direction of Glossop; bear L

and walk NW along it, rising gently alongside the deep Clough that gives a striking interest to the route.

Continue along this good path to climb steeply in places, walking alongside a fence with stiles in places that are ignored. Pass Dog Rock at 075958 and come to the head of the clough, cut down into Dowstone Clough and up the other side, then walk S, climbing gently to make the way around the hillside of Lower Shelf Stones (086948) where the views are again extensive.

Go now generally E until a good path comes to Higher Shelf Stones where there is a Trig. Point (089948). The view is panoramic. Go E now towards Hern Clough and Grains in the Water. Soon pass the sad remains of an aircraft, one of many that crashed here during and after that war; the Pennine way appears to take S for a short distance, before cutting down Hern Clough. The basin opens out and a slight path goes down to Grains in the Water. At Grains in the Water (106948), bear L to walk N to Bleaklow Stones on a path that is easily seen. To the L, Fork Stones stand out on a pronounced skyline as the climb is gently at first,, the Clough is on the L for much of the way, to then deviate slightly E jus under the edge, then contour E to cut up to the stones at 112965. A fine marker. Not only do the stones have a character of their own, but the views are far reaching. Happy is the walker that can have a detailed knowledge of all these edges and Cloughs which have been visited in all weathers and seasons.

Take the path that goes E, NE then N over the narrow ridge that separates Barrow Stones from Far Black Clough, a path well known to walkers who have become accustomed to its twists and turned; several posts help to point the way. In fine weather, it is easy to see on the L Far Back Clough and the route to be taken; in mist use a time period to know where to go L.

Having reached the Clough, go N on a good path on the E side of the stream that leads down to a wide track for shooters vehicles. At the lower reaches: rock outcrops rise vertically, catch a glimpse of the huts used by shooters; that was passed earlier. Soon descend to waters level and cross two stiles to reach the start.