



High Peak 60

High Peak 60 began as a celebration of sixty years of the Rambler's Association.

In 1995 the RA leadership challenged its Groups and Areas to find novel ways of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee. New Mills Group, active in and around the High Peak of Derbyshire opted to walk a 60 mile circuit passing through the majority of High Peak parishes. A route was devised which could be walked on four successive days, walking approximately 15 miles each day. Each day's walk could be further divide into two stages, ending at places accessible by public transport.

High Peak 60 was first walked May 5th - May 8th 1995

The route commences in New Mills, Derbyshire:-

Part 1	New Mills to Charlesworth	7 miles
	Charlesworth to Glossop	9 miles
Part 2	Glossop to the Snake Inn	7 miles
	Snake Inn to Hope	7 miles
Part 3	Hope to Peak Forest	6 miles
	Peak Forest to Buxton	9 miles
Part 4	Buxton to Chapel Station	7 miles
	Chapel Station to New Mills	6 miles

All mileages are approximate

Revised March 2007 David Frith

New Mills to Glossop

Dark Peak Map required. The route follows tracks and moorland paths.

New Mills has two rail links into Manchester; one via Marple reaches Central Station en route to Sheffield. The Buxton to Stockport and Manchester railway uses Newtown Station; allow fifteen minutes to walk via Albion Road and Union Road to the bus station. The town centre bus station is serviced from Whaley Bridge, Macclesfield, Glossop, Marple, Stockport and Hayfield.

Beginning from New Mills bus station [999855] on the corner of Union Road and Hague Bar Road, descend Rock Mill Lane to the Heritage Centre. From a viewing platform look down to the mill, millennium walkway and weir beside the River Goyt.

Descend a flight of steps into the Torrs; make a left turn, below Union Road Bridge into mill ruins at the junction of rivers Goyt and Sett, their combined waters flowing over a weir [001852]. By following the path left the Sett valley is entered. A plaque on the rock wall commemorates the opening of the Torrs by Professor Graham Ashworth.

The path runs below the railway bridge, continue at river level until steps climb to the bed of the former Hayfield railway line. On joining the track bed, look left to see the tunnel connecting back to New Mills Central. Ahead the Sett Valley Trail crosses over the river; pass below Hyde Bank Road to the swimming pool. Keeping to the right of the Doctor's Group Practice the trail runs to Church Lane, crosses and heads into and out of an industrial valley where the railway bridge has been removed.

After crossing St. George's Road the route skirts High Hills estate, it crosses Watford Bridge Road and comes to High Hills Road on the Thornsett border [009866]. Look ahead toward Hayfield and Kinder Scout, to the north Thornsett School hugs the Brows with Highwalls Farm above. Continue along the Sett Valley Trail to the house at Wildes Crossing. Leave the trail go down a cobbled road to two lower houses then cross the Sett to the end of Garrison Mill. Pass the mill end, the track bears left, take a right hand cobbled way which begins to ascend toward Sycamore Road.

On the right within twenty yards, a steep flight of steps is found; climb up onto the road [015870], cross the road and go through a gap in the opposite wall. A cobbled passage runs to where a spring fills a trough; go left up steps onto Sitch Lane.

Walking along Sith Lane, partly walled, partly fenced, the route climbs to pass Bank Head Farm. Views stretch across Birch Vale with its quarry; the straight line of Moorland Road is visible climbing past the TV Mast toward Chinley Churn. The lane reaches a summit at 842 feet [020872] there are extensive views across Hayfield onto Kinder and the Downfall.

From the summit of Sith Lane go north passing Wethercotes, walking a wide walled track on the western flank of Lantern Pike. Ignore the left hand bridle path descending to Aspenshaw. At an altitude of 970 feet the track forks, [019884] take the route down into Rowarth. The track descends over uneven slabs of bed rock. Laneside Farm is met and Laneside Road followed to the Little Mill Inn. Across the vale is Long Lee Farm, a farmstead of great antiquity.

Little Mill Inn dating from 1781, with its restored water wheel, may provide a useful refreshment stop. From the Inn go to the corner of Hollinsmoor Road and take a rougher road passing Brookside [011890], pass two further cottages until a left hand stile accesses a flagged path cutting the corner of the paddock to the telephone box. The path ends on Chapel Street, look for a memorial stone remaining from the Sunday School, For Children Of All Denominations, AD. 1824.

Rowarth village comprises two streets; it once had a chapel and until recently a post office, go up Chapel Street to the corner of Goddard Lane, one of the terraced houses is Drinkwaters Buildings dated 1812. By right hand Anderton House turn to Poplar Farm and locate a left hand sign post; Peak and Northern sign 159, dating from 1973.

From the sign the path runs up into sloping fields, follow the wall side, through a stone stile, climb again to the finger post and pause to take in the view [013897]. The sign is dedicated to S. Norman Ings, 1910-1982, Footpath Officer of New Mills Group of the Ramblers Association. Fingers point to Upper Rowarth, Rowarth, Back Rowarth, Hart Hill and Cown Edge, the direction we take. Climb up the path worn onto the brow the hill, and over a series of crests making for the plateau. At the thousand foot contour the moor levels, the ground is pock marked from stone getting or coal working, an adjacent slope is called Coal Pit Hill. To the west stands Near Slack Farm, when the track forks take the route north across rough pasture to a gate and stile then on to a further stile, continue until the Cown Edge Way is met [014910].

