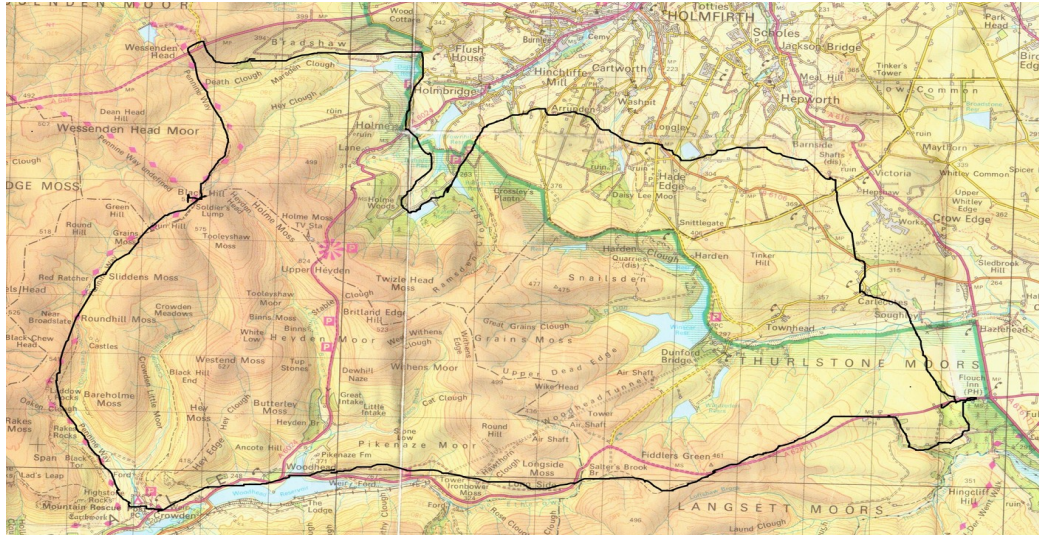


WALK 140.
FLOUCH 140.
27-1 Miles. 7 hours 27 minutes.
Map. Dark Peak. SK00/01



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Start at the Flouch Inn (097015). Go 100 metres W of the Inn to a stile and sign of the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society. The number is missing but the date is 1924. Go over the stile, then walk down a narrow jitty to a stone step stile. Continue in the same direction through trees to a stile then into a grassy area. Do not be tempted to go L along the track but go straight on, wall on the R for 100 metres or so, following the wall when it goes R and go into a lane walking W for 100 metres or so.

Come to a farm gate with a small wooden gate on the L and continue level going. Go through a metal-gate and continue forward for 30 metres, then go R on a wide track between stone walls, open fields on either side. In 200 metres come to a fork; the temptation is to go straight on; do not do so; a footpath sign is clear. Another sign points to the R (Bord Hill), so go R here along a wide track between dark grit walls.

Come to in several hundred metres to a farm drive that cuts across the track; it goes to a farm that can be seen on the L; an impressive large building. Go straight on along Swinden Lane through two metal gates with stiles and a sign to open country. Go forward through rough grass and cart track. In several hundred metres come to a gateway, no stile; an arrow points straight on; a sign states that the path is leaving open country. Come to a metal gate with stile and proceed up a lane with farm on the R with interesting C11 battlements and turrets. Come to the road A.628 at 182012; a bridge -way sign stands here.

Bear L and walk along the road to the Dog and Partridge, then cross the road to a gate and sign public bridleway. Walk on a good track, road away to the L, this track on the map is designated to be a Snow Road. In about a mile, regain the road again and walk along it. Come to on the L a farm gate and stile and a sign to open country (155000). Walk W from this on a good grass path; soon pass Lady Cross on the L, the stump of a cross on a concrete base. This track is an old Salt Way, the route being fairly clear along a sunken track (a hollow-way). Come to the remains of an old holmstead where only a few trees and scraps of stone work survive. Your imagination must supply the rest of the story of life in this bare spot.

Drop down to Salter's Brook, passing a sign to open country; note the reference to the Salters Way. Cross the stream by a stone bridge; away to the R is Salter's Brook Bridge, an impressive but simple construction. Regain the road at 134998; go across the road to a small metal gate and another sign to open country. Walk W on a fine track with views down Crowden Valley and Bleaklow rising on the L.

Come to and pass a sign stating leaving open country. Walk downhill close to gritstone wall on L to Pikenaze Farm, then walk down to the road at Woodhead Bridge (095999). Continue W along the busy A.628.

