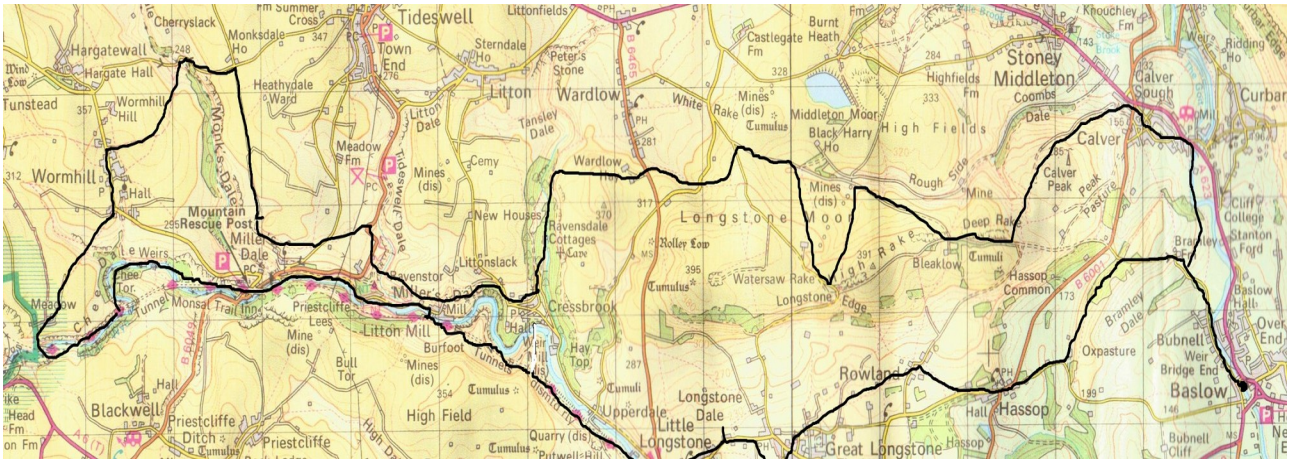
WALK 116.
BASLOW 116.
24 miles. 6 hours 40 minutes.
Map White Peak.



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Start at Baslow (252723). Walk N to go L over the old bridge over the River Derwent; notice the small Pill Boxes at the ends of the bridge; people must have been smaller in olden days, then turn R just over the bridge and walk N, river on the R, passing Bubnell Hall. Just past the last building, go R through a slot in the wall, then across a field to another slot then across a grassy track, bank on L wall on R. carry on with the river getting close to the R to go on a wide muddy track. Then go on a pleasant riverside walk alongside the river to a narrow footbridge and houses on the L and enter Calver (246744).

Go through the village to the traffic lights; turn L and walk S on the road to Hassop for a hundred metres, then go R at a footpath sign up a wide drive to a wooden stile on the R of a metal gate. Proceed on a track through rough land pock marked with mounds from former workings, rising as progressed. At a gate, a sign points to Stoney Middleton, but carry on upwards on this stony track to come to another gate and the path begins to level out. At the next gate, go over a wooden step on the L, then fence on L, through a field, Longstone Edge in front. On the R a Clough drops into Coombs Dale. But carry on up to a gate with bars on its L. continue on a good path through fern and moorland to cross Deep Rake (now filled in) and gain an industrial road on the top at 226736).

Walk W on this wide, rough track for about half a mile, accompanied by Deep Rake, an impressive feature which is now filled in, but should have been kept for a tourist attraction. At the entrance to Bleaklow Farm, go R off the road to a gate, then angle L down a good, green lane with fine views, Coombs Dale bare and sinuous on the R. Come down to another pedestrian gate with a sign to Hassop Common and Calver.

