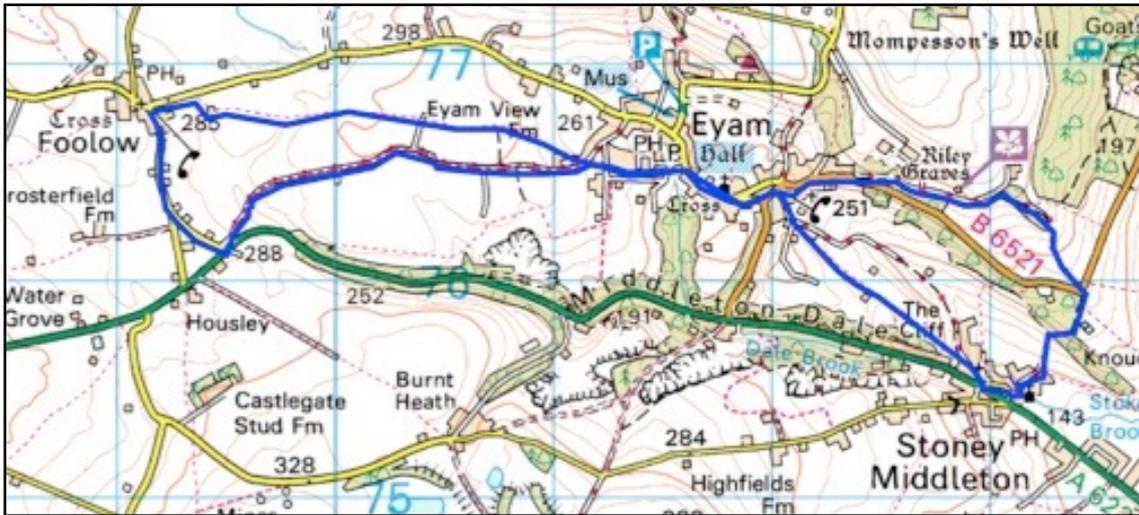


7. Foolow - Eyam - Riley Graves - Stoney Middleton - Eyam - Foolow
7.5 miles allow 3 hours



From the door of the Bulls Head turn left and follow the road for approx 300m. A footpath sign shows where to enter the 2nd field on the right. The footpath bears diagonally left through the first field and continues through a further 4 fields to a narrow steep sided valley, "Linnen Dale". Cross the Dale and follow the path diagonally left up the hill. The path is now obvious through the fields towards Eyam.

Eventually the path goes through a narrow alley between the houses on the edge of Eyam and a track is reached. **Remember this point for the way back.** (This Track is called "Tideswell Lane", turning right will be our return path towards Foolow).

Cross Tideswell Lane and follow the footpath through a small field, cross a small road and follow the path down through a housing estate into Eyam. **This brings you to a road junction with the main road through Eyam opposite the entrance to Eyam Hall.**

Opposite Eyam Hall we turn right onto Church Street and walk past the Church into the village square. Continue out of the square past Eyam Tea rooms. The road ascends.

After the double bends just where the houses finish, we take a small road (Riley Lane) on the left (signpost Riley Graves). Follow Riley Lane up

through woodland. As we come out of the woods, take the track off to the right, (signpost to top Riley and Graves). This takes us past the Riley Graves, which are in the field on the left.

Riley Graves, near to Riley House Farm. Seven stones are surrounded by a wall mark the graves of John Hancock and six of his children who were all struck down by the plague and buried between the 3rd and 10th August 1666. The National Trust now manages the site.

After the Graves we continue along the same track for about 200m where another track on the right leads us into more woodland. After about 200m in the woodland there is a dip in the track. Here we take a footpath leading downhill to the right. The path takes us past some old small quarries (on our left) and brings us to a gate in into a field. The path follows the wall beside the gate gently downhill through the field to another gate leading out onto a road.

Cross the road. A few yards to our left on the bend in the road, a track leads downhill towards Stoney Middleton. The track brings us down past the grave yard and bends right (becoming tarmac). Just past the first houses on the right is the thermal spring and bath house.

Stoney Middleton, the settlement of Stoney Middleton dates back to Roman times, when thermal baths were fed by a naturally hot spring, these have been restored and make an interesting detour along with the unusual octagonal church built in 1759, with its unique lantern tower. The village was also a centre for industry including, candle making and boot manufacturing which still exists today.

Continue along into Stoney Middleton with its round church. Just after the church we come to a T junction (left is the main road). We turn right up hill.

As the road levels off we fork right past the old chapel along a street named Cliff Bottom. Just after the old Reading Room, the road bends to the right. In 50m a stile (footpath sign) on the left leads into a field. Follow the path steeply up hill. Just after the path passes a small wood we come to, "The Boundary Stone."

Eyam Boundary Stone, during the plague food and medical supplies were left at certain spots to mark the boundary of the village beyond which residents of the village agreed they would not stray. This efficiently controlled the disease within the village limits and prevented it spreading to the rest of Derbyshire.

From the boundary stone continue along the path as it leads us back into Eyam, past the Lidgate Graves and into the Village Square.

Returning from Eyam.

From Eyam square, we re-trace our steps back through the village, past the