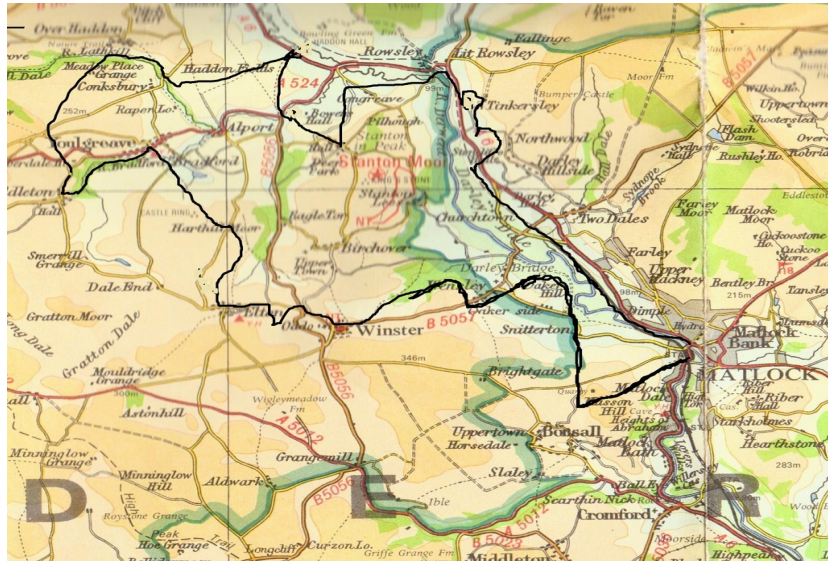


WALK 118.
MATLOCK 118.
27-1 Miles. 7 hours 27 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Matlock (297601). Go over the Derwent Bridge then walk NW along the A.6 for just under a mile to a point at 287609. Opposite a row of red brick houses with attractive dressings, go L at a sign through an open gateway and bear R to walk through a field for 100 metres, then go L through a hedge to a bar and slot stile, then over concrete steps, cross the disused railway line and go over another concrete stile into a field.

Turn R come to a wall with a slot between gritstone uprights, then continue in the same direction through the flat river valley. Across the valley lies Snitterton. Go L and make the far corner with a slot near to the river bank, then bear R and walk in a narrowing area, the river snaking towards the railway line, go through a similar slot in a fence. In 200 metres come to a similar metal fence; there is a disused building in the R corner: to the L of that is an unusual concrete slot made in one piece like an inverted fork.

In 200 metres, come to a gritstone wall. About 30 metres from the railway line find a stile. The river having meandered away to the L, then comes back, then walk through a narrowing area and then a wall across the path. Go R over the railway line up some steps to a stile then walk along a jitty to come out onto the road at 277623.

Bear L pass the warehouse on the R to come to a bridge over the railway, just before the bridge go R down steps to come to the side of the line. Walk alongside the line to a road. Cross the road then walk down a jitty with the station on the L, to come past houses on the R and a road at 268631. bear L, then L and make for the church.

St Helen's has a Saxon Cross of great interest because of its remarkable geometrical ornament, there are several old monuments: Sir John de Darley was Lord of the Manor 600 years ago; he lies in a suit of mail holding the heart in his hands. Thomas Columbello lies in a fur trimmed gown; he lived in a hall in Hall Dale. In the Chancel, kneel John Milward and his wife with their eleven children; they lived at Snitterton Hall. Outside the church stands the famous Darley Yew, 32 feet round; it may have been here when the Saxon Church stood here on the site of the present church. Sir Joseph Whitworth is buried here: He was a remarkable inventor who invented the screw thread and mechanised the world.

From the church walk NW along the road past the school on the L to Abbey Lodge, an imposing house with false battlements. Proceed down a lane to enter a field and walk with wall on the R; see how flat the river bed is; type of glacial. Past a farm building on the R then through the middle of a field; river away to the L, carry on until the river comes close, to then walk R with river on the L to an industrial road, (was a railway line). Cross the road and go up with a house on the L to the A.6 road at 262645. Cross the road and go up Northwood Lane then go L and walk up a lane past a garage containing Lorries. Keep straight on where the lane goes L at a fork to a gate and stile, walk N through a field, wall on the R to a gateway no stile. Continue to another gateway and a sign footpath No 13 to Tinkersley. Bear L and walk down to the A.6 at a farm gate and stile at 261654.

