

WALK 113.
CALVER. 113.
26-7 miles. 7 hours 15 minutes.
Map White Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Calver (248743). Walk S on the A.623 for several hundred metres, then turn L and walk uphill past Cliff College to a cross roads in Curber. Turn R and still walk uphill to a stile on the R where the road goes to the L. go uphill through three fields to reach the road again to walk uphill to Curber Gap and car park at 262746. Go past the car park to a gate and stile, then walk downhill then uphill to reach White Edge.

Walk N on the Edge Path, the views on the R and L are extensive. Eventually come to a high wall, go through a gap and go L downhill with wall on the L. come to a three arm sign and go R to walk N under the Edge on a wide path. Continue to pass White Edge Lodge an isolated, four square house and not a single tree to protect it from the winds that whistle at it from all angles. Pick up a hard drive here; it leads to a gate with a small pedestrian gate next to it and a N.T. sign to White Edge Moor.

Go out on to the road at 269789; go forward over the crossroad to another gate on the L with a pedestrian gate at the side and a N.T. sign to the Wooden Pole, then walk forward on a fine wide track, probably made for the Duke of Rutland’s carriage 150 years ago. Come to a small gate in the wall and enter a small area of trees and the path then goes around the back of Longshaw Hall. In 1927, the Duke sold the Longshaw estate; the house was purchased by public subscription and given to the N.T.

Go around the house; bear L and walk at the front of this dark gloomy building which was built as a shooting box for the Duke in 1827. A tower has battlement; it has a chapel, servant’s quarters and stables. It has been converted to flats and a café.

Come to a gate, go through and go R and walk along a garden path through Rhododendrons to a wooden gate and come out into open land with trees. Make for a path that goes close to the pond,

then continue down this path onto the road at 257798. Cross the road to a small gate and a N.T. sign to Longshaw Estate.

Go through the gate and drop down to a bridge over Burbage Brook, then ascend the bank the other side, moving away from the stream towards a jumble of rocks lying thickly about. The path levels out near Padley Wood on the L. walk SW towards Bole Hill over rough grass and fern. The map indicates primitive settlements here with a stone circle. Approach a wall in front; go through a large gap where stands a chimney; unusual! Go forward to the edge, then bear R and walk N along this interesting edge where a gritstone outcrop drops to a wide grassy platform with trees. In this area many gritstone millwheels still lie where they were worked when the demand ran out.

Below and ahead see Hathersage and the Hope Valley. Arrive at a gate and the road at Surprise View (249800). Cross the road and go L a few metres to a step stile in a fence, take this and walk N along Millstone Edge, the scene of some climbing practice. Soon see the striking gritstone outcrop of Owler Tor on the R, and leave behind the fence on the L to walk through open land, contouring the hillside.

Follow a wall down to a wooden step stile on the road at 251817. Cross it to another stile, then descend steeply through a field towards Mitchel Field Farm go over a stile and continue down to the farm. Go R through a green metal gate, then, in a few metres, drop down a bank to a shaky footbridge, then climb up a bank between crude chalets to the road above through a small white gate at 247818.

Bear L and walk downhill for 200 metres to a sign on the R to go up a lane to Toothhill Farm, Dale Bottom on the L. at the farm go L before the house, then below it to a small gate, go into an area of bales of hay, then go W downhill toward Hathersage Church, hedge and ditch on the R, passing through several open gateways, and coming at the bottom, to a gate on the R and out onto the road at 235819.

Enter the churchyard and examine the church which was built in 1381 but restored by Butterfield in 1849. Its aisles porch and clerestory castellated. The stained glass was put in from Derwent Church when it was submerged in the reservoir. The arms of the Eyres are over the porch, and inside are found the monuments to this remarkable family, a fine array of brass portraits, all in armour. Robert and his Wife have a tomb chest under an elaborate canopy dated 1459, their fourteen children all in a row. (Robin Hood's main lieutenant) Little John's grave is found in the churchyard.

