

## **DARK PEAK BOUNDARY WALK**

The title 'Boundary Walk' refers to the nature of the walk, a circuit of 80 miles around the fringes of three great moorland masses of Kinder Scout, Bleaklow and Black Hill that comprise the Dark Peak.

The route is mainly high level but linking these sections a variety of terrain including bridleway tracks, field paths, sheltered wooded cloughs and numerous reservoirs will be encountered. The bleak and wild moors of the Dark Peak are never far away and often dominate the views.

The route was completed to my satisfaction in November 1987 having been put together on occasional weekend trips over a couple of years. My intention was to create an enjoyable (hopefully) circular walk suitable for short hostelling/backpacking holidays.

The entire route is covered by OS Sheet 110 (1:50,000) Sheffield and Huddersfield area.

### **Route Outline**

From Sett Valley car park, Hayfield via Cracken Edge - South Head - Dimpus Gate Rushup Edge - Rowter Farm - Bradwell Moor - Bradwell.

Abney Moor - Leadmill Bridge - Hathersage.

Mitchell Field - Carl Walk - Burbage Brook - Stanage Edge - Moscar Lodge - Sugworth Hall - Strines- Back Tor - Margery Hill - Cut Gate - Langsett.

Carlecotes - Dunford Bridge - Winscar Reservoir - Holme - Wessenden Head - Marsden.

Redbrook Reservoir - Diggle - Aldermans Hill - Dove Stone Reservoir - Chew Reservoir - Tintwistle - Padfield - Old Glossop.

Cown Edge - Rowarth - Lantern Pike - Birch Vale - Sett Valley Trail back to Hayfield.

### **Suggested four day tour:-**

Day One	Hayfield to Hathersage	20 Miles	YH
Day Two	Hathersage to Langsett	21 miles	YH
Day Three	Langsett to Marsden	16 miles	B&B
Final Day	Marsden to Hayfield	25 miles	

### **Accommodation**

There are excellent Youth Hostels at Hathersage and Langsett. B&B is available in most villages. Few campsites directly on route. A backpacker will pass many inviting little wild campsites but it should be remembered that unauthorised camping is not permitted on Access Land or land owned by Water Companies. Elsewhere is invariably private farmland so wild camping is not really an option.

## **HAYFIELD TO MAM NICK - 10 miles**

Turn right out of the car park. Cross the A6015 road and go up Chapel Lane. At the end of the lane continue up a track. Pass cottages and where the track bears right climb grass bank on your left to a stile and finger post. 'Peep O Day via Phoside'. A pleasant path traversing several fields is followed up valley.

Entering woodland, pass in front of Phoside cottage and on to a gate and fourway finger post. Turn right 'Ollersett' on a clear path up through the wood with a cascading stream below to your left.

At a vague junction of paths above the tree line, bear left following the line of the stream clough until you intersect a track. Follow this track up gradually turning south to come up alongside a wall on your right. This wall is then followed to reach a broad track between walls. Turn right and follow track for about 500m along the western rim of Chinley Chum Moor.

At a point where a track on the right descends to a pattern of fields fringing New Mills, map ref: 033844, turn sharp left up a small path onto the moor. Follow on 110° bearing to reach a wall then bear left and follow this wall across the moor. Ahead over open ground to suddenly encounter the top of Cracken Edge at a flat-topped block; a natural viewpoint above the valley and across to South Head and the Kinder Plateau.

The escarpment of Cracken Edge is mostly quarried. Descend to a prominent green path below the edge. Turn right (south) and along path crossing a narrow section above rusting quarry relics and down a wide, slightly sunken track. Shortly, near hawthorns, leave this track. The path on is faint but slants down hillside, (about 110°) over a broken wall and passing under the large grits tone outcrop of the Naze.

Below is Cracken Cottage hidden amidst trees. To the right of the trees is a large farm house and barn. Bear right across a final field to a gate above the farm then down through a small enclosure just left of the barn and so reach a minor road, map ref: 044835.

Turn right along road. After a short way is footpath on left. The path slants steeply down to the left across field to a stone slab footbridge over a stream. Cross stream and bear left to field wall. Turn east crossing two fields alongside wall. In third field climb slope to a group of trees and stile on skyline in top right-hand corner. Exit onto the A624 road.

