

Eyam & Bretton Clough

Our series on favourite walks and places continues as **Tony Willey (ex-Treasurer)** takes us on a walk which provides some superb scenic delights - and a selection of man-made blots on the landscape! The basic five mile walk can be extended to 6 or 8 miles if time and energy allow.



Eyam Hall with the village stocks in the foreground

Walk through Eyam churchyard to a kissing gate which leads to a fenced path. Follow the path and two fields uphill to a road. Turn left for a few yards and take a waymarked path on the right which continues the climb behind Eyam youth hostel and through several fields to Occupation Road. Pause here to catch your breath and enjoy the view across the village. Go left then right over a wall stile and follow the wall over Bole Hill, passing under a power line with the buildings of Ladywash Mine on the right and a communications tower on the left. Ladder stiles take you over the track of Sir William Hill, where the works of man are at last pushed into the background.

A path through the heather moor descends to a gate and stile, which lead to a wide grassy path descending gently into Bretton Clough, with views across to Abney and beyond - a delightful half mile. On reaching the stream a right turn will take you to Stoke Ford and the path to Abney, but we turn left upstream. The well-used path eventually turns away from the stream to a stile and zig zags up to another stile and an enclosed path. This leads to a tarmac lane which is followed to the road junction and the Barrel Inn, where a welcome drink can be accompanied by splendid views to the south.

From the inn turn left and walk along the road for 100 yards, turn right at a signpost, through a gate, then diagonally left downhill on an often muddy path through an area of gorse. Turn left onto a track and follow the signs round the blighted fluorspar works to the Eyam-Foolow road. Turn left here to return to Eyam.

To extend the walk a little and avoid the scenic delights of the fluorspar works, turn right at the Barrel Inn and at the next road junction go left downhill to Foolow. Here take the Eyam road and just beyond the village sign cross a stile on the right. A grand series of over twenty fields and wall stiles leads back to Eyam, passing through a housing estate to arrive at the main street by Eyam Hall and the village stocks.

The walk can be further extended to 8 miles by turning right at the Barrel Inn, but at the road junction stay on the escarpment. At the next junction keep right on the Camphill Road and at the next bend take the hollow way branching left to the school where a minor road leads into Great Hucklow. Go straight across at the road junction, turn left over a stile just after the Unitarian church, over a series of stiles, across the corner of a garden and into a minor road which is followed left to the hamlet of Grindlow. Proceed along the lane signposted to Foolow, over four stiles to reach the road into the village. From here follow the instructions in the previous paragraph to return to Eyam.

Walk Information:

Length: approx. 5 miles - 2.5 hours.

Can be extended to 6 or 8 miles for the more energetic - approx. 3 or 4 hours respectively. Field and rough moorland paths, muddy in places. Boots recommended. Steep climb out of Eyam at start.

Start Point: Eyam church, map reference 218765.

Buses: 65 from Sheffield; 66, X67 from Chesterfield. The main village car park is at map reference 216768. At quiet times it is possible to park on the road in the village.