Bear R and walk into Rowsley go L at a junction and arrive at the Peacock Inn, bear L and walk past a school on the L and go over the River Wye. Bear R to walk with the river on the R and a recreation field on the L. Where the road curves to the L go straight on into a field through a stile, then walk moving away from the river, Peak Tor stands away to the L. (also an embankment stands to the L like a moat what was it for?). Come to a wall on the R and go to a stile in the corner.

Over the stile and drop down a slippery bank, cross a tiny stream and climb up a bank to come out onto a road at the side of farm buildings at 247653 Congreave. Bear L and climb up the road for several hundred metres to a sign and stile on the R at a rusty gate, enter a field and walk SW uphill. Go first with wall on the L then climb up steeply to a wall with stile and a road at 246648. Bear R and get a view over the valley and the spire of Stanton Church. Walk SW for a few hundred metres to houses on the L, ignore a footpath and go forward on the road for 50 metres to a footpath sign on the L, no stile. Climb up a steep bank into woods where the path leads to a road at 244641.

Drop through Stanton in the Peak with a fine view over Bakewell and Youlgreave. The old Hall (1667) is now a farmhouse. Stanton Hall is a house of one and a half stories built in 1693 for William Bache whose family had held the estate since the C.15. His niece married a Thornhill whose family still live here.

Walk down through the village to the Lodge on the L. Go R at a gate and footpath sign. Walk NW through a field; make for the distant corner to go over three cross bars and walk down a rough lane with trees either side. Come to a gate and stile to then take a slippery steep path down a bank to a stile and a road at 231647.

On the L is an old Limekiln; a sign indicates that this, like others was used to burn Limestone with coal and wood to make Limestone, for putting on acid land, making mortar, protecting the clay lining of dew ponds and other uses in industry. Bear R ; walk N over the newly joined Lathkill and Bradford rivers, then cross the road to walk up an industrial road to go past Shining-bank Quarry. At the top look down into a massive hole and see the layers of limestone in horizontal layers under the very deep surface soil.

Look for a stile on the R in a wall, enter a field and walk W past Haddon Plantation on the L. skirt the corner wall of the plantation; it encloses a shaft of considerable depth. Continue around and make for the L corner where there is a sheep pound and a good slot. Enter a field and walk 10 metres to a wooden stile then walk N through a field to the far L corner to a stile. Now get an incomparable view of Haddon Hall. This is not a house like Chatsworth but more like an English Home. Started in C.12 by Richard de Vernon, then extended in 1370; and one of the finest mediaeval houses still existing, beautiful preserved, mainly because it remained unused for 200 years.

Bear L and walk close to wall on L to a gateway, no gate or stile, then go through a field and walk SE close to wall on L. Pass a three-armed sign. Haddon plantation on the L. come to a gate with a stile on its L; then continue to a farm building. Here stands a sign at a gate where a stile is in a wall. Follow the fence on the L down to a gate and a footpath sign.

Go through a gate, then follow a winding and stony path through woods to a fine packhorse bridge known as Coalpit Bridge; because packhorse trains carried coal this way from pits near Chesterfield. Facing on the hillside is Rapier Lodge which once featured in a popular film written by D.H. Lawrence. A short distance beyond the interesting bridge, go R through a slot in the wall and walk NW on a pleasant stroll to the road at 211654, passing on the way two indifferent stiles.

Bear R and walk down to the mediaeval Conksbury Bridge which to cross then go sharp L through a slot at a barrier and continue on a riverside walk where many weirs may be observed. Go through a slot at a gate then go forward to a slot in a wall where a sign Nature Reserve stands. Come to a house painted white; go through a slot then go L over the Lathkill by a stone clapper bridge to another Nature Reserve sign at a gate, no stile.

See across the dale, the small village of Over Haddon which once stood on a Salt-Way. Bear L and walk through a field to Meadow Place Grange to go through gates into a massive farmyard and admire the layout of this quadrangular farm. A grange was an outlying farm belonging to a monastery and run by lay brothers. The date 1851 is carved large in front of one of the impressive buildings, which has, also, decorative arrow slits. Go out on a muddy gateway to go past a sign to Youlgreave and Middleton Moor Lane.

Follow the wall on the R to another sign to Middleton Moor Lane and leave the wall to go L through a field, following several marker posts. The line of posts comes to a wall and steps in a wall. In the next field, go forward to a line of trees that are quite long; come to a wall with a sign and steps up to a half slot, then walk forward to a wall and sign with a stile to enter a road at 198648.

Cross the road to another sign and more steps in a wall, then walk on clean grass to a wall and stile to enter an enclosed area with a large hole in it. Go forward a few metres to steps in a wall, then forward with wall on the L to a gate and stile on its L near a sign and so out on to the road at 199646.