Before proceeding, it is worth making a visit to Moorseats, just up the lane behind the church. This is one of the Manor Houses built by the Eyres, probably in the C.13; there are C.17 and C.18 additions. However there is a romantic attachment to the house; given by Charlotte Bronte whose Jane Eyre sought the Kindly Rivers family. Apparently, this connection brings many visitors to the house.

Leave the churchyard by a stile in the wall on its west side and walk downhill through a field to the far corner where there is an open gateway, with a stile in the wall. Proceed forward along a lane for a few metres, then go L through a miserable stile down to Hood Brook; go through a slot the over a footbridge. Enter parkland, a pleasant valley with fine trees. Cross the drive to Brookfield, then climb up through trees to a stile and up on to a stile of wooden steps to a slot between concrete posts; Birley Farm lies in front, go R then L to go around it up to a wide metal gate with a slot on its L; and so out onto the road at 226824.

Bear L, then, in a few metres, at a road junction, go straight on, walking NW. On the L, see a plaque bearing the information that in the adjacent field was built the Geer Green School in this area, 1718-1808. It appears as the school in the village of Morton in "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.

In hundred metres or so, go L at a sign to Hurst Clough. Go through a gate into a field dropping alongside a line of trees, come to a fence where a sign stands at the side of a gate through which enter a field. Resist the temptation to take the hard drive on the L, keep to the hedge on the L, and drop down to a poor gate. Go over a stream, then climb up steeply to a metal gate with a stile on its L to then come out onto a drive at Nether Hurst at 222828.

Go L here, farm on the R, with the assistance of two signs; go along a muddy sunken lane to then reach Hurstclough Lane. Bear L and descend on a hard road into Hurst Clough through which

Upper Hurst Brook flows. Carry on down the road to go through a stile on the L to enter a Golf Course to go through to a sign and stile to enter Saltergate Lane whose name gives an indication of the route of the packhorse men, then walk down to a road junction at 207826. Bear L, go over a railway bridge, then immediately R down a road where the Derwent flows hard on the R. cross the river where it joins the River Noe, walk NW for a few metres on the A.625, then cross the road and go L off the A.625 up a minor road to Shatton, crossing the River Noe. In 20 metres, go L through a stile near a footpath sign.

From this point, a footpath follows the Derwent closely down to Leadmill Bridge; do not take it, but from the stile, go away from the river to a footbridge, then up a bank into a narrow field and a slot in the far R corner. Walk S, hedge on R climbing gently towards Offerton Edge that looms up in front, come to a slot then another, then out on to a road at 203822.

Walk SE on a good, hard surface to where the road curves to the R; go straight on here through a gate and a muddy track through a field. The flat bottom of the river bottom gives space for road rail and river to exist alongside. Climb steeply as the track curves to the R, then it drops to a field to join a footpath that comes up from the Derwent. Go R here steeply up a sunken lane, fence on the R, to come to Nether House Farm, then continue uphill on a hard road that passes Offerton Hall.

Offerton Hall is one of the seven houses built by the Eyres for the family; it is partly C.16 and partly 1658, a stair turret at the back shows the fashion followed at that times. In 1640, it was reported that the house was in a ruinous condition and passed out of the Eyre family to Robert Glossop who rebuilt it in 1658; a fireplace is 40 feet in circumference. There is also a Cruck Barn in the yard.

Continue SE along the road with views to the N, and then drop into a valley made by the Dunge Brook. Continue up to Highlow Hall (219801). This is another of the Eyre Halls, the ancient home of the son of Robert of Padley. It is a small C.17 manor house in a superb setting, irregular in shape. In 1802, it was sold to the Duke of Devonshire.