At this point our route and that of the Cown Edge Way run together. Over the stile and north east. Look north and see the Longdendale hills stretching over Arnfield to Alphin and Wilderness. Across the moorland at twelve hundred feet the path runs to a wall. Crossing the wall look down on Rocks Farm below the edge. Ignoring the eastern headland the path runs close to the plantation until the trees end and the walk reaches the western edge of the plateau, Coombes Rocks. [019918] The path follows the rim of a spectacular amphitheatre. Below is Mares Back, undulating landslips from post glacial times, in the valley below lies Charlesworth and away beyond the apartments of Hattersley lies all of the Manchester conurbation flanked by distant Lancastrian hills.

The path reaches a maximum altitude of 1282 feet before beginning a long sweeping descent almost parallel with Monk's Road still in the company of the Cown Edge Way. The path runs down the spur off the hill and comes to Coombes Farm drive. Go left over the cattle grid and through the stile. A path is followed down The Banks keeping close to Back Lane. Through a series of stiles until the path swings back onto Back Lane a field away from the Independent Church, 'Top Chapel' [009924].

Here carefully descend the steep grass and gorse hill side, following the wall, over a stile, onto Boggard Lane. Reaching the lane turn toward Charlesworth, two cottages on the left, at the first right hand house step down off the lane onto a lower drive, cross, through a stile and follow the high hedge to a stile in the corner of the recreation ground. Once on the playing field head for Marple Road passing swings and slides until the A626 is met [004926].

If the day's walking is to end here, there is a bus services along this road linking Hazel Grove to Glossop via Marple (not Sundays). If Marple Road is followed for a quarter mile into Charlesworth buses run hourly to Manchester, Hyde and Glossop. For a return to New Mills either go to and change buses in Marple, or on Sundays catch a bus to New Mills from Glossop.

If you are continuing to Glossop on foot, exit from the recreation ground onto Marple Road, turn right, north east, and walk to the housing estate Tom Wood Rise. Look left for a footpath sign.

Starting in Charlesworth, the A626 Marple Road forms a staggered junction with Town Lane and Long Lane. Go south west along Marple Road passing St. John's Church and the Conservative Club. Look on the right for a footpath sign, immediately before Tom Wood Rise.

The footpath runs down the north side of Tom Wood Rise to a gate and stile. Once in the meadow head to the power line pole then follow the overhead wires west. The path visible in parts runs to bushes and crosses a series of dry valleys [002927]. After the last depression go along the line of bushes, a way marking stump points toward a stile on the far side of the meadow. Over the stile and aiming north of west go across to another stile and a Peak and Northern signpost. In line with the previous section of path cross the next field aiming for a silver birch on the flank of a wooded gully. Reach the birch descend to a footbridge, out of the gully into a field, note a white sighting board on the bush behind, now look across the field toward the house and spot another sighting board, aiming for this, cross the field to a bridge over the ditch and join Woodseats Lane [995928].

Turn down the lane passing Blue Marl, Hunters Gate and Howard Cottage, views across to Broadbottom and down river to Werneth Low. From Warhurst Fold, Woodseats Lane runs as a narrow track to the Etherow at Warhurst Fold Bridge. Cross the river and enter Tameside [993936].

Three long distance routes are met here. The Valley Way, commenced at Vernon Park, and followed the Goyt to Otterspool, Chadkirk and Etherow Country Park before reaching Broadbottom en-route to Woolley Bridge. The Tameside Trail opened in August 1994 following the forty mile perimeter of Tameside Borough, also passes this way. Likewise the Trans Pennine Trail, linking Merseyside to Humberside, passes through Broadbottom. The route of High Peak 60 turns upstream on the Broadbottom bank and runs through the ruins of Broad Mills.

Reaching the houses at Lymefield Terrace, café and toilets in the Garden Centre; turn left to reach Lymefield Warden Centre, information and toilets [996936]. The route heads across the car park toward the railway viaduct. Reach the river turn upstream to the bridge, cross the Etherow at Besthill Bridge, back into High Peak.

Turn under the viaduct, beside the right hand pier discover a path scrambling up the bank into shrubs, the path levels out and runs up the gorge, keep close to the top of the trees treading a flagstone path. The path follows a narrow terrace before descending to the mill ruin at Botany. Go onto the road and forward to the house. Go through the white gate below the house and into the yard [999941], bear right, cross the stile close to the pond.

Follow the fence and hedge toward Robin Wood Farm. Reach Gamesley Bridge and join the A626. Take a left hand passage onto Gamesley Estate immediately after the terrace of houses. Join Melandra Castle Road and skirt around the estate, pass the bowling green, pass the drive to Melandra Farm and arrive at Melandra Castle [009950].

In 78AD. Agricola, Roman Governor of Britain, commissioned a fort at Melandra. Known to the Romans as Ardotalia, derived from the river's name, the garrison housed Frisian Auxiliaries within wooden defences. Between 98-117AD. The fort was rebuilt in stone surviving until 140AD; when it was burnt down and abandoned. Within the fifteen foot high walls were six timber barrack blocks. Outside the wall a civil settlement developed complete with 'mansio' or staging house for travellers and mails. The name Melandra dates from the eighteenth century, archaeological digs at that time had unearthed remnants of oak posts blackened with age. The site was given a Greek name meaning black oak castle, this became corrupted to Melandra.

