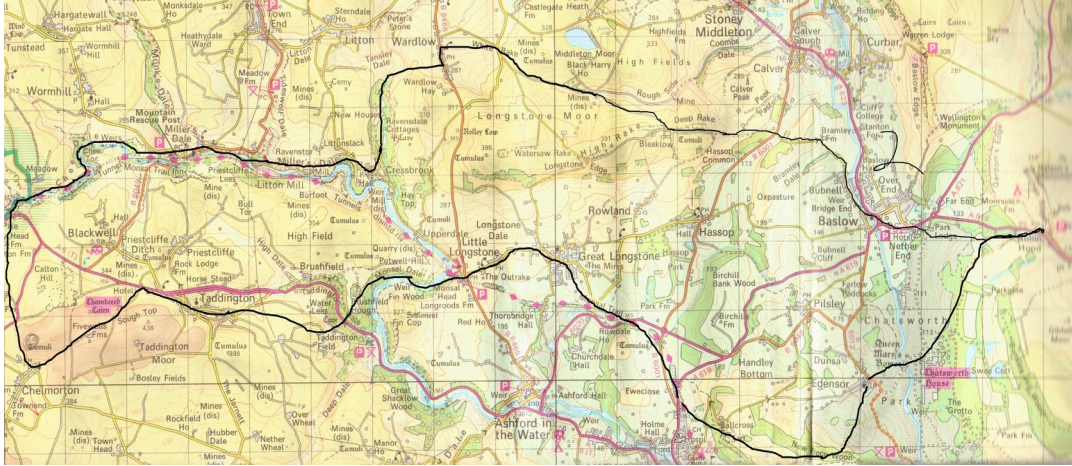


WALK 107.
 ROBIN HOOD BASLOW 107.
 33-2 miles. 9 hours 2 minutes.
 Map White Peak.



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

Start at Robin Hood Baslow (281720) at the Eric Byrne Car Park. Walk downhill on the A.619 for 100 metre to a footpath sign and stile on the L. Then walk downhill on steep steps to the stream, go over the bridge, go uphill on a worn path then turn R and walk down to a gate and stile, over this and walk past climbing rocks on the L. Go through two gates with stiles on the R, these stiles are very high (don't get a nose bleed). Then enter Chatsworth Park walk downhill to the bottom road going over a fence with stile at the side of the gate. Turn L on the good track to pass on the L Queen Mary's Bower (Mary Queen of Scots used to sit here.)

Cross over Paine's Bridge then proceed up a track on the R to get to Edensor; pass a lone house. One of the Dukes wanted all his tenants to move to Edensor a new village but the owner refused to move and built a wall around his house.

Enter Edensor by an Iron Gate; notice the Church on the L a fine looking one indeed; if interested President Kennedy's sister is buried here in the Churchyard. Whilst he was president he visited the grave and prayed at the side, she married a Cavendish.

Walk between the houses designed by Paxton to a sign and steps on the L that leads to a stile. Then walk SSW uphill past a copse on the L to a gate and steps on its L, enter Piece Wood on a wide track wall either side to another gate and steps. (Notice the Russian Style house on the L) it was built by the Duke to house the Russian Tsar when he visited Britain: but sadly he never came.

Curve R and walk on grass to W with Calton Plantation on the L and New Piece Wood on the R. come to a stile at a gate in a fence, then proceed W to another stile at a gate. Walk past a pond and another gate and stile, the pass a prominent copse to drop down to wall on L to a stile at 231681.

Walk down Manners Wood and through the golf course on a good track to a bridge over the Monsal Trail. Just before the bridge go over a stile and drop down onto the trail by wooden steps. Walk now on the trail going NW, passing the former Bakewell Railway Station whose architecture betrays its Ducal Origins: Ashlar stone with blank arches, pilasters with carved capitals and fine details. The same is seen in a short distance at Hassop Station.

Leave the trail on the R at 205711 just beyond the point where the road goes under the railway bridge. Cut down the embankment to a step in a wall, then enter a field and walk NW to a gateway and stile, then 80 metres to another stile, then onto a slot at a gate and so out at Great Longstone. Bear L, then, at a through road, go R for a few hundred metres, where, at 199716, go L through a slot into a field. In 50 metres, go through a slot in a wall, then forward through a flat field. Continue to a slot in wall then in 30 metres to a gate and stile. Cross a lane to a slot with wooden uprights then cross a large field to a slot between more railway sleepers; go along a jitty to a step stile and pass over flat land to Little Longstone where two gates have their own stone steps in the wall (191718).

