

WALK.101.
BAKEWELL 101.
25.2 miles. 7 hours 30.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Bakewell (219686). Walk SW uphill that goes by the Church, follow the road that goes NW to a point at 209685. To then go R off the road to a stile in a wall. Walk W down through a narrow field. Just over halfway down, opposite some trees, find on the L in the wall a stile with bars. Through this and head for the R corner and make for the wall in front with a stile.

In front there is a pleasant little dale to drop into, and rise up the other side to a fence with a stile, walk now with wall on L through a field, dropping downhill to a wall and stile onto a road at 202686.

Cross the road to a gate; on its L is a post with yellow arrow, and a slot from which to walk uphill to a hedge and fence to cross by a stile, then make for a line of trees in front. On their L, go through a gap and walk close to a wall on the L looking for a stile with steps. Rise a little now, going through trees, then make for the far corner where there is a muddy approach to a stile and sign, and so out on to the road at 198685.

There are views of Longstone Edge to the N. Bear R and walk W along the road for about half a mile to where the road bears sharply to the R: go straight ahead here off the road into a corner where, on the R of a gate two big slabs make a stile, and a sign pointed the way. Walk uphill through the field to Dirtlow Farm, keeping close to the wall on the R and passing close to the tall buildings which are close to the L, then come to a small gate and pass in to a narrow field.

Walk W through the fields which gets broader; on the L is Dirtlow Plantation. Follow the wall on the R until it goes off, then proceed forward to go downhill with trees on the L to enter Kirk Dale.

Turn L then come to a road junction, at 182687, turn R up a short bank to the road to the turn R going W and enter the village of Sheldon. The area is famous for lead mining: the Magpie Mine is the best known; its remains are very complete. Go R out of the village up a lane that goes by the church. In several hundred metres a sign directs L through a slot in a wall to a field to walk NW cutting the Right Hand corner to 40 metres to another slot to enter a field, walking NW with wall on the L to another slot. 40 more metres to another stile to walk through the middle of a field to the R

corner where two trees stand guard to a stile. The next stile has two trees nearby and two steps. In 40 more metres come to more stone steps, then enter a lane with wall on L, field either side, level going.

Proceed through the lane, a broken wall on either side, go R in 100 metres; where the lane goes L, through a slot at a gate, then walk with wall on L climbing gently to the second field to enter by a gateway, no gate or stile. In 100 metres, go L over a stile to enter a field to get a fine view over Monsal Dale. Lose height now, and come to a slot in a wall, then continue dropping, this time through woodland and down a slippery bank to the edge of Great Shacklow Wood with a stile at the point of entry.

But do not enter but follow the path that zigzags down the steep bank past a sign to White Lodge Picnic site to then come to a low wall to enter Deep Dale. But do not enter but go straight on to the picnic site. Before getting there go L at a sign and climb up a bank, going W toward a small wooded dale to enter and look for a slot stile in a wall, then enter a field of rough grass to leave via a slot on the L. Then follow a worn path into trees.

In a short distance along the path, come to a broken wall with stile, but do not use, and enter a field with a view of Taddington Field Farm ahead. In the wall in front, use the three massive stone steps. Go forward, bearing R towards the farm, going through a slot at the side of a gate, then at the brink of the farmyard, bearing L to continue W along a farm drive.

Pass Lodley View, and come to a road junction at 153705, to turn L and walk S along the road for a few hundred metres, then turn R into a lane. On the R see the A.6; in about a quarter of a mile, go R off an offshoot of the lane and walk in a lane of rough grass between walls, and lose height gradually to then curve round to walk W. Look back at Fin Cop; it stands out.

Taddington now commands the view. The Saxons built the village here; the name Portway appears on the 1840 O.S. map and is referred to in a lead mining document of the Barmaster's record in 1824. The Portway usually refers to an old road to a market town. The church is mainly C.14. There is a brass to Richard Blackwall and his wife with five daughter and six sons in the dress of C.16. They held lands near here but lost them through loyalty to Charles I. In the churchyard is a shaft of Norman origin, but thought by some to be much older.

