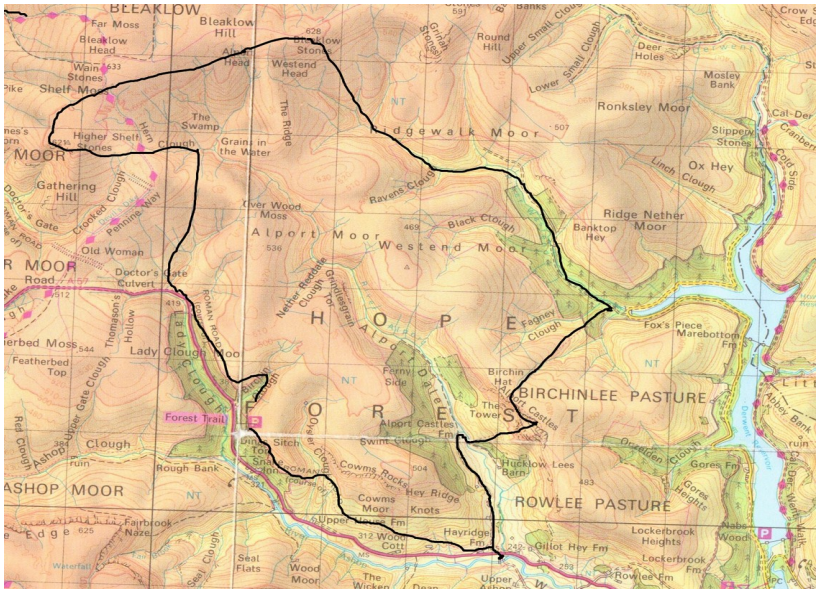
# WALK 79.
# ALPORT BRIDGE. 79.
# 20-6 miles. 6 hours 6 minutes.
# Map Dark Peak.




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Start at Alport Bridge (142896) on the A.57. (Snake Road). Go N off the road over a stile near a sign erected by the Peak District and Northern F. P. Preservation Society. in 1948. No.106. Go up to a ladder stile over a wall, then up a bank to another wood stile, then up to a farm track to a sign to Alport Dale via the Castles. Go N on this hard track to Alport Farm. Go through the yard then around the back and bear R so as to pass another sign erected by the above society. Number 108 erected in 1948.

Go down to the strong wooden footbridge look for a sign that shows the footpath uphill from the river. Walk with fence on R and come to another sign erected in 1948. Number 107.The path levels out before tackling the formidable climb up to the Castles. Pass a cairn holding up a post, then a strong ladder stile over a wall to then climb to a gateway to a sign proclaiming Open Country. Soon to reach the top path with views; Kinder dominates the view. It is always of interest up here to watch how the skyline changes as the walks progress.

Turn L and walk a few hundred metres then turn R so as to walk NE over rough ground, no path. This is not the route marked by the green lines on the map, but a route down to Green Clough; difficult to follow with only scraps of path here and there; sheep paths as well. There is a slight one that goes in the general direction of Green Clough to eventually go downhill along the head of a Clough; stumps of trees lying around, rare finds.

Leave the Clough which is growing rapidly deeper and walk on its R bank. The Clough drops with almost vertical suddenness. It is now difficult to clamber down the steep bank clutching heather for support to make way down to a junction of streams; this is Green Clough. At stream level, find way with difficulty, Clough hopping; crossing the stream back and forth. Continue past the junction of streams, and make the most of the little room before arriving at a broken wall. Leave the stream by going R and walk along the hillside through fern towards a plantation ( Ditch Clough Plantation) to eventually see up Ditch Clough to the SW. well above, enter the woods at a broken wall (153928) and make the way down to the main track at 154928. Turn L and walk NW; almost immediately, the public footpath to Alport goes steeply uphill past a metal sign. Do not take it but continue on the pleasant path through the plantation until the footbridge is reached; one for a

passage of vehicles (146937). Do not cross it, but go L through the trees. Climb steadily to the corner of the plantation, then turn R to walk N close to the fence on the R around the plantation. The land falls on the L and the R so as to walk on the contour through tufted grass until the end of the trees are reached, to find a worn path.

Go around the shoulder of the hillside, the path becomes surprisingly good, the path then enters Ravens Clough and climbs back out round the hillside. Drop down to stream level just where it cuts its way through a pleasant little gorge and makes a pool with high walls. Pass mounds that have resisted the stream and enter a wide flat area where Deep Grain flows down to join the stream. Here, pass a rain gauge (124951). A little further up, two streams have come down their Cloughs to join forces. Go R up the innocuous one at 122952.

For a hundred metres, walk N through the valley to where two streams join their waters, go R again up the minor clough and continue to go N. it is back to Clough hopping again, at last to emerge into the heather clad countryside and make for Bleaklow Stones which can be seen above; now it is heather hopping; high stepping it up heathery slopes, and thus to reach Bleaklow Stones (112964). On a nice day the views are extensive.

Leave Bleaklow Stones on a worn path; but leave to one just below the top path, going W, towards Fork Stones. There are two rock outcrops here. Keep to the top of the first, but below the second as the lip of the huge bowl is rounded. Walk in and out of several groughs which fortunately are not deep to Hern Stones ((092953). Cross the Pennine Way and make for Higher Shelf Stones trig. Point (089947), a remarkable viewpoint with a truly panoramic scene. The evidence of the hundreds who have stopped at this point can be seen in the carvings in the stones.

Turn to walk back to the Alport, passing a wrecked aircraft from the 1938 to 45 war and think of the aircraft men who died in the plane in misty weather. Re-cross the Pennine Way but keep to the high ground above Hern Clough. Walk, now, to the SE threading some groughs the biggest of which are exceedingly deep and awkward to negotiate. This new direction brings within view of the Snake Valley on the R. descend through long grass towards the head of a Clough and descend Upper North Grain, no path at first; rock outcrop adds variety to the scene. Pass a stone hut, the valley grows wider. A fine path appears and goes down to a sign to open country and a stile near the A.57. (101929.

Turn L and walk downhill; in a few hundred metres, there is access on the L to Nether North Grain, but go on a few metres further, and then leave the A.57, going L up a steep bank to a ladder stile in a fence, and a sign to open country. Walking now SE through grass to drop down to the boundary of the plantation on the R; the path alongside the fence is obscured by trees overgrowing and forcing the walk to go onto the hillside; on the R is a view of Kinder. Eventually the path curves to the L to enter Birchen Clough and to walk inland again. Cross a stream at a most dramatic point, dropping down an almost sheer bank to a junction of streams, then back up the other side to wend way back out of Birchen Clough; trees always on the R.

Continue in the same direction before Birchen to join the Public Footpath that emerges from the plantation at 113907 at Dinas Sitch Tor and at last a good path, a Roman Road no less. It goes past a metal sign P.D.etc No. 60 erected in 1928. Keep to the path close to the wall. Drop steeply down to the stream that emerges from Oyster Clough (119904) then climb up the steep bank, wall on the R to a gate, then up and then down to cross a tiny stream just beyond there is a gate, no stile; though a large stone helps over a fence. Cross another tiny stream then round the hillside and come to a fence and stile. Continue on a fine grass path. Leave the open country at a sign and a ladder stile, then a gate, poor stile and pass through Hayridge Farm. Just beyond, there is another metal sign, No. 71 erected in 1932. Reach the A.57 via a step stile, ladder stile and step stile where there is for this walk the last of those memorial signs: number 106 erected in 1948. We all have a lot to be thankful of this society and people who forged and erected these signs that should last many a lifetime.