Bear L and walk past the Hall or Manor House of the C.17 and walk uphill to Monsal Head; one of the famous beauty spots of Derbyshire: Ruskin stated that after the railway was built than now every fool can be in Buxton from Bakewell and visa a versa now the viaduct seems to blend into the view. Go to the café on the L and take the L stile in the wall, walk downhill through woods. Go past the path to the Viaduct on the R and continue downhill through the woods to the river on the R. Cross the river by a Footbridge just beyond the weir. Then walk L with the river on the L to the A.6 road at 169706.

Cross the road, go through the car park and picnic area to a stile, then forward for several hundred metres to a post to then go R up a bank, walking W to a low wall with slot. This is now Taddington field, a minor dale, wooded and rising in front. Soon go L through a slot stile, then bear R, walking in the same direction as before through woods on a muddy path in winter, a tiring slippery track.

At a wall, the gateway has no gate; the slot on the R and a farm appears on the R. At the next wall, again no gate, with stile on the L. Go R to a slot and enter a farmyard where the farm is neat and clean. Go L along a farm drive, then along a lane, going W to a road junction at 153706. Go L; walk uphill for a hundred metres, then go R down a lane.

Go R at a fork there are mounds and depressions of former workings on the L; soon enter Taddington, a Saxon village over 1000 feet high. Once, the main road passed through here. The church is old C.14 tower, the rest altered. Walk past stone-built cottages with gritstone dressings, hardly a modern house in sight, to a road junction to go straight along the A.6 to come to the Waterloo Hotel at 132714

Go L here along a lane signed the Limestone Way, walking SW up a prominent ridge then enter a field through a gate then round a U-turn to a stile in a wall on the R at 128710. Nearby is the site of a Neolithic Chambered Cairn; Five Wells, 70 feet in diameter, carefully built in coursed rubble. Walk SW to a metal gate, no stile, then to a wooden gate no stile. Take the R of two gates and enter Five Wells Farm; a limestone building has massive tooled gritstone lintels. Go forward to a lane junction, then go R off the drive at a sign, through a slot at 121705.

Now walk on an old lead mining rake, a narrow, walled area. The sudden view of Chelmorton Church Spire is quite striking. Drop past the church an old building with interesting features, then enter this old, Saxon village which lay on ancient routes. When the turnpike came here, the salary of the Schoolmaster depended on the interest on money invested in the Buxton and Cheadle Turnpikes.

Just opposite the church, go R at a sign, walking NW along a lane with Chelmorton Low to the R to then come to a road at 108706. Cross the road a little to the R and go down a muddy lane to come to a slot to enter a field and walk, wall on R, walking on pleasant grass, passing Burrs Farm.

At a low wall, take a stile and walk through field, wall on L to another wall with stile, then walk on a stony drive through limestone outcrops round-about to a stile in a wall. Drop down to a two-bar stile at a muddy area and enter an interesting site. Scramble through the stones of a former wall and descend Churn Hole, an exciting short zigzag past former limestone outcrops to enter Deep Dale; see the ugly works ahead. Walk on a narrow path down the dale; it is difficult under-foot small rocks and scree in places; rare wild flowers in places to come to an industrial site and quarry and thence down to the A.6 at 103724. A sign states that this is Topley Quarry.

Cross the road to the car park, then walk E along Wye Dale, the river on the L to come to cottages with a footbridge over the River Wye. Follow the river with the limestone sides of this fine dale rise up in sheer cliffs. (This is now Chee Dale). Continue down the dale to stone steps in a wall the railway is now on the L. go under a viaduct but do not take the footbridge. It is difficult not to feel somewhat oppressed in these surroundings where gaunt cliffs hem one in on each side, where the path is stony and uneven, the river rushing alongside. Take a wooden step-stile, then walk very close to the water's edge under a viaduct. Soon find the cliff on the L pushing the walker into the water; it overhangs the river there are stepping stones here but in wet weather the water covers the stones. Continue down to a wooden footbridge to take; a sign states that this is a nature reserve.

Climb steeply up a bank, then go L at a fork and the path goes under a viaduct. Go over another footbridge so that the Wye is now on the R. go up natural steps into trees where the path goes round to Wormhill Springs at the foot of Flag Dale and observe the natural phenomenon of a stream on one side of the footbridge to take but not the other side. The track now improves on the previous muddy and stony path.

