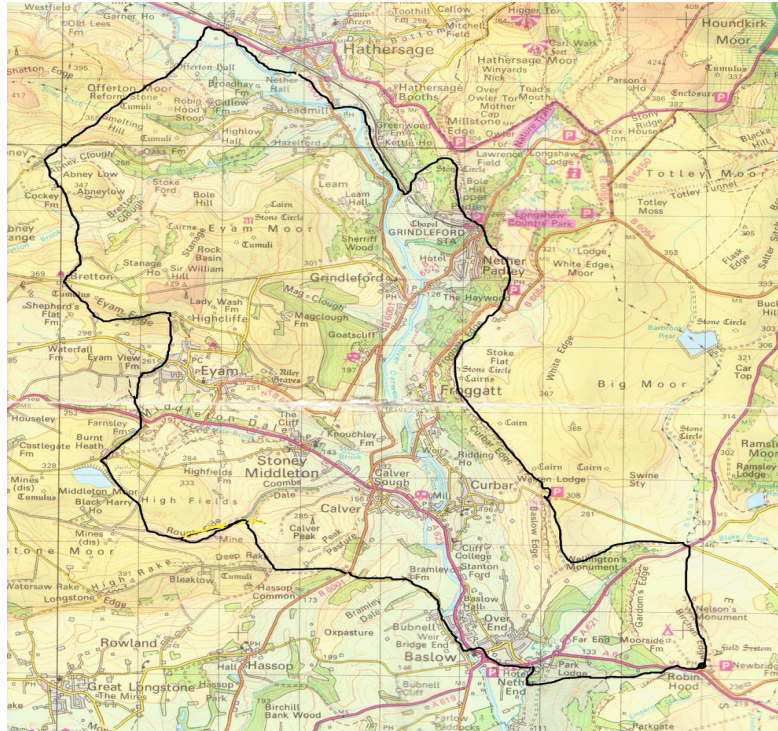


WALK 106.
ROBIN HOOD BASLOW 106.
27-6 miles 7 hours 40 minutes.
Map White Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Robin Hood Baslow at the Eric Byne car park (281721). Walk SE up the B.6050 for 50 metres then go L over a stile, passing a sign to open country. Walk N along the track to cut up a steep bank on the R, a scramble near the top. Then go L along the top of Birchen's Edge to a monument to Nelson on the L and large rocks on the R called after Nelsons Ships. Then cut down through heather and trees to follow a wide track to the corner of a wall where there is a stile at 278740.

Cross the road and walk uphill WNW for a hundred metres to a stile and gate on the L, then walk on a wide track W to Wellington's Monument, passing an old guide stone on the way. Then at the monument bear R and walk N to Curber Gap; passing a large rock on the R this is Eagle Stone; it was stated that the local youths should climb this stone before they married: it is more difficult than it seems. An alternative route is to go L to the edge and walk along this to Curber Gap but is up and down over rocks.

At Curber Gap cross the road and go up on good track to walk along Froggatt Edge. On the R rises White Edge, on the L, a succession of views in the Derwent Valley. Carry on to the end of the edge to a road at 254776, turn R and walk for a few metres, to go through a gate on the L and walk downhill to go over a stream, then up steeply to a stile. Over this; a car park is on the R, but go L down to a stile, then descend on a good track that drops through Hay Wood down to Nether Padley. Go forward with houses on the L down to a road B.6521 at 252784.

Cross the road and go down a narrow path to Grindleford Station where the line enters Totley Tunnel dated 1893. Go forward over the stream, then steeply up the road for a few metres, then bear R and walk up a concrete road with houses to a gate at the top where a N.T. sign stated Padley Gorge.

Continue to climb, passing on the L a building (water authority); a little further on, go L off the main track. Go N through trees to a fence where there is a stile, then climb the steep bank to the top where there is a wall going off to the R. walk alongside another wall to the N to come to a strange little feature: a fireplace in a small section of wall, all neatly finished.

Turn L and walk W to the edge, then descend a bank to a wide platform of grass and trees. This is Bole Hill and the site of a quarry. Bole hill indicates the name of a former smelting activity. Bear R and walk N with the quarry face on the R to come to the astonishing site of dozens of gritstone millstones lying neatly at side of track. Bear L away from these well-made and neatly chiselled relics, and go down through Oxley Wood to a farm drive to Greenwood Farm. Bear L and walk S to pass Barn in the Wood, farm building well maintained; just beyond this point, go R down to a ladder stile at a bridge over railway line, then turn R and cut the R corner, taking a stile to enter Coppice Wood. Descend on a path to the River Derwent and walk N with the river on the L, passing through a gate then a slot to eventually reach the road at Leadmill Bridge (233806).

