

WALK 103.
MONYASH 103.
26-7 miles. 7 hours 20 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Monyash (800665). Walk W on B.5055 for 200 metres to where the road curves to the R, then L. Go off the road here to the R down a lane for about half a mile to a footpath sign on the L at 143672. Turn L to walk down a lane to the road near the Bull'th Thorn on the A.515 at 128664. Bear R and walk 100 metres or so to a junction where a road goes off to the R. on the L go off the A.515 through a stile into a field to walk with the wall on the R. Go through the wall on the R into a field, walking WNW to the trail. There are no stiles here so go through three fields and up to the embankment on to the trail. Bear R and walk N up the High Peak Trail.

In just over half a mile the trail finishes. Go L walking SSW along a lane. In about 400 metres, a sign states the footpath is in 50 metres the stile is doubled in strong colour. Go R over the wall into a field and make for a gate with stile. The views are extensive with shallow valleys. The minor peaks make it easy to imagine the distant geological past where they stood up as coral reefs in a warm lagoon.

Walk on the L to the far corner to find steps of wood; slippery when wet. A similar stile is in the next corner to take and enter a hard drive with a shelter on the R to protect against blasting, now become aware of an immense quarry on the R. Walk

NW fields on L Quarry on R. Parkhouse and Chrome become more spectacular; small in comparison with other heights, but in context, impressive, adding a powerful element to the landscape.

At a fork, go R so as to keep to the track close to the quarry edge. On the R the dramas created by man reveal themselves in a colossal quarry, a huge hole gouged out of the limestone which is used for so many purposes these days.

At the end of this track, reach a road at 086687. Cross the road and go through a gate, and climb NW, follow the wall; go through a gateway, the wall still on the L and views of the spine of Parkhouse. Go through another gate into a field to be faced with another quarry. Proceed down to a gate, no stile, then out past a footpath sign to road at 077689.

Walk W along the road for a mile to 061693 to go L off the road over a stile, then walk S climbing up the side of High Edge to a view-point at the top where the scene unfolds; the rolling countryside is smooth and uncut. Drop down to a gate and the road at 061687.

Walk SW along the road which drops down to Booths Farm. The view of Chrome is now spectacular; this area cut as it is into sharp if small hills, has more drama and interest about it than almost any other area of its size in the White Peak.

Just before Booths Farm, go L over a cattle grid along a hard track that goes to Fough Farm, walking S on a good track down the hillside, an old Packhorse route, the Dove is on the R. At a gate, take a stile between two gritstones, then continue to a post and sign. Cut down R on a narrow, muddy path on the bank-side to a gate in a wall. Then cross Washgate Bridge, the old packhorse bridge, at 063668, then climb the bank to a section of wall to come to a gate and out onto the road at 063666. Bear L and walk down to Hollinsclough. This small hamlet was well known to the packhorse men. One of them John Lomas, a Pedlar, (1747-1823), a man different in kind from many of the “Wild and Barbarous” crew as Samuel Smiles described them, built the Methodist Chapel to give a small hamlet this spiritual home. His initials are recorded over the door. To peep into this homely place when it is decorated for harvest festival is an added joy to a long walk.

Opposite the Chapel is a tablet inscribed “E11R Silver Jubilee 1977”. Just past this, go R up a lane, then L at the far side of tall farm buildings and take the once popular Jagers Way up the hillside. Go past a junction where the road goes to the L, then just past a house on the L, go over a stile in the corner of walls (065658) into a field which is narrow at this point. To reach the road, walk S, wall on the L, passing through three slot stiles, and so out on to the road over a good slot stile at 063654.

Cross the road, bear R and go forward 10 metres then bear L and go 15 metres before going R through a stile in the wall; superb views. Keep to the wall on the L and go over a stile in the corner, then descend to a gate. The bank now descended is muddy. Reach Ball Bank House Farm, walk around the building to the L: now face the farmyard. Keep close to the wall on the R, then cut down to the R along an old lane to come out at the river. Bear R and walk to an excellent footbridge (059651).