Turn right along the road for 50m then turn left up a track by Wicken Cottage. The track climbs steadily for about 500m. Ignore offshoots to the right. Continue up a green lane between walls, through gate then cross the bottom of a field to gain the continuation of the track. After 400m, turn right over a stile and climb another, steeper green lane to reach a broad bridleway.

This track, known as Dimpus Gate, passes between the summits of Mount Famine and South Head. Turn right and shortly follow a small path to the top of South Head, map ref: 062846. From this fine little hilltop descend north-east to regain the bridleway. Follow 1½ miles through several gates. The track then descends to cross Roych Clough. Climbing away from the clough the track degenerates into a narrow stony gutter but the going soon improves and after another 1½ miles Dimpus Gate reaches the A625 road. map ref: 092825.

Do not exit onto the main road. Instead turn left alongside wall to join a good path. This path leads onto and over Rushup Edge and is easy to follow. The summit point is Lords Seat, circa 540m. From here there are superb views north over the Edale valley to the Kinder Plateau. The view south is marred by the massive quarry on Eldon Hill.

From Lords Seat it is a mile of gradual descent to the large, tree-shrouded car park at Mam Nick, map ref: 124833.

### **MAM NICK TO BRADWELL -4½miles**

Cross the A625 road and follow a clear path across the National Trust property of Windy Knoll. Note the rocky outcrops, they are limestone. Mam Nick to the village of Bradwell is the only section of the Dark Peak Boundary Walk not over the gritstone of the Dark Peak.

On reaching the B6061 road, cross and go along the access drive to Rowter Farm. Continue past Rowter Farm on an un-surfaced track for about 600m, until you intersect a track coming in from your right, map ref: 134814. Turn left (roughly east) and follow track, crossing the Castleton/Peak Forest path at a gate to reach an opencast mine at the head of Dirlow Rake. Skirt mine to the right (usually waymarked) to a stile/gate in the fence on your right. Now cross two fields on a diagonal line (120<sup>0</sup> bearing) to a stile in fence corner. The path now continues through several long fields alongside wall on your left to reach a road. A new road was constructed here in 1992. Cross road and go down Batham Gate, a steep lane. After 500m, turn right along a side road for about 300m. Now down narrow path between walls on your left. Down Charlotte Lane. At chapel, turn right into Bradwell village then left down Town Gate to reach Bradwell Brook; map ref 174812.

### **BRADWELL TO HATHERSAGE - 5½ miles**

Cross the stone footbridge over Bradwell Brook then turn right along Church Street. At the "Shoulder of Mutton" cross the road and bear left up steps, then turn left along Bessie Lane. Near the end of the lane is a footpath sign-posted to Abney. Initially, this is a metalled track, but is soon becomes a strenuous climb up a steep hillside covered with hawthorn.

Cross stile in wall at top (Bradwell Edge). Then forward over two fields to reach a broad track. You may see vehicles up here. This track comes up from Brough on the A625. Gliders are towed up as there is a gliding club on the edge of the moor.

Turn right and follow the track around the edge of Abney Moor. Pass a lane on the right that descends to Abney. Stay on the main track, in a while turning north between large gritstone gate posts. Then on for over a mile swinging east under Shatton Edge and passing a high mast.

There are fine views from this track over the Hope Valley to Win Hill and just a glimpse of Ladybower Reservoir.

Roughly ½ mile beyond the mast. turn right over stile. Footpath to Offerton Hall is east on grassy track, then along wall. over small stream and after nearly a mile reaches the access road to the Hall.

Turn right up this road for 300m. Cross the stile on your left. Path slants across hillside above a wall, crosses a stream then passes above out buildings of Callow Farm to reach a track into the farmyard. Go through farmyard to small, waymarked gate. Descend small field to gate on your right into coniferous woodland. A clear path descends through the wood

with Dunge Brook below your right. Then down a narrow field to a gate in the far right hand corner.

Now turn right up a track. On reaching the road, turn left over stile and follow a grassy track through small fields then by wall on your left. Look out for a step stile in wall. Cross to the banks of the River Derwent.

Follow path down to Leadmill Bridge and the B6001, map ref: 234086. To the right is the Plough Inn (campsite here).

Turn left over the bridge then over stile on left and follow well trodden field path to Hathersage. At narrow lane, turn right and pass below railway arch to regain the B6001.

Turning left will now take you into the village centre.

