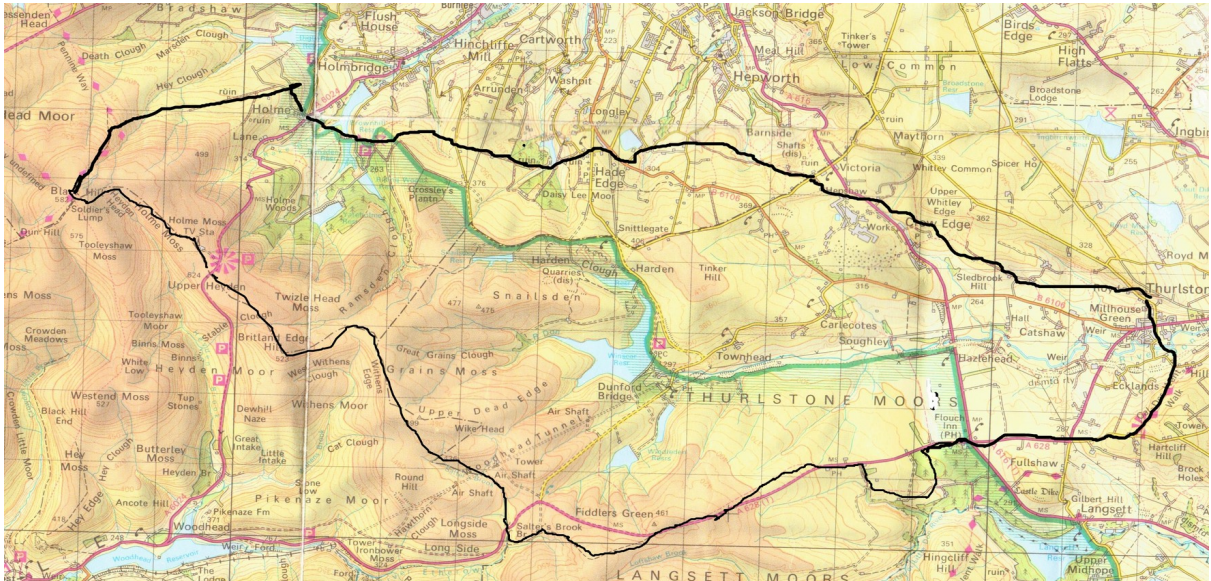


WALK 142.
FLOUCH INN. 142.
31 Miles. 8 hours 30 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start near the Flouch Inn (197015). Go 100 metres W of the Inn, at a metal sign erected by the P.D. and N.C. Footpath Society, the number is missing, the date is 1924. Go over a stile at the sign and walk 100 metres along a jitty to stone steps. Continue in the same direction through trees to a stile in a grassy area. Do not be tempted to go L. but go straight on, wall on the R for 100 metres; following the wall around as it goes to the R. Go into a lane walking W.

Come to a farm gate with a gate on its 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 sign makes this 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 a farm drive that cuts across the track; it goes to a farm on the L. Go straight on along Swinden Lane through two metal gates and a sign to open country. Go forward on rough grass and a cart track. In several hundred metres come to a gate with a sign stating go straight on; and a sign states leave open country. Come to a metal gate with a stile on its L. proceed up a lane with a farm on the R with interesting C.19 battlements and turrets. Come to the A.628 at 182012. A bridleway sign stands near.

Bear L and walk along the road to the Dog and Partridge, then cross the road to a gate and a sign stating that this is a public Bye-way. Walk on a good track with the road on the L. 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 homestead 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.

Continue towards Salter's Brook Bridge, another indication of the old packhorse route. Just before the stream is reached, cut across on high ground towards the bridge, and get a fine view of

the fascinating arch set in a stone buttress of the strong but simple bridge, its great voussoirs adding to the interest to the design.

Attain the road at the bridge (137001). Go L across the bridge to the other side where there is on the R a ladder stile near a sign to Open Country. Now start the route up to the Holme Moss T. V. Mast. Go N on a worn path through the grass; the tiny clough that produced so great a bridge is down to the R. generally keep fairly close to the boundary fence on the R. cross the tiny stream that comes down Netherhead Clough on the R, and soon lose the worn path.

The fence on the R curves around to the L and walk on an angle on 340 degrees, contouring around the hillside of Longside Moss through small field system, the walls are broken. It is difficult making the way through the clumps of long grass; on the other side of this small Clough, a bank rises up, its foot covered with scattered scree.

Continue and rise up alongside the Clough, catch up on the L earthworks left by the construction of the Woodhead Tunnel, a typical ventilation tower rearing up into the sky above. Now walk on about 280 degrees with the Upper Head Dike still there on the R. the fence still marking the boundary of open country.