From the base of the north tower a path descends to Melandra Road. Reaching the road cross Glossop Brook using the Trans Pennine Trail footbridge, close to the confluence with the Etherow, follow the river side path to the A57 at Brookfield [011953]. Cross the road, using the Pegasus Crossing, and follow the Trail along the route of the former Waterside Goods Line. Opened on October 10 1879 for freight trains running to mills at Woolley Bridge and Waterside, the last train ran on February 18 1964.

Walk along the Trans Pennine Trail to Woolley Bridge Road, cross the road continue forward, passing the mills onto the Etherow bank. One day it will be possible to follow the river upstream to Tintwistle Bridge, for the present leave the Trail at Rossington Park industrial estate and go onto Woolley Bridge Road. Walk east along Woolley Bridge Road beside the security fence until the fence veers away from the road, a path follows the fence onto Waterside. Reaching Waterside go downhill [020966] continue toward the River Etherow.

Close to Tintwistle Bridge a road descends from the right, on the corner a trough, Manchester Corporation Water Works 1879. Here are Trans Pennine Trail signs. Go right into Goddard Lane and through the gate onto a track rising to Bottoms Reservoir. The route of High Peak 60 rises on to the dam crest and enters Tintwistle [023972]. Pause and look down the spillway into a gauge basin feeding the Etherow. On the right a valve house bears Manchester's coat of arms, a memorial dates various Acts of Parliament which enabled the Manchester Corporation Water Works impound the Etherow with five dams, a construction work lasting from 1848 to 1877.

Walk up the drive to the gates, before the gates take a right hand path which descends to cross the by-wash then follow the channel up the valley. At the large building this path turns toward the reservoir and runs through the pine plantation onto Valehouse embankment [031974]. Cross Valehouse Reservoir embankment, after the bridge turn north east on the track passing below Valehouse Farm.

This rough track turns a bend and rises up to a tarmac road. There is a bench on the junction [038975] and access onto the Trail. This hike follows the road right; as it climbs to cross the Longdendale Trail, walk along Summer House Lane to Padfield Main Road [036966]. Walk with Padfield Main Road between the two reservoirs at Runal Intake onto Woodhead Road, B6105. On joining the road turn south toward Glossop. In two hundred yards take a left hand track to Blackshaw Farm.

Close to the farm the track forks take the right hand way through gates and stiles into fields close to the ruins of Lower Blackshaw. The track runs above Swineshaw Reservoir toward the woodland [045958]. Turn down the wall to the foot of Swineshaw embankment, pass below the dam, see the stream flowing off Broom Hill, then pass Keyford Cottage, Broomside and Cote Lodge Reservoir. Beyond here the track runs toward Shire Hill Hospital the former Glossop workhouse. Here the road forks.

Take the drive to Swineshaw Water Treatment plant [042951]; go down to houses on Blackshaw Road and walk beneath the first high-rise dwellings. Follow the road slightly uphill, look left for the traffic free ramp of Dunne Lane; descend looking left for the former butcher's shop with a stone bull's head and lintel carvings depicting the tools of the trade.

Emerge onto Wellgate between the Wheatsheaf and Bull's Head [042949] go forward into Church Street and pass the preserved Elizabethan cottages lying within the shadow of All Saint's Church. Look left to see the village cross, dating from when this settlement was the town of Glossop and today's Glossop was Howard Town. Walk down Church Street South to the Queens from where the hike to Hope commences.

Returning to the centre of Glossop go forward into Manor Park Road, cross Shelf Brook and look for the gap in the right hand wall giving access to Manor Park. Cross the park to Corn Street [039942] and follow High Street East to the town centre.

Glossop to Hope

Dark Peak Map required, the route crosses exposed moorland.

Glossop is served by trains from Manchester. Buses run into Manchester either through Hyde or Ashton. A Monday to Saturday service links Charlesworth to Marple and Hazel Grove. Daily buses, less frequent on Sunday, run to Hayfield, New Mills and Buxton. A Sunday and Bank Holiday service links Manchester to Glossop and Castleton via the Snake Inn.

From Glossop town centre at the Norfolk Arms [035941], beside the traffic lights, go along High Street East until Shelf Brook is met at left hand Corn Street; go up Corn Street to a footbridge into Manor Park. Once in the park go uphill, and onward passing bowling green, pavilion and tennis courts. A path across open parkland leads to a gateway onto Manor Park Road. A few yards north, Shelf Brook is re-crossed; on the corner stands The Queens [042947].

From The Queens at Old Glossop, walk east along Shepley Street, crossing the junction with Blackshaw Brook. Shepley Street follows the brook past the mills toward Tan Yard Farm. Shelf Brook has recently been dredged, weirs have been provided to break the energy of flood waters and initiate the deposition of shingle which would otherwise make shallow the lower stream channel. At the end of the mill the brook passes through a boulder trap arresting the largest water borne rocks. Heading toward Mossy Lea the bridle road runs between Shire Hill and Lightside. The first right hand building is Tan Yard Farm. (Is the Colin Hugh's camping barn still available?) Passing Tan Yard the track continues up the valley, Small Clough flows down off Glossop Low and in time the track reaches the bridges at the confluence of Shelf and Yellowslacks Brook [061946].