Walk along the riverside for a short distance, but it is important to start rising up the bankside as soon as possible, steep though it is, and to get to the wall above, aim to walk close to the wall on the L to find a stile which is easily missed, note on the L,

a stone house built almost into the hillside. Cut the R corner, go over a fence, climb up to a gate, then go through a field to a farm gate and out on to a farm drive at 057647 to Marnshaw Head, well-known to the Jaggers. Go straight on past a cottage built of handsome pink sandstone, random coursed with fine quoins.

Go forward to a stile in the wall to the L of a metal gate, then walk close to wall on L, two farms ahead. This is Barrow Moor. Take a stile in the wall ahead, then another in one metre to come into a garden of a house on L which seems to be the office of a coach business; and so out on to the road at 058644.

Cross the road to a stile in a wall, then walk 40 metres with wall on L to a low wall in front where a slot is easy to take. The views in front reveal hillocks and gentle valleys. There are stone steps in a low wall ahead then make for a metal gate ahead with slot in two gritstone uprights. Go out on to a road and bear L and soon come to a junction to then bear R up a farm track with wall on one side and trees on the other, to descend, to pass through Oakenclough Hall to go over the stone bridge: the date 1871 is carved in its stonework.

Rise up from the bridge to a gate on the L of which a wall with a stile, then walk through a field towards a ridge ahead topped with a farm. The drive now curves to the L. At the next gate, there is a poor stile and walk through grass to a wall and a farm to enter a lane with wall and house either side. At a gate in front, go through a stile and come out on to a road at 059633.

Turn R and walk uphill. Just before Belfield House, go L through a stile in wall, then continue with wall and walk SE for 40 metres to a slot in a wall, then continue with wall on L through a field to a tall tree which marks a stile in a wall nearby. Now enter some rough ground; continue in the same direction past a house on the R, then pass a chapel with a good Venetian window. This is Newtown (060631).

Come to a road; bear R and then L in 40 metres through a slot, and walk E with wall on the R. Go through a stile in wall ahead, then go R through a stile in wall on the R then make for Hawks Yard Farm ahead, wall on L; very muddy. At a gate there is a stile, go forward, farmhouse on L; it has a date 1620 over a window and 1780 over another.

Go forward to a gate and stile then walk SE through a large field, dropping to the far corner to an excellent slot, then proceed, dropping gently with the fence and stream with attendant trees on the L; clean walking. Go through a stile between gritstones, then over a footbridge over a stream into, once again, rough, muddy area. Leave the fence on the L and rise to a track that leads to Boosley Grange. The name grange often indicates a farm run by lay brothers for a monastery in mediaeval times. Walk with farm on the R, then go R at its far end to a small step over a fence.

Walk S through a field, farm on R, the land rising gently, bearing trees of interesting shapes. Follow the wall down to a gate in the corner where there is a good slot. In the next field, follow the hedge on the R which grows out of an old earth bank. In the R corner, take some bars across a gate, then cross a stream to a poor gate and stile into a field, bearing L diagonally across a field, Smedley Sytch Far away to the R, walking now close to a line of trees, then keep in the same direction to a gate and stile.

Walk in the same direction through a rough field; cross a stream close to a gate and stile. Go through another wet patch in the next field, wall on the R going up to a footbridge over Black Brook. Rise gently up through more wet ground, wall on the R, the stream on the R. In the fence in front there is another wooden slot, now walk through dry ground, wall on the R, to a gate and stile, then go to another gate, hedge on L, an old farm building on the L. Make for a slot in a low wall, forward to another slot, Field house Farm to the L, make for a gate near a farm on the R then out on to the road at 079610.

Bear R; there is a road junction in a few metres: cross the road to a stile in the wall and walk SE towards Spout Farm over wet land; the view ahead to the S reveals undulating hills. At a broken wall, there is a proud but little used gritstone stile to then come to Spout Farm. Go through slot on L and continue in the same direction with hedge and wall on R; very wet ground. Halfway through this field, cut through the hedge on the R and walk with it on the L down to a gate, and so into a lane. Bear L and walk E along the lane to a road at 085612.