### **HATHERSAGE TO THE A57 ROAD, MOSCAR LODGE - 8 miles**

Cross the B6001 road and go up Back Road. Pass Ninelands then turn right at fingerpost and follow footpath along lower edge of field then bearing left, uphill by low, stone wall to gate onto the A625 road.

Turn left down road for 50m, then cross road and go up a track behind a small chapel (dated 1907). Beyond the last house, through gate then up bank on your left into woodland. Shortly, you should strike a clear path. Turn right along this path up to a stile/gate. Exit wood. Way on is by keeping close to a grits tone wall on your left, (not the obvious path ahead). Pass an isolated house with a mock facade; then follow a faint path north-east across a stretch of open moor for about 500m. Finally, bear right, crossing stiles to reach Mitchell Fields Farm.

There is a junction of footpaths on the track at the farm. At fingerpost, turn right (east) up field to stile, then steeper climb up rough ground to road. Cross road and up steps to gain the western edge of Hathersage Moor. The moor is dominated by gritstone tors; notably Higgarr Tor and the Iron Age hill fort of Carl Wark.

Pass to the left of a large walled compound (covered reservoir?) then head east across moderately rough moorland to Carl Wark. The path then passes to the north of the ramparts and descends (east) to conifer plantations and a fine, little stone bridge over Burbage Brook. The route is then waymarked up through bracken to reach a broad bridleway. Turn north and follow track up the picturesque Burbage Valley with the rocks of Burbage Edge. a popular rock climbing venue on your right.

Reach the road after 1¼ miles. This moorland road connects Hathersage to Ringinglow on the outskirts of Sheffield. Turn left along road. At a bend after about 200m, take the track on your right. This track leads to the first outcrops of Stanage Edge and a trig point at 457m, map ref: 251830. Below the escarpment at this point there are a number of superbly crafted millstones.

Stanage Edge is the longest and most impressive of Peakland gritstone edges; very popular with walkers and famous as a rock climbing venue with hundreds of recorded routes.

Walk north-west along the top of the edge. Win Hill and Lose Hill appear like little volcanic cones with Mam Tor prominent beyond them. It is unfortunate that this scene is dominated by the power station at Castleton, often with a plume of white smoke.

After about a mile we cross a broad track, Long Causeway, an old road of Roman origin. At this point one has a choice of routes on. A path continues along the top of the edge to the trig point on High Neb. Although this path has been walked for many years access is still occasionally contended. Points of interest on the high route are the water basins for Red Grouse carved in flat rocks, each one numbered.

The right of way runs below the edge. This path is my own preference. The walking is easier and one has the opportunity to view some of the best climbing areas such as High Neb Buttress.

Turn left down Long Causeway until below the edge. Cross a ladder stile over a solidly built wall. The way on is then a clear path winding through boulders and bracken and passing by many more abandoned millstones.

Beyond the last rocks at Stanage End, the path descends gently over moorland to reach the A57 road near Moscar Lodge, 2½ miles from Long Causeway, map ref: 231878.

### **MOSCAR LODGE TO STRINES - 3¼ miles**

A short section, attractive and interesting.

Turn right along the A57. After 50m, turn left up the drive leading to the solidly built Moscar Lodge, (would make an excellent Youth Hostel). Pass the lodge then ahead on a broad, green road. Just beyond the second gate there is a square grits tone pillar. On the front face is inscribed, Sheffield Road. Hathersage is on the rear face. Bradfield on the far face and Hope on the near face. We turn right along the Sheffield Road.

Follow this old road past the farm and on for about 300m to a footpath on your left. The path keeps close to the wall on your left down through two rough pasture fields to reach a narrow lane. Turn right along lane to the entrance of Sugworth Hall.

Go down the drive. Just before reaching the Hall, a footpath on your right skirts the ramifications of the Hall passing through rhododendrons into open parkland. The path ahead passes to the right of a tall, square stone tower; (Boots Folly) built in 1927. Near two cairn-like piles of stones the path is way marked to the right. Below is Strines Reservoir. Traverse down across the hillside towards Dale Dike Reservoir up valley, then down to a substantial wall on your left. Cross steps in the wall then bear left to a footbridge over the outflow from Strines Reservoir. Up through trees and across field to reach Stubbins Farm. Turn left past the farm and follow the access track uphill to the road.

The road goes steeply downhill then across a bridge to a broad track - parking area on your right. The ancient Strines Inn is 400m further on beyond an acute, left-hand bend in the road, map ref: 222909.