Eventually, at 127011, come to a step stile in the fence. Go over it and walk NE over rough grass climbing only gently but gaining fine views down to the S. Look for a line of stakes; difficult to find in mist. Strangely the line of posts, all in a dead straight line, having no wire whatsoever attached to them. Climb on a worn path alongside the posts up the Upper Head, through Wike Head to Upper Dead Edge, passing on the way a stone in the ground carved with an arrowhead and figures 91. Another one has WSS.

In half a mile or so, the line of posts swings around and follow on a thin worn path on a course of about 280 degrees. Another stone is passed bearing an arrow and 91, soon reach the Trig. Point at 124017. Continue on level ground across this narrow strip of land, that is the watershed between NE and SW. a thin path goes fairly straight, following a pronounced ditch for some time before crossing it and then crossing another. Eventually walk on Withen Edge with the great open West Withen Clough falling away on the L, an impressive feature. For some time walk N, then follow the edge around, and then follow a course of 240 degrees that changes to 340. On a fine day the T.V. Mast will guild one to itself; walking on rough grass, slow going. Come to a ladder stile, a sign to the boundary of open country and the A.6024 at 096036.

Cross the road and walk past the high T.V. mast, walking on a course of about 320 degrees with the land falling away on the L into Hayden Clough. At Hayden Head, bear L and walk over level ground to Black Hill (078047).

Walk N away from this focal point to the edge, then drop down the side of Issue Clough so as to reach the stream at a point where a good path goes off ENE to Issue Road. This hard, wide track continues in a dead straight line, generally level. Open at first, the road enters an area between fields to walk between dark gritstone walls, the view extending to a ridge of hills on the other side which cradle the Digley Reservoir.

Walk now into the village of Holme, once the scene of weaving (107059). Bear L at the centre, then, in only 100 metres, go R at a footpath sign down a jitty alongside Underhill House. Go through a slot into a field; on the R is an interesting covered swimming pool in the garden of Underhill house. In only 100 metres or so, go L over steps into a narrow path, wall on the R, down to a wide slot in a wall, then immediately R to another slot, then diagonally down through a field.

On the L is a wooded valley into which the path goes, dropping to a footbridge, then up the other side of this charming little glade, such a pleasant change from the featureless moors. The path soon enters another such valley and crosses between Ramsden and Brownhill Reservoirs to reach the road at 114057.

Bear R and walk 100 metres or so to a footpath sign, a gateway and slot on the L to go through, then walk up a wide, pleasant lane with a car park on the R belonging to Yateholme Fishing Club. With trees on the R and a tiny stream on the L, now walk on a fine short grass past a picnic area, then up to a ladder stile. Go 10 metres through rough grass, then go L over a footbridge and diagonally R through a field to an area of walls then enter and walk with wall on the L.

Go NE along a lane on grass, the walls tall and dark with good cappings. Pass a stile on the L with massive stone steps on the way to a farm gate on the L, leading into a field, wall on L, and a second farm gate with swing gate on L. climbing gently. Pass Moss Edge Farm on the L and make the way up through a field to a metal farm gate.

From this gate, go straight on, resisting the temptation to follow a marked track to the R; come to a farm gate that admits to a wooded area which is part of Dob Dike, a Clough whose stream flows N into the River Holme below. Walk on level path around the head of this pleasant Clough where trees grow on the interlocking spurs to produce a feature typical of gritstone valleys. Then climb up on the track to follow on the L, a grit wall well-made and neatly kept; it leads to a gate, a footpath sign and a road at 128055.

Cross the road to a wide lane that goes straight SE between fields, good walking, and level going. Pass on the R a farm classically named Elysium, well built with three circular windows. A little further on stands a farm building with no windows but whose stones have been cut with amazing accuracy. Come to a gateway, no gate, but steps on the R and a sign on the L; carry straight on.

Now walk through Holme Styles Wood. At a fork in several hundred metres, do not go L but proceed straight on to be confronted with a view down into Baynard Clough, a wooded valley. Go L down the side of the Clough to the head of a reservoir; then walk with reservoir on the L to a gate and stone steps, with its own gate on the R. walk a hundred metres up the wide lane, then go R up a steep bank to a gate and a wooden step stile (142054).

Walk ENE through a field, wall on the L, rising gently past a farm building with blocked mullioned windows and strong quoins, a former residence. Follow the wall up to a tall ladder stile at the top and so to the road (144055). Bear R and walk along the road to pass Hade Edge junior school. At a road junction, go straight across and walk down to a second junction where to fork R and walk along Penistone Road.