Bear R and walk down the road to a junction; go straight across and walk through New Road Farm to a stile at a red gate, farmhouse on R, and walk E to a gate and stile, then continue dropping gently, wall on L and come to a stile; do not take but bear R as the field narrows to a corner and gate. Keep to the hedge on the L, in the next field come to a mixed wood slot; the next one is built the same to get down to the road at 097612.

Go straight across the road at a junction and cross the River Manifold at Brund Mill by a bridge build in 1891 to replace an old packhorse bridge; this was an ancient route for jagggers who carried mainly salt through Sheen, making for Matlock among other places.

Just beyond the mill, take a stile in a wall on the R and walk through field to a stile in a fence, then to steps in a wall and come out on to a road at 101612 in Brund. Bear R and pass very interesting houses, the first dated 1640, rebuilt in 1830. Continue on the road for 300 metres, then go R through a good slot in the wall to the R of a gate and walk with wall on the L. drop to a crossing of stream then up into the next field, then through a gateway. Pass a farm building and come to a wooden gate with stile, and go straight across a farm drive. Go R past Lowend Farm to a road at 109600.

Bear R to walk 30 metres to a stile on the R at a drive to a house, then enter a field; there is a stile in 100 metres labelled "Push." Enter a field and walk close to hedge on the L and go through gap in fence at two large trees, good walking so make for a slot in a fence, (memory states there was once a bull in this field), then proceed to the farm named "Scaldersitch" dated 1661 over the door. Go forward on the farm drive to the road at 116597.

Bear L and walk several hundred metres N, then go R to Banktop Farm; there is a date 1845 on an outbuilding. Go to a stile on the L into a narrow jitty then out through a stile and go over a drive into another jitty, dropping now with views over Hartington ahead. Drop through a field where there is a fence and are guided like cattle to stiles, then out through two well carved gritstone uprights and so out on to the road at 121598.

Cross Harington Bridge over the River Dove and enter Derbyshire, then just past an attractive old Mill House where the mill wheel can still be seen, go L down a short jitty to a stile and sign so into a field. What a rewarding approach this is to the fine old town of Hartington, its tower peeping through trees! Walk NE to steps in wall then follow good path to side of Cheese Factory on the L, make for another stile in wall, then another stile reached by steps. There is a wall on R now; go R over steps into a jitty, cross a low wall, then pass through two gritstone uprights and so enter Hartington (127603).

Many visitors are here to admire the ancient town whose market was granted in 1203; the mediaeval church looks like an old hall; was built in 1611 by the Bateman family, one of whom was knighted by Charles 11 and another became the Mayor of London. Leave by a minor road going E past the Youth Hostel, climbing to the top to go R through a farm gate (132603) and walk SE through field to a gate; cut the L hand corner and make for a stile in the wall half way along; this comes out in to a lane to walk in the same direction. In just over half a mile, come to a junction of lanes at 144597: go L to walk down the road. Cross the road to a step stile in the wall, then walk uphill through field wall on L to a large slot in a wall ahead at the top, then enter the farm yard of Chapel Farm to go R at a gate near the house, then go L through a slot on to the road near the old chapel in Heathcote (147601).

Walk NW through Heathcote, crossing the road, then, in a hundred metres or so, go R at a sign and walk NE along a lane that zigzags then enters a field to walk with wall on R to a gate, slot on R, then enter a field, wall on R, some former workings appearing ahead. At a gate, go through a slot into a field, level going, wall on R, for 50 metres to a gateway, then into another field, wall on R, an old tip on R, then 40 metres to a wall and jitty that leads on to Tissington Trail at 149610. Bear L and walk W.

Leave the trail at Parsley Hay, then cross the A.515 to walk N up the road to Monyash, passing the well-known Benty Grange, a small Anglo-Saxon barrow whose grave-goods yielded a famous Anglo-Saxon helmet surmounted by a bronze boar, a small cross on the nose-piece. As Monyash is approached see how low it stands: even the spire of the church (founded in 1198) is below. Carry on the road on a downhill finish back to the start.