Walk SW a few metres down the road, then go L through a gate, into a field so as to walk close to the boundary wall of the house, passing the garden house. A little further on come to gate piers in the gateway now no longer used; look to the R and see evidence of the former drive. Drop down to the S: the view is quite exciting, the land rising to Eyam Moor; to the R Bretton Clough joins Abney Clough at Stoke Ford. Walk downhill, hedge on L, to a gate, then enter Highlow Wood and descend to a gate, and thus across the Highlow Brook by a footbridge. Do not take the step stile on the L into the woods, but follow the wide and beaten track that climbs the hill to the R, walking now SW, Highlow Brook on the R, and come to Stoke Ford (211795), an ancient spot used by travellers for centuries. Here stands a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath Society number 99 in the fatal year of 1939, pointing the way to Eyam and Grindleford by the way of Gotherage Barn. Follow its instructions by bearing L and climbing the steep hillside which is much worn by travellers, come up to a wall to keep it to the L to go S on a high level path with fine views of Bretton Clough and valley.

Go over a good ladder stile on the L of a gate, then continue uphill to a gateway with a stile in the corner. Three paths go off here: keep to the wall on the R, the boundary of Gotherage Plantation. Come to a metal gate with a stile on its L, then continue on pleasant grass. Away to the S, the field system is quite striking. At the next gate, there is a fine step on its R, and enter a green lane, level going to a gate with a stile on its R and come to a junction of paths. Continue on a wide grass track between stone walls and the path comes to a road at 205788.

Bear R and walk W along the road. The view is breath-taking: an extensive plain that stretches to Longstone Edge. Walk past the Barrel Inn dated 1697, then, go L downhill on a road that goes to Foolow which has a C.17 Hall with mullioned windows, a mediaeval cross and a village pond. Very interesting also are the church and the 1836 chapel which has a powerful Tuscan Porch and thin lancet windows.

Walk S out of the village down to the A.623 at 193759; cross the road, walk a few metres to the L, then go R down a lane that goes straight SE on a hard surface between limestone walls, pleasant walking come to a gate and so into a field. Walk 20 metres, wall on the R, to the next gate

with a stile on the L. leave the good hard lane behind and walk over rough grass across Burnt Heath towards Cavendish Mill.

At the works, go over a low limestone wall, walk past the office building to a wall which has steps in it near a sign, then cross over the lorry park. Walk uphill on a wide road to where it curves sharply R (207746). Go L off the road to a gate with a stile, then go to the L where a stile enters a jitty at the base of a high bank on the L which holds up industrial waste. Leave the jitty by a wooden stile, cut the L corner and go 10 metres to a stile on the L of a gate and so out on to the road.

Bear R and walk S on an old lane once used by packhorse men. To the R, see a lagoon. Go down to Black Harry Gate (207742). Where once the packhorse men were preyed upon by the infamous Black Harry; who was eventually caught and hanged at Wardlow Mires, and left on a gibbet. Black Harry House stands nearby

Come down to the industrial road that comes from the mine in Coombs Dale. Go through a metal gate at a sign, cross the road to another metal gate, then 25 metres up a lane to a sign on the L to Hassop Common. A wooden gate at a metal gate, a sign states that this is a bridleway. Go through the gate and walk ESE along a fine green lane, climbing gently, the views improving all the while; Coombs Dale down to the L. come to a metal gate with a gate at its side; cross Deep Rake where it has been filled it. (When it was opened up it was a massive gash which should have been left open; but what would the Health and Safety people say). Go over the industrial road at Bleaklow Farm, then bear L and walk on the road; the views in front are extensive.

Cross the Calver-Hassop road then proceed on a minor road for 400 metres to the top, then go L at a sign (238734) on a leafy lane with a wall on the R and trees on the L, then walk through Bramble Wood on a narrow path, a high path that gives views either side. The path passes several concrete cubes which might be parish boundaries, fight the way through rhododendron to a poor stile with views over Calver. At a sign (242740), go L down a steep bank to another sign, then steeply down, broken wall on R to the bottom where to go R over steps, then L to continue in the same direction, keeping the wall on the R towards houses.

At a garden wall, go R over a stile, then find the way through interesting houses to the road. Then go R to go through Calver village and so back to the start.