### **STRINES TO LANGSETT - 10 miles**

This section of the walk is high, exposed and fairly remote; a moorland traverse along Derwent Edge over the summits of Back Tor and Margery Hill.

To reach Back Tor, take the track on your right just before the acute, left-hand bend on the Strines road. The track cuts through forestry plantations then heads west over Foulstone Moor to reach a junction of paths on Derwent Edge after 1½ miles. The trig point on the rocky summit of Back Tor, 538m, is about 200m north of the junction, map ref: 198910.

From Back Tor, the 3½ miles to Margery Hill are the bleakest encountered on the Boundary Walk. Initially, head north-north-east on a well trodden and often boggy path. After rounding the head of the Abbey Brook valley the path is less distinct. For a while one is close to a stream (the upper reaches of Abbey Brook) then bear north-west of Featherbed Moss to regain the western edge of the moor. The going is now much easier and the rise to Margery Hill is slight. At 546m this is the highest point on the Boundary Walk, map ref: 189957.

Roughly 400m north-north-west of the trig point there is a large cairn on the Cut Gate path. This path is an ancient right of way and was used by farmers from the Derwent valley area to take their animals to the markets in Penistone. Turn north-east and follow Cut Gate across the Midhope Moors, then traversing above Mickleden Beck and down through forestry to Brook House Bridge, a large stone bridge spanning the Porter or Little Don River. This river flows into Langsett reservoir.

Cross the bridge and follow track up into woodland. After 100m there is a waymarked path going off right. This leads along the edge of the reservoir and up through forestry to Langsett Barn Information Centre in the village of Langsett. The Youth Hostel is on the opposite side of the A616 road, map ref: 213006.

If you wish to bypass Langsett then continue north along the track through pleasant woodland to a footpath sign. 'Flouch Inn and Hazelhead'. A well marked path cuts through fir plantations to reach the A628 road near to the Flouch. map ref: 197016.

An alternative route into Langsett is to turn right off Cut Gate about 500m before reaching the forest. At this point there are two gritstone pillars. one with a benchmark. Follow path south-east down the moor. with a good view of the Langsett Reservoir. to the ruins of an old farm house. Pass through the farm and on to join a track alongside forestry. The track leads to a bridge over a stream at an inlet of the reservoir. Continue on track through plantations to concrete drive, barrier and the road at Upper Midhope. It is then another 1/2 mile to Langsett along the road. Cross the dam and emerge in the village on the A616 road at the Wagon and Horses Inn.

## **LANGSETT TO HOLME - 10 miles**

From Langsett Barn car park follow a waymarked path down through woodland to the edge of Langsett Reservoir. An attractive walk along the lakeside and up river a short way leads to the Cut Gate Path just above and north of Brook House Bridge. This path has been made possible by Yorkshire Water who operate the reservoir.

Turn north along track then bear left off the track at a footpath sign, 'Flouch Inn and Hazelhead'. Follow a well-marked little path through forestry to reach the A628 road just west of the Flouch Inn, 1½ miles from Langsett.

Walk west along the A628 for about 400m to a bridleway on the right between cottages. Grass track leads onto Thurlstone Moor. The path is alongside wall across the edge of the moor. After about a mile, pass below pylons, through gate and cross bridge over disused railway. A narrow, paved path beneath a stand of beech leads down to a footbridge across the River Don, at this point a small stream. Turn right and cross a second footbridge then turn left up a green lane to pass by a large, stone barn with high arches, SougWey Barn and House. (Called Softley on the 1-25000 Dark Peak map). Exit through yard onto the private access road.

Turn left through a gate onto a large, gently rising field. On a compass bearing of 310° cross this field to a stile in the upper left-hand corner. Continue across the next field on the same bearing to a gate. Into a third field stay close to the wall on your right and follow it round to a gate onto a track. The track leads to a farm but 100m before reaching the farm step right over a stone stile and follow a small path through trees and behind the little church of St Anne at Carlecotes.

On the road, turn left and past the old School House of 1830. After about 300m go down a track on the left. At the bottom of the hill where the track turns towards farm cross stile/gate on right. Traverse long field with wall on your left. Waymarked stiles through more fields to large, modern barn. Pass to the right of the barn/farm and up track to the road at Townhead.