The route from here is called Doctor's Gate. The Peak and Northern sign details the walk as running by Doctor's Gate Roman Road to the Snake Inn and Alport Bridge. From the gate the track climbs up toward Shelf Benches. The view back west embraces Mossy Lea Farm, a small reservoir and Shire Hill. Climb up the track following the wall to a barn there is a second Peak and Northern sign dating from 1950. This stands at a path junction from where the route runs level in to the valley whose sides become ever higher and steeper. In time a ruined wall is crossed, an obvious path descends toward the brook.

If you go forward and keep level, a much narrower path is found which runs at a height above the stream until it descends and joins the main track close to Little Clough. The obvious path now runs upstream to the Ambler Memorial Bridge [075941] and on up a wet rocky incline to reach Birchen Orchard Clough draining off Coldharbour Moor. To the north lies high ground comprising the tops of James Thorn and Shelf Stones. A stream cascades down Ashton Clough.

The path levels, turns the corner of the hill, now facing south, it rises to cross Rose Clough, Shelf Brook flows out of Crooked Clough, ahead are the flanks of Old Woman. Rising again the route fords Urchin Clough then zig-zags up the corner of the moor, through a gate before finally climbing within a shallow shale ravine to the summit of Old Woman [089934]. From Old Glossop it's been almost three miles, climbing a little over 1000 feet.

The path crosses the watershed to Doctor's Gate Culvert. On the top of the moor the route follows a section of paving reputed to be a Roman Road. In reality it's an early pack road over the hill. True, the Romans en-route from Melandra to Brough crossed these hills; their route probably crossed Mill Hill at Moss Castle and descended the Ashop Valley to Oyster Clough. The name Doctor's Gate was first used in 1627, when the full title was Doctor Talbot's Gate possibly named after Dr. John Talbot, illegitimate son of the Earl of Shrewsbury and vicar at Glossop between 1494 to 1550.

Across Old Woman the path rises to 1686 feet above sea level and meets the Pennine Way. Here there is a change of drainage, the walk leaves the Mersey Basin and enters the gathering grounds of the Derwent; draining through the Trent and Humber to the North Sea. South of Doctor's Gate one can usually see traffic on the Snake summit. The route of High Peak 60 follows the paving. Aiming south east the path reaches a stream at the head of Lady Clough and after fording the brook turns south to join the A57 at Doctor's Gate Culvert [096929].

Joining the road at Peak and Northern sign 58 dating from 1938, walk down the road for a quarter mile approaching the culvert where Upper North Grain drains off Over Wood Moss. Where the road side wall ends and a tubular fence commences, cross the fence and descend into Lady Clough noting an inclined causeway running to the confluence of Upper North Grain and Lady Clough. A close look at the Ordnance Survey map shows a stream side path; this is visible and may have been an extension from Doctor's Gate.

The first stream is crossed on an ancient clapper bridge, the next stream Nether Fork Grain is forded and ahead is the edge of the forest. In a few yards a quality stile is met and a sign 'Lady Clough Forest Walk' welcomes the route into the woodland [103926].

The Forest Walk is a well built pathway following Lady Clough. The path descends to the stream side, don't cross the bridge, enjoy the route which rises and falls through a dense dark pine forest, in time it descends stone steps and runs by the stream to the confluence of Lady Clough with Birchin Clough. Cross the plank bridge over the tributary, continue to a well built concrete bridge, here there is a choice of route.

If the intention is to terminate the walk at the Snake Inn continue down the stream to its confluence with the River Ashop, a well used path heading down the Ashop rises to join the A57 close to the Snake Inn.

Should one wish to take a traditional route to Hayfield, some six miles further, again follow the Lady Brook down to the Ashop. From the Ashop junction turn west taking the Snake Path through the Ashop Valley back over the Mersey Watershed into William Clough and down into the Kinder Valley.

To continue with the High Peak 60 through to Hope, from the concrete bridge over the Lady Brook [108913], take the forest road away from the stream up onto the A57. Cross the main road and by going slightly north, locate the start of the Oyster Clough path commencing at Peak and Northern signpost 56, dating from 1924, and replaced 1993.

Leave the Snake Road from the Peak and Northern Footpath Sign pointing to Oyster Clough, found a mile north of the Snake Inn beside the A57 [109911]. The path climbs through the plantation, in a clearing is a jumble of fallen rock, Dinas Sitch Tor, the walk tends uphill to a stile on the top of the forest and out onto Alport Moor. The track, constructed to reach Oyster Clough cabin, forks at a wooden stump; walk the path heading level above the forest fence. Look around, south and west across the Ashop Trench are valleys and crags; the highest ground comprises Kinder Edge coming to a climax at Fairbrook Naze. As the path runs along the remnant of the woodland wall a further Peak and Northern sign tells the walker to stay beside the wall. Following this advice the path descends to Oyster Clough, fords the stream and climbs out of the valley onto Cowms Moor [123900].

The path is way marked; it descends slowly toward Hayridge Farm. Interestingly there is a short paved section of path before the National Trust Cowms Moor sign is met and a stile crossed. The route now gives views south onto the Seal Edges, ahead views stretch beyond the Alport onto the wooded ridge between Ashop and Derwent.

