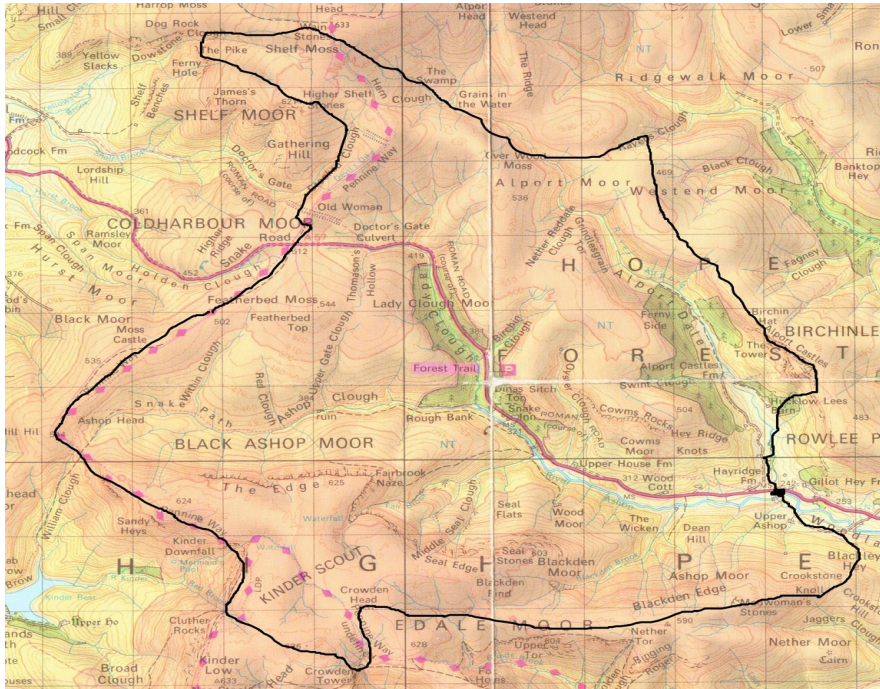


WALK 138.
ALPORT BRIDGE 138.
31 Miles. 8 hours 25 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Alport Bridge (141895). Cross the river by ford or bridge, then proceed on a farm drive up to a gate where there is a ladder stile on the L. Walk SE on the drive passing a sign to open country. Do not take the track that leads to Rowlee Bridge, but continue on the track that begins to climb up the hillside of Blackley Hey. Get views down the valley on the L where the River Ashop flows into the reservoir.

Continue ascending on the road that Romans once used, and come to Blackley Clough to then go over a wooden step stile. A few hundred metres around the corner and find another step stile and a sign to open country; do not take the stile, but go R off the track and walk uphill towards Crookstone Hill on a soft grass path. Pass two prominent and lonely trees near a footpath sign, then continue upwards, with splendid views of the hilltop ridges, one out topping the other.

At a gate, there is a shaky wooden stile. Away to the L, Jaggers Clough cuts its way down the mountainside; soon arrive at the top edge and a gritstone outcrop. Bear L and walk SW on this edge path that goes around the Kinder Scout plateau and soon pass the head of Jaggers Clough; away to the R lay Mad Woman's Stones.

Pass the Clough that descends into Rowland Cote and Youth Hostel, then Ollerbrook Clough and Ringing Roger; Edale can be seen down below. Then Grinsbrook reveals itself and soon arrive at its head.

Bear R and walk along its water-course if weather permits, towards its highest point, then leave the water course and walk on peat to come to sight of Seal Edge to the N. Bear L and walk N to eventually come to the bed of the River Kinder; below Kinder Gates. Bear L and walk SE for a short distance on the river bed (weather permitting).

Soon cut off L away from the river course and walk across the peat, going E so as to walk over Crowden Head, a high point of 2060 feet. Finding this high point is no easy task in this field of

undulating peat; a cairn may offer a clue to the highest point. To the SW see the sharp outline of Kinder Low, a prominent gritstone outcrop in the far distance.

Walk now on a bearing of 140 degrees and see Crowden Tower away to the R and Grinsbrook to the L. now approach the edge path, so turn R and walk on a good path for a welcome change. On the L, the ground falls away into Crowden Clough, a sight that has an additional awesome quality in thick mist, continue on this good path past the gritstone outcrop of Woolpack, Pym Chair and others that bring a feeling of comfort after the featureless wastes of the peat areas.

