

WALK 130.
CALVER 130.
27-1 Miles. 7 hours 27 minutes.
Map White Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Calver (248743). Near the bridges, go up a lane with the famous old mill on the R, to the Stocking Farm, an interesting building; it is said used in the film Colditz Story. Through a Caravan Park with toilets and showers on the L; caravans to the R. Go through a stile at side of a gate and walk through field to trees and a wide track. Go along this track with a water leat on the R (The Goit). Come to farm buildings go to a gate and sign at a road B.6054 called New Bridge.

Cross the road to go through a stile river on the R to come to a wooden footbridge, then another to then come to Fraggatt Village and Bridge at 244761. Walk N through this small village, leaving by a lane, where the road goes to the R, first a hard lane, then paved then grass to a gate and stile on its R. bear R where the wall on the R ends and angle up through a field to where the facing wall ends, then walk with wall on the L over some paving stones and mud to enter Froggatt Wood and a N.T. sign.

Enter the wood and walk on a good track over a stone bridge and stream to leave the wood by a slot in the wall ahead. Walk with wall on the L to a stile in the wall, enter a field and walk to the far wall with a stile and a P.D. and N.C. footpath society sign; this was erected in 1908 number 34. This sign like many of the others of its kind, is a piece of walking history.

Walk N past a house and garage on the L to a stile on the L in a few metres. Go through this and walk through a field to a concrete bridge. Angle L to the river Derwent and continue this pleasant walk along the riverside to enter Coppice Wood by a stile. Many different animals and birds can be seen here if one is quiet. Leave the wood by a stile and walk along a field to go L past Harper Lees House then on a road to follow the river to come out at Leadmill Bridge (233806).

Go R up the road to Hathersage, a fine old Derbyshire Town of considerable interest. Bear R at the road junction and walk WNW to the Hathersage Inn to there turn L to walk up Baulk Lane.

Then go N out of the town down a fine valley which the Hood Brook flows. Take a swing gate on the R: this leads into a jitty that goes uphill to the church whose spire thrusts prominently into the sky. Go through the churchyard; the magnificent church deserves a long study. Little John's Grave (Robin Hoods Lieutenant) is here. Leave the church by a gate and into a lane: go L down this lane to a sign and a wooden step stile to enter a wide green track which provides good walking.

The scene now confronting is made up of round hillocks shaded with trees; a stream flows on the L to descend then rise through a narrow field for a short distance. A sign then directs to Moorseats, then go through a doorway to one of the Eyre Halls. Climb steeply close to wall on the R. Soon then to reach a swing gate and onto a narrow jitty. Go through a small gate and come to the main gates of Moorseats.

One of the most interesting legends of this part of Derbyshire tells that Robert Eyre built seven halls for his sons to live in with sight of one another: Moorseats was one. Part of the house dates to the C.13; other parts belong to the C.17; most of it, however was rebuilt in 1857. Moorseats is the house that Jane Eyre sought the kindly Rivers family; the doorway can be seen where she stumbled out of the snowy night. Charlotte Bronte pilgrims still call here to trace these references.

Follow the drive away from the house; it passes Carr Head Farm where a stile to the L is noted. Continue on the road for 300 metres or so then go L across the grass to a gate and a field. Bear L here and walk E uphill to Toothill Farm (240820). Go through a small gate in the wall around the house and go L so as to pass the house on the R. make for a gate above on L, then enter a field and climb steeply, keeping the wall on R.

The view back over Hathersage is superb: the Derwent Valley can be traced. The Hope Valley shows its Glaciation and formation clearly. Go through the gateway, then bear L to walk N on a good track through moorland, wall close on the L. soon come to a stile that connects with that that was seen at Carr Head Farm. Go forward to a gate, then out on to a rough lane at 242823.

Bear R and walk along the lane to a road (from Hathersage) to be faced with a fine skyline made by Higger Tor and Winyards Nick; bear L and walk up to a road junction at 245828. At this point, go R off the road and climb the hillside to the top path on Stannage Edge.

Walk NW along the edge; this is always interesting with its climbers and views. When the Trig. Point is reached at 228853, bear R and walk over the moors on a bearing of 45 degrees. The object of this walk is to get to know this area between the edge and the A.57. Features are few to then come to an infant Clough that leads down to a small reservoir at 247863. A disused building stands here. From this reservoir a leat runs around the hillside to Redmires reservoirs. The overflow runs down to become the Riverlin Brook that flows into Oaking Clough and so down to the Rivelin Reservoirs this walk follows the leat that brings in waters from the Middle Moss area of the moors. Walk alongside the conduit to the NW and one wonders at the work involved in its construction, digging out by hand, lining its bank with neatly shaped gritstone.

Pass in and out of Churl Clough and come to Black Clough where the walk cuts off W to join the track that comes down from the top of Stannage Edge. Go over a step stile and reach the A.57 at 231879.

Bear L and walk downhill for 500 metres, go R along a minor road (to Strines) for only 200 metres or so to one of the metal signs of the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 86 erected in 1935. Cut off L here down to a cottage. Just beyond the gate is a footpath sign: go L over grass on a worn path. Follow the wall around to a gate. On the other side of the fence is another metal sign by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 73 erected in 1933. Do not take the route to the Derwent Edge and do not go through the gate, but bear L and walk SW close to wall on R. Stannage Edge is now away to the L and, in front, Win Hill stands up prominently; this is pleasant walking on short grass. Come to a corner where good grit steps help over a wall, go forward past a sheepfold down to Highshaw Clough to then cross. The road is now close on the L. further walking leads down to a wooden gate, then to a stream that flows over great grit slabs. Then carry on to a gate then down to the road at the Ladybower Inn at 205865.