Cross the road to a gate and slot in a wall, then walk NW fence on the L. come to a gateway with a massive stile. Away to the L is Nether Hall which was built in 1840. It gains its name from the fact that it was built by J. A. Shuttleworth of the main Hall. At a gate, go over a neat step in a wall and cross the drive to Nether Hall, going L down a lane that curves around the approach to the viaduct, just before this go L over a stream, then take a stile. Walk through a field with the railway close to the R to a ladder stile to the L of a gate to come out on to the road at 227814.

Turn L and walk about half a mile towards Hope, then, at a sign on the L go through a stile and walk down a short but pleasant walk to the river. Go down to stepping stones over the river. (In very wet weather do not attempt to cross could be dangerous). Climb the far bank to a sign with three arms take the path to Offerton by going up the steep hill to a gate with stile, then further on another gate with stile then a stile on the R to get onto a road at 213811.

Pass on the L Offerton Hall, one of several halls built, so it is fondly believed by the romantics among us, by Robert Eyre for his sons. He built the halls so each son could get in touch with beacons, with each other in case of distress. It is a fine building built in C.1550. It was in bad condition in 1640 and passed from the Eyres to Robert Glossop who rebuilt it. A Cruck barn is to be found at the rear.

At the other side of the hall take the stile on the L and climb a steep bank; at the top of Offerton Edge, there are extensive views over the Hope Valley and the hills around with the Ladybower in the distance. Continue, level going over the Offerton Moor.

Cross Siney Sitch by a footbridge, then drop down the other side of Smelting Hill where new views open up, a pastoral scene enclosing the tiny hamlet of Abney. Come to a ladder stile to leave the moor and enter a field and proceed to a gate with stile, bear L and walk downhill, wall on L, to a gate and stile, and so out on to the road at 201799.

Bear R and walk through the quite hamlet of Abney. Do not go L down to Stoke Ford, but at the last of the few houses, go L at a sign to Nether Bretton, stepping over a low wall to go into a charming little valley; the head of Abney Clough, to then drop to a footbridge then climb a steep bank to a ladder stile. A narrow path leads around the hillside, then cross a farm drive to rise through a field towards Cockey Farm. On the L Abbey Low is prominent; on the R, the land rises to Abbey Moor and the Gliding Field. This is an interesting undulating area.

A sign to Abney stands at a stile, from which follow a wall on the L, then walk now on a farm drive to Cockey Farm. Bear R off the drive and walk through the field to wall ahead and a ladder stile. Follow the wall on the L. Go through a gateway into a rough area with wall on the L and trees getting near ahead. On the L come to a stile, then on to a narrow path through bracken, dropping to a wooden footbridge.

Cross the stream. Go forward over a stile at a sign then cross another footbridge which bears a plaque to a dedicated walker, a pleasant touch. Climb on a narrow path to the floor of a tiny valley where a footpath goes off L back down the valley; but keep going S which means climbing a very steep, short bank up to a two-step stile, then up a bank to a corner ad steps in a wall on the R. with wall

on the R, walk up through a field. Go through a gateway and stile; a sign points to Bretton; ahead is a farm where a slot admits between a farm and an old ruin on the L with mullioned windows filled in. bear R and walk uphill past the Youth Hostel: take one last look back at the view before reaching the Barrel Inn, Bretton, built in 1697 in an extraordinary position, where a view causes a gasp of breath with the pattern of fields.

Bear L and walk a few metres to a sign on the R and a stile in a wall to then drop down the hillside, losing height laboriously gained. Pass a step stile then over a wall, approaching an industrial scene in front. Then through a stile and out onto a lane at 203774. Go through Black Hole Mine now a grinding factory R down to the offices, the L at the side of building on the L through bushes to a broken wall with a yellow arrow pointing the way.

