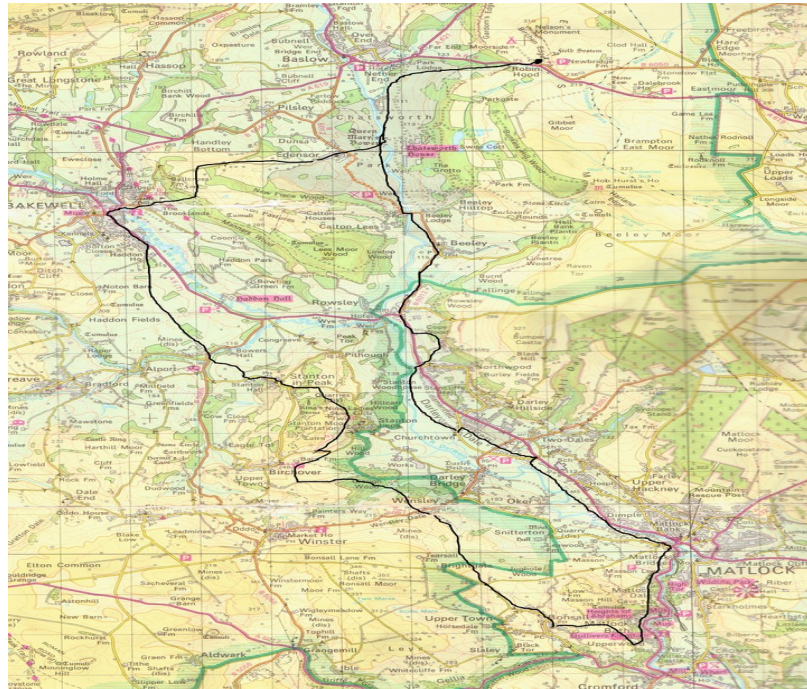


WALK 126.
ROBIN HOOD BASLOW 126.
33 Miles. 8 hours 55 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at the Robin Hood Baslow (281721). Walk W on the road to Baslow for 100 metres, then cross the road to a footpath sign and go down steep steps to cross a stream by a wooden footbridge, go up a bank R to join a track, bear R and walk through a stile on the L of a gate then pass Chatsworth Rocks on the L. go over two good stone high stiles at the R of two gates, then enter Chatsworth Park. Walk downhill through this fine parkland which has little equal, over a stile in a fence then walk down to join a wall on the R. go L alongside this and walk to join a hard track from Baslow Village.

Turn L on this track and walk through the park to the great house on the L and Paines Bridge on the R. cross the bridge and walk with the river on the L to get to Beeley Bridge 1761. On the other side of the bridge, go through a wicket gate into a field at 26168

Walk SSE towards Beeley, to gain the road opposite the Parish Church of St Anne, over-restored in 1882, there are memorials in the church to the Saviles and to John Greaves, the last of the line; the village was linked with these two families for five and a half centuries, and their memory still clings to the old hall, a C17 building, now a farmhouse of three stories with windows of mullions (some transomed also).

Walk S on the road to Rowsley and continue on the A.6 for 400 metres to a slot stile in the hedge on the L at 261655. Enter a field and walk uphill with hedge on the R; then go R through a gap at a footpath sign. Come out onto a minor road through a slot on the L of a gate and walk in the same direction to houses to then go R down to the A.6 near a restaurant at 264645.

Go forward only a few metres, then go R off the road alongside a house and sign, going over the old Midland railway Line, then walk alongside the river with the railway preservation society on the L. then leave the river to walk through a field to a gate, then through the middle of the next field. Go through a gate with a slot on its R to walk through the middle of the next field, to a farm building with a stile on its R. Walk now with wall on the L with gaps at its base, presumably for use

when flooding occurs; incidentally when the Port-ways and Turnpikes were set up, they avoided this flat valley bottom made during the ice age, because of floods and routed the road through Snitterton.

Come to a gate with stone steps on its L, then walk into the village of Darley; past the school and come to the St Helens Parish Church, a fine building containing work from the Normans onwards. A monument lies to the Lord of the Manor, Sir John de Darley in a suit of mail, his heart in his hands; John Milward whose family Built Snitterton Hall; Thomas Columbell in a fur-trimmed gown he might have worn 400 years ago. He lived in the Old Hall at Hall Dale, demolished in 1771. There is a fragment of a Saxon Cross which is of great interest because of its unusual geometrical ornament. Also the famous old yew tree which may have seen the building of the Norman Church here; its massive trunk states its age.