In several hundred metres, go L down Strines Road and walk past the sailing club on the L. arrive at a road junction where Far Lane goes L and Bent Lane goes R; go straight across, walking SE on a lane (Ox Lee Lane), a hard track between fields. The lane climbs a bit, curves a bit and deteriorates but eventually leads to Ox Lee Farm, disused buildings which once must have been a farmstead, well built (168054).

Here stands a figure signpost. From it, go straight on climbing up a rough hillside, curving up R to a swing gate, then curving L to another. Walk on level ground, wall on the R, into an untidy lane. Go through a metal gate into a field, low wall on the L, and reach a road at 175052.

Bear L and walk NE for a few hundred metres to Victoria, a small hamlet on a road junction. Go R here to walk SE along the road that passes quite close to an enormous works. In just under a mile, at 187045, come to a public house, the Pennine Inn with four cottages attached. Go R here at a sign to a gate, no stile, then walk down a hard lane through an area marking a disused mine still remembered by the local people.

Follow this hard track to a gate, then continue to go R into a field to a disused but impressive Lower Whitley Farm (191044). At this time of walking a detour had to be made which was disrupted by open cast workings: past the farm building, go through gateposts, no gate, into a small field. Go R to a wooden step stile in a wall, then walk down a wider green track to cross, what in wet weather would be a small stream, now dry. This is the head of Sledbrook Dike.

At this point, go forward so as to walk with wall close on L, walking SE towards Middle Cliff Farm which is appropriately if unintentionally named; open cast mining has removed so much soil as to leave the farm perched on a Cliffside.

Soon come to a fence around the workings, so go L and follow the fence as it turns R towards the farm. Come to old walls that enclose a lane down which comes a footpath from the N. Join this and go forward over a fence, then walk through a field with fence on R overlooking the precipitous edge of the workings. A sign warns against the dangers lurking on the R. the cows here chewing the cud seem unperturbed.

Approach the farm buildings and go through a farm gate on the R then enter the farm drive which has a hard tarmac surface. It can be seen what an impressive long courtyard the farm has.

Walk SE on this drive; pass Illions, a farm on the R, and go down to Flash House, a farm neatly enclosed by trees. Follow the drive around it as it curves to the L to climb up to Small Shaw, an interesting farmhouse with old mullioned and transomed windows. Bear R so as to walk with farm on the L; pass to the R of a new, large farm building and go down a lane covered with rough of pipes that makes walking difficult.

In several hundred metres, the lane terminates, to step over wire into a field; and what a field! Several walls have been removed, so go straight down the middle, with fine views down the valley, to reach the far end and a gateway.

Go S through a field down the road at 213033; well not quite to the road. Here stands a footpath sign at a stile in the low wall; as soon as over the stile, turn and go L over another part of the same stile into a field. So change direction at this unique stile.

Having turned through 180 degrees, walk ENE along a field with the steep bank of Rough Brow on the R. come to stone steps in the wall, then enter a field and walk E with a low dark wall on the L, to come to a wall with a magnificent strong stone step thrust through it. In the next field, bear L and walk for 200 metres to a gateway into a field to then walk uphill diagonally to the wall at the top to go R through a gap in a fence and walk close to wall on the L, to more strong steps in the wall.

In the next field, go uphill, wall on the R, to the top where a sign erected by Barnsley stands guard over stone steps in the wall, then emerge out on to a road at 219036. Go L uphill for 100 metres then go R at another sign and walk along a lane, going E up High Bank until the top is reached and a sign. Join here, an old wide track. Go R.

Now walk downhill on this lane towards Thurlstone with views to Penistone where the C.15 church can be seen, and the impressive C.19 viaduct. Now come down into Thurlstone near the Post Office. Go forward to the bridge over the River Don, on the R stands a C.19 corn mill.

Thurlstone like many other local villages, has weaver's cottages. Opposite the post office, there is a sign stating that there are converted cottages with long mullioned windows. At the bridge, go R up Rock Hill, climbing up the valley side, to cross a disused railway, then continuing to the top, to stop climbing and turn R. the view to the N and W is superb. The route hitherto can be traced, including the huge field, and the prominent bank.

Descend as far as Hill Side House (226027). A house nearby is dated 1727. Go L here at a sign, walking up a lane to reach a swing gate and enter a field. Ahead is Hartcliffe Brow. Now this is pleasant walking on level ground, wall on the L, the ground falling away on the R. Go into a second field and come to a swing gate that leads to a narrow footpath round the hillside.

Skirt the trees, contouring the hillside until a road is reached at 220016. Bear R and walk to the start.