

WALK 112.
CALVER. 112.
26-6 miles. 7 hours 20 minutes.
Map White Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Calver (247743). Walk up the road to turn L and go through the village, angle L at a monument, go uphill to join the Hassop road, turn L and look for a stile on the R. over the stile and walk uphill on a good track to a gate with a stile, then to another gate and stile, pass a ruined farm building with a corrugated roof to a gate and then R to join an industrial road and walk W alongside Deep Rake to Bleaklow Farm (218736).

Bear R and go through a wooden gate; crossing now Deep Rake. Walk now on a pleasant green lane that goes L and WNW alongside Coombs Dale, losing height as the track progresses, come to a gate with a pedestrian gate at its side, with a sign; bear R and walk downhill for 20 metres to the top of Coombs Dale. This point was the route of an old packhorse trail to Eyam: Black Harry House is near here. Black Harry was a robber who preyed on the packhorse men. He was eventually caught and hanged at Wardlow Mires near here.

Cross the road with a worried glance over the shoulder, especially if it is half-light (beware of Black Harry) go through a metal gate at a footpath sign with three arms, and walk uphill along the packhorse trail. Come to a gate on the L at 210747; go over an indifferent stile, cut the R corner and make for a stile in 20 metres. This leads into a narrow path alongside a high man-made bank on the R, which seems to hold back a lagoon. At the end of the jitty, go through a stile, then make for a gate and stile. Go forward 50 metres to an industrial road.

Bear L and come to Cavendish Mine to then descend to the road A.623 at 210758. The whole area here is pock-marked by quarries and workings which have ruined the beauty of this once pleasant dale. It is hoped that, one day, the eye-sores will be restored to a state where nature can work its beneficial influences.

Go R, walk 20 metres, then go L off the road at a quarry face that is already beginning to look less man made. The path then becomes narrow and clings precariously to the steep hillside. For a

small distance, the path leads through trees and rocks in a minute dale. Scramble up the last bank to some steps and stile, then it is 10 metres to wood stile and into a field. Walk N uphill through the field, spoil on the L, Eyam Ridge ahead, to go to a slot in a limestone wall on the R, and see the path ahead worn in the grass to make the way to a gateway in the wall, no gate but a slot between tall and imposing gritstone uprights standing alone, one hopes, will be allowed to remain unused. To the R are the roofs of houses of Eyam.

Continue in the same direction down to Town Head and cross the main road that goes through Eyam, then go straight forward up a lane. On the R pass Town Head Trough, one of the first troughs to be made in 1588 to supply the village with water. In a few metres, go R down to a farm, go L at a gate. On its L is a sign of a former slot. The route is not very clear here, but go L up to a broken gate, then walk uphill through a field, wall on L to the top where to go L through a slot then down a short jitty to a slot then enter a field and go R.

Cross over a drive to a house on the R and enter a lane of sorts; in only a few metres, go through a slot into a field and walk uphill, wall on the R, climbing steadily. Do not deviate on a cross path but keep straight ahead, it gets steeper, the wall giving way to a fence. Follow it round to the R, cross a small stream, and make for the wall and hedge where a gap admits into a lane, that is well used; go L uphill to the road at 215773.

Go R and walk ESE for about 300 metres to a sign on the L. Go over concrete steps in the wall on the L and enter a field then walk N, wall on the R, over Ball Hill, passing Ladywash Mine on the R. this mine is 800 feet deep; it has been relined with concrete and brought back to use, to bring to the surface the ore mined in the older Glebe Mine which was sunk in C.18 to work Ashton's Pipe.

Pass on the L, the TV mast which is rarely out of sight on this walk come to a ladder stile, and a sign and a road at 218779. Cross over to a ladder stile and a sign to Stoke Ford, then commence a walk on a clear track over Sir William hill, level at first with fine views. Pass a cairn then begin to drop down through the heather with more stimulating views ahead.