Cross the viaduct and walk down the road to Bamford. At the Anglers Rest, go L off the road and make for Joan Lane. Beyond the houses, go R at a fork. On the R Offerton Moor makes a strong skyline. Soon, pass the golf links, and the road drops into Hurst Clough where, on the R, go

off the road at a single wooden step stile where the road begins to climb. (21629). Ascend the bank through trees and come to a slot and enter a field. The route lies near the L hedge, on the other side is a sunken lane. How did this come about; it is amazingly deep.

Come to a gap in a wall and continue to a wooden stile on the L into Hurstclough Lane. Go forward, bearing to the L with the curve of the lane; come to Gatehouse Farm (224833). Go L here off the road and climb up a narrow jitty between houses to a drive. Cross the drive and go through a slot between three uprights. Walk through a field to a slot stile at the top, and so out on to the road at 225834. Bear R and walk N. In a few hundred metres, come to Outland to then bear R off the road through a farm gate into a field. Go 20 metres to a second gate into a field. On the L now stands a fine farm building.

A splendid view now all around, drop down on good short grass to a gate and soon bear L to walk to Green's House. This walk passed here earlier, but this view of the hamlet reveals its magnificent site. Enter by a cattle grid and leave by the lane entered earlier, go straight down to the end where a small gate. Now walking ESE. Go through a field and see Hathersage church spire. At the gate there are steps in a wall. Drop down towards the brook and enjoy the delightful scene created by the hand of man in times past around a small reservoir. Here stands a sign where the water flows around huge grit stones to use them to cross. Climb steeply up the hillside through fern and many scattered boulders; trees stand away to the L. on the R stands what might have been the remains of the chapel of North Lees. Halfway up the hillside, a sign directs to a wall where stands another sign and a ladder stile with handrail.

From this point, get a charming view of North Lees Hall where we like to think Robert Eyre lived, though William was the first of the Eyres to live there. It is an impressive, small, towering manor house reminiscent of the border castles. The front is C.16 three storeyed above a basement on slopping ground with mullioned and transomed windows. At the back, a tower, believed to be older, rises into a turret with a newel staircase and perp door-cases. The house is embattled with semi-circular decorative merlons. It is believed that Robert Smythson (of Bolsover Castle fame) may have had an influence on design. The tower was built for William Jessop of Broom Hall in 1594. The small catholic chapel was built by a Robert Eyre in 1685 but was destroyed only three years later by a Protestant group.

Pass another footpath sign in only 40 metres to go E to a gate with step stile on its R, and walk through a delightful wooded area on a good wide track. At the top, leave through a gateway and sign North Lees Estate and out onto a road at 239836.

Go straight uphill to the top of Stannage Edge, then walk SE along this interesting gritstone edge where climbers are usually active. On leaving a trig point, leave the edge and go down a road at 253825. Take a step stile and walk SE across a grassy stretch to another stile with a high step. Cross a road to another stile and walk S up a rocky hillside of Higger Tor.

Continue S down the rocky slope to Carl Wark, a superb hill fort of about two acres on high ground in moorland littered with boulders. Some of the defences still stand to a height of 10 feet. The site may be Iron Age, but some think it belongs to just after the Roman period. The magnificent landscape is essentially gritstone in character a toughness given to it the grit and small pebbles that streams brought down from the north mountains; it was used in days gone by as mill wheels for grinding corn; some mill wheels still exist in gritstone areas left when they were no longer needed. Go off Carls Wark and go down to Burbage Brook to cross by the use of boulders, then up to the road at 263805. Cross it and enter Longshaw Estate of the N.T. Bear R and go through this most pleasant park that adds something different to this already interesting area. Cross two footbridges and go up to the road at 258799.

Cross the road and re-enter the state; in 30 metres, go R off the main path and walk S through Granby Woods to a swing gate then continue through trees. Come to a fence around a plantation and follow it on the R to come to a gritstone wall in front and a sign directing to the R. Bear R and walk several hundred metres with wall on L to a swing gate on the L. Walk now on a high path with fine views over the Derwent. Upper Padley lies below with its railway lines. Soon come to a ladder stile in the wall on the L over this and walk close to the wall on the L, then branch to the R across a small valley with Oak's Wood on the R. come to a wall; bear L and walk with wall

on the R to come to a gate with grit steps on its R and a N.T. sign. Walk W with wall on the L and the Grouse Inn not far away to the L. Walk down past a car park on the L and another stile drop down to cross a brook then up the other side to a road at 255776. Bear R and walk down the road to a swing gate on the opposite side of the road and begin the walk over Froggatt Edge.

Very popular with all ages is the route along the gritstone edge and deservedly so; a fine piece of Derbyshire is this. The views over the Derwent are spectacular. Leave Froggatt edge at Curber Gap by a swing gate; go down the road for 200 metres, then go L through a stile and N.T. sign. Go downhill through small fields on grass to reach the same road. Go downhill on the road to a cross roads to turn L, curve R and go past Cliff Lane Methodist Centre, where Methodists are trained. At the main road turn R and walk back to the start. (There is a path just above the road owned by the Methodist Centre).