Approach Hayridge down a sunken track, the walk diverts around the north side of the farmstead to reach the lane running from Alport Farm. From the lane a short path descends toward the River Alport, and meets the A57 at Alport Bridge. Cross the Snake Road, go through the gate and down to the junction of Alport and Ashop [141894]. Cross the Ashop either by ford or footbridge then walk the bridle road running close to Upper Ashop Farm. A wide track skirts the foot of Blackley Hey, ascend the rough road to the fording of Blackley Clough [155882]. When the short climb beyond the ford is tackled the wooded ridge dividing Derwent and Noe becomes visible. High Peak 60 passes close to Crookstone Barn and reaches Hope Cross. The stone pillar stands at the cross road of pack horse routes, its capstone identifies four destinations, Sheffield, Edale, Hope and Glossop, there is date of 1737 [161874].

Descend down the Roman Road to Fullwood Stile Farm, The flanks of Lose Hill lie across the valley, a road and railway at its feet. At Fullwood Stile go into the farm yard, the word footpath turns the walker to the right [171848], around the corner and over a right hand stile to walk through fields parallel with the railway and Earle's Sidings. Trains of cement wagons are shunted to and from the kilns connected to the distant chimney. The path becomes a lane, turn right, pass below the railway, pass the Burrell memorial signpost and continue to a left hand house, Mill Barn [172840].

A sign points to Brough, take the track running downstream from Killhill Bridge. Follow the River Noe to a derelict waterwheel. At the house turn away from the river pass the conservatory, go up steps to enter the field. The path runs back to follow the Noe to Station Road at Netherhall Bridge [175833]. On joining the A625 go east passing Aston Road to the station approach. There is a bus stop here, or go up to the platform for trains to Sheffield or Manchester [181832].

Hope to Buxton

Dark Peak and White Peak maps required, a varied route, farmland and moorland, several steep ascents.

Hope has daily trains from Manchester, Marple, New Mills and Sheffield. Buses pass through the village en-route to Sheffield and Castleton. Weekend buses run to and from Manchester via the Snake.

From Hope Station [181832] go down to Station Road, A625, this is followed west to the River Noe at Netherhall Bridge. Enter Hope close to St. Peter's church. Go into the church yard and walk between graves and well trimmed trees to the doorway with gargoyles, niche and finial. Spot the ancient cross and the finger post. Take the path heading south to the Vicarage and go down onto the lane.

Walk to the bridge over Peakshole Water. Cross the bridge, locate the restored Pinfold [172834] and walk away from Hope. Pass the junction with Eccles Lane follow Pindale Road looking on the right for the Kitty Smith memorial signpost at the commencement of the Castleton path. Through the first field the route is surfaced as it follows the brook, continue to the railway serving the cement works, on through fields and over stiles until once more the walk runs beside Peakshole Water, finally it rejoins the A635 on the outskirts of Castleton. The road is met at a Peak and Northern sign dating from 1908 at an altitude of 592 feet [154831].

Head on into Castleton, passing bus station and toilets, turn the corner and after the school continue up Back Street close to St. Edmund's Church, continue to the cenotaph in the open space in front of the Youth Hostel [150828]. Turning left, Bargate leaves the village, look for a sign pointing into Cave Dale at the start of the Limestone Way. Walk up the Limestone Way. The path passes cottages then enters a steep narrow passage between limestone cliffs.

At the gate the dale widens, sheep cropped grass cloaks the near vertical walls, overhanging limestone cliffs make the scene more dramatic, and in the wider parts various shallow caves can be explored [149824]. Look back to see the keep of Peveril Castle perched on the cliff edge. Climbing higher up the dale the cliffs once again squeeze the path, the surface is rough, through a gate and a change in geology. The dark rocks to the left are volcanic in origin. The path follows a dry valley out onto the moor. Views stretch across Hurd Low to Rowter Farm and Mam Tor.

Deep below this limestone upland are pot holes and lead mines. Many of the old mines are now worked opencast for either fluorspar or barites. From Castleton it's been a steady climb of eight hundred feet in two miles to reach the cross roads of tracks crossing the moor [136813].

Ahead a sign points toward Peak Forest. Take a bridle path which follows the wall, west of south, to ground disturbed by mining activity. The first path junction above Oxlow Rake is ignored, go over the stile, still beside the wall ascend to a high point of 1400 feet, passing a circular pond before taking the level path [132804] passing former Starvehouse Mine. As the path commences its descent, walls enclose the route, as Dick Lane it runs to the house at The Cop. Turn west along the tarmac road past Brocktor Farm, locate a stile and gate on the left, before Stonebrack [124793]. The path skirts the garden wall, then crosses the wall and follows the wall aiming toward the A623. Keep to the wall side rising slightly to join the road, Hernstone Lane, on the outskirts of Peak Forest [118789].

A short distance north west lies the Devonshire Arms and the Church of Charles, King and Martyr. The original Church dating from 1657, founded by the Countess of Devonshire, had the distinction of being the 'Gretna Green' of the Peak District. The minister acting as surrogate to the Bishop joining many runaway couples in marriage; the Fleet Street Marriage Act of 1753 put an end to this tradition.

Buses (Monday - Saturday) link the village to Buxton and Chapel en le Frith; there is an infrequent daily bus to Manchester and Chesterfield. For other buses a road walk of less than two miles leads south from Peak Forest to the hamlet of Smalldale, following close to the line of the roman road, Batham Gate. The road climbs to Laughman Tor [102779] then descends through Smalldale to the railway bridge at former Peak Forest Station. On the road corner, [091768], an hourly bus service runs, seven days a week to Stockport and Buxton. Missed the bus? Then follow Dale Road into Dove Holes for additional buses or the railway station.