Turn west along the road to a road junction above Dunford Bridge, an uninspiring village beneath the dam of Winscar Reservoir. A few metres down the hill towards the village a path on the right traverses the hillside then up to the top of the dam. Alternatively, descend into the village, a scattering of houses and an inn, The Stanhope Arms Hotel, along Don View and up a path on the left of the dam. Cross the dam to rejoin the through route.

Winscar is a fine little reservoir set amidst moorland and is a popular spot with motorists. Follow the access roadway past the car parks to the road. Turn left along the road: after about 500m is a footpath on left just past two houses. (Harden). A waymarked route, mostly on a track meanders through rough, broken ground above Harden Reservoir to regain the road after about ½ a mile. Turn left along the road for 100m to the second track on the right (with gate).

We are at about 400m altitude at the start of the track. North beyond a modern windmill is Holmfirth, Summer Wine country. Tinkers Tower is also prominent.

The track descends into forestry and passes the remains of a farm. Cross the top of the wooded Reynard Clough then continue alongside fir plantations to a T junction. Turn left up grass track, through gate and on along track past two stone barns, one a dwelling. Continue to cross tracks. Ahead, roughly west, for 400m to reach a road, map ref: 128056.

Cross the road and go through gate. Path is by the wall on your right, then follow grass track pleasantly round the head of tree-filled stream dough. North-west alongside wall passing near to farm (on right). Green track between walls, then descend towards forestry with the mast on Holme Moss ahead on skyline. Cross ladder stile on right and go down track to the road at Ramsden Reservoir. Car park and picnic area.

Turn right from the car park and after 50m go down path on left and across a bridge between Ramsden and Brownhill Reservoirs. Follow path through woodland (ignore fingerposts/stile up to your left) round spur and over footbridge. Up and across field then left by wall up into the village of Holme, map ref: 108060.

### **HOLME TO MARSDEN -6½ miles**

Reaching Holme, turn left past the Holme Castle Hotel to the small cobbled village square. Just up the road is the Fleece Inn. The village used to be a weaving centre. The next mile or so of the route is also used by the Kirklees Way.

Turn right out of the village square up small lane to a footpath on right after 100m. (Opposite a cottage called the Nook). Follow path across a number of small fields then descending to intersect a path that traverses above Dingley Reservoir. Turn left along this

path, cross stream, through gate then up to gate on right after another 100m. Turn through this gate, the path then leads down to and across the reservoir dam. On the far side a track zigzags up to a bench dedicated to the memory of Arthur Butterworth, a fine spot for a breather or maybe lunch.

Now turn left up a wide track and follow to a T junction with a similar track. Turn left again and the walled track heads west for about a mile above and parallel to Marsden Clough. At an acute corner to right leave the track, cross stile ahead and follow path along the top of a small wood. A few hundred metres on turn right up alongside a wall to reach the A635 road, map ref: 007074.

Cross the main road and go along the minor road opposite of where a broad track leads off left. This is the Pennine Way. The rock-crested hill to the north is West Nab. Follow the Pennine Way, a lovely walk down valley under the flank of this hill and past Wessenden, Blakeley and Butterley Reservoirs. The track reaches the road just beyond Butterley Reservoir. Shortly, turn left through heavy metal gate and descend a fine flight of 210 gritstone steps. At the bottom turn right in front of cottages and follow a 'bridleway' between massive mill walls back to the road. Turn left down to a small traffic island on the outskirts of Marsden, map ref: 048114.

### **MARSDEN TO DOVE STONE RESERVOIR - 7 miles**

From the small traffic island on the outskirts of Marsden walk up Mount Rd on the right hand side. Just beyond house No 50 there are three old wooden garages set back from the road. Go through a small gate immediately left of the garages then climb steeply up the left side of a rough field. Aim for the top left corner where a stile gives access to a lane. Turn left along lane for 50m then turn right beyond hawthorns and again climb steeply passing to the left of a house then slanting up left in narrow, trench-like path to reach a track. Turn left and follow track for about 1 kilometer to regain Mount Rd. Good views from this track over Butterley Reservoir and up valley.

Cross the road, down bank and over a footbridge. Follow a pleasant moorland path (Marsden Moor, National Trust) south-west then west rounding Redbrook Reservoir to join the Pennine Way after one and a quarter miles. Follow the PW to the A62 road, map ref: 021096.

