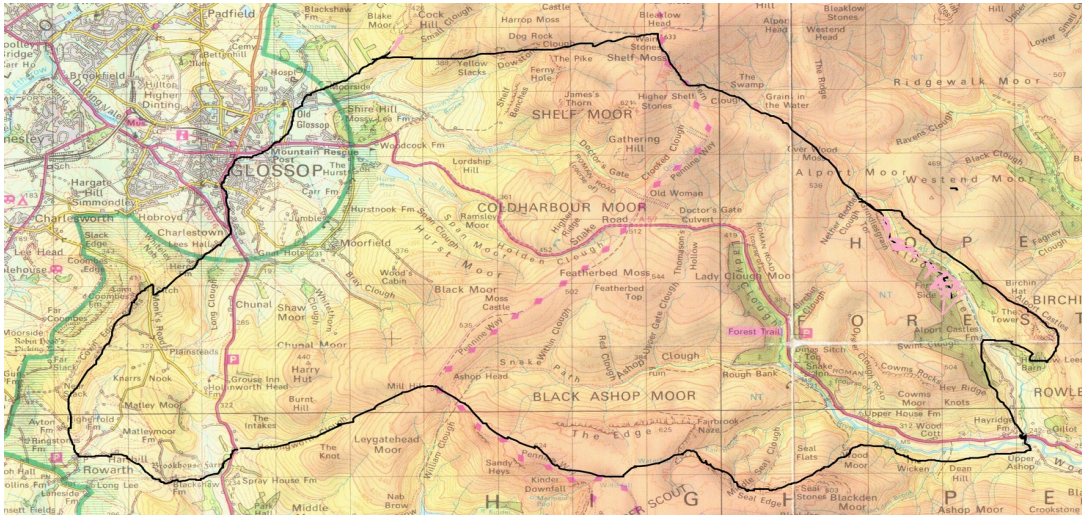


WALK 136.
ALPORT BRIDGE 136.
29-6 Miles. 8 hours 10 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Alport Bridge (142895). Go S to cross the river by bridge or ford. Take the lane up to a gate with ladder stile on the L then proceed to the farm drive where a sign to open country stands. Bear R and walk up to Upper Ashop Farm; go round its garden wall, and then steeply up with wall close to the R and walk E, contouring the steep hillside; go in and out of two Cloughs. The view of the plain area below is relieved by farms across the valley. Ahead interlocking spurs block the view up the valley.

Come to a ladder stile over a wall, then bear L and walk with a view over Blackden Barn on the R. when the wall turns R to drop to the stream, follow it, passing a sign. Cross the stream, then climb the steep hillside, avoiding the usual well-worn path on the R close to the wall on R. now climb higher, up above the usual path and gain height on a good path.

The view improves as the walk goes around the Wicken, but the path thins out as the path straightens out and walk E, contouring at a high level. The eye is caught by Fairbrook Naze ahead. At one point strange mounds are scattered about.

The walk then goes in and out of Dunge Clough, and then proceeds on Wood Moor to Gate Side Clough to then bear L and walk steeply uphill through an area of shooting butts and the remains of a hut. Now join a worn path; the view behind shows the Snake Inn and Oyster Clough. Now walk steeply uphill to an outcrop of gritstone weathered into interesting shapes superior to those of modern sculptors. Seal Stones are just above. Proceed until to come to the well-worn path that goes around the edge of Bleaklow, though still below the top. Bear R and go E along Seal Edge with the great basin of Fairbrook below on the R, a truly impressive sight like that from a plane.

Come to the head of Fairbrook Clough, then bear L and walk on a compass bearing of 250 degrees over the peat-land for a short distance, to come to the bed of the River Kinder which is wide and stony, and provides better walking. Bear R and walk down the bed of the river to the Kinder Downfall (083889). After heavy rain the waterfall can be seen from Stockport.

From the downfall now head for Mill Hill, which means taking the well-used path NW along the edge, a stony track with fine views SW over Kinder Reservoir to Mount Famine. Drop down the far edge and make for a well-known footpath sign that indicates a crossing of paths. Walk up to a post in a cairn (061904).

Follow a worn path on a course of about 270 degrees. The views show a series of whalebacks rising one from another, and Cloughs with interlocking spurs. To the R see Harry Hut where a trig. Point stands at 044907. The path then comes to Burnt Hill overlooking Hollingworth Clough to the S.

A good path now goes W downhill to a double step stile in a fence near a gate, so now walk in an enclosed area, fence on the R. the view has now changed from that of a wilderness to a scene of green fields and farms. Come to a road by a double step stile near a sign to open country.

Cross the road, then walk straight ahead, up a minor road, signed Charlseworth. In about 400 metres, come to a small bungalow and footpath sign on the R; but go L here off the minor road up to a gate signed Knarr's Farm. Continue (more-or-less S) along the farm drive with wall on the L. the view reveals cultivated land. Mount Famine lies to the S.

