

WALK 105.
ROBIN HOOD BASLOW 105.
28-1 miles. 7 hours 40 minutes.
Map White Peak.



“Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey”
Crown Copyright NC/02/30874.

Start at the Eric Byne car park near the Robin Hood (280720). Go L uphill from the car park to a stile on the L after a few metres. Then walk N under or over Birchin Rocks where climbers can be seen on these nursery rocks. After a few hundred metres go R up a steep bank to get on the top path which has the best views. At the Nelson Monument notice the large rocks on the R named after Nelson's Ships. Take a path that leads down through trees and heather that leads on a good track down to a stile in the corner and sign and cross roads at 278740.

Cross the road and go WNW along the road uphill to a stile on the R, and begin a long walk through Big Moor follow a good path going N past Swine Sty on the R and go over a footbridge to go to the summit on a narrow muddy path.

Now follow an easy but interesting slog along White Edge, going N with fine views to the W over the Derwent Valley and R over Big Moor. Eventually a point is reached at 264780 where a three-armed sign is. Having gone through a broken wall, go L downhill wall on the L, over rough ground to another three armed sign. Go through some trees and reach Eastern Moors sign, then take the small wooden gate and walk diagonally through field to another small gate to reach the road at 259779. The Grouse Inn lies some few metres to the L.

Go R for a few hundred metres to a white gate on the L, a small gate on its R and a N.T. sign Longshaw; this is the N.T. estate and where once Dukes rode. At the other end of the drive, having gone through some small gates, reach the road at 265801. Cross the road to another white estate gate and re-enter the estate by a slot on the side of a gate and walk through parts of the peak known to Jane Austin, shortly, bear R to a small slot and a little gate in the wall and so out on to the road at 263805.

Cross the road then walk N on a good path for a few hundred metres, leaving the path to go the way N under Burbage Rocks, meanwhile the path needed goes L down to Burbage Brook, then

climb steeply up to Carls Wark, an impressive hill fort covering about two acres, set in mountain moorland at 1200 feet gritstone boulders and outcrop. Manmade defences still survive, reaching 10 feet; a gateway can be made out on its E side. There are doubts about the date of its construction.

Drop down the ramparts where on a dark, misty morning it is not difficult to imagine primitive human life up here, then climb again up to Higger Tor where very satisfying views may be obtained. Carry on over and onward down to a stile in a fence and out on to the road at 256823. Cross the road to a similar stile, then walk NW across a field at the other end of which is an official flying area used by model plane enthusiasts. Take a similar stile out on to the road, bear L and walk a few hundred metres NW, then cut up R and make for the S end of Stannage Edge. Walk, now, under Stannage Rocks and observe the climbers at work. At the point where Long Causeway cuts Stannage Edge (238846), go to the top of the edge and walk SE down to the end, passing the trig point.

Go down the road at 259830, bear L and walk over Upper Burbage Bridge, then make for the second stile on the R, a simply wooden stile from which walk SE above Burbage Rocks down to 271814 to bear L on to another path and walk E to reach Houdkirk Road in several hundred metres. Bear R and walk SW on this fine wide hard track to a point at 272807, where Parson House Farm Outdoor Pursuits Centre lies to the R. do not go through the gate, but bear L and walk SE across rough land where there is no path to the snow fence where take a slot stile and so out on to the road at 273806.

Walk E for a few hundred metres; do not take the B.6450 to the R, but go R soon after, down a bridle way, trees on LL. Walk SE wall on the L. Continue through moorland to a gate with a small gate on its L. follow a wide, grass track among undulating hills to come to a line of prominent trees and a wall with a gate. Bear R downhill, wall on the L, to a footbridge of sleepers, then through a small gate to then bear L to walk around Wimble Holme Hill. The path comes down to a wide, hard track at 290797.

Bear R and walk WSW along a path above Totley Tunnel for several hundred metres, then cut off L through moorland. On the L lies Brown Edge and an area of danger from those engaged in shooting practice. Walk SW (black line on map) on a narrow faint path, passing a trig point at 1350 feet. Then reach an Eastern Moor Sign, and a swing gate and the road at 277781. Bear R and walk NW along a road in several hundred metres to a ladder stile and signs to the L. turn L and walk SE, wall of the L, crossing Bar Brook which flows down into the reservoir. Carry on; passing a wooden, fenced sheep pound, then keeping to wall until a gate and sign is reached.