Walking on to Buxton from Peak Forest, the village centre can be avoided. When the path from Stonebrack joins the main road, cross the road, opposite a path follows the wall to one of two Peak and Northern signposts. From signpost 222, descend [116788] toward to the second one 223, situated on the centre of the dam. Before Mill Cottage, built in the lee of the dam; go over the wall and head to the trees east of Dam Dale Farm [118785].

Making a separate walk of the route from Peak Forest to Buxton? Peak Forest stands either side the A623. The village reading room on the corner of the Smalldale road dates from 1880, a little to the east is the Church of Charles, King and Martyr, after the burial yard follow Damside Lane to Damside Farm [115788].

The lane passes through the yard at Damside Farm and goes onto the dam which once held water for a corn mill; on the downstream side of the dam Mill Cottage remains. Cross the dam passing the Peak and Northern Footpath sign post 223 in memory of Arthur and Edna Hodgkinson.

Cross the dam and over a stile in the limestone wall close to the side of Mill Cottage. The path leads toward Dam Dale Farm. Over a stile, through a kissing gate, below the trees at the side of the farm and walk down Dam Dale crossing the line of Batham Gate roman road. Dam Dale is a dry valley, the path follows the 1000 foot contour, and the flat wide valley floor is divided into small fields some with fodder barns. At the end of the dale climb the stile noting the large 'through stone' of crinoidal limestone [119774]. An unsurfaced road brings the Limestone Way into the valley. A few yards down the lane cross over a stile; the path now leads to an avenue of trees in Hay Dale.

When the trees end look for the remnant of a mine. Possibly once used for extracting fluorspar; there is a fissure down which a track descends, grooves have been worn into the sleepers by the steel hawser which pulled the tubs out of the mine, and these would be emptied by inverting them in a tumbler, whose base can be seen beside the mine floor. The valley continues to the road at Dale Head [122765], a stream of water flows into a pond, the valley alternates between being wide with a grassy floor and narrow with craggy walls and stony surface.

Below Dale Head the valley is known as Peter Dale, wide with grass floor narrowing to a rocky pass, widening and narrowing until widening again it reaches the Tideswell to Hargate Wall road and enters Monk's Dale National Nature Reserve [130752]. On reaching the road go west for a few yards, and climb up out of the valley heading for Wormhill. Walk a section of the Pennine Bridleway. The path runs to a junction of tracks [128746]. This high point on the plateau gives views south to the hills behind Taddington and east toward the Wye at Millers Dale. The track to Wormhill runs south west between walls, note the remnants of a stone kerb.

Wide fields are met, the path heads for a stile. In its final stages the footpath runs west down the centre of a long wide field aiming for the farm. At the farm gate the path is led off south, onto a track which when followed past Holly House reaches the gate of St. Margaret's Church, Wormhill [124742].

The church dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch dates from 1864, Wormhill having becoming a parish in 1859 is mentioned in the Domesday survey. This village had been within the parish of Tideswell and under the Diocese of Lichfield, a chapel of ease existed from the thirteenth century, it was here that the Rev. William Bagshaw, Apostle of the Peak, preached in 1660. Look in the burial yard for a sundial dated 1670.

Back onto the track, which is followed to the village well. On the well a plaque dated 1875 commemorates James Brindley, civil engineer, born in the parish AD.1716. On the other side of the well a limestone block bears a further Brindley plaque, positioned here in 1989 by the Institute of Civil Engineers assisted by ICI. Chemicals and Polymers. Wormhill's well dressing is held during the last week of August.

After trying out the stocks turn south down the tarmac road toward Millers Dale. Passing the left hand estate of Wormhill Hall look on the right for Hassop Farm. A stile on the right after the farm drive gives access to the yard; go to the gate way beyond the left hand buildings, into a rear yard [123739]. Through a narrow gate, walk to a second gate then south west to the rim of Flag Dale and down the path onto the dale floor.

Climb the steep path up out of the dale, through the gate and up the sloping field into two large meadows, the path is indistinct, the land to the west is bordered by a quarry road and a belt of timber. There is a sign post where the path joins the surfaced track [117733]. From here to Meadows the original track runs parallel to the quarry road; it's easier to take the tarmac route to the farm.

Turn right to access the farms, keep to the track passing barns and houses until the lane turns sharp right, on the corner a limestone block supports an engraved map plate detailing realignments to the Old Moor paths. From this corner go through the gate into a left hand track which runs to a headland with views down onto the Wye at Blackwell Mill [114729].

A steep path, another section of the Pennine Bridleway, descends toward the river; go down the path and below the railway to reach the Wye upstream of Chee Dale. Turn up river to the cottages at Blackwell Mill, don't cross the river, continue upstream to the pump house.

After this building a path trod out through the undergrowth runs toward the railway, pass below the line in a tunnel [111727], and climb a steep path. The path goes up to and over a sloping timber bridge. High Peak 60 climbs to give views of the Tunstead Quarries, at the hill top go over a stile and follow a path between bushes and fence until views open out across Topley Pike. At the end of the woods go over a stile into the fields and continue up the valley keeping to the hilltop pastures. Down below lies the River Wye, the A6, and the railway heading toward Buxton. At another stile [102726] the path leaves the fields for the valley rim and contours close to the wall heading for Cow Low Farm. After a final stile descend steeply to the river at the foot of Woo Dale and cross the Wye onto the A6. Cross the road; a steep path climbs to the railway [098724], cross the line the path climbs again to reach a track running into Kingsterndale.

