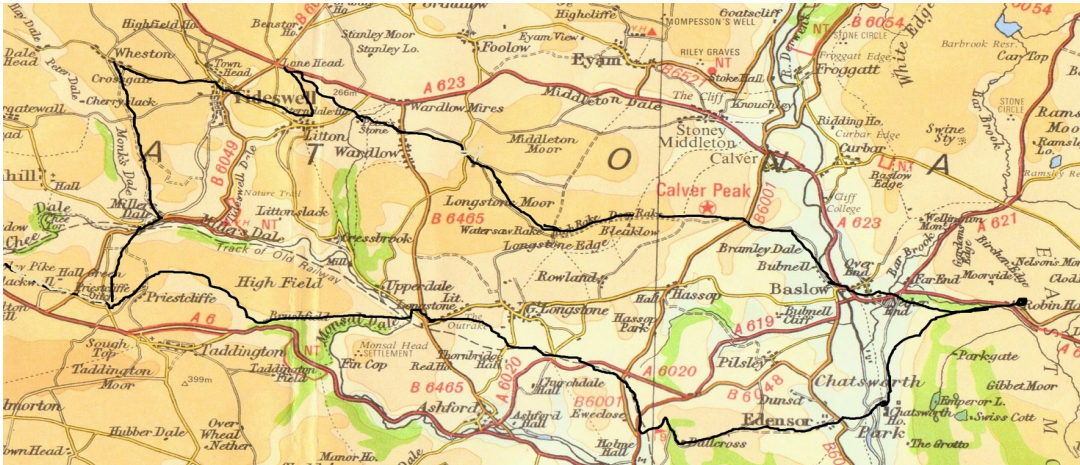


WALK 127.
ROBIN HOOD BASLOW 127.
31 Miles. 8 hours 20 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Robin Hood Baslow (281721). Walk downhill on the road to Baslow for only 50 metres, then cross over the road at a stile and sign, descend on steep steps then over a bridge curve R and join a track. Over a stile at the R side of a gate, go past Chatsworth rocks on the L, then over high stiles at side of gates and so into Chatsworth Park. Walk downhill to walk on a track at the side of the river to get to Queen Mary’s Bower and Pain’s Bridge. Cross over the bridge and walk up a track to Edensor.

Walk through Edensor and go uphill; the road deteriorates to a rutted track to then join a road (235697; turn L and continue uphill on this road. The road turns R at a farm, go 100 metres. Where the road turns sharply L, go R down a track at 225697 with hedge either side for about 400 metres to a sign on the L. go past an old slot and walk S through a field toward farm buildings, where there is a slot. Continue through the next field to drop down to a hedge and gateway. Go through an area passing and old stone building and make for a bridge on the R; it carries the Monsal Trail.

Go under the bridge, pass some houses and come up to the A.619 at 220694. Bear R and walk uphill on the road for about 500 metres to a stile on the L, to then drop down onto the trail. Walk N: pass the interesting old Hassop Station built in fine Ashlar with blind arches, sections of leaf carvings and mock Corinthian capitals. Carry on and pass on the L, Woodlands, an impressive building built in 1903-4 to serve as a waiting-room for Thornbridge Hall which in itself a spectacular Georgian house which was altered in 1871 to a neo-Tudor exterior with a tall, castellated tower. It contains items from other stately homes, e.g. the grand buffet fountain from Chatsworth.

Continue along the trail to its furthest point at 194711 to leave to the R, then walk at the side of a wall to a stile to enter a field, then proceed to a metal gate and a slot stile in a wall: then go from this to an unusual arrangement of two farm gates and two stiles and a sign at 191717.

Go out into road in Little Longstone, turn L and walk uphill to Monsal Head and a fine view of the viaduct denounced by Ruskin; who stated that now any fool can be in Buxton and via versa. Go through a stile and walk down a path at the side of the road, then at a house turn L to get to a footbridge over the River Wye. From this, go steeply up a bank, cross the old railway line (now the Monsal Trail) go R to meet a farm track to go uphill with views down the Monsal Dale on the L eventually get to a grassy track to then get into a lane with walls either side.

Come to a metal gate with stile on the L. enter a field to walk with wall on the L. Carry on this track to pass a farm at Brushfield Hough on the L walk now with Taddington Dale down on the L to get to Brushfield. Go through the Hamlet and turn R to pass Brushfield Farm on the L to continue on a wide track that goes between fields with High Dale on the L to an open area to then go L; an arrow indicates the way. Pass two stiles on the L to High Dale and one on the R to Millers Dale ignore these and go straight on.

Pass a well-kept large stone farm building on the R then curve to the L to eventually reach Priestcliffe (140721), a Hamlet that once had its own Hall, the message of the Cotterels dating from the 1235. They were still there in the C.15, but later, it went to the Dakeyness. No more was heard of it later than 1670. Bear R before the first buildings and walk N along a lane, farm on the L. in just under a mile, the lane takes a horseshoe bend and comes down to a hard track that comes up from Taddington and goes down to Millers Dale. Go R and follow it downhill to join the B.6049 where the view of the dale is splendid.