Go past a metal footbridge which leads to Blackwell, come to a step stile and walk on a drier path down to a high viaduct. Where enthusiasts practice abseiling. A step and slot in a wall on the L of a gate at 137731 comes out on to a road bear R then L to go down E into Millers Dale. Pass under impressive viaducts, the second added in 1903 forty years after the line was opened. The massive blocks and fitting together showed the stone masons of the time must have had pride in their work. This isolated area in fact achieved considerable importance for its size as a railway station. Go R on a minor road just past the little church and walk the road with the river on the R down to Litton Mill.

The mill was originally a textile factory driven by a waterwheel. It earned an unenviable reputation for its excesses of child labour in the early C.19; these are used in the novel "The Devil's Mill" by Walter Unsworth. Walk through Water-Cum-Jolly with its steep sides and wide river to come to Cressbrook Mill, a four story structure dating from 1815 which replaced an earlier building by Arkwright in 1779 some remains can be seen as it is approached: an apprentice house, built like a gothic castle with lancet windows, turrets and battlements. Inside it has slender cast iron columns but timber beams.

The mill was built by William Newton often referred to as the Minstrel of the Peak. Born near Abney, the son of a carpenter. It is to his eternal credit that he found the factory system cruel and left it, at Cressbrook, much alleviated, housing and feeding the children well, giving them proper rest and instruction. He died in 1830 and was buried in Tideswell Churchyard.

Come out on to the road, bear L and walk N, taking the R fork up a long climb to do a U-turn to go down a track to Ravensdale Cottages (172736), walking through the wooded Cressbrook Dale much of which is a nature reserve. Beyond the cottages, go over a footbridge and begin a steady climb up the W bank, the views improving the higher one gets; woods giving way to a bare dale where the spurs have strong character of their own. At the top, a sign "Derbyshire Dales, Cressbrook Dale" leads to good stone steps to a half-slot in a wall.

Walk E on a grassy lane where, after the dales there is a view of fields and low hills. At the road, go R and walk uphill for several hundred metres, passing Hall Farm, then going L at 183743, a gate no stile. Walk E through a field to a broken wall, then curve round to a broken wall, where a wall from the R goes at right angles. Pass a lone upright and walk SE through a field on a narrow path, level going. Cut down to the diagonal corner where there are two wooden uprights and a cross bar, where a slot admits to a road at 189741.

Cross the road to a sign and a good slot in a wall, then walk E uphill through a field, passing mounds from old workings and a rock outcrop on the R. keep to the wall on the L to reach a gate and so out on to the road at 195741. Bear R and walk SE along the road for about 1000 metres, passing Longstone Moor Farm with a view down into Coombs Dale. At 205732, the road curves to the R: go off the road over a stile into an area that has been restored from previous workings.

Take a wide, industrial road going E, walking uphill at first, then, when it levels out, walk alongside High Rake. Face a long dusty slog, passing Bleaklow Farm and arriving at a road junction at 236736.

Carry straight on over the cross roads, walking uphill then steeply down to pass Bramley Farm; and see the end is in sight, 30 miles having been covered and the outskirts of Baslow fast approaching. Come to Bubnell Hall a fine C.17 house with two projecting wings of 12-light mullioned and transomed windows. It was built on the site of a former house belonging to the Bassets, a family known for its devotion to the cause of justice and liberty. Passing, consider that one of them put his name to the Magna Carta; another went on the Crusades with Richard Lionheart, and a third sat in our first Parliament. Facts such as these add much interest to the fine walks through Derbyshire where history is never far from the footpath.

Go over the old bridge over the River Derwent; notice the small pill-boxes on the bridge people who built these must have been smaller than the majority now. Go R and past the Church over the road island to go R down steps to a jitty at 256722, then through metal gates and over a foot bridge then out onto a track to turn R to go through a high swing gate in to Chatsworth Park. Turn L and walk uphill first with wall on L then walk uphill crossing the park road over a stile to the R of a gate in a fence. Then carry on uphill through this glorious park to some high stone steps at a gate. Then walk on a farm drive to more stone steps at another gate. Pass some climbing rocks on the R to wooden steps at a gate, in a few metres bear L to a footbridge, then up uneven steps (run up if any energy left) to a stile and the road. Turn R and go back to the start.