Cross the road to a stile with its own gate, then walk through a field, close to a wall on the L down to a rusty gate with a slot on its L, then continue in a field, wall on L, to an open gateway with a stile on the L. begin now to drop; see the trees of Bradford Dale. in a corner there was a broken stile, then go forward on good green grass, and again come to a gateway with a stile on its L; see the road ahead at a gate with stile on its L and so out on to the road at 199641.

Cross the road to a stile and a sign Limestone Way; go forward into a wooded area to come to a white gate, on its R is a stile. On the road, go R and pass Lomberdale Hall, a house of 1845 with prominent Gothic windows, once the home of Thomas Bateman, a C.19 gentleman of means, a relentless excavator of Derbyshire's innumerable barrows. His tomb is near the Congregational Church he built; surrounded by iron railings.

In a few hundred metres, at a sharp curve in the road, go L at a sign and descend in a small dale on a stony track which leads to Bradford Dale. Go over a bridge: at this point supposedly a Cavalier was caught by Cromwell's men and killed. Bear L and walk down the dale passing many weirs; water was much more prevalent one time but soughs from lead mining have taken some away. After a while come to a clapper bridge to go up the bank on the R to go through an outcrop to a slot in a wall, then into a field to get the view of Robin Hoods Stride on the skyline. Come to a corner where there is a slot and a sign Limestone Way on the roadside (210637).

Go R for a few metres then L to a farm drive where a metal gate has an elaborate iron work in it, on its L are good steps. Walk up to Mawstone Farm, go through a gateway, then up on a farm drive. Pass the farm on the R and climb the bank to a drive where there is a drive to go L. Follow this upwards. Bleakly plantation clings to the hillside on the L, get to a wall and a junction of footpaths: go R a few metres to a sign, then L through a slot in a wall into a field and get a fine view of Robin Hood's Stride. Walk E to a wall with a large gap. Drop a little to go R on good grass to a slot in a wall, then continue past a stone pound on the R to a stile in a wall.

Keep close to a wall for 100 metres to a gap where a rough piece of stone lying on the ground has a rough message "Elton" on it. Go diagonally to the far corner; Castle Ring can be seen over the wall to the L, a small hill-fort of about three quarters of an acre probably dating from the Iron Age but not excavated. Go through a hole in the wall following tractor trails into a field which drops a little, wall on the R cutting the R corner to a gateway on the R where another sign states Elton and come to Tomlinson's Wood on the L. Go through a slot to walk uphill with Robin Hood's Stride on the L, Cliff Farm on the R. the next stile is to the R of a gate, in the next field walk with wall on the R. Cross a farm drive to a gate with stile on the R. rise gently through the next field,

then drop to a broken wall with a slot on the L, then drop down through a broken wall with a disused slot, to another slot in 15 metres and so out onto a road at 219617. To the R is Anthony Hill.

Bear L and walk NE for about 300 metres, then go R where, on the L, a farm drive comes out onto the road. Walk R down a farm drive. On the L a fierce-some rock juts out to add character to the landscape, pass a small stone building with fine details around the door. Go through a gate and enter Dudwood Farm to go through a cattle shed. The mud is deep and hard to avoid. Go round the buildings to a gate and field to drop down S to a gate and more mud and steps at the side of a gate to then rise into a field, cutting the R corner, and make for a hole in the wall on the R.

Drop through a small area to a muddy corner, to a stile on the L of a gate. Cross a stream and climb a bank with trees in a hollow on the R, and climb to a scrap of a wall with a slot stile, proceed through another rough area, hillocks around and come to a wooden fence with a step stile. Go into a grassy area, bear L and aim for a mature tree above on the L of which lie two grit stones pushed over, then climb a steep bank and a farm appears. Go through a gap between houses and a farm to a wooden step stile and enter Elton (222610).

This area was populous thousands of years ago when ancient track-ways passed this way; Castle Ring was built to guard over the route which the Romans later used, and which the Portway followed. Elton has some interesting houses, one with a fine hood over the door.

Walk E along the road, then go R up a dirt lane with trees either side. Pass over another drive that goes to Westhill Farm; at this point go L through a stile near a sign limestone way. Then walk E through a field to pass through a stile; Win's Tor dominates the landscape ahead. At the next wall go between two massive uprights, then level going to another slot, then 20 metres to another slot and so out on to the road at 235605.