Look at the old cross in the centre of the hamlet, a faint inscription reads "This ancient market cross was repositioned by the parish in commemoration of the coronation of His Majesty King George..." which King and when are difficult to read. From Kingsterndale walk up the lane passing Christ Church and the Old School House until on the right stands a Midshires Way signpost [092716]. Follow this long distance path through the flat farmland, until the path reaches Highcliff Farm at Cow Dale.

Walk forward onto the road, turn right to the seat and left on a track, still part of the Midshires Way running to Staden [082720]. Into Staden via a stable yard, a date of 1829 on a lintel. At Staden go right and take the track [074722] around Staden Low which turns toward Dukes Drive and gives views forward to the elegant railway viaduct. On the right a track descends passing a farmstead onto Dukes Drive at Limetree Caravan Park [068725].

Cross the road and slightly right, up the bank to a stile, the path follows the wall and fence away from Dukes Drive. Through a left hand gate and across the field [065727] into a road running between allotments toward the railway bridge. Cross the bridge, pass right hand Crowstones, into Byron Street and take second right Bennett Street down onto Dale Road. Turning left into Dale Road notice the Roll of Honour for Bennett Street men on the corner house gable [060731]. Go along Dale Road passing St. Mary's Church to the Five Ways traffic lights and turn right, finish by walking along High Street to Higher Buxton's Market Place [058732] with its cafes, toilets and bus stops.

Buxton to New Mills

White Peak and Dark Peak maps required, field paths, lanes, moorland, and a canal towing path

Buxton market ground has bus stops for services running to Ashbourne, Bakewell, Derby, Hanley, Hartington, Nottingham, Macclesfield, Matlock, Sheffield, Tideswell, and London. Frequent services runs to Glossop, Whaley Bridge and New Mills. The station with hourly trains to Manchester lies fifteen minutes away reached by descending Terrace Road passing Spring Gardens and walking up The Quadrant.

Leaving Buxton market ground High Peak 60 descends Hall Bank from the west side of the former town hall. To the right of Hall Bank are the Terrace Slopes where equipment records the local climate. At the base of the slopes stands The Crescent, St. Anne's Well and the Tourist Information Office. Cross The Square in front of the Old Hall Hotel [057734] enter The Pavilion Gardens and reach the River Wye. Follow the river upstream until Burlington Road is met [053733]. Across Burlington Road the Wye is followed toward the A53, St. John's Road. The route runs through parkland close to the river and is called the Serpentine Walk; follow the true left bank onto the road. Opposite a path below tall trees leads away from the road into Gadley Lane.

Follow Gadley Lane between Brickyard Plantation and Gadley Plantation until Watford Road comes in from the right. Here on the corner of Cavendish Golf Course walk up an un-surfaced road through the links heading to distant Watford Farm. Ample signs warn of golf balls. At the head of the links go through a gate [041741]. The track climbs to the farm, in the farm yard the path turns north to the edge of Watford Wood.

The path runs at the foot of the wood before turning north west, the route then crosses open moorland aiming toward Long Hill Farm. The path follows a slight depression through reed beds; the A5004 visible across the valley. Aim for the farm, within the last few hundred yards from the farm the route passes a wet hollow. The path diverts away from the farm, skirt behind a left hand shed, and go through a wall gap keeping high up and west of the farm [034750] until a fence heads to the A5004, go over a stile to a fingerpost and bus stop. Walk onto the summit of Long Hill Road, turn left into Goyt's Lane discover Old Long Hill Road in the angle between the two roads. If time permits go down Goyt's Lane to view the shrine [029753].

Back up to the summit take the old road pre-dating the turnpike through to Rake End, on the A5004 [025759]. Go down the main road for a quarter mile then at the right hand Midshires Way marker leave the road and follow the bridle track onto the ridge with views across Errwood Reservoir and the Goyt Valley. Through the summit wall the way marked path runs east to a point high above the Long Hill bends. Finally follow the wall to White Hall. Walking east skirt the wall and join the route of a roman road.

Derbyshire Education purchased White Hall sixty years ago intending it to become an outdoor pursuits centre. During the war it had housed evacuees from Guernsey. White Hall was promoted by Jack Longland Derbyshire's Director of Education, following the opening in 1951 warden Peter Mosedale relied on volunteer climbers and walkers to staff the centre, Geoffrey Bridge succeeded Mosedale and four years later Eric Langmuir took the post before moving to warden Glenmore Lodge in the Cairngorms. Visited by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1958 White Hall established a precedent among outdoor centres that is now widely and successfully imitated.

Passing White Hall turn right up the roman road looking for a left hand stile. Peak and Northern Sign 95 points the way to Chapel en le Frith via 'Combs. Go over the stile [034763]. This path follows the wall north west, over a stile, wall to the left, another stile then descend following fence and gully to Combs Head Farm. Pass to the west of the farm continue down the field below the farmstead, in time keep a wall to the left, when there's a choice of two gateways take the right hand one, down wall sides to a stile, down into the Meveril Brook valley and across the footbridge. A few yards ahead cross the second bridge, a large stone slab with handrail. Walk up the field following a muddy track rising to Allstone Lea, go onto the farm drive at the sign post erected in the fortieth year of Eccles CHA. 1986 [043776].