Bear R and walk SE on a path of short grass. At a fork, keep R and walk S crossing the tarred drive to the reservoir to a gate; on its L are good stone steps to get to a road at 286765. Bear L; walk several hundred metres N then go R down a wide bridle way, walking E, losing height all the way; Smeekly Wood lies to the L. eventually come to a boundary wall to then turn L and walk downhill, wall and trees on the R.

On the way down, pass, on the R, a gate and sign at an entrance to a wooded area and; do not take it. But soon pass on the R a pumping station: Smeekly Moor Bore Hole and the road becomes smoother. In a hundred metres, go L off this minor road on a track into woods at a sign to Fox Lane Top along the road. But take the path through Smeekly Wood, level track through the trees, stream on L, beautiful at most times, but especially when the autumn colours catch the eye as the sub streams through the thin trees do not take the first wooden footbridge on R but continue, stream on R, to the second footbridge and thus to steps in the wall and out on to the road at 308766.

Bear R and walk SE to the road junction, then go forward for a few hundred metres to a junction where a minor road goes off R to Unthank. Take this, but in a few metres, go R over a stile in a hedge, then shortly over another step stile, and climb a bank on the L where crab apples grow. Walk SE through a gap in a hedge in front and walk on upwards, hedge on L and trees away to the R hiding the stream. Go through gateway with stile; then follow a wall on the L, go round the

corner and make for gate ahead and so out onto the road and sign at 307761. Unthank Hall lies across the road.

Unthank Hall is a gabled house dating from the C.16 with 2, 3 and 4 light Mullioned windows with some hoods. The building was added to in the C.18. The stable and outbuildings are of great interest, one of them having a Cruck Frame claimed to be 1000 years old!. An early owner was one of the Wrights of Great Longstone; he paid tax on 8 hearths in 1670. The house was sold to the tenants, the Lowes, who had been there since 1673 and have farmed the estate in unbroken succession to the present time. The house has fortunately not been altered in the last 300 years, inside or out.

Bear L and walk downhill for several hundred metres to a footpath sign pointing to the R. go through a slot on the L of a gate and walk S though a field, level going, farm away to the L, a strong neat hedge on the R. there is a good slot to the L of a gate in front from which to enter a field and walk close to a strong holly hedge on the L to a gate with a slot. Enter a field and walk 80 metres to a gate and a step stile, then enter Stripes Wood. Bear R and walk through an area of trees. Cross a small stream, then climb a bank to a wooden fence to a gate and enter a field.

Stay close to a hedge o the R to go through it and walk up through a field to Moorhall Farm. Go over a stile in a wall then keep close to the farm on the L to reach a corner with stone steps in a wall. Come to a lane; bear R and walk forward to the road at 309748. Bear L and walk a hundred metres, then go R at a footpath sign in a farm drive, then go over the wall into a field and walk to the R corner to go through a white gate and enter a field; the farm is close to the R. A wall is close on the R to make for the R corner and a slot to admit into a field to drop into a declivity, then climb out of it and make for a wall ahead where there is a slot stile.

In the next field make for the wood ahead, where, in the boundary wall there is a slot. Go through Grange Wood, cross a strong footbridge, climb a bank and leave the wood through a stile. Go through a field close to Grange Lumb Farm on the L; cross the farm drive to the hedge where there is a stile in a short section of wall. Cross the next field to a holly hedge with tunnel in it that admits to the next field to climb to the R and make for far hedge where there is a stile in a wall. Now walk close to wall on L, level going to a gate and stile, then walk through a field, wall on R, the path rising gently to a narrow field to a gate and stile and sign. Come out on to road junction at 317740.

Go straight ahead along the road to Barlow Grange to come to the B.6050 to cross to a footpath sign in the farm drive to Bluster Castle; what an interesting name! Leave the drive about half way along it and go R to a wall with a stile. Bear R and enter a triangular area of trees. Go sharp L with wall on L to a slot stile at the far end and come out on to a lane. Bear R and walk with trees on R up to a road at 316736. Bear L and pass a Trig. Point at the side of the road.

Walk W keeping to the B.6050. At a road junction at 302721, go straight ahead, then R at another junction in a matter of metres. This leads back to the start.