At the end of the Churchyard, go R at a sign through a metal gate into a field and walk S. in the hedge in front, there is a stile and small bridge. Bear L and follow the hedge to a cricket field. On the L of a gate is a slot, go forward to the road at 269623.

Bear R and walk to Darley Bridge of the C.15 with two pointed arches; a reference in 1682 mentioned seven archers. Go over the bridge and bear L to walk with the river on the L, past cottages, then through a gate and on a metaled road through the flat alluvial fields to the far end and a sign and slot side of a gate; thence into a lane, with two fine bungalows on the R. go through a slot on the L between two grit uprights and down to a small footbridge. Go through a field with river on the L to a slot between uprights, then go forward to another slot, then another slot to enter a small jitty and walk close to the works on the R, river on L. drop down to go under an old railway bridge and continue on a good path to pass a Sainsbury's and car park to enter Matlock.

At traffic lights turn L and walk a few metres uphill to take a track L up past Bridge Farm climbing steps up to a stile, then steeply up through a field. Bear L and walk to a slot in the wall, level going through a collection of stiles down a jitty with wall on the R to enter a minor road at 296595.

Bear R and walk uphill past the Chapel of St John 1897 built into the side of the hill. It is stated that the chapel was built by a man who was disfigured and he built his own church to worship in so as not to mix with the people of Matlock. It has mullioned windows, an oriel and turret. 300 metres of climbing to a gate with a path on the L with a sign No 69 to Matlock Bath. Now follow an interesting section through woods; the land dropping steeply on the L and High Tor can be seen on the L through the trees.

Carry on for several hundred metres to a sign to Matlock Bath to come to a fence of wooden palings to go over a footbridge over a path to enter a road. Bear R and walk uphill for a short distance past houses to the entrance of the Heights of Abraham, to then go L down a steep jitty to a level section of road; bear R and walk past the Temple Hotel and the Temple Mine then down to the A.6 road at 294580.

Walk S past the church, then, having past a group of houses on L, cut up R just past the entrance to the Bath Hotel 295575, and walk uphill between limestone walls. The track climbs quite steeply and turns almost N; the hotel on the R. the path levels then turns L and climbs up to a house, The Rohans, where horses are kept. Go R and walk between cottages perched on the hillside, going up steeply then dropping, the side to the R is quite precipitous. Go downhill with houses on the L, looking for a sign and path on the L it is difficult to see at 291583.

Now for another steep climb, through trees, up to a sign with two arms; to Matlock and other Bonsal. Walk down the lane that leads to Bonsal. Come out near the Parish Church of St James. The C.14 tower with diagonal buttresses is low with embattled parapet, pinnacles and gargoyles topped with a spire. Turn R and walk down the road to come to a fine cross with a circular base with thirteen steps; the ball-head was added in 1671. The Kings Head nearby is dated 1677. There are some houses dating from the times of framework knitting: they have three stories and large windows.

Go straight up the high street to then leave the houses behind and walk between limestone walls, fields on either side, there are several small stone buildings in the fields, all well-made, probably dating from the time of lead mining. The bigger buildings are impressive, come to a road

junction at 271591. There is a sign and slot on the L, but look for a slot on the R to go through, cross the field to another slot, then cross an old lane with a sign to Wensley and South Darley.

Go through a slot stile and walk NW to Wensley, first crossing a field of 50 metres, the first of many narrow fields five in all then start climbing: go 50 metres to a slot in a low wall, the views are impressive, to the R Matlock can be seen.

It is 100 metres to a slot stile with wooden uprights (for a change), then in 30 metres to a slot in a wall, the route then levels out. Begin to drop now, keeping in the same direction, to steer between mounds and depressions from former workings, making for a good stile in a wall, proceed through fern and concrete blocks presumably intended to cover mine shafts and take a stile over a wall, and continue past waste material lying about.

Descend on a vague farm track, to a gate no stile, then follow the farm track, now much improved, cross a field to four tall trees near a gate with a slot nearby, go 50 metres to a gate and slot, walking now on grass, then through next field with the houses of Wensley ahead, on the L a fine old limestone farm building with strong gritstone quoins, probably Dalefields Farm.