At Millers Dale, walk E under two Viaducts; notice the stonework of an expert stonemason, to get to a small church of 1880. Just beyond this, go L up a steep hill for several hundred metres, then go L at a sign to the limestone way (143734). Walk up a lane to Monksdale Farm to follow the farm buildings on the L. Climb gently on a rough track through fields with a view down on the L into Monksdale where foundations may be found of a Chapel of the Monks; a fine fragment of their screen is now in Tideswell Church. The track becomes a lane to then come to a muddy section to leave by a double wooden step stile, then continue N on the Limestone Way along a lane which was probably a Drover's Way. In about half a mile, go L at a fork, and in another half a mile come to a road at 137752. Cross this road and pass Monksdale house; in about half a mile, fork L off this good track and walk down a muddy track down to a road at 133763, passing on the L a fine limestone wall (around Wheston hall Farm), neatly built with carved cappings.

Wheston is a small hamlet where there is a way-side cross, one of the most interesting survivals in the Peak dating from when Tideswell was a place of importance to travellers. There is a reference in 1432 to "the way that lyeth to Tideswell", an important thoroughfare to the Forest of the Peak. One way left Tideswell by Wheston Bank and was known as Kirkgate or Crossgate, passing the mediaeval cross at 140760 whose remains can be seen at Crossgate Farm. It then came to a cross in the hamlet of Wheston to the W of the Hall where it stands in a walled enclosure of trees, its tapering shaft on a great stone and a flight of four steps. It is a fine example of a mediaeval cross: on the E, Christ crucified; on the W, the virgin and child. Pevsner described the carving as "clumsy".

Wheston Hall was originally much bigger, an eight-bay, two and a half stories, mid. C18 house. It determinate to the status of a farmhouse when an whole wing was demolished. There is a pedimented doorway in the centre of the recessed part. The estate was owned by the Alleyens from the C.15, eventually going to the Duke of Norfolk who sold it in 1827.

Opposite the house front with its pineapple-topped gate-piers, go L off the road and walk NNE up what was once an avenue from Wheston Hall. In only 100 metres or so, where the road curves to the L, go straight on, off the road, down a lane, walking NE between fields and descending to the road at 145768 to then bear R and walk to Tideswell.

This fine old town deserves a chapter to itself, its parish church being one of the grandest in Derbyshire, its interest lying in the fact that it was built in 75 years in the C.14 without any major breaks. It is rich in pre-Reformation monuments. Here is also buried William Newton the minstrel of the peak, the son of a carpenter who not only attracted attention by his verse, but also became the director of Cressbrook Mill where he mitigated many of the harsh methods of the horrible factory system. The children he employed were well fed and cared for with proper rest and instruction.

Leave the town on the B.6049 and walk NE up to the road junction with the A.623; just before this go R up a minor road, walking S towards Litton. At Bank Farm go L through the garden, then L over the garden wall with wooden steps into a field to then walk SSE to a gap in the far wall. In the next field, continue in the same direction to the far corner where there is the first of good stiles with neat concrete steps the third having stone steps, always walking with the wall on the R. in rough ground a track leads downhill to Litton on the R; avoid this and aim for a stile in the corner on the

R; the view over Litton is superb. Wall on the R, drop to a gap on R and continue in the same direction to steps at the side of a gate, then down to the road at 169752.

Walk L downhill to a stile on the R, then drop down into the dale, change direction so as to walk up the opposite bank, beginning under a limestone face. Enthusiasts may want to ascend Peter's Stone: a large pinnacle left from more violent times. Having reached the highest point on the bank side, walk S with wall on the L to reach a point with a nature reserve sign and good stile in the wall on the L at 176745.

Walk E through this now on a good grass track under Wardlow Hay Cop on the R to come to a road at 182745 in Wardlow. Bear R and walk uphill for a hundred metres to then go L at a gate into a field and then walk E, level going, contouring to a gap in a wall with the remains of a stile. Carry on contouring the hillside to the corner of a wall with the remains of another stile. Go SE to the far corner and another broken wall with stile. Then climb gently through rough grass and former workings to a wall containing two short stone uprights on the roadside at 189745.

Cross the road on a sign and stile, then climb gently SE up to Longshaw Moor passing a small grit outcrop on the R. Reach a sign at the top, drop down S to pass Watersaw Rake then to the boundary fence around trees to take the wooden step stile at a gate. Descend steeply close to quarry and come to a road at 196728.

Bear L and walk ENE along the road, climbing gently with magnificent views to the S over Great Longstone, Bakewell and the Derwent Valley. In just under a mile, the road curves to the L. Here at 205731 go R off the road to a step stile in a fence and take the industrial road that goes ENE alongside High Rake.

Pass on the R the entrance to Bleaklow Farm and continue down to cross a road at 236736, then walk E along the road passing Bramley Farm, then coming to the outskirts of Baslow. Pass Bubnell Hall and a reminder of our rich history, for here, in mediaeval times, the Bassets contributed to our social life: one put his name to the Magna Carta, another went on a crusade with Richard the Lionheart, and a third sat in the first parliament. The hall now is a pleasing C.17 house of two and tree storeys. The house passed from the Basseets of Blore to a branch of the Eyres.

Walk through Baslow over the island to turn R down steps to walk over a jitty then over a footbridge to meet the path into Chatsworth Park. Turn R to meet a metal turntable gate. Go through this and go into the park, turn L and walk with wall on L for about 50 metres, then leave the wall and start climbing up to the R. cross a park road and head for a fence, gate and stile. Go over this and climb steeply up to a gate with a tall step stile on the L. Over this then 100 metres to another gate and stile, pass Chatsworth rocks on the R, take a stile on the L of a gate then look in a few metres a path to the L to go down to a footbridge, then steep steps (run up if any energy left) to the road turn R and so back to the start.