Turn left down the main road for 100m then take path on left just beyond the small reservoir. The path descends to a ruined farmhouse. There is a large, leveled-off spoil heap in front of the house. Turn right down path immediately left of the spoil. (Note Oldham Way owl signs). Path runs alongside wall for about 400m to converted barn dwellings. Turn left in front of these cottages then along a walled track to rough pasture. Continue by wall on right and exit right through gate before reaching farm. Turn right down lane. At T junction turn left and follow road over a bridge to footpath on right. Note statue in holly bush!

Follow field path south-west bearing south for about 1200m beneath the flank of Broadstone Hill. At first the path is alongside a leat. About half way cross to upper side of leat and look out for stiles and fingerposts. Aim for trees and houses on skyline ahead. Climb slightly in final two fields then a fenced in path passes between gardens and leads to Running Hill Lane, map ref: 010069.

Turn left up lane then where lane turns right go ahead up a track. 50m before a gate at the end of the track cross a broken stile on right by large wooden post. Bear left up field and pass to the left of a ruined house. Continue to gateway in wall right of a solitary tree. Now

turn right along a track for 100m to a gate. Turn left through gate and climb alongside wall to the ridge.

A wall runs along the top of the escarpment. Follow south then descending to reach the needle-like obelisk. a war memorial on Aldermans Hill after about one kilometer.

From the obelisk follow a clear green path towards the valley. The path swings round under a small quarry then drops to an overgrown track. Go straight down this track to intersect a good track between walls. Turn left and follow this track down to reach the A635 road.

Cross the A635 to Binn Green car park. Take path to Dove Stone Dam from car park to gain access road to reservoirs. Cross this road to footpath. Bear right and follow a clear path to the dam at Dove Stone Reservoir, map ref: 014035.

### **DOVE STONE RESERVOIR TO TINTWISTLE - 6 miles**

The reservoir is used for sailing and is a popular spot at weekend with day trippers.

Cross the dam then turn left along the access road past the sailing club. Just before a bridge over Chew Brook turn south and follow a sketchy path up valley alongside the brook under a rough, boulder-littered hillside topped with crags. The path leads to a footbridge. Cross and on to climb a grass ramp to regain the access road. Follow the road up to Chew Reservoir. At almost 500m, the highest reservoir encountered on route, map ref: 036018.

From the reservoir follow a path west along the rim of the valley for about 700m. The path crosses the top of a precipitous stream gully. Shortly, a second similar stream gully is crossed. Cairn. Turn left, roughly south-west and follow an ill defined path alongside this small stream up onto Ormes Moor. Occasional cairns. Crossing the top of the moor can be very boggy but fortunately this section is quite short. Bear over right a little and watch out for stakes marking the path line. Easier going then leads down to a footbridge over a stream, Ogden Brook. The path now heads south with Ogden Brook on your left. Over to your right are two Swinshaw Reservoirs. After nearly a mile the path intersects a track. Turn left down to a ford and footbridge. Cross the brook then follow the track up to cross stile then on for 1/2 a mile round bends, down under power lines and past Arnfield Farm to gain the road. Below is Arnfield Reservoir and beyond to the south is the table top moor of Cown Edge rising above the villages of Hollingworth and Hadfield. Turn left and follow the road/cobbled lane down to the village of Tintwistle, map ref: 023974.

### **TINTWISTLE TO OLD GLOSSOP - 3½ miles**

At the end of Arnfield Lane turn left and walk through the village of Tintwistle passing the War Memorial and the Bulls Head pub. Opposite a chapel near the end of the village, bear right down Chapel Brow to the A628 road. Cross the road, through gate and down a partially walled track through fields to reach a driveway alongside Bottoms Reservoir. Turn left and go along the drive for about 500m, then cross the dam between Bottoms and Vale House Reservoirs. Attractive weirs.

Turn right along path above the reservoir. After about 300m and just beyond gate/stile, bear left up bank, over stile and follow path up field. under railway and on up next field to reach a track. Turn right to Pad field village.

Turn left through the village then along Peel St, on right. At the end of this short street, cross stile and follow path across several small fields to gain a narrow lane. Turn left to Little

Padfield Farm.

At the farm, take path on right. Cross two fields with wall on your right, a small stream, then up a third field past Glossop Cemetery. Cross stile at the end of the field then turn left down past farm to the road. Turn right along road (B61 05) and after a short distance over a stile on left. Path is down through two fields alongside wall with views across the adjacent Swineshaw Reservoir. The prominent rounded hill ahead is Shire Hill. Stay close to the boundary wall of the reservoir then down a small, steep path and over a stream to reach the end of a tarmac lane at a farm. Turn right along the lane, pass a little reservoir then bear right to the road at the entrance to Shire Hill Hospital. Turn left along road, Bute Street. Over at crossroads and down to a T junction. Turn left along Thorpe Street, cross Church Walk and go down Church Close to enter Manor Park, Old Glossop, map ref: 041948.