In half a mile, go R off the road at a farm gate then climb the bank and make for a ladder stile at St James Woodhead, a church and burial ground. Drop down to the road and walk along it to a Youth Hostel at 073993.

A little past the hostel stands a red phone box; a few metres beyond that are steps in a wall leading to a ladder stile. A sign states that this is a footpath to open country. Walk up through some saplings to a ladder stile. Soon start climbing in earnest up a steep bank that eventually passes the quarry-spoil. See the Pennine Way on the other side of the valley.

Strike out on a narrow; path that leaves the wide track and goes ENE uphill, climbing the bank of Crowden Little Brook. The track can be seen that has been left below for a great distance. Continue climbing up to Westend Moss, then White Low, then past Shooting Butts to Toolyshaw Moor to then come to the Trig. Point at Black Hill (078046). Finding the Trig. Point in mist is no easy task.

Take the alternative Pennine Way, going ENE and descend the hillside, not entering Issue Clough as the green line on the map indicates, but keep to the black line. On reaching lower ground, the track turns to NNW and reaches Dean Clough; suddenly come to a deep wide gash in the landscape, the stream flows fiercely down to Digby Reservoir.

Climb the other side and continue through Reap Hill Clough to then reach a wooden step stile and the road A.635 at 075072. Bear R and walk along the road for 100 metres to a ladder stile and a sign to Holme and Digby. It is not open access land.

Drop down to a broken wall and follow it on the L, it then becomes a fence to arrive at a corner. Go through a wide gap and walk with wall on the R on a track that becomes a sunken way. It passes over a stream where the wall on the R is neatly built, then continue to then pass over another stream.

Go through a gateway into a lane with a wall either side on short grass, level going for short distance. Then arrive at a gate with a stile on its L. once over there is a fork; go R and walk E, wall on the R. soon pass a farm buildings on the R, one of them being Goodbent Lodge.

Now walk on Nether Lane, wide track with well-kept walls; and come to a junction of ways, a crossroad; go R downhill, again on a wide lane with wall either side. It bears L, then continues to overlook the reservoir and see a seat in memory of Arthur Butterworth, a good northern name.

Drop down and cross the dam between two reservoirs, Digby on the L. most of the water has flowed down from Dean Clough, seen earlier. Climb the steep bank on the other side to a swing gate, then walk across a field to a wall with another swing gate in it. In this field, bear L and walk with wall on L down to a rough metal gate in a wall, then over a concrete slab.

At this point, the path goes straight on to a well-used track. Resist the urge to follow it; instead go up to the R to a footpath sign seen above. Climb to a wall, a good step stile and a sign then proceed through the middle of the field. In the wall coming to there is a stile that is enclosed by a slab either side: which means a shuffle through it sideways.

Go through the next field diagonally to the R and walk to the far wall with a poor stile. The next field has long rough grass; walk with wall on the L up to a slot stile. From this bear R and go uphill to the next slot stile, but also shuffle slabs: Obviously added later.

Walk through the next field with wall close on the L, noting how hilly the land is here, then come to a slot in the wall. Bear R and climb, go to the R hand corner of this field to enter a grassed lane the enter Holme (107060). Walk to the road junction in the centre of this interesting village which has a history of hand-weaving in cottages whose windows on the upper floor gave light to

those employed in this cottage industry. Pairs of holes in walls show where the tenterhooks were placed to hold the yarn.

Bear R and walk as far as the Fleece Inn to then go L at a footpath sign and walk between houses into a field. Follow a worn grass path to a wall to go through a slot with a metal gate, go forward, wall on the R, then drop through field to a small valley where the Rake Dike flows, then cross it by the Gill Hay Bridge.

Climb to the S out of the valley; it is quite steep up the rough grit steps to a ladder stile on the R of his a sliding door for dogs. Continue uphill on a good path, not now so steep but rough with reeds and broken walls. Soon, the path drops down the other side and goes down steep sides of Netherley Clough. Halfway down, pass a footpath sign to Ramsden. Come to a ladder stile, then cross the wooden footbridge and climb the bank on the other side to a wall above with a slot in it. From this point, climb steeply, but now through a plantation along a wide open ride to come to a wall at the top with steps in it, and a sign nearby.

Now an open area among the trees: go L along a wide hard track between trees to walk then between reservoirs, Riding Wood on the R and Ramsden reservoir on the L (115050). At the far end, bear L, walk past an official house, then bear R up a lane at a sign, going uphill on a stony track between trees. Come to an open area in trees: the path goes round the corner to the R; go L here, downhill on a good path towards trees on the L.