Follow posts topped in yellow; then lead up to a wooden stile in a corner and out on to a wide path high up on the bank of the Clough; the land falls away sharply from this path; the view into this Clough is varied by the undulations along its base. The Derbyshire scenery is infinitely varied and gives as much pleasure as any in the Kingdom.

Proceed a hundred metres, then, instead of following the path to Stoke Ford, leave the path and drop alarmingly straight down a steep slope through the fern, slipping down in wet weather, to the path below. Bear L and make way SW alongside Bretton Brook. Avoid going up the Clough to Nether Bretton; instead follow the brook which at first is below on the R among trees, and walk along a feint path to get to a footbridge. Go forward to a well-made stile in a fence, then to a second footbridge. The walker cannot complain of neglect here! What were the provisions for the packhorse men who came this way?

Climb the bank, going to the L, and rise out of this interesting little Clough which is well wooded, and come to a stile. Now in an area of rough grass where a spring flows into a metal bath; go R and walk up to a gate with a stone step on its R; then proceed through a field, wall on R, level going, a farm ahead. Go over a ladder stile and enter a field, passing a green sign; make for the R of Cockey Farm to go through a muddy area. Keep near to the wall on the R, pass a sign and, round the corner, find a fine slot in the wall; neatly made and a sign nearby.

Walk NW downhill through a field with the hamlet of Abney in sight. Keep to the L, cross a farm drive then go down into a minute valley, and follow the path round to a stile. Drop down to a footbridge and cross a small stream. Climb the steep and muddy bank; surely the packhorse men did not come this way. Come to a low wall and a sign and the road at 197797.

Bear R and walk NE through this Hamlet which boasts a hall and, therefore, some social life. In a hundred metres, at a footpath sign on the R, go through a gate and begin the walk down to Stoke Ford. Go through a broken gate and enter this pleasant valley where Abney Low rises out of the trees across the way. Soon come to a stile on the L of a gate. Then proceed through trees on a better path to Stoke Ford, to go over a footbridge, then L through a gate and over another footbridge. This is the conjunction of Bretton and Abney Cloughs (211795).

At this point there is one of the Peak District and Northern Counties F.P. Society No.99 erected in 1939. Pointing the way to Gotherage Barn to Grindleford and Eyam. Walk E uphill through the trees, the Highlow Brook on the L. gain height and leave the trees behind and come into good views all round (Bole Hill on the R), pass several small streamlets flowing down into the Highlow. The valley widens and snakes around interlocking spurs; high on the L the trees give way. The path drops down to Brook Wood, where a stream comes down from the moorland between Bole Hill and Wet Withens: a Bronze Age ring-cairn, twelve stones within a circular earthen bank. Enter Brook Wood, a short walk between trees; leave through a gate, no stile, and walk through a field, trees on R and L. Go through a gateway and walk on grass. Go through another gateway and walk with wall on the L.

Come up to an old flat rusting away near a gate to Tor Farm, then continue along a drive, the views now extending into the Hope Valley. Come to Hazelford House, a C.17 house, L-shaped with porch, gables with ball finials. It is possible one of the most charming small houses in the Peak District, set in a superb situation, being one of the seven houses built by the Eyres for themselves, this one built by Lawrence, third son of Adam Eyre of Hathersage.

Walk downhill to Leadmill Bridge (233806) which was once called Hazelford Bridge; cross it and go R along a good drive alongside the river on the R, and realize the old ford here was often impossible to cross in bad weather, and why, in 1708, an application was made in the Quarter Sessions for the building of a wooden bridge. The present bridge was widened in 1928. Carry on for a few hundred metres until just before Harper Lees; a well-built house. Go L around the back of the house and then go L under the railway bridge.

Then bear R and go past Kettle House Farm, keeping close to the farm buildings, to go through a gate into the woods, walking S with the railway on the R. pass two poor wooden stiles and negotiate many large boulders. Reach open ground with the railway bridge on the R, but go L then R to join a track that leads to Padley Hall.

