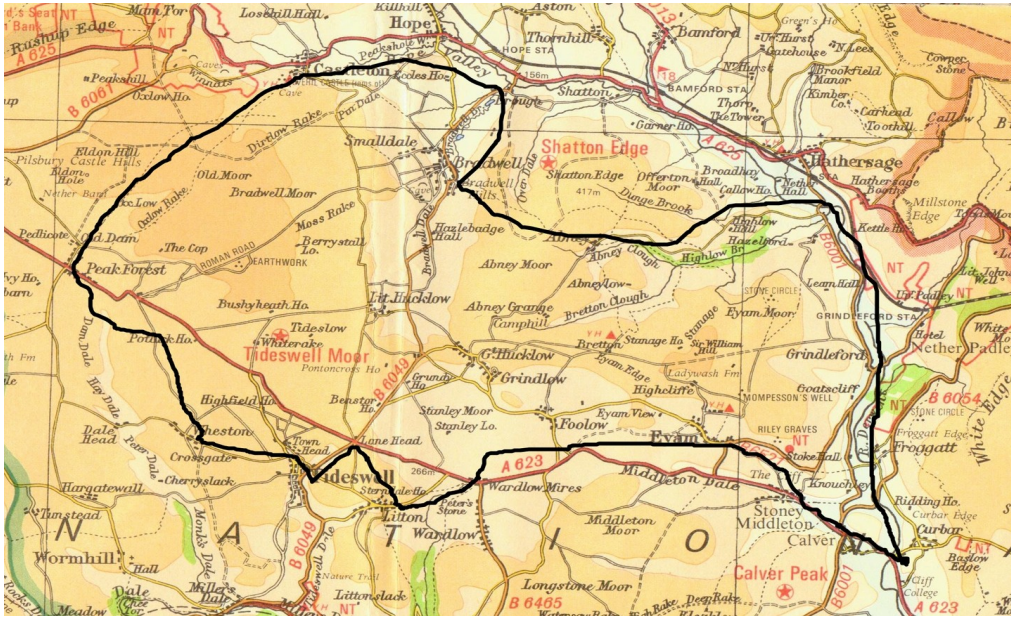


WALK 132.
CALVER.132.
32-6 Miles. 8 hours 52 minutes.
Map White Peak. Dark Peak. SK28/38.



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Start at Calver front of the church. (248743). Go over the bridge and go R up a lane with the famous mill in the R, then to Stocking Farm with its caravan site; onto a facing gate and stile. Walk through the next field to trees, to then follow a wide track to farm buildings and a road B6054 and sign.

Cross the road to a stile then a good track to a wooden footbridge, angle R and walk with River Derwent on the R to come to a road at Froggatt. Turn R and cross Froggatt Bridge, then L, to walk N through the small village, leaving by a lane that goes straight ahead while the road goes R.

Go down the lane; paved in places to reach a gate and stile. Go for a few metres then angle R to the R-hand end of the facing wall. Walk then with wall on the L; paved in parts to enter Froggatt Wood and N.T. sign. It is a short but pleasant walk on a good track; go over a stone bridge over a stream, then leave the wood by a gate. Walk then with wall on the L to get to a gate on the L, then angle through a field to get to a road at 245778 at B.6521 near Grindleford Bridge; also a sign of the P.D. and N.C. footpath society, erected in 1908, number 34: The sign like many others is a piece of walking history.

Walk N past a garage on the L to a sign and stile on the L. walk through a field with hedge on R to a concrete bridge, angle L to walk with the River Derwent on the L to then enter Coppice Wood. A short walk leaves the wood to enter a field. Pass Harper Lees house on its L to then walk on a hard surface to come to Leadmill Bridge at 233806 on the B.600.

