

Walk 1 Baslow Edge

Distance: 4.2miles (m) (extended route 5m)

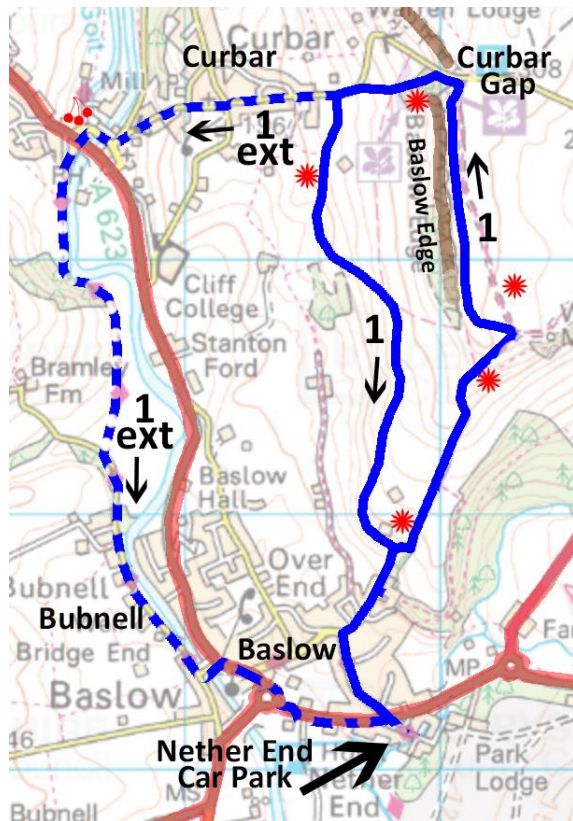
Elevation: 630ft

Difficulty: A steep climb and uneven paths. Medium with easy options.

Start point: Baslow Carpark DE45 1SR

Grid reference: SK 25877217

Summary: A walk up the old Bar road out of Baslow, along Baslow Edge past the Eagle Stone, and back either below the Edge, through farmland, or down to Calver Bridge and back to Baslow along the river Derwent and past the church.



Exit the car park and cross the corner of the green to the pedestrian crossing. Cross the main road and go up Eaton Hill ahead of you. Take the 3rd road on the right, Bar Rd, by the Prince of Wales Triangle. (To your left is the village shop) Continue up Bar Rd, past the houses until it becomes a lane. Follow the lane, past *Ladywall well* (0.6m), on your left, for about half a mile to a gate onto the moor, the original *Top Bar Gate* for the village. The views behind you are of *Chatsworth House* and the Derwent valley towards Matlock.

Go through the gate and take the main path ahead up to a seat on your left at the top of the hill. Where the track divides above this, there are 2 options. The easier bridle path bears left across the moor towards the *Eagle Stone*, though better views of the valley are seen by taking a sharp left, back on yourself and slightly uphill for 5 meters on a minor path. Following the latter path is very rocky but it follows Baslow Edge closely. You can still see *Eagle Stone* from this path.



Eagle Stone

The walk continues along the path by the edge to a *view point near Curbar Gap* (nearly 2m from the start, and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the junction). The legend at this point shows all the villages and landmarks within view. From there continue to follow the path round and turn left to re-join the main bridle path coming from Baslow. Continue to the gate at Curbar Gap and turn immediately left after going through the left hand gate, down a narrow path above the road. It is possible to walk down the road but beware of traffic as the visibility is poor and the road narrow.



View from Baslow Edge

After about 200yds take the signposted path to your left by the national trust sign for Curbar Gap. Follow the path down the hill and through the stone gateway. Ahead of you is a wooden gate. Go through the gate and down the left hand side of the field to a gate on to the road at the bottom. After about 50yards take the signposted footpath to your left, immediately in front of the Curbar village sign. (2.3 miles from the start) [Alternatively from here you can take the

walk extension by continuing down the road.]

Follow this path on the left, over a stile and through 2 gates, out onto moorland, and along the hillside below the Edge. Initially keep to the right but slightly uphill until you reach a memorial and *graves of the Cundy family*, who died of the plague in 1632. Continue ahead along this path for about 350yds, then take the left uphill fork and continue until you reach a Footpath Society signposted junction. Take the path to Baslow, effectively right, and go through the gate into farmland. Once in the field keep the wall to the right and cross the field to a walled track. Go along the track out into the next field. The track does a sharp right hand turn to go down to the farm (private land), but cross the grass to a stile in the bottom right hand corner. Go over that stile into the next field and continue with a wall on your left to the next gate. As you round the bend *Chatsworth House* appears in front of you as Baslow is seen below in the valley. Go through the next gate and straight on down the field to a stone drinking trough and gate. Go through the stile at the side and you are back onto Bar Rd, just below *Lady well*. Turn right to retrace your steps back to the car park.

Walk 1 extension

Continue straight down the road through Curbar village, down the hill to Calver Bridge. The old *Calver cotton mill* is on your right as you descend the last part of the hill.

At the T junction at the bottom, nearly 3m from the start of the walk, turn right in front of the Bridge Inn, over the river, on the pedestrian bridge. Once across the bridge, immediately cross the road and take the signposted path ahead, under the main road alongside the river. Go past the backs of the houses and across a small footbridge into the field ahead. Keeping the river on your left, go through the gate at the far end. The path initially follows the curve of the river, but then continues along the valley side. Go through a gate in a dry stone wall ahead of you. Enter the next field through the pedestrian gateway. On your left, across the field and river is Stanton Ford House, an 18c Charity school. As the field widens out there is a wall ahead with a pedestrian gateway to the right, and across the field a gate on the far side. This field can be very waterlogged in winter. If it is impassable don't go through the gateway in the wall, but follow the raised grass track to your right. This comes to a farm gate and exit onto Bubnell Lane. From either gate, turn left and climb the gentle hill to Bubnell (4miles from start). Continue along Bubnell Lane, past the weir with Bubnell Hall *on* your right, to the old *Baslow Bridge**, with its *watchman's gate* and *Toll Bar cottage* on the far side (4 ½ m). Cross the bridge and turn right past *Baslow church**.

Cross the Bakewell road at the roundabout and continue straight on past Baslow Sportsfield and the Cavendish Hotel on your

right. Turn right at the village green and hall to the car park.

Points of Interest

Baslow church and the Old bridge and ford are described in the walk around the village.

Ladywall Well

This trough on Bar Road provided water for horses before the long pull up to the moors

Top Bar Road

The word Bar is an old word for scarp or cliff: a long line of them can be seen up and down to valley, in fact 20 miles from Derwent to Matlock.

The gate is the entrance to the open moorland. On the right below the gate is a holloway, a ditch that used to be a main road out of Baslow.

Eagle Stone

This large isolated rock, weathered by rain and wind, has been a landmark for millennia. It is suggested that it was the Haggie Stone where villagers bartered goods.

Curbar Gap

Travellers have always taken advantage of this gap in the Edges. The 1759 turnpike road, the first in the area, came this way connecting Manchester with Chesterfield.

Cundy Graves

The Cundy family lived in Grislow Fields, a nearby farm. All died in the 1632 epidemic of the plague. A plaque and their gravestones mark the spot where they were buried. (Eyam plague was later in 1666). Underneath lies the main water pipeline from the Derwent Dams down to Derby and Leicester. It had a diversion to avoid the graves.

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