This is Black Harry Gate where pack horsemen were once attacked by a highway man until his capture and death by hanging. Go L at a small gate and sign, then walk S, uphill, on an old packhorse trail through a field, wall close to the L and come to a sign to then continue up to a wooden gate and so out on to a lane. Climb now, wall on L and fence on the R, field either side, and a tiny valley winding its way to the R. At a fence pass two stiles and come to a wooden gate. Continue on level ground to reach another wooden gate and sign, go through the site of former workings, bearing R to a cattle grid and a stile on its L, and the road at 205732.

Bear R and walk along the road for a quarter of a mile to a farm gate on the R; go down a drive to Longstone Farm to find the way through three gates between farm buildings into a field,

and walk S, wall on R, to drop down to a gate on the R with a step in the wall. Do not take this, but bear L to walk around the strange lagoon, fence on the R, and coming to a wall with steps in it. Continue on the path to a step stile in a wall and an industrial road at 196742.

Bear L and go a few hundred metres to a fork in the road and get a wide view of Eyam Edge. cross the road to a footpath sign and a non-descript stile in a low wall, then enter a field and bear L to walk S up to a wall with some thin steps to enter a field and continue S and find that workings have disrupted the area to be walked. Get to a wall with concrete steps and walk through a field to more concrete steps (193741).

Turn R and walk W, wall on the R and a view off Wardlow strung out along the road. Pass a rock outcrop on the L and drop to a wall, a sign and bars in a slot to come out on to the road at 189741. Cross the road to bars across a slot in a low wall, and enter a field and walk past disused mine shafts to a low wall and a good slot. Contour through the next field; go through broken wall around the hillside to a solitary tree at another broken wall, then walk up to a gate and the road at 183742.

Bear R and walk downhill towards the village, passing Hall Farm which has certainly features of a superior house. At a footpath sign on the L, go up a narrow path overlooked by an oak next to a cottage and walk between walled fields. Where a lane goes off R, go straight on, pass through a slot. Wardlow Hay Cop rising up on the L. Litton catches the sunshine ahead, but in front, the land has been slashed into a deep dale by the powerful action of natural forces. Go through a stile to a sign: National Nature Reserve, Derbyshire Dales, Cressbrook Dale.

To the R the dale looks bare and strong under the rock outcrop; go L and descend into trees and a footbridge and another sign. Cross over the small stream and climb the steep bank to a wide and level path to go L and catch the views of the massive buttresses of Ravensdale black against the morning sun, dominating the valley which is shrouded in trees. Go along the path for a short distance to a poor gate and stile, and enter the trees. In 40 metres, go past a sign and come to a road at 171734.

Go straight ahead uphill to a fork to go R and pass through Cressbrook, noting the War Memorial and the well built houses. Having passed through the village, get a fine view into Water-cum-Jolly and soon come to the Parish Church on the R; go L here at a fork and walk down a lane with wall on the R and, on the L a bank falling away steeply into the dale. At a gate, there are steps on the L, then continue through an open field on a farm track, with views in the dale. Descend in a straight Clough and wonder how horses got up it. At a gate, go over steps and descend to Litton Mill (160730).

The mill here had a bad reputation, with using child labour in poor conditions. Walk R (W) for 300 metres, then, at a car park just below the entrance to Tideswell Dale; go R at a Youth Hostel sign up a narrow path that leads up to stone steps to the top of a tongue of land that separates Tideswell Dale from Millers Dale. Walk NW to the Youth Hostel. Go R around the back of the hostel to a drive that leads out on to the road at 152735.

Bear R and walk N along the road which curves to the L then to the R where the road is left, going off L at 152738 through a slot in a wall. Climb up a bank with ragged walls around, and go to the corner in front to climb over a poor stile into a field that widens as walked. Go to a small gate on the L, then R to a slot in a wall and enter a field of short grass. Away to the L, the ridge behind Taddington stretches to Chelmorton Low.

