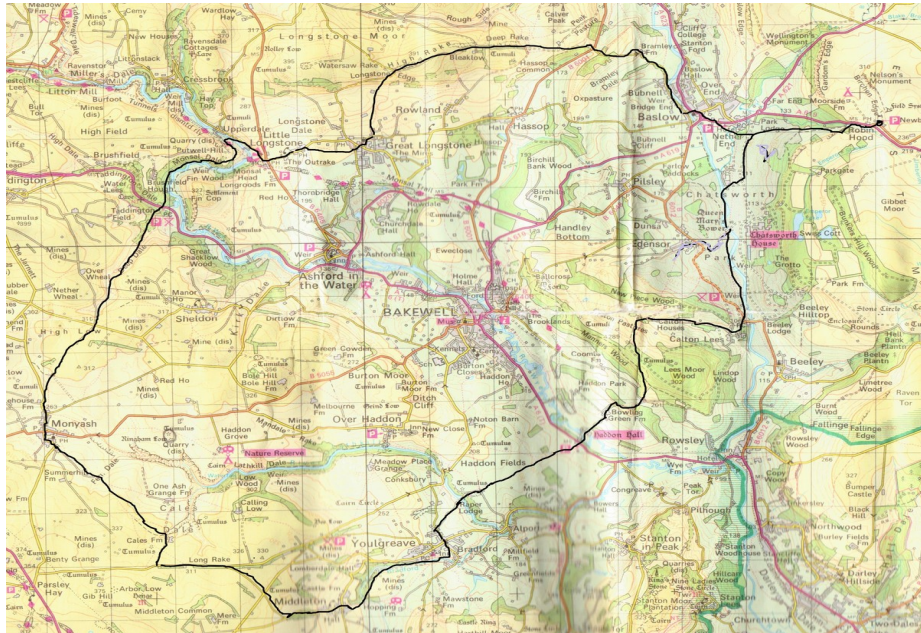


WALK 125.
ROBIN HOOD BASLOW. 125.
31-2 Miles. 8 hours 27 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Robin Hood Baslow (281721). Walk W down the road towards Baslow for about 100 metres, then go L over a stile and sign to descend down some steep steps, go over a bridge over a stream. Go up R on a good path to meet a wide track, bear R and walk over a stile at the R of a gate. Pass Chatsworth Rocks on the L. Then go over two high stiles on the R of a gates, then walk down into the delightful Chatsworth Park walking downhill to a fence with a stile on the L of a gate, continue down to a wall on the R to follow the wall L to the main track at the bottom, remembering that most of the parks around stately homes are closed to the public.

Go S on the track past a house on the R to get to Pain’s Bridge of 1756, passing Queen Mary’s Bower where Mary Queen of Scott’s used to sit. Go over the bridge, and go straight L to walk with the River Derwent on the L for about a mile to get to a road bridge. Before the bridge go R uphill to get to the car park. Walk on the road with the car park on the R to reach Calton Lees. At a fork in the road go straight on through a gate to walk uphill on the road, just before the houses go R to go uphill steeply to the cottages at the top (Calton Houses) with Calton Plantation on the L. Go through the cottages to a gate with a stile at 242686.

Go L with the wall on the L to a gate on the L with a stile on the L. go down a drive to the L then R to go uphill past two carved out water troughs, to get to the top and a good ladder stile; notice the tumulus on the R just before the stile. It was dug out by Batemen who made a museum in Bakewell. Go over the stile and walk on a path through woods to an open area; with a good view over Bakewell and valley; although trees are now starting to cover the view. Go L here SSE and walk downhill with the wall on the L to turn R to a junction of footpaths at 244669 where Coombs Lane, the old road from Rowsley to Bakewell, crosses this path. Go forward SSW on a good track level going to a fork: go R on a good track for several hundred metres that soon becomes a narrow footpath between hedges, past Bowling Green farm on the L. come to a gate into a field go L over two fields to get out onto the road; Haddon Hall lies to the L. Go L down the road to pass over a railway bridge and tunnel built because the Duke of Rutland did not want the railway to be seen

walk down to a slot on the fence on the L. Go over this and walk close to the fence on the L this area is mostly muddy and wet. Cross the River Wye and so out onto the road A.6 at 231664.

Bear L and walk several hundred metres down to the car park passing the entrance to Haddon Hall on the L: cross the road to a sign and slot stile and walk SW up to a gate then continue wall on L on a route that passes a three armed sign on the L, then through a gate and slot of stone steps in a wall. Continue in the same direction wall on L, through Haddon Fields, to a stile of massive stone steps in a wall on the R of a gate; farm buildings on the L; mostly muddy.

Continue down to woods at the far end where, on the L, is a metal gate and sign. Go through this down to the River Lathkill to be crossed by an old Coal Pit Bridge, so called because the packhorses carried coal his way; the old Portway went over it (214652).