Cross the road to a stile and walk towards the village of Winster, past a disused slot where the limestone uprights have enlarged holes at the base (for walkers with large feet). Walk through pleasant parkland and go behind the church and enter Winster.

Old houses of past centuries indicate the prosperity that lead mining created here, and though its market has gone, the old market-house of the C.15 or C.16 still remains with its originally open ground floor on pointed archers now filled in, the upper floor probably timber framed before rebuilding. Close by is the old hall, an early Georgian five bay stone house. Here lived Llewellyn Jewitt, the 19.C. antiquarian who wrote the history of Derbyshire. He was an expert in many things-coins, buildings, ceramics, burial mounds, stories and ballads of Derbyshire. Other notable buildings include an archway of 1754, a C.17 Dower House with two gables to the front.

Walk E down the road for half a mile, then at a gate and sign at a gate, go L into a field, dropping to Clough Wood, through mounds from former lead workings, angle L to pass several stiles keeping to the contour of the fields dropping slightly in every field to the where the path reaches the wood at the bottom of the valley where there is a footbridge to enter the wood.

Now walk NE on mostly a muddy narrow path through Clough Wood, brook on R, then rise up to Milleclose Mine, (known as Watts Shaft) Derbyshire's largest ever lead mine. In three centuries it produced half a million lead concentrate, but not without disappointment; the story is full of suspense, of fortunes spent without return, until the discovery of rich deposits in the 1860's when the ore mined was more than the rest of Derbyshire's mines put together. Pass close to the enormous blocks of stone that make the bob hole in the wall that which the beam rocked as it pumped water up the shaft.

Proceed up the road at 250619, bear R to walk E on a road with the Enthoven Works on the L. these works occupy the site of the Mill Close Mine where part of the engine house and chimney still remain. In a few hundred metres, go R off the road at a footpath sign and a step stile, then walk through an area of plantation, then descend through the trees to a footbridge, to go over and climb the other side steeply up a winding path that leads into a wide track to go to the L of a hedge and so out on to the road at 267613.

Bear L and walk downhill to the church, then cross the road to a side road (Cross Green) for a few hundred metres, passing the Darley Village Hall and the school. Just past the school, bear R and walk uphill for 100 metres to the last house on the L (279614) to then go L and walk E, houses on the L and Oker Hill on the R, to a metal gate with a slot on its L. Pursue this route past a farm

building then through a gateway and on to trees through a slot at a gate where the going is muddy. Go through a gate then climb into a field then level going past a strange sharpened post, then more mud to come to an enclosure called Grace's Well, a few metres onward, go to the L through a slot through trees and field and so out on to the road at 278609.

Bear R and walk to a road junction; bear L and in 40 metres, go R through a slot and walk with hedge on L going S to a gate, then over a footbridge and up to a point with several signs. Go into a field then up a narrow jitty through a swing gate and come out in to Snitterton (279604).

Snitterton Hall was built in 1613. John Millward who was buried in Darley Church lived here. It has two projecting gables, two stories with attics, the front windows being mullioned and transomed in fine proportions with hood moulds and string course. A low crenelated parapet connects the two gables. The remains of a moat nearby, marks the site of a mediaeval residence.

At the road junction may be found an original Bull Ring. Take the entrance up a drive to Leawood Farm; at the back of the farm, continue up through a field to a gateway then very steeply up the bank where lead mining was carried on quite intensely. Go through a gate then a bar stile in a fence then climb up an unrelenting slope past the scar of Jug Holes Mine on the L. then enter a field and walk up to a road and sign at 279593.

Cross the road through a slot in a wall, then walk S with wall on the L, to a slot in a corner then to far corner, through a stile with blackberry bushes. Ten metres to a stile just L at two signs. Cut the L hand corner to pass on the L a building with outside steps, then walk to a stile in a wall, then along a long narrow field to a stile in a wall and so out onto a lane. Cross the lane then through a stile opposite to cut the R hand corner to a high slot in the wall on the R; go L and walk downhill; notice the large stones from former workings.

Walk E now through a stile in a hedge. Go out on to a lane, go a few metres to a stile on the L. walk downhill with hedge on the L with panoramic views of Matlock. Arrive at a farm track with farm on the R. go R for a few metres then go through a stile on the L into a field with hedge on L dropping to a stile in a wall.

Continue downhill towards Matlock through several stiles with hedge on the R, through a narrow jitty of trees, then down to trees with a wooden stile. Walk through the trees to get to a drive. Cross this and walk downhill through a field then a jitty at the side of a house with steps. Go over a railway bridge and walk into Matlock and the start.