Walk W through the village and reflect that this was the main route at one time on the Buxton-Ashford Turnpike; a cast iron milepost still stands at the roadside to remind one of the fact; what relief the bye-pass has brought.

A few metres past the church, go L at the crossroads but only for a metre or so; cross to the far side to a slot between wooden uprights and walk along a narrow jitty between buildings for 40 metres to steps in a wall. Enter a field climb steeply W to a stile in a wall, then 10 metres to another stile. Cross a drive to a stile and sign to Chelmorton, then another stile and climb again. This is an ancient track a Portway. Go through a broken wall, then L through another broken wall and continue to climb up to another wall with gaps. The next stile is hidden away in the far corner and easily missed. Go over this and enter a field and make for a far corner with a reservoir. Take the stile in the corner and keep to the WSW on a long wall. Keep R near the wall; there is a Trig. Point in the field to the R. away to the L is a plantation around Moor Grange; a grange was an outlying farm belonging to a monastery and worked by lay brothers.

Keeping to the wall on the R, pass a succession of gaps to come to a lane at 127707. Away to the R see the ultimate horror of the Peakland Industry: Great Rocks Dale Quarry. Nearer on the R there is the remains of a Neolithic Chambered Tomb 70 feet in diameter, carefully built of course rubble. In the centre were two burial chambers, now roofless though the portals survive.

Cross the lane and pass through four fields to a road. On the R was Fivewells Farms. Cross the road to a sign and gate with slot on its R, then walk WSW along an old rake to Chelmorton. Suddenly see the church spire. When the church wall is reached, do not go R over stile but, a little further down, go R at a gate then up a bank to another gate. Go L.

Chelmorton, one of the highest villages in England, was a Saxon settlement lying on ancient routes. One of them was referred to in 1659 as a Salterway. Much later, in the C.18, the village was brought in to the turnpike System. In fact, the village schoolmaster depended for his salary on the interest from money invested in the Buxton and Cheadle Turnpikes.

The church is not without interest. The C.15 porch is lined with ancient coffin stones covered with strange carvings. Like many others, the church is a record of many different centuries and was fortunately, not rebuilt in the C.19; like many others.

After going L, level going around Chelmorton Low, a limestone height crowned with two great burial mounds: the old folk knew how to choose their spots. Good views all around stretching to Deepdale. Come to a gate, no stile, then precede wall on L, down to a gate, on the R is a stile in a wall to come to a road at 111709.

Cross the road, then go R for a few metres to find a stile in a wall almost hidden by tall grass, then a stile in a fence, then walk N downhill keeping to the L to come to a gate; in the corner is a stile and come to a farm drive, farm to the L, but go straight across the drive, passing buildings on the L. go to a gate ahead, then, in the next field, go sharp L and walk with wall on L for 30 metres down to a stile in a wall, there stands a sign.

Bear R and walk N through field to a stile ahead, continue, wall on L and come to a circular drinking trough on L; go L here over a low wall then bear R and walk as before, now with wall on the R, approaching Topley Head Farm, to go through a gate, no stile, then over steps in a wall in front. Now enter a farmyard to go sharp R, then, passing a metal gate, go R over a wall and through a stile.

Bear L and walk E, wall on L to the far corner and gate no stile, then proceed towards Calton Farm, going through a gate and out on to the road at 115719. Bear L and walk on the A.6. bear L and walk NW to a spinney on the R. 30 metres beyond that, go R to a gate and steps in a wall. A sign declares that this is a Derbyshire Naturalists Reserve purchased with help from the World Wildlife Fund.

