WALK.26
CALVER.26
22. Miles
Map White Peak. Dark Peak.



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Start at Calver (241746) with its mill built by Richard Arkwright in 1802; its gaunt front was used in some of the scenes in the film Colditz. Proceed on the road NW to the traffic lights and the Eyre Arms Inn at Calver Sough; it gets its name from a mine drainage channel which emerges near here. Continue NW along the road to Stoney Middleton which lies at the foot of Middleton Dale, a spectacular cliff-lined valley. Turn right into the village and walk down to the church with the perpendicular octagonal nave and tower built by Joan Eyre to commemorate her husband's safe return from Agincourt. Near the church, there is an old stone bath built over a hot spring; this was erected by the Denman family. Thomas was a judge in Victorian England: a man of high moral character and a vigorous opponent of slavery. His son Thomas kept black pigs which he took in his carriage to give as gifts to his friends. Continue past a slot stile on the right and keep to the lane which rises fairly steeply and relentlessly until it reaches a road at the top (234759). Note on the right, a sign and slot stile: do not use this but cross the road to a gateway where there is a slot stile on its right, and walk NW through a field close to the wall on the right. There are good views to the right where the Derwent comes down from Hathersage, and to the S over the ridge where Deep Rake, a lead vane, was worked. Enter a short lane, wall either side,

still climbing, and go into open moorland through gorse and fern, trees to the left, and good views over Middleton Dale. Continue on a path with banks rising on either side through trees, and, at the top meet a path that comes up from the right. Go left along this path and then along the edge of a ridge with a drop down to the left. At the metal gate ahead, there is a slot on the left, and a sign. This leads out to a good farm drive to Top Riley on the right, and down to Eyam on the left. Turn left and go down hill; good views to the Longstone Edge: note the T.V. mast on Calver Peak. Note the Riley Graves in a field on the right with a stonewall protecting them. Here members of the Hancock family are buried (228764); the mother was the last member of the family left alive in the Eyam Plague; she had to bury her husband and all the sons and daughters. Descend to the road to Eyam. The houses of the village start here with Council Houses on your L and private houses on the R. Go forward, downhill for about 100+ yards

This village is famous for the fact that in 1650 someone sent to a house in Eyam some clothes from London. In those very clothes were the fleas that carried the fatal plague from London to the village. It killed so many of the inhabitants of Eyam that the surrounding villagers were terrified for their own safety. However, they generously brought food, leaving it outside the village at a well. The inhabitants of Eyam left their money in the water of the well which they thought would purify the it.

At this point just before the chapel on the L, turn sharp right on a narrow road between houses then angle right then left to go uphill N to a gateway with a gritstone slot on its left. Then uphill through interesting woods where Hollow Brook flows. Eventually a slot stile is reached at the top and so out on to a road junction at 222770. Turn right and walk N along the Edge Road passing the Mompesson Well on your left at 223772. This is the well where the money was left for food during the plague. Mompesson was the vicar who organized the village during those terrible times and kept the plague from spreading. Proceed along the road; notice the Ladywash Mine on the left with a mast beyond it. Where the road curves to the right there are two ladder stiles in the facing wall. Take the one on the left. Near to it is a sign set up by the admirable Peak and Northern Counties Footpath Preservation Society. This is sign No 78 1933. Footpath via Stoke Ford to Abney. What good work they have done for us in their day. So over the stile and on to a good path, walking NW close to the wall on the right. This is Eyam Moor; Sir William Hill is away to the left. On the right lies Wet Withens with its stone circles and Bronze Age barrows.

Follow the good path with the wall as its marker until it comes down to a gate and stile at 213788. Go over this then walk downhill with the wall still on the right and the edge of a steep drop to the left, breathtaking views all around. Go first NW then ENE, over another stile then continue downhill, curving left to walk to Stoke Ford (211795). This is the junction of four paths and old routes. It has a P and NCFP Society sign No 99. 1939 to Grindleford and Eyam by Gotheridge Barn. Someone must have had good metal casting knowledge as they are still in good condition. So over the footbridge then another footbridge, then bear left to walk uphill NW along Abney Clough through trees, an interesting route uphill along a valley with steep sides at first. High up on the left is Abney Low around which the path goes W then SW. Go through a gate, then turn NW away from the stream to a gate with a stile on its right, then walk along a muddy track to the road at Abney (198798). It is a hamlet of a few farms, some of them now holiday homes; it is mentioned in Doomsday Book and is probably no bigger now than it was then. Turn left along the road; look for an old letterbox with VR on it. At this point, a lane goes up to the right; take it and walk NW up it to its end. (Change to Dark Peak Map).

Turn right on good track then walk NE over Shatton Moor with wall on the right, past Wolf Pit: an ominous name, enter Shatton Lane and walk to a signal mast at 195813. The view to the left is of Lady Bower Dam and Hope Valley. The road descends a little from this point; in 100 yards leave the road to go left through a gate, and survey the dramatic steep drop in front.