Come to a wall with steps and slot, then over into another field, good walking, to go into a corner with a step in the wall. Walk now along a lane which bears R and comes to a road at 147736. Go L, then in a few metres, go R through a gate and walk W through a field climbing slightly to a gate which admits to an area of trees and a level track to Monksdale Farm. But do not take this, but go R up a track that climbs up through trees to provide fine views into Millers Dale where the viaduct may be seen. Reach a wall and walk on a high narrow path close to it, the bank dropping down steeply into Monks Dale. The path eventually drops wall on R, to a gateway into a field to bear L and make for a copse of trees standing prominently together. There is gate here that opens into a lane, the trees on the R.

Walk N on the Limestone Way; at a fork, go L and continue to walk N until a road is reached at 137752; Monksdale House stands here, a prominent landmark. Go L along the road down to the junction of Monks and Peters Dales; a sign indicates Nature Reserve. In a few metres on the L. go through a small slot in the wall and climb steeply uphill to a broken gate that admits to a narrow lane, to then walk S, climbing gently until it levels out and then go through a gate.

Go through a slot on the R of a gate, then bear sharp L and walk along a grassy lane, wall either side. Eventually enter a field and make for a sign at a gate and a slot in a fence. Walk towards the farm where signs indicate a slot in a fence; go L, then R to come to Wormhill Church. There is little left of this mediaeval church after the restoration in 1864, but the base of the narrow un–buttressed tower is 700 years old; the top is inspired by the Rhineland Romanesque style seen at Sompting, Sussex. William Bagshawe, the Apostle of the Peak, preached his first sermon here.

Go out on to the road then bear L after looking at the memorial to James Brindley, the great canal builder, who was born nearby at Tunstead in 1716. Carlyle said of him: “He has chained the seas together. His ships do visibly float over the valleys, and invisibly through the hearts of mountains; the Mersey and the Thames, the Humber and the Severn have shaken hands”.

Walk S down the road with Wormhill Hall on the L. Built in 1697, the hall is L-shaped with quoins and segmental pediment above the doorway. Inside there is a fine staircase and panelling. The house was built by Adam Bagshawe of Castleton whose son inherited Oakes Park (which is still owned by the Bagshawes.

Opposite the hall, go R off the road through a slot at a sign to Great Rocks Dale, then proceed through Hassop Farm to another sign. Go through a slot which has been embellished and a neat door, then cut the R corner by going to another slot in the R wall. Walk S now through a large field, going diagonally to the far corner with a slot stile. Continue SW through another large field, dropping to a slot stile then out into a bank to walk down into the upper reaches of Flag Dale.

Struggle out of the dale up a bank to a slot near a sign, then climb now up a field to a broken fence and broken wall where there is a stile, then on through a field, level going. Come to a broken wall where the uprights of a slot have been pushed over, then proceed upwards to a gateway, no gate but stile at the side. Enter a lane that can be muddy to come to Mosley Farm; pick the way through buildings to a gate at the far end with a step on its L.

Go down a wide grass lane and get abundant views over Wye Dale. The impressive rock face rises up from the river far side. Below the disused railway runs; head for this by descending steeply on a zigzag path to the bridge. Bear L and walk through Chee Dale, on the old railway trail. The views dominated by great cliffs that threaten on either side. Derbyshire has scenery of all kinds and moods; this is one of the best.

The trail is short in places; leave on the R down a steep bank to a sign directing R in order to walk E at river level. Go under a railway bridge, then cross a stout footbridge to walk with river on the R. soon to come to stepping stones and walk under a great overhang to emerge under a high limestone cliff: The stepping stones in wet weather can be under water, so boots off and paddle. The valley ahead dark, with, the view curtailed by the curve of the river. Away from the cliff, walk on a grassy area, great cliffs blocking out the sky, their faces cut horizontally by wide cracks; a little further on the cliffs rise out of the water.

Climb up natural stone steps, trees hang over the water. Up more steps, then walk around a corner to a footbridge in the lower reaches of Flag Dale and note the curious phenomenon: on one side of the footbridge, there is no water; on the other side, there is an abundance of water to make a stream; this is Wormhill Springs. Go over massive steps in a low wall at a footpath sign, then over another footbridge and walk at the waters side where the valley is less of a gorge, with gently sloping banks.