Go L over the bridge, and then in 200 metres, go R up the first road signed Abney. In about 300 metres climbing come to a fork: go L down a farm drive, then in a few metres, a footpath sign directs down a bank to the L. another sign shows the way to the bottom, where a third sign stands at a single-arched bridge to go over Highlow Brook; the creator of this pleasant valley. Go through a slot to come to a fourth sign. What an abundance of directional aids for the walker.

Climb the steep bank keeping to the wall on the L to come to Hogall Farm. Come to a gate with stile to walk up a farm drive to meet another to then go R and walk with wall on the R and walk W, level going with a view down the valley with woods either side.

At Tot Farm, go straight into a field and eventually come to a gate that leads into Highlow Wood. Come down to a stile with five cross-bars; Highlow Brook flows on the R, but go straight ahead uphill.

Bole Hill rises on the L (Bole is a hill where lead smelting took place) every step adds a new feature. Walk with hill to the L to come to Stoke Ford (211795) where stands one of the green metal signs erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society in 1939, number 99. Go over a wooden footbridge, then R through a gate, then over another footbridge and so to the L, walking NW through Abney Clough. A wide hard track goes through woodland, the stream below on the L. Abney Low is now high on the L. leave the trees behind and go L up a lane to a gate, sign and road in the lonely hamlet of Abney (199799): note the V.R. post-box. Bear L on the road, then in a few metres, opposite the village hall, go R up a lane this leads into open moorland; a sign stands dark against the sky at 189801.

Bear L and walk on a good wide track; the views are all-embracing, particularly to the N where Derwent Edge may be seen. Win Hill stands out. In a few hundred metres, pass on the L, a stile from which a footpath leads over Abney Moor. Pass it, but in a short distance, go L over a solid step stile in a corner. This is the site of Robin's Hood Cross (184803).

Now the walk is on an ancient route. The cross was originally known as Robin's Cross from Robin or Robert Archer who was Lord of Abney at that time. Only the cross base remains: it is built into the bottom of a wall. The cross originally marked the junction of the parishes of Abney, Hazelford and Bradweell and is referred to in 1317.

From this point, get a fine example of a deeply hollowed packhorse way with relics of paving. It descends to Bradwell. At the top of this hollow-way there was a resting place for the horses with a spring, now dry, in one corner. This is the route now taken. Go through several stiles on level ground before dropping steeply. The view is superb. Come to a double step-stile, and then go down a lane that leads into the town of Bradwell.

Walking N through the town, pass the church on the R, and then go R down Soft Water Lane. On the L pass a building under which the stream flows. Just beyond a hall, go R through a slot and begin a walk that skirts the town. There is a good path to follow and eight fields to get to a lane. More fields to pass on the R Lee House; good stiles and clear paths all the way. Pass through five more fields to come to a gate at the back of some houses and so out on to the road at 182825.

Cross the road, cross Bradwell Brook, then go R at a gate where stands another of the metal signs erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society number 38, erected in 1909. It states that the footpath goes to Hope via the Roman Station Anavio. Go through a stile on the L of a gate and begin the walk along the footpath to Castleton, to then meet another of the metal signs.

Walk through the field up to a good ladder stile, then through the next to a footbridge. At the next field is a step stile; the view reveals the flat nature of the valley. Go forward to a poor stile in the scrap of wall, then walk down to a gate, a stile and a sign, and so out on to a road at 172832.

Bear R and go downhill for 100 metres, then bear L and walk uphill for 100 metres, then go R off the road on to a stile of crossbars and so onto a track that leads to Castleton; it is level going and enjoyable walking much of it along the river-side, all of it with surrounding views of these spectacular hills. The first stile has a large gritstone for a step; the next leads over a railway line. The next few stiles leads to a channelled stream then walk up a lane into Castleton. (150828).

Here stands another metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. footpath society, number 35 erected in 1908, pointing the way just walked. Turn L and walk through the old village, pass the church and leave by a stony lane to a gate and a footpath at the foot of the hill (147825).