Drop down the steep hillside to a wire fence at the bottom of the valley. Turn right and walk uphill close to the fence on the left to come to a farm gate and so out on to the road which

you have left above. Turn left and walk downhill to Shatton to a road junction where Townfield Lane goes off left on its ancient Roman route to Brough (Navio); note how deep it is sunk between its banks, normally a sign of heavy use. Instead go right through Shatton which has some interesting old buildings of gritstone. Continue on the road to the junction with the A.625 at 203826; turn left then walk W towards Hope for 500 yards, then turn right up a lane to Thornhill. Thornhill Hall was once the main seat of the Eyre Family. The original Eyre came to England with William the Conqueror and fought at the Battle of Hastings, where he lost an arm. At a fork in the lane, go left, pass a church with a prominent trefoil window and, in 100 yards go right up Townhead Lane, which becomes a path going NW up to Win Hill. There are good views to the right of the Lady Bower Reservoir. Pass through a slot stile on the right of a gate and continue upwards. Pass through several gates, then the path levels out a little and enters a wood where there is a path from the right coming up from Yorkshire Bridge below. Turn left and ascend the slope to a wooden ladder stile that leads to the final section up to Win Hill, a scramble to the summit (one of the few pointed summits in Derbyshire), where the views are extraordinary in all directions; this is rightly marked on the map as a viewpoint.

Leave Win Hill, going W for 350 yards, then drop down to the left to a ladder stile. Descend SW through three fields to enter a lane then walk SE down to a ruined farm building and a gate with stile Continue along a lane that is difficult in wet conditions. This comes out on to a good drive to Edge Farm. Turn right; walk down to a junction with a minor road. Turn left and, in 10 yards, turn right at a sign and go through a poor wood and gritstone slot stile. This point is Aston. Walk S through a good field, level going, stream on left, to a wooden step and bar stile. The next stile consists of some bars from tree to fence. The route is quite pleasant: level going on a good surface. The next stile is a familiar, traditional gritstone slot stile, much more reliable than the new wooden gates with latch and spring. The path leads to a metal wicket gate that is not needed because the hedge has disappeared leaving the gate isolated. On the left a footbridge crosses a stream: do not take it but continue S to a step stile, then down to another metal wicket gate which gives access to a footbridge over the railway. From the bridge, go straight forward to a white gate, turn left, go 50 yards, then turn right through a wooden wicket gate, then down to a second wicket gate, and so into a field. Keep close to a fence on the left, and in the corner, go over a wooden step stile on to a second step stile and proceed through a field, level going, stream on the left, down to a slot stile, and so out on to a road at 181830.

Turn left and walk 200 yards along the A.625 then go right through a step stile into a field, level going; on the right is the river Noe which was known to the Romans who built a fort near here; they called it Navio (181827); it lies just across the river. In a wet season the river looks quite powerful as the water flows over the weir built to assist the mill, which is still there. Turn right on the road, go over the bridge by the footbridge and notice the great, solid stone arches of the road bridge. The date 1842 is carved into one of the round cutwaters. Walk SW towards Bradwell on the B.6049 for 150 yards, then turn left up Brough Lane, a metalled road, then immediately right so as to walk close to the back of houses where a sign states: “Public footpath to Bradwell”. Go left, gardens either side, to a gate in 20 yards, and a gritstone slot stile with a gate of its own that goes into a field where walking is pleasant and easy. Bear right: walk SSW to a sign ahead, where there is a slot stile that is no longer needed since the hedge has gone. From this point to Bradwell, the route is level, easy walking with hedge on the right and within view of the Roman road (Batham Gate) to the right. At a metal gate, take the stile and note the probable entrance to a mine. Go on to a step and bar stile, then a metal gate with a stile on its left, then walk with the fence on the left to an open gateway leading into a field with a hedge close on the right. Move away from the hedge to a gritstone stile that can be seen ahead. From this stile, walk across an open field to the left side of a building. This is Lee House. Cross a farm drive and go to a stile made of two large uprights. In the next field, the hedge is on the left. Make for a slot ahead, then proceed forward to another slot, a building to the right. Go through a stile and over a small stream; through yet another slot. A wall ahead also contains a slot: go forward

to a gate with a slot on its right, then in 40 yards to a building, through another wall to a slot at the side of a gate and so into a lane which leads into Bradwell at 174811. The Bradwell Brook flows on the right; in bad weather it looks alarmingly dangerous as it passes under a building.