### **OLD GLOSSOP TO ROWARTH - 5 miles**

Manor Park is fairly extensive and even has a miniature railway. Follow paths through the park parallel to the brook. Exit through a car parking area to reach the A57 road.

Opposite, the original footpath is now Shire Brook Drive leading to a new housing estate. Near the end of Shire Brook Drive, cross a footbridge on your right over a culvert. Resume direction and pass through the housing estate via a tarmac walkway between fences. Cross a road, up steps, then a remnant of the old footpath is followed, passing to the left of cottages to reach a narrow lane.

Turn right and after a few metres cross a stile on your left. The path climbs field to a wall at the top. (Ignore a squeeze stile on right). Bear left and follow the wall to a finely built gritstone squeeze. Cross several narrow fields, more squeezes, cross a grass track then in the next field stay close to the wall on your right until you can step right onto another track. This track leads to a terrace of cottages.

Pass in front of the cottages, the route on is then waymarked. The path, a defile between fence and field wall. Finally, go down across an open field to reach the road. Turn right. After 50m descend a track on your left to gain the A624 road at the Mills.

Turn left along the A624 between the high walls of mill buildings to reach a Y junction with the A6061, map ref: 034929.

Opposite the Whiteley Nab Inn (formerly the Commercial Inn) is a footpath up steps. Gain an un-surfaced lane/track. Turn left and follow track to a point roughly 150m beyond Lees Hall Farm. A faint path on your right climbs steeply and directly to a stile in a wall on the skyline. The ascent then continues over two fields (stiles mark the line) and onto the heathery shoulder of Whiteley Nab, usually via vehicle tracks. Over the crest pass to the left of a fenced-off conifer plantation then cross rough pasture aiming for a track to building and so gain the Monks Road. Map ref: 022923.

Cross Monks Road and follow a fenced-in path up onto Cown Edge on the south-east side of a high but narrow strip of moor land. Follow path until you reach 50m tiny quarry workings then turn right along a grassy track. After about 200m and before reaching Coombes Edge on the far side of the moor, cross a stile in the fence on your left. A clear path on about 200<sup>0</sup> bearing crosses the middle of pleasant, grassy moorland with a fir plantation over to your right. Cross a stile in a cross wall then continue across two more wide pastures. South down a long, broad, gently inclined ridge to reach a five way fingerpost and track.

Cross the track and over stile ahead. Follow path down through fields to road. Turn right into Rowarth village, map ref: 013893.

### **ROWARTH TO HAYFIELD - 3½ miles**

In Rowarth village - turn left at Anderson House and walk down past the village store to the telephone box. There are a number of possible routes to the summit of Lantern Pike.

The most logical is to turn left over a stile by the phone box along a path beside the infant River Goyt. Cross the river at a ford/footbridge and up a track to Harthill. Continue to Upper Harthill Farm. Pass in front of the farm then cross a stile on your right. Follow path across four fields (105° bearing west) to Bullshaw Farm.

Do not enter farmyard, there is a stile to the left. Turn left on the access track, then right along a broad, walled track to reach a six way fingerpost.

To reach Lantern Pike, take the well rutted bridleway south across 400m of open moor. Go through gate, then shortly leave the bridleway, bear right up path that leads to the toposcope on the summit.

From the summit continue south along the edge of the escarpment and down to a wall. Turn left and follow the wall down to rejoin the bridleway. The lazy might be inclined to miss out Lantern Pike. In all but the most miserable of weather this would be a pity as it is a fine hill.

Turn right through gate, down track, then lane to reach road. Opposite a terrace of houses go down a track. The track swings left at bottom of hill towards an isolated house. There is a stile on your right 50m before this house. Cross two small fields, then a footbridge over the River Sett. A well marked path now leads past a small reservoir to reach the Sett Valley Trail. Turn left along the trail, formerly the Hayfield to New Mills railway line and a mile later we are back at the Visitor Centre and car park, Hayfield. Our journey around the Dark Peak completed.

D A Irons @ November 1994