This was a quadrangular house of the C.14 and C.15; some foundations and the chapel survive. This was another of the seven Eyre houses, although this one came to the Eyres by marriage: the storey of the discovery and the execution of the Catholic Priests found here is well known; the estate was confiscated and the hall fell in ruin; the building of the Midland Railway removed the S and E ranges, and the chapel was used as a barn. The chapel may once have been the central gatehouse.

Pass on round to Grindleford Station where the line enters Totley Tunnel dated 1893; several workers died during its construction, then cut up through a gate and jitty and out onto a road. Cross the road to a slot in a small wall then climb up a steep bank through trees. This climb is a test for anyone, many steps help the climb. When the top is reached enjoy the view back over the railway line. Walk N now with wall on the R to a small wooden gate and continue through Longshaw Country Park to a gate and N.T. sign "Wooden Pole" and out on to the B.6055 at 269790. Walk S across the road junction to a gate that admits to White Edge Lodge, and a N.T. sign "White Edge Moor".

Walk S on a good hard drive to go past this isolated building, that stands stark, alone, and gaunt, keep to the L, away from the Lodge and walk on a path that comes to a wooden step stile on the L of a gate, then down to a footpath sign with three arms (263780). Bear R and make way through long grass and sparse trees down to a sign and a wooden gate which gives access into a field of rough grass walk down towards the Grouse Inn and the road via another small gate at 258779.

Bear L and walk past the Grouse Inn, and in a few metres go R over a stile into a field, and walk W, the Inn on the R. go through two walls then make for a gate in the boundary wall and so out into open ground. Bear L and walk down past the N.T. car park on the R. through two stiles, then down to go over a small stream to then go uphill and out on to the road at 255776.

Bear R and walk a few metres to a gate on the L which enters Froggatt Edge at a Eastern Moors Sign. The begin the long walk along the Edge; trees at first then the views open up with White Edge on the L and the Derwent Valley on the R.

Leave the edge at another Eastern Moor Sign, cross the road at Curber Gap (261747), then go up to a gate to enter Curber Edge to head to Wellington's Monument; either carry on the wide track or go R and walk along the edge (but this way is strewn with obstructions and boulders; but good views. On the wide track go past Eagle Stone; the local lads were supposed to climb this before they married to prove their manliness; it is quite difficult. Come to Wellington's Monument; admire the view over Chatsworth Park. Go R for a few metres then make way down a steep bank (look for the best way down) to a wall. Then turn L to walk down with the wall on the R, then follow the wall as it goes to the R and make the way through twists and turns over boulders and hillocks to get to a stile then go down with a house on the L to a packhorse bridge over a stream and so up to the road at 268733.

Bear R and walk downhill on the road for three hundred metres then go R at a gate and stile to go downhill to cross the stream (Bar Brook impassable in wet weather) then go uphill to look for a stile on the L in a wall in hundred metres. Then go L into Raddowhole Plantation, there is a poor path for parts of the way, join a wall on the R with still a poor path. Come to a wall with a stone step in it; now sure of the way. The path is still none to clear and is subject to interfering brambles and twigs, but, eventually it improves and reaches the end to come between houses and out onto a road. Turn L and walk downhill for a hundred metres to where Gorse Bank Lane goes off to the R.

Go up the lane and walk N leaving the houses behind eventually pass Gorse Bank Farm and walk along a muddy lane, but helped on a paved section to a stile then angle L in a wet area for 40 metres to a sign and stile in a wall and so into a field with large boulders embedded in the ground.

Go through a gate; walk through a field to another gate and field, wall on L, cut the corner, then, in 20 metres, go through a gateway into a field to drop down to the far corner. Come to a slot with three uprights; enter a wet field. Go to a wooden step stile and enter a lane, going R on a paved section, continue up the lane to enter a field then onto a jitty bounded by beach hedge, down this to get to a road at 251744.

Turn L and walk downhill to the A.623 and back to the start.