In 300 metres keep to the drive; do not go L on a path shown on the map and come to Knarr's Farm. Bear L and walk close to the farm on the L, the land rises on the R; walk on level with wall on the L to wall in front to go over a stile. Here the path forks: do not go L, but now walk on rugged ground and ahead rises a fine ridge. Bear R to a ladder stile over a wall, and then go over a field to a stile with stone steps. Below stands Knarrs Nook Farm; bear L and follow the wall on L down through a field to a gateway, no gate or stile; then go to a gate with a ladder stile; a footpath sign stands near (023908).

Now on a minor lane; bear R and walk towards the ridge that dominates the scene, in only 100 metres come to a road junction. Cross straight over to steps in a wall and a footpath sign, then walk N through a field of excellent grass, good wall on the L, climbing gently. At the top come to a weird stile of sleepers leading into a lane. A footpath sign points to the L, go L down this minor lane to Higher Plantation Farm (022913).

Pass along a farm drive towards the high ridge in front and come to Rocks Farm. Go to the house, then bear R and walk up a grassy lane with the house behind. In 50 metres come to an arrangement of stones that can hardly be called a stile; but go through and into grassland and walk with a broken wall and house on the L.

Climb gently with fence on the R and a broken wall on the L. on the R the hill ascends steeply. Come to a gate; go through and meet a worn path that curves and climbs and curves then levels out at the top to see a band of trees to then approach. Suddenly there is a tremendous view to the NW.

Bear R and walk with trees on the L to where they thin out, then see an edge of rock outcrop. Continue: do not take the several step stiles on the L; but walk on a hard track with broken wall on the R and fence on the L. there is a path on other side of the fence; do not take it.

Soon cut off R and contour around the hillside; there is a road below on the L. drop down the hillside towards the road and find a slot stile in the fence in front. Go into a narrow jitty that goes S. go L for a few metres to a road and sign at 022923.

Cross the road to a stile in an electric fence, then walk through grassland, passing a building close on the L. Bear somewhat R from this building and walk on a farm drive to a wall and gate with a slot stile. Continue on this farm drive towards trees, level going, and get a view that rises to the great line of Bleaklow, that this walk takes.

Descend to a wall, go through a gate, and then drop steeply down the hillside to the next wall where there is a stile. Descend less steeply through a field to a wall with a step stile painted white. From this point, the way now is down and is quite steep. Come to a swing gate on the R into a rough lane, and then descend past Herod Farm and Lees Hall which is a striking building. Then come down to a road (034929).

Cross the road, go R at a fork through buildings, and enter Glossop. Leave Glossop near the Firth Rixon Works in old Glossop (045948), and walk E on a hard track to a stream on R. Shire Hill is on the R. come to a gate on R which leads to Doctor's Gate; do not take it but go L over a ladder stile (sign to Open Country) and walk up a short path with wall on the R, fence on the L. This short track leads to a ladder stile and an open Country sign, and begin the long steep slog uphill. Shittern Clough is on the L, and the great scoop of Yellow Slacks opens up on the R. come to a fence with a

single bar for a stile, then continue through open country, going NE past Small Clough on the L. the path is always visible even if a trifle thin at times.

The path turns E and come to the edge of Yellow Slacks which is fenced off. Walk with this fine Clough on the R to reach its highest point, and then follow the path of a feeder stream up Dowstone Clough. A good path follows the stream for much of its way, but eventually break out into peat dunes and walk on a bearing of 120 degrees, no path through this distinctive landscape, to reach Hern Stones. (092953).

Walk E to Hern Clough, then follow the infant stream on a path, stream on the R. on the other side, a path takes walkers going elsewhere. It is a pleasant walk down into this wide basin of Grains in the Water which drains streams either side. This circular valley which is almost enclosed gives you a scene which is rare in these parts.

Where the stream from the Fork Grains joins Hern Clough, take a path on the N side of Alport Clough, a shallow narrow Clough at this point, and walk down the valley, the path rising gently and the stream descending, this gives the impression of a moving landscape. Ahead interlocking spurs, hide the distant scene, there is a long walk before the view opens up in this fine valley.

Before this, however, glimpse the waterfalls and the great cleft in the opposite hillside where Reddale Clough interrupts the smooth wall of grass. At Miry Clough, or before the walker could leave the path to climb and join a path at the highest point in the long ridge. Pass a Trig. Point at 128932 and continue to a point marked Fords on the map (133926) where the path moves to the edge of Alport Dale and walk just below the surface of the ground. A wall of two feet of peat now accompanies on the L; on the R the ground falls away down into the Dale where there is a blanket planting of trees on the other side, and the flat base of the valley where the River Alport meanders down the infant clough with its occasional waterfall.

The path regains the top ground and passes Birchin Hat then the wonderful Alport Castles. Here drop down (145911) on a well-worn path, then go through two gateposts at a sign to open country. The path from this point is a bit tricky especially in inhospitable weather; notice the view of the Castles to the R. drop down to pass a metal sign by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath society, number 107 erected in 1948, one of three linked signs.

Cross the memorial bridge over the river, and then approach the farm buildings where another metal sign stands number 108 erected in 1948. Go through the hamlet which contains a camping barn. Take the road down to the A.57, first going L away from the road going over a double step stile, then a ladder stile and come to the third metal sign, number 106 erected in 1948, and so back to the start.