Go E across the field to a broken wall, then through the next field, passing a large mound to get to a copse. Keep the wall to the L and go to the far end. Keep climbing gently alongside the wall to a broken wall in front where there might have been, at one time stone steps. Then continue up along a sunken path, fence on R. at the top come to a wall to go L on a hairpin turn to slot in the wall, then through a field with wall on the R up to a metal gate with stile and so out on to the road at 211774.

Bear R and walk downhill passing Hiighcliffe, a fine old house. In 100 metres bear R and walk down a rough track, very stony; it ultimately comes out at a car park at Eyam. It is famed for the heroism of those who suffered here during the plague. Its church has an old cross with medieval sections. Eyam Hall is late C.16 the original owners, the Staffords, held the estate before 1204. From them it passed to the Bradshaws who built Bradshaw Hall. The Wrights took over the Eyam Hall in the C.18 and still live there.

Walk downhill past the car park opposite with three chipped out water troughs; Hall Hill Troughs; named after nearby Bradshaw Hall; one being the first public supplies in the country. Go down the road and turn R walk NW. on the R is a notice stating that nearby Bradshaw Hall is in ruins. The hall was deserted by the widow of Squire George Bradshaw when the plague broke out. The town head Factory, reads in a little further on, was built in 1735 as a silk-weaving mill.

Bear L here and walk uphill for several hundred metres, going L off the road at 212766 to walk S along a lane for several hundred metres when it goes off L downhill. Go straight ahead here, leaving the road, going S on a rough lane to a gateway with a stile, then walk through a field down to the wall on the R where there is a slot. From this walk downhill past Furness Quarry on the R to a rough wooded area to find a faint path downhill through exiting scenery, the land below at one point falling steeply to the road below. Descend to the road at a quarry with a sign on the A.623 at 210758.

Cross the road and go L up an industrial drive, a long slog up to Cavendish Mill which is believed to be the most modern flotation mill in Europe, and one of the largest in the world. Go L through the car park and continue on a wide industrial road for several hundred metres uphill to where it curves off to the R; go L off it here (207748) down a short lane to a gate with a stile. In about 30 metres, there is a stile on the L which admits to a narrow straight path on the side of a horrible industrial scene on the L. this leads to a step stile on the R then steps near a gate and so out onto an industrial track at 210747.

Bear R and walk S for a few hundred metres, then go L at a stile in a broken wall, walking down a tiny valley, resisting the blandishments of several paths to the L. come to a stile in a formidable fence and so out on to another industrial road at 210740.

Bear L and walk down Coombs Dale, passing Sallet Hole Mine where the old C.18 drainage level was penetrated into Longstone Edge from the NE, it has been enlarged and re-equipped lately. Underground mining is in progress at a depth of 350 feet in Deep Rake. In several hundred metres past the mine, go R over the stream by planks, then over cross bars in a wall and continue the walk up the not uninteresting little valley, going S. Cross from R to L over a stile and glance back down the valley to the fascinating scene of interlocking spurs.

Now arrive at a junction of paths, go R over bars at the side of a gate, then walk S over Deep Rake; an impressive deep gash but is slowly being filled: Could it have been left as a fascinating deep

gash with fences to protect). Leave the road here where it curves to the R, and go straight up a bank to a wooden stile hidden by under-growth, and so out on to an industrial road.

Bear L and the path goes over the rake again to drop through woods to cross the B.6001 at 236736 and continue past Bramley Farm, then Bubnell Hall, a fine C.17 house with projecting wings. It was built on the site of a former house of the Bassets, a family known for its devotion to the cause of justice and liberty. Going past, think that one of them put his name to the Magna Carta, another went on the crusades with Richard the Lionheart, and a third sat in the first parliament. Facts like these add so much to these fine walks through Derbyshire where history is never far from the footpaths.

Go through Baslow, going R down steps off the main road at 256722 to walk along a path that comes to Chatsworth Park. Go over a stream then up to a metal gate to go R up to a circular metal swing gate; someone has an eye for spectacular. Through the gate and go L with wall on L to go over a road then climb up this glorious park to a fence and stile at the R of a gate. Then steeply uphill on a grassy track to a gate in front with a high step stile on its L. A climbing rope would be handy here. Go over then on to another gate and similar stile to then go past the climbing rocks on the R. over a stile at the side of a gate then in about 20 metres angle L down to a stream with footbridge then climb up the other side with steps to help; anyone with energy spare can run up here a good test of fitness. Cross the road and walk uphill back to the start.