The next gate has no stile; now walk on a muddy drive close to wall on the R to a gate with stile, then drop into a dale. Walk W up the dale to some cottages, after the last of which go R up to a slot, then round the corner to another slot, then up to a sign to Wensley Dale and Snitterton. Go through a slot and on to the road at 261611.

Bear R: go 20 metres, then cross a road to a slot and walk up through a rough field, farm away to the R. keep fairly close to a wall on R and climb. At the top, pass a reservoir on the R, then drop to a slot between wooden sleepers and be faced with the striking colours of Cambridge Wood. Go down steeply through trees to a gate at the bottom where on the R is a footbridge to then climb up past the fine stone front of Watts Shaft. This was one of the most productive lead mines in Derbyshire; on a dark morning before light, men with candles and lanterns could be seen all around coming to work. Climb up to the R to reach a wide rough track to go L uphill then R to level off.

This track becomes a pleasant walk with views to Stanton Moor on the R and woods on the L. continue for several hundred metres to get to a gate and stile on the L at 243617. Go through the stile and walk in a field with a hedge on the L with views of Birchover on the L; reach a gate with slot to enter another field, Barn Farm ahead where stands a three armed sign in a muddy area. Bear R and go through the field, fence on the R to a gate with slot on the L and reach a muddy area where there seems to be no water outlet. Keep to the L to come to a flimsy slot leading to a narrow walk to enter a field climbing gently to a gap in a wall. Proceed to a gap in the hedge with a sign and go out onto the road at 248625.

Bear L for about 50 metres then go R up a track onto Stanton Moor then walk NE along a good track. Walk several hundred metres on the track with a fence on the L to a wooden step stile on the L to then walk NNE across the plateau. This area of about one square miles has many ancient remains of monoliths, burial mounds and stone circles about 70 in total, the best being the nine ladies stone circle being the best known. Skeletons of the bronze-age have been found in some of the mounds. Not far away is the Ear Grey's Tower erected in 1832, a tribute to the passing of the great Reform Bill in which a distinguished ancestor of the Prince of Wales played an important part.

Go forward on a good track, through several stiles to reach a road at 246641. Bear l and walk down on the road through Stanton in the Peak where the old hall is now a farmhouse and the new hall dates from 1693 with later additions. At 237643, opposite a gate-house on the L go through a gate on the R into a field and walk towards some bars in a fence, then go L to walk down through an overgrown lane; it is best to walk on R of hedge. Leave the lane to walk down through field to a gate in a slot. Then walk precipitately down a slippery bank down to the road at 231647.

Bear R and walk to a road junction, cross the road B.5056 then walk steeply up an industrial road to get to the top and see the quarry of Shinning Bank on the L and wonder on the depth of the hole. Go forward, walking NW, to a gate with stone steps on its L. go through woods on the R then over a fence and make for a limestone wall with a slot in it. Go past a sign with four arms and continue in the same direction NW across Haddon Fields. To the R is an exciting view of Haddon Hall in the mist and above the hills above Bakewell.

Come to a wall with like battlements on top and a slot, go forward through the next field, pass Map Plantation on the L, go R over a wooden step stile and walk N down a large field, dropping to a step stile, then down past trees on the L like lines of soldiers. Cross a small footbridge, then walk up through the minute Wigger Dale to Burton Ashes wood to enter by a slot and leave by concrete cylinders to walk through a field to a lane, bear R and walk down to the A.6. Turn L and walk into Bakewell.

Walk through Bakewell to the bridge over the River Wye C.13 then bear R to walk SE for about 50 metres to bear L up a lane to Outrake Farm cross the bridge over the Monsal Trail and ascend through the golf course. Enter Manners Wood and climb up to a ladder stile over rough ground. Cross a track then climb up to a wall to enter Calton Pastures at 231688. Go L and walk up over a hill to a facing wall to then enter a road at 228693.

Bear R and walk down this road with views in front to Froggatt and L to Longstone edge to a fork to leave the road to go down a rough lane to the fascinating village of Edenser. Cross the road A.6012 to walk down a track to Chatsworth and Pain's Bridge. Cross the river turn L to walk N and then retrace the steps through the park back to the start.