At the main road, turn left and walk S through Bradwell which was mainly a lead mining village. Near the New Bath Hotel, a Roman Bath was found. Pass the Parish Church (1867-8) on the left. (Change to White Peak Map). Walk S out of Bradwell on road, no footpath, taking care of traffic; through Bradwell Dale where huge rock outcrops dominate the road, to pass Hazelbadge Hall, once a noble house which Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall brought to her husband Sir John Manners. It is now a farm. But the mullioned windows of five and six lights, and the coat of arms of the Vernon and Swynnerton families on the W gable give the strongest hint of its former glories. In 200 yards, go left off the road up a lane at 171797, walking S gently uphill through interesting scenery: to the left a prominent feature Durham Edge. The lane reaches huge farm buildings (Quarters Farm). Keep to the right of these buildings, through a gate; go uphill through a field to a stile in a facing wall; over this then keep the wall on the left for two fields, then angle slightly right to walk through two fields with the wall still on the left; these can be muddy: Durham Edge away up to the left. Then proceed on to a farm track still with wall or hedge on left eventually reaching a rough lane. Turn left on this and walk uphill to Great Hucklow past the remains of a lead mine on the left. Turn left at the top to enter the village noting several houses of simple but satisfying design. There is no doubt that local builders of such gritstone buildings in Derbyshire villages used features that had gone out of date elsewhere but continued to please the local villages: the strong dressings around doors and windows; noble quoins; prominent shoulders on gables, some, as here, with balls on them; hood moulds and mullions. These can be seen on relatively humble houses as well as the manor house or hall.

Walk E through and out of the village, to turn right at a sign to Grindlow, then in 400 yards where the road turns sharp right at 182774, leave the road to go left down a lane; a sign indicates the way. Walk SE down the lane on soft grass and stone flagstones (and mud) to reach a gate with a stile on its left: Hucklow Edge away to the left. Walk through a field to a facing wall then into a smaller field to walk over the drive to Roods Farm on the left to a stile in the wall then through another field to come out on to a road at 188768.

Turn left and walk down to Foolow; an altogether agreeable little village where the walk goes past a duck pond where often a dozen ducks waggle around near a mediaeval cross on a base dated 1868. There is a small C.17 hall and a striking Wesley Reform Chapel with a heavy Tuscan porch. Walk 250 yards E out of the village passing a hostelry on the left to a point at 193768 to leave the road through a stile on the right. Walk SE across the field to a small building ahead looking to the ridge on the left where a mast stands out against the sky above the Ladywash Mine. Ahead a line of trees breaks the skyline with its delicate fretwork. To the right, the fields provide another pattern inside their strong walls, a sight we should be glad to see when we consider how many hedges and walls have been removed in other counties. Over the stile then walk through four fields with wall on the right, then drop down in to Linen Dale, over a wall by stone steps, then up the bank to a broken wall, no stile.

To the right some trees stand alone; if only there were more. Make for a sign ahead going E, then a ladder stile, and through broken walls to a metal gate that leads into a lane. Cross the lane to a gritstone slot stile in a limestone wall, then go 30 yards to a slot in a wall, then 30 yards again to a pair of gritstone uprights still going E. Navigate through broken walls to a slot stile, then a stile of stone steps, and through a narrow field to steps at the far end; to the left in the distance is an old building midst trees. The path descends through the next field where there is a good view of Eyam with Froggatt Edge in the distance. Note on the left, a farm aptly named Eyam View Farm. Go downhill through a slot, bypass the next slot, use the step and slot, then come to a jitty between houses, cross a narrow road and make for another jitty between houses, then down hill on road and on to the main road in Eyam at 216765. Turn right and walk through this famous village; it takes time to visit all the notable sites most of which are signed. On the

left is Eyam Hall, built by the Wright family in 1676, though parts are older. A staircase was brought here from the former Bradshaw Hall. The storeys are divided by prominent stringcourses; the windows are low and mullioned, with three or four lights. A pair of old stocks stands across the road

Go past the church. Like many other churches, St Lawrence has been altered in rebuilding, but there remains from Norman times two fonts. A great deal of the church is C.13: the chancel and north arcade, the archway to the tower is C.14. The sundial was set up in 1775, it indicates not only the time of day, but also the parallel of the sun's declination for the months of the year. In the churchyard, there is an important Saxon cross dating from the C.9, famous for its carved images. Go over a junction, cross roads, pass a Bull Ring on the left then, leave Eyam via Lydgate to the right; pass the plague houses on the right with their graves, go to the top where there is a gate with a slot on its right and a sign to Stoney Middleton. Go down a lane, which emerges into a field and leave this path to go left through a slot which is an entrance to a narrow jitty from which you emerge into a field. Walk SE to the brow of the hill from which Derbyshire's miniature landscape is found to be enthralling. Carry on SE over the brow and down to a wooden step stile, turn right and thus go into Stoney Middleton downhill past houses on both sides; one of them on the left was given to the village by Baron Denham as a reading room. At the bottom of the hill facing the church, turn right then turn left on to the main road; through traffic lights and back to the start.

CHECKED TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2004.