Continue on the track that passes Rapier Lodge uphill until it levels out to give wide views over limestone scenery including the fine C.15 tower of the All Saints Parish Church Youlgreave, one of the most impressive churches in Derbyshire. The tower has angled buttresses, a big W door and window, battlements and pinnacles. The church is crenelated. There is good Norman work in the S arcade with circular piers, many scalloped capitals and double-chamfered round arches. Some of the windows are from the C.13. The E window has glass by Burne Jones and William Morris.

The old tombs are of greatest interest, the earliest being a cross legged knight wearing a quilted coat of over 700 years ago. He is perhaps Sir John Rossington who married with the Cokaynes and Gilberts who were at Youlgreave for 10 generations. They have fine monuments of alabaster.

The Congregation Church (now British Legion) was built by Thomas Bateman of Lonberdale Hall who also built the Congregation Church at Middleton.

Youlgreave Old Hall, a substantial building of 1630 was built by a Gilbert. A previous house on the site was owned by Sir John Rossington. Walk W through Youlgreave and cut down Holywell Lane, the reformed church on the L. Cross the River Bradford, bear R and walk W with river on the R. Walk up the river side to leave on a farm track on the R to walk uphill to Middleton.

Here lived Thomas and William Bateman, father and son, in Lomberdale Hall (built in 1844). Then conducted many excavations in Derbyshire; their findings are in a museum in Bakewell and Sheffield. Middleton Hall was built in 1824. A previous house on the site had mediaeval parts in it, having a chapel attached to it. The great Youlgreave families were connected with the estate: the mediaeval house was sold by the Colles to the Harthills who transmitted it to the Cokayes; then it went to Sir George Fullwood. The Bateman's owned it in the C.18 and built the present hall.

The Fullwoods built a fortified house at the present Castle Farm. A Fullwod during the Civil War raised a 1000 men from Tideswell are for the King. He was captured and shot by Cromwell's men; it is said near a rock now known as Fullwood Rock at the head of Bradford Dale.

Walk W out of Middleton, climbing steadily until it levels out and comes to a road junction at 187630; go R here and walk NW through a countryside of limestone walls and small fields. Pass on the L a limestone kiln and small fields a sign states that limestone was burnt here to produce quicklime in many kilns in Derbyshire and used for a variety of purposes.

At a road junction, go forward to a fork: walk to the W and come to a calcite works on the L. On the R look for a slot in a limestone wall at 171840 to take and walk NW climbing gently, then levelling out and come to a poor stile in a corner. Continue in the same direction; cross over a drive to Cales Farm (away to the R).

Go forward to a wall with a tiny ladder stile over it, then drop down into and out of the shallow Cales Dale that leads into Lathkill Dale. Go over a broken wall into a field, still walking NW, the wall having being removed; long views to the N. Go through a gap in the broken wall, wall on the R, trees ahead, pass a gateway in the wall on the R and come to a stile with wooden uprights and an electric fence.

Walk N through the middle of the next field; away to the R is a sheep pound, beyond it Lathkill Dale. Come to the far corner to a step in the wall. Go through a big gap in the next field, the land contouring to the R, to the next wall with a full step stile. A wall has been removed at this point. Drop now to a wall to go through, and see the path that has come from One Ash Grange; a

glimpse ahead of Monyash Spire and roofs. Join the path at a corner where a stile and sign to Youlgreave stands. Go down a little into Ferndale then up to a sign to Calesdale and stone steps, follow the wall close on the L to a gate with steps on the L. Now enter a lane with walls and follow it to a sign and steps in the wall on the R.

Walk N towards the village on good grass, dropping gently to a stile in wall in front. The next field is L-shaped at the far side are steps leading into the church of St Leonard built in 1200. The Village of Monyash was named in the Domesday Book; its market charter was granted in 1340, and an old Portway passed through the village; so did the packhorses much later.

Leave by a slot on the B.5055 and walk E for several hundred metres, looking on the L for a footpath sign. Go L through grass and nettles to a gate with stone steps on the R, leading into a grassed area and then walk through Bagshaw Dale. In 100 metres or so come to a gateway with a slot on its L, then continue with interesting though small amounts of limestone outcrops on both sides. Several hundred metres then reach a slot with a step on the L.

Walk 100 metres, wall on the R, to a corner where steps lead up to an inelegant stile, keep in the same direction through mud, to go through a broken wall to enter a grassed lane with wall either side, proceed with houses on L to a gate with a sign near a slot; come out onto a road at 150668.

Cross the road to a signpost and slot leading into a field to now walk N, wall on the R through grass to a corner and stone steps. Wall on the R in the next field, and climb gently on short grass, farm ahead with tress behind it and a tiny dale on the L. The next corner holds a good stile, and this is repeated in the following wall in a corner.