North along the road passing Dear Leap and down to the farms at Rye Flatt where Herbert Frood experimented with brake pads before establishing his factory, Ferodo, at Chapel en le Frith. Down onto the road cross Pyegreave Brook and go right, discover the sign dedicated to David Bellhouse. Here a flagged path climbs to a wall; keep the wall to the right, uphill until the wall ends. Continue heading for the highest land until two shallow craters are passed. A gate and stile exist in the wall on the hill top [048786]. Combs Reservoir lies to the west; Castle Naze to the east.

Turning to the north west the path climbs a second wall now High Peak 60 runs level across the top of steep hillsides with the railway at its feet. Stay level, skirt gorse bushes, the path keeps pace with a power line.

The path slowly descends toward the railway. In time an exit is made onto Bank Hall drive. On reaching the lane a short left hand path cuts the corner, running through shrubs, it rejoins the drive at the railway bridge [053794].

Having gone below the railway the walk could end. Following a path east, beside the railway, brings High Peak 60 to Chapel Station for hourly trains to Manchester, Stockport, New Mills or Buxton. A station plaque commemorates the driver and guard who lost their lives in the train crash of February 1957.

Alighting from the train at Chapel the walker goes to the crossing gate, beside the restaurant, then follows the line west, the path edges away from the track and runs to the railway bridge.

Take the road descending from the railway; at Downlee Farm cross a bridge dated 1830. Continue to a left hand gate. The path follows fences and crosses two stiles, negotiate a saturated stretch of land to reach the stile into the yard at Marsh Hall [050799]. Go into the yard, follow the drive until a stream culverts below the lane, and go left and over a stile. The path follows the stream before reaching a stile on the perimeter of the golf course. Walk down the links, following white posts. The land to the west slowly rises, over a stile and follow the hedge onto Manchester Road, Cockyard [042800].

Turn toward Tunstead Milton, opposite the Hanging Gate go north up Bradshaw Lane, passing the new golf club house, rising to reach Bradshaw Hall. This is an old property note the architecture, on passing the building, look left to see the heavy stone arch linking rear yard to stable blocks. At the end of the drive go through a right hand stile and follow the fence east, over the stile at the trough, up the fence toward Lidgate. Another stile then diagonally across the next field, over a stone stile and north following the wall to the side of Lidgate for an exit onto Eccles Pike Road.

A sign dating from 1906 gives the altitude as 973 feet. A memorial to Henry Brown, Geologist and Botanist, for 27 years Secretary of Stockport Field Club was added in July 1939. The sign marks a route from Buxton via Combs, very much in accord with the line of High Peak 60 [041812]. Turn uphill, go right, on to National Trust land part of Eccles Pike. Walking close to the road side fence follow the road onto the Pike's 1213 foot summit. The ground level topograph identifies the views, Kinder to the north, Combs Edge to the south, views west across the Whaley Moors into Cheshire and Manchester.

From the summit walk west along the ridge to the wall then north following the wall down into the Black Brook Valley. Follow the wall side down to a green lane; this is walked west, to the road at Portobello [029815]. Cross the lane go over the stile and descend into Barren Clough, aim south toward the wall before following the wall into the clough bottom. Once over the stream go to the stile before climbing and heading north west on a faint path which skirts gorse bushes to the power line and a spur above Buxworth. Follow the broken wall to the metal gate and descend to Western Lane. On reaching the lane follow it as it runs to cross the by-pass and canal, reach the Navigation Inn beside the upper canal basins.

From Buxworth [022820] follow the track, over the wall from the Black Brook. Leaving the basins the canal narrows, here a toll keeper occupying the adjacent cottage would have measured a barge's draught and calculated a tonnage based on cargo, prior to levying a toll. After the lock the Buxworth Branch passes cottages at Tea Pot Row, an overflow weir is crossed shortly before the canal passes below the A6 by-pass.

Following the towing path High Peak 60 crosses the River Goyt. Close to Tesco a horse tunnel passes below the canal. At the footbridge the route joins that of the Goyt Way and Midshires Way [013823].

Returning to New Mills, turn north and follow the Peak Forest Canal. After the Dennis Suleman fingerpost, walk into Bridgemont passing below two further over-bridges. Stay with the towing path pass Bridge 34, a footbridge on the site of Botham's Hall Swivel Bridge. In time pass under Bridge 33, Greensdeep Bridge carrying Chinley Road; heading into Furness Vale Bridge 32, a footbridge at the site of Bongs Swivel Bridge is passed en route to 31, Furness Bridge [009836]. Through Furness Vale passing the marina as far as Bridge 30, Carr Swing Bridge.

Leave the canal and go down to Carr Farm [005842]. From the farm use a left hand gate to access the path running through fields lying between canal and river. The track comes to a gate, rejoin the Goyt Way and cross the River Goyt at Goytside. Pass Goytside Farm to the junction of tracks and turn left [004846] to the railway viaduct. Pass below the arches; take the path running down the river bank into the Old Mill Leat. This is followed below Queens Road Bridge to the junction of Sett and Goyt, the Sett is crossed at the Millward Memorial Bridge [001852], dedicated to a local GP who campaigned for the Torrs to become the park under the town.

Well, sixty miles or more have been walked since we left New Mills. All that's left is to walk below Union Road Bridge, finally up the long flight of steps back to the Heritage Centre and bus station.