Now descend through a glen, the view ahead full of interest. In several hundred metres, go R at a sign: there is a stile. From this point, start climbing steeply up a bank to the top to come to a boundary of a field, and walk E along it, now see Chee Dale below. At the end of one field come to a step in a wall on the R. first, through, go forward along the edge and look down into the dale where massive limestone cliffs rise up from the river below. The view is spectacular. Go R over a stile into a field and walk 100 metres to steps in a wall, then bear R and make for a ruined building ahead; the stile is a little to the R of it, steps in a wall and steps in a fence. Bear L and walk SE uphill to a stile in a wall. Enter a lane and go forward 40 metres to a gate with slot on its R made with the help of breeze blocks. How are the mighty fallen!. Proceed along the grassy lane to a gate and stile on its R, then emerge out on to a road at 123720.

This is Blackwell. Go past the caravan site, then in a few hundred metres, go over a road at a crossroads and walk SE uphill to a R turn at the top. In a few hundred metres, go L at a crossroad (134716) and walk E towards Priestcliffe. At the end of the second field on the R, go through a gate and walk down to a gate at the bottom of the field to emerge on to a lane.

You go L here, and go down the lane to the village, passing houses to come to Lydgate Farm at 140721. There is a fork here: go straight down a lane, walking NW for about 600 metres to New Barn where go L at a fork and climb uphill to a point where four gates are: continue in the same direction and come to a cottage. Go through a stile on the L and a sign and walk to the far wall then observe the spectacular view below (148729). It is undoubtedly one of the finest viewpoints in Derbyshire.

Drop down the steep bank to the Monsal Trail, bear R and walk E as far as the bridge. At this point leave the trail. Go L and drop down through trees over the river and out at Litton Mill (160730). Bear R and walk through the mill grounds to come to a fine river side walk through Water Cum Jolly down to Cressbrook. Before the mill go R over a footbridge then climb a bank and bear

L to climb up to the trail at the side of the second tunnel. When this book was written the tunnels were not passable but now are open and could be used on this walk. Also there was a passable path around the hillsides from the tunnel to tunnel with a cliff side walk; high on the cliff-side and one below, but these were not for the faint-hearted with steep drops to the river: but there is now no access.

Walk E along the old railway line to the viaduct where another tunnel bars the way, then climb up the bank to bear L to go uphill to Monsal Head. (Ruskin stated when the viaduct was first built that any fool can travel now from Bakewell to Buxton and vies-a-versa. Progress! Past the Hotel and walk down the road to Little Longstone (190718). Continue to Great Longstone whose attractive brick hall was the home of the Wright family from the C.14 to the C.19. The church was rebuilt in C.19.

Walk through the churchyard and out on to a lane beyond, then go L up a lane at 202719, walking N to a gate at the far end, then go through a stile and pass a sign to Longstone Edge. Walk diagonally uphill through the field to a stile in a wall, then, cutting the L corner, go to a stile in a wall and L to a stile in a fence. Drop down to a charming glen and come to on the L a gate with a slot on its L. Walk uphill through a long field that rises to a stile and out to long grass and fern to reach Longstone Edge and an industrial road.

Bear R and walk NE along High Rake to arrive at a stile at 214735. Then go R through a stile at a gate. Go forward 20 metres to a gate, then descend a lane to join another lane at the bottom. Bear R and walk through Rowland.

Come to a road at 213721, go straight across to a footpath that runs S alongside the estate wall of Hassop Hall. The estate was bought by the Eyres of Padley in 1498; on the extension of the line, it was sold in 1918 to now be a hotel. A good path through four stiles comes to a road at 213709. Turn L and walk up to Rowdale Tollhouse which dates back to the establishment of the Turnpike in 1812 at the expense of the Duke of Devonshire. Note the symbolic gate and bell in the gable.

Cross the road at the tollhouse go through a gate and in 80 metres cross the Monsal Trail an old railway line and walk S uphill. Continue uphill on a good path with wall on L through several gates to then drop down to a metal gate. Enter a field which widens, then down a drive to pass Holme Hall of 1626, then take the river side walk back to the road bridge of 1300 with its five arches and back to the start.