Walking roughly W, and catch a sight of the Trig. Point at Kinder Low (079870). Bear N so as to explore the ground inland from the edge. Walk through an area of moonscape, grit with some outcrop, and see in front a pole in a cairn; there is another cairn on the R. walk now on a bearing of 340 degrees, then pass another cairn, then revert N to come to the head of a dry stream. Follow the useful track that curves from L to R through the peat; these water-courses reveal how near the surface is the gritstone bed; this one becomes quite rough with an abundance of rock of various shapes and sizes

Walk down a feeder of the Red Brook and come to the edge, the brook cuts into the edge at this point. Walk N on the edge. Note and be impressed by the erosion that has produced the wide cleft that contains the Kinder Downfall (083889).

From the downfall, leave the path and continue exploring the peat areas, walking on a bearing of 350 degrees, then 320. Pass several posts then come to a Trig Point at 077893. Eventually reach the N edge; bear L and walk W with the Ashop Clough below on the R. The Snake Path provides a fine track along it; note the extensive erosion of this fine valley; the view being like an aerial photograph revealing the many feeders of streams that cut down the hillside.

Continue walking W on a good edge path and soon begin to drop down the steep slope towards Mill Hill. Cross the Snake Path and make for a marker on Mill Hill (061905). Bear R and walk NE on the alternative Pennine Way, a straight track that proceeds down without deviating to the A.57 at 087929, where there is a N.T. sign to Ashop Moor, a sign to Open Country and a sign stating that this is the Summit of the Snake Pass.

Cross the road and continue on the Pennine Way to arrive at the Doctors Gate path and sign. Bear L and walk towards Glossop on the Doctors Gate path. In only a few hundred metres, leave the Doctors Gate and bear R up a thin path that goes NE up into Crooked Clough. Go high up above the stream not far from the top. Contour around the steep hillside, enjoying the view across the wide Clough and sheer drop down to the stream.

Start to climb gently, and, all too soon, the stream comes up to join the path; the Clough gets narrower and carries on rising to High Shelf Stones. In just over half a mile; probably at a point called Waterfall on the map, strike off L going NNW over rough ground, no path, the climb gets steeper. Proceed on 320 degrees and eventually come to a wreck of a Super Fortress which crashed on the 03-09-1948. Several airmen died in this crash; it happened in bad weather and the height of the plane must have been misgauged. I am afraid that the wreck is getting smaller as parts are being taken; a plaque has been erected nearby.

Walk to the Trig. Point (089947). Higher Shelf Stones are nearby. The view includes Lower Shelf Stones and James Thorn and the grand wide valley of the Shelf Brook, a modest name for such a deep and wide Clough.

Leave the Trig. Point on a bearing of 320 degrees and walk over rough ground, no path, making for Dowstone Clough (080956), the head of Yellowslacks Clough, another example of the erosion of gritstone. Bear R and walk on the bed of the brook or alongside.

Eventually leave the bed of the stream and walk E to Hern Stones (092953). Bear R and walk on the Pennine Way, going S; the route marked by posts. Soon enter Hern Clough; the Pennine Way leaves the Clough, but the walk continues down the L bank of the Clough, veering down to the L as the walk enters the wide basin of Grains in the Water, which drains the streams that flow from the surrounding hillsides.

This is a fine basin in good weather. Where the path enters Alport Dale, walk on a thin path on the L bank, and thus begins the interesting walk down a valley that gets wider all the time, the

stream falling away down below. All the time, balance precariously on a thin path on a steep hillside as the view unfolds.

When the waterfalls appear, cut directly up L on the steep bank and so reach the high land above. This is where a pass connects Miry Clough in Alport Dale with Ravens Clough in the Westend. When the highest point is reached, the water-shed, walk on a thin path at 60 degrees.

In several hundred metres, go R off this path (to Westend) and go on a route of 150 degrees on the route to Alport Castles. The view includes Higher Shelf Stones, Bleaklow Stones, Grinah Stones and Deep Grain.

In half a mile, pass a Trig. Point at 129932, a useful marker in bad weather. In a further half a mile, the path deviates to the R, and enters and leaves the head of a Clough. Now walk on the R edge of this high land, the ground falling away steeply n the R into Alport Dale. On the L the peat forms a bank three feet high where embedded in the peat are fossilised trees. The river below meandering with prominent loops as it flows over the flat bed it has made for itself.

The path gets easier as the Castles are approached; the formidable and impressive outcrops. Drop down to the R at 145913 off the tops to drop down into the Dale, pass between two grit gateposts where a sign to open country stands. Descend then on a good path, wall on the R, to a ladder stile, then continue down the hillside to the River Alport below. Pass a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society number 108 dated 1948.

Cross the river by the Memorial Bridge then come to another metal sign dated 1948 number 108. Go through the hamlet, pass a camping barn, then walk down a long drive to the A.57, first angle L to go over a step stile, then a ladder stile and then come to another of those linked metal signs, number 106 dated 1948. We must be thankful to the society who made and erected these historic signs; they must have had some technical knowledge to cast the signs. They should last for many generations, and so back to the start.