Soon come to a slot stile, then go forward to a ladder stile on the R: the map shows to be Tinker Well. Climb up through rough grass and reeds for a short distance, then go L over a slab and enter a field. Come to some walls and walk with wall on the L. soon enter a lane with wall either side, level going on good grass, and a step stile on the L: do not take. At a gate, go through a swing gate on the L then walk through a field, wall on the L and come to another gate with swing gate. Now walk away from the wall on L and climb gently to a section of wall on the R, then go through a metal gate intended for slim people only.

Do not go R with the track, but go straight on to a gateway with slot on the R, and soon pick up a wall on the R and come to a gate and enter a small area of trees. This is the head of Dobb Dike; the land falls away steeply on the L as the walk goes on a level track made for horse and cart. This track goes round the head of the Dike and climbs through a field with a wall on the L to come to a metal gate, a sign and a road at 128055.

Cross the road and enter a dirt road which is long, straight with walls either side. It passes a building on the R named Elysium, a classical reference; the building has a certain style. Go straight across a road junction, crossing over Cartwirth Moor Road. A building on the L has no windows; its stones are accurately cut. Soon come to a gate across the track.

Go L here at a sign over steps in a wall, and walk with Don Forest on the R, walking on the R of a large field to a poor stile at its far end. Drop down here through trees, going to the L on Slippery Stones to a brook in Fox Clough. There are massive stone steps on the other side to climb up a bank up to a sign; in two metres go through a wooden gate and walk past a ruined house on the L; it seems quite extensive.

Now walk with Fox Clough below on the R, an interesting area. Keep to the R and drop down through a swing gate and now walk on the level of the stream. Do not go over the footbridge on the R but continue through trees to a sign on L. Take this and pass a building of the water authority; come to a footbridge in elegant metal. The River Ribble flows underneath. From this, climb up a steep bank; on the R is an earth dam holding back the reservoir. At the top, come to a wall with a slot and a sign. The area is named Mount on the map.

Continue uphill on a cart track, wall on the L, and reach a road and two signs (141057). Cross the road and go straight up a bank on rough steps to a fence where a cross-bar manages as a stile. Climb up a bank and see on the R a reservoir. Pass close to a farm building on the L and climb uphill through a field to a fence which surrounds another reservoir. There are many reservoirs in these parts.

Do not go through a stile, but bear R and walk close to a wall on the L and come to a road at 143056. Bear L and walk uphill round a corner and get a view on the R of the landscape to the W

that has been walked. Continue past Hade Edge School on the L. go over a road junction and continue down to another road junction; bear R and walk along Penistone Road.

Walk 300 metres along Penistone Road then, at a road junction, bear L and walk NE past the reservoir on the L. continue to a road junction at 158058 and go straight forward on to a lane. Eventually, the surface deteriorates into a rough, stony track and even becomes a sunken track.

Now arrive at Ox Lee, a ruined farmhouse, there is a footpath sign here because there is a junction of four paths; go R from the sign, climbing gentle through trees into an area of rough grass to reach a blocked gateway; get over this obstacle and make for the road where there is a sign and stile (170049).

Bear R and walk a few hundred metres to a road junction, to bear L and walk SE. A large sign welcomes to Barnsley; pass on the L industrial workings. In just under a mile come to a road junction to turn R and walk through the interesting village of Carlecoates. At a traffic sign, bear L at a sign and walk through houses to a step stile, then through a farmyard, going L to a gate, then walk down a farm drive.

Walk down this drive with trees on the L; go through a gate and walk with wall on the L. Where the wall goes L follow it, walking through a field to a gateway, no gate, in a wall ahead. Bear R, and go diagonally through the next field to stone steps in a wall. This is pleasant walking on good grass; make for houses you can see in the distance and come down to a gate; go through this on to a short lane and a road (186030).

This is marked Soughley on the map. Go R here towards a strange building with an immense wooden front painted white; it could let a tram through. What was it designed for? Walk on the R of this building to a step stile, then on to a footbridge over the River Don, then L, in 30 metres enter a lane and bear R to a step stile. Walk now up a narrow lane with wall either side with paving up the middle.

Now reach a disused railway by a bridge. Go 40 metres to a swing gate on the R, then walk S, hedge on the L, ditch on the R, to a swing gate, then reach the A.628 at 192015. Signs indicate a bridleway and a footpath to Hazelhead and Carlecoates. Go L on the road back to the start.