Climb gently to a stile, and continue, wall on the R, farm ahead, to the next stile to enter a muddy patch. Level going now, farm on the R, views around of small and irregular field surrounded by historic white walls. Next in line is a single stone step quite high in a wall, now cut the R corner in the next field, in 30 metres come to stone steps cemented in the wall on R, walk now with farm on the R and trees on the L: come now to mounds and depressions of former workings. Go over steps in a wall ahead, wall now on the L, to the next wall where the stone step is quite colossal, a step to last forever; and the next one lying on top of the next stile is again huge.

The walking on this route from Monyash has been very satisfying. The next corner has large stones, then it is 5 metres to a gate with a stile, now walk along a lane, wall either side. See in front Deep Dale and soon come to a road at 158685. Cross the road and walk N down the wide hard track with views into the dale; in several hundred metres, come to a slot stile at a metal gate, then walk NE with fence on R down to a gateway with steps on the R. Drop gently down with views of an interlocking spur in the dale ahead. High up on the L is a single cottage near the edge of a drop, Deep Dale Lodge.

Enter the dale, the sides are bare. Suddenly a view of Fin Cop in the distance; cross over so as to walk with fence on the L. a few trees appear; stones make it uneven under-foot; soon enter a narrow area surrounded by trees. Enter the narrow fairy type glen it can be awkward in rain, its romance being dissipated by the uneven path. Then go around the hillside to the car park then down to the A.6 road and cross to a stile in the wall opposite at 170706.

Walk now through the popular Monsal Dale, just by the waterfall cross over a bridge to the other side, then walk uphill to Monsal Head. At the road admire the view with the viaduct that Ruskin stated that seeing the viaduct: that now every fool can go from Bakewell to Buxton and opposite he was not impressed. Go past the Monsal Inn cross the road and walk E downhill to Little Longstone to a point at 191717 with the Manor House on the L and two stiles on the R. go through one of them and walk E through a field to a wooden step stile, go 10 metres to a slot in the wall, then bear slightly R and walk through a level field to a stile in the far wall. Cross a lane then in 15 metres to a slot in the wall and another level field. Go through a slot and walk about 20 metres to another slot and the road. Go straight across the road and walk down a jitty between high hedges, the L through a car park and down to the road at Great Longstone. Longstone Hall was built of brick in 1747 by Thomas Wright whose family had been there since the C.14. Go up Church Lane past St Giles Church (C.13). Where there is among many interesting items a memorial to the ubiquitous Eyres (Brass 1624). There is a late mediaeval cross in the village.

The lane bears R; in 100 metres, go L up a lane (201720), ignoring a stile on the R and a lane on the R, come to a gate with a slot on its R and a sign pointing NE, take this direction across a field to a corner of a wall and stile. Cross the next field, this comes to a stile in the wall. Take this and drop into a tiny dale.

Green fields abound, some limestone outcrop on the R and Longstone Edge above on the L. In several hundred metres, go L through a slot at a gate and start climbing gently through the field to a steep bank and substantial stile. Continue up a bank overgrown with fern to footpath sign, climb over rough worked ground; the views getting longer. Continue NE, passing a footpath post, then drop down to a wooden step and bar stile near a wall on the R. this is a junction of footpaths (215731). Bear L through fern in 10 metres leave the track and go R through nettles and come to a slot in a wall. Continue through an overgrown area. Avoid the debris to pick up a path at the other side and come to a gate with a stile on its R.

Contour through the next field, a big line of trees ahead and Bleaklow Farm ahead. Go through a gateway and make for the farm which has the most glorious view to the S. go through a slot at a gate and go forward through the farmyard to an industrial road at 218716.

Bear R and walk E along this hard and wide track (made to outcrop the lead vein called Deep Rake at its side). The views along here are impressive. Come down to a road junction at 236735; cross over and continue to Baslow, passing Bubnell Hall, a fine C.17 house. The E wing has two enormous 12-light mullioned and transomed windows. In a house previous to this the Bassets lived, a family known for its devotion to justice and liberty; one of the family put his name to the Magna-Carta, another went on the Crusades with Richard the Lionheart, a third sat in the first parliament.

Pass through Baslow over the road island then go R down steps along a jitty to cross a stream and so out onto a hard track. Go R to get to a metal swing gate to enter Chatsworth Park. Turn L at a park sign and walk with wall on the L, where it goes away start climbing to cross a park road then up to a fence and gate with a stile on its R. then climb steeply to a gate with a large stile on its L. Carry on uphill to another gate with stile on its L. Then pass Chatsworth Climbing Rocks on the R, then through a gate to then curve L to come to a bridge over a stream. Then if any energy left: run up the many steps to reach the road. Cross this and walk uphill back to the start.