Pass a strong metal footbridge on the R where a sign points the way to Blackwell Dale. Go on through a wooden slot stile and the path gets easier, to then approach a viaduct. Climb the steep bank up to the trail and continue towards Millers Dale Station where information tells that the station was opened in 1863 with the main line to London and Manchester. A second viaduct was opened in 1905.

Go over the viaduct and continue until, forced off the trail to the L, down a bank and across the river to Litton Mill, here earlier on this walk; but still take a note that children were treated very badly hare. Go through the mill, then to the river side to walk through the fascinating Water-cum-Jolly with its sheer cliff on the L and the wide river on the R. go R here past huge stone boulders then over a sluice then up steps and a stile to leave Cressbrook Mill where children were treated better. Carry on up R to reach the trail again, this time to walk L on the trail to reach the famous viaduct in Monsul Dale. Leave the trail at the tunnel entrance to go L through the woods on a narrow path to Monsul Head: this view is on many a calendar and painting; Ruskin stated that on seeing the viaduct that; now any fool can be in Buxton from Bakewell and vies-versa he was not impressed.

Walk past the Inn and walk down into Little Longstone, passing the Manor House which was built in C.17, and old fashioned even then; this reflects an earlier building. The estate was the property of the Longsdons from C.12, and amazingly, they are still there.

Go off the road here; on the R are two stone stiles near gates. Go into the field, bear L and walk E towards Great Longstone, going up a bank then pass an isolated stone. Come to a stile then a narrow jitty to a slot in a wall, then walk diagonally R through a flat field. Go through a slot in a wall then enter a lane to cross to a gate with stile on its L. Cut the L corner in the next field, and, in 20 metres, go to a slot in wall then walk through a level field, enhanced by striking views. Go through a slot in a wall, then come to the road through a slot stile at 199716.

Turn L and walk into Great Longstone and get a view of the Hall. Built in 1747, unusually of brick. It has three bays and rusticated stone pilasters. Go through the churchyard. The Church stands well it has C.13 windows and S doorway, an early C.14 un-buttressed W tower and perpendicular clerestory.

Go through a slot with carved gritstone uprights and out on to a minor road to walk 100 metres to then go L up a lane for 10 metres to a slot on the R to enter a field. Cut the L corner and make for a slot and enter a lane; bear R and walk down to a slot between massive uprights; do not go L along the curved lane. Cross the narrow field to a slot in the wall, then climb up a bank to level ground and enjoy the walking to the far L corner where there is a slot in a wall. Enter a lane; there is a sign on the L.

Cross the lane to a stile in the wall, then walk on short grass to a high wall with gap in it. Climb gently up through next field, and come to two farm gates: choose that one on the L and on its R is a stile to then continue towards a disused farm building; on its R is a stile in the wall. Go forward, crossing a footpath that comes down from Longstone Edge. The wall in front has a stile in it, then go on to the next stile that leads in to a jitty of 40 metres. Go through a slot stile into Rowland (213724).

Bear L, go 40 metres, then R down a short lane to a slot at a gate; cut the R corner and go 25 metres to a slot in a wall, then wooden bars in a fence. Follow the wall on the R to a slot with wooden step, then enter a field and walk diagonally R to a wooden step in a fence, then a slot in a low wall and out on to the road at 217722.

Go L and walk past the striking Roman Catholic Church built in 1816 by the Eyre family of Hassop Hall. Pass the pub; then go R at a road junction and walk along the road to Baslow, going downhill then steeply uphill. Where it levels out, go L at 231722 on the R of a gate and make for the top L corner where a disused gatepost serves as a step over wooden bars. Walk N now through Bank Wood, an interesting route with views R to Baslow. Go over three wooden stiles, then just before a minor road is reached, go R through a slot in a wall; a notice indicates School Lane and Hassop. Go L cutting the L corner, and out on to the road in 40 metres (237734). Bear R and walk along the road past Bramley Farm, then to Baslow.