Start climbing, going SW up the steep bank, but the reward is improving scene each step. The flat glaciated base off the valley is again evident. Peveril Castle is to the L. William the conqueror gave the land to William Peveril who built the castle. There were additions by Henry 11 in 1176 and others later. Mam Tor, another fortification, glowers back across the valley, a late Bronze Age and Iron Age fort of 16 acres. A radio-carbon date for material found on the site gives a date of 1180 B.C.

At the top, find a metal gate, no stile, then go 10 metres to a footpath sign pointing the way to Old Moor and Rowter Farm; the latter is the Way required. Go through the field diagonally to the R

up a very strong ladder stile, and then it is field walking, limestone wall on the L. notice on the map the many references to old pits.

The short grass make for pleasant walking, approach a stone step stile in the wall, Rowter Fram can be seen away to the R. Make for a wall with a step stile, then walk with wall close on the L, and Rowter now on the R. Go over a stile in a fence; notw the many mounds of strange shapes from former workings. Walk with wall on the L up to a ladder stile at 131819.

Here stands a footpath sign to Castleton; go L through a gate, then immediately R through a gate, walk SE through long grass, following a fence on the L for several hundred metres to a wooden step stile. The fence then goes away down to the L to then walk SW through grassland with mounds and depressions down to a wide track; go forward to the R a short distance to a wide stony area where there is a metal gate in a wall with stone steps on the L and a footpath sign 126814.

Go over a stile, then immediately L over a step stile and a sign to Peak Forest. Now walk SSW toward Conies Dale, dropping a little to go on a hard track to Jewel-knoll Plantation; the land in front dropping into Conies Dale, with Peak Forest beyond that.

Go forward on a good worn path; in 400 metres, go L off this path into a field with broken wall to a stile in the wall below. Drop through the next field with wall on the R and come to a stile in a wall. Drop to the base of Conies Dale to stone steps in the wall with some wooden support (120802).

Cross this small dale and climb the bank, going S: this field is huge: walk forward to meet a wall coming up from the R, then angle away from it to the L for 100 metres to some rough steps in a wall. From this stile, go towards a farm, walking with wall on the R to two stiles which are hard to find. Go through a field farm on the R, towards farm buildings where there is a gate. Go R down the drive to pass on the R a new farm dwelling, Woodside Farm.

Go through the front gate and see another farm drive: to Oxlow End. Cross the drive to steps in a wall, then walk W through a field, wall on the R. in the corner, go over a wall, walk diagonally to the L to the far corner where there is a gateway, go through this into a field and walk close to wall on the R up to a gate and on to a minor road at 118796.

Bear R and walk into Peak Forest: only the name remains of this hunting ground of Kings. The church is interesting: it is one of the few dedicated to King Charles the Martyr. It was built by the Cavendish's; one of the windows is a memorial to Lord Frederick Cavendish who was murdered in Phoenix Park in Dublin in the dark days before home rule. The dedication was made to a chapel preceding the church on this site and built by a Countess whose son died fighting for the King. The village became a kind of Gretna Green where runaway marriages were solemnised until the Act of 1753 was passed, though the parson went on marrying runaways for fifty years afterwards.

In only 20 metres, go L, up a lane for a few metres, then R through a small gate into a small field containing a pond. Follow a wall on the L to the end; and steps over a wall on L into a field. Bear R and walk S, the wooded hillock on the L to come to a stile in front; pass a farm building with a low roof on the R. walk through a field towards a farm, to steps in a wall in front. Walk straight forward to a space between a building and a wall to squeeze through an untied jitty to a farm drive and road at 115791.

Cross the road, go L past a cricket ground and an old iron water pump, then go R over a stile into a field and walk with wall on the R to a wall in front where there are stone steps and a hand rail. Go 50 metres uphill through the next field to a wall with stone steps. Go 40 metres to the next wall with a slot; 100 metres to the next, then 80 metres to the next and steps below a water tank.

Into the next field and get a good view down Dam Dale and drop down to Dam Dale Farm going over a step stile, then through a swing gate, farm on the R, then along a short jitty. Immediately, cut up the bank and start climbing away from the lower path, following a wall on the L.

At the top, go into a small pocket in the wall and go through a small gate into a field with a ruined building on the L and wall on the R to come to a wall in front to go over steps and walk through a field, level going with wall on the R which makes a right angle. Go through a gateway here and walk with wall on L to a corner where there are steps and a bar across. Now enter a wide open area of hillside strewn with limestone boulders of various sizes.

Go through a gap in a broken wall in front, keeping well up to the L, and get a view of Hay Dale. In the next wall enter a field smooth and level, make for a gateway, no gate or stile. Walk through another field, easy walking, and cut the R corner to make for a gate, no stile, and a lane (123776).

Bear L and walk ENE for 400 metres on the stony track to reach a minor road. Bear R and walk SSE down to Wheston where Wheston Hall is now a farm. Wheston stood on an important mediaeval track into the Forest of the Peak. It left Tideswell by Wheston Bank and was known as Kirkgate or Crossgate. There is the base of a cross at 140760, but the hall is one of the most interesting survivals of the mediaeval period in the peak, a wayside cross which marked the road to the forest. It stands in a walled-round enclosure, its tapering shaft on a great stone and a flight of three steps. The cusped head shows the crucifixion on one side and the Madonna and Child on the other. The cross acted as a guide to the traveller and a reminder of its eternal life.

The hall has but few signs of its former grandeur. It has a mid C.18 front, the centre having an upright oval window on the top storey. It has deep round-headed windows in stepped bays. The L wing has been demolished, the N end collapsed in 1952 causing work which altered its appearance. The gate-piers have pine-apple tops; the road just walked might have been an avenue from the hall.

Walk E along the road passing Top Farm on the L; it has massive stone lintels. Continue to Tideswell; time should be taken too study the Cathedral of the Peak.

Leave going NE up the B.6049 to a road junction at the Anchor Pub and Farm; but just before it, go R along a minor road that goes S to Litton. In 300 metres, go L into the garden of Bank Farm then immediately R to some steps in a wall, then into a field, walk uphill SE to a gap in a broken wall, then through the next field wall on the R, and wall in front to some concrete steps. Now walk SE along Litton Edge, going through several stiles, keeping to the R near the wall, and ultimately coming down to the road at 169752.

Bear L and walk NE downhill for 400 metres, then go R through a slot and a sign Cressbrook Dale. Notice Peters Stone in the Dale. Drop in the dale and then walk L up to Wardlow Mires and road at 180756. Walk E past the Three Stags Head on the L for a few metres to a gate on the L to go through gate piers with impressive ball finials into Somerset Farm and through buildings into a field.

Walk N, hedge on L, up to a corner where there are substantial stone steps, walk through another field with Stanley House above. Come to a gate with a stile to come to facing Stanley House, then bear R and walk with wall on the L to the corner. Carry on with wall on the L through several fields to go past buildings on the L; they look substantial: it is Brosterfield Farm. Walk up the drive to the road at 192762.

Walk L for 20 metres, then R at a junction, then L on the A.623. In only a few metres, go L down a lane marked "unsuitable for motors". Carry on this stony lane to the historic village of Eyam. (218764).

Notice the plaques on some of the houses giving details of the plague victims. Go past the church with its history of the vicar "Mompesson" who held the population together so that the disease would not spread. Then past two roads on the R, then head R down a lane called Lydgate which in mediaeval times was the main road and people had to take turns to "watch and ward". Go through a stile where the lane goes L and walk down a jitty to a slot stile and so through a large field past a small wood on the L and go steeply downhill to the L corner to enter Stoney Middleton. The Denmans lived here; one would take his pig with him when riding in his carriage, Joseph and Thomas family were great Victorian reformers. The church is interesting being several sides shaped. Go R before the church and come to the road A.623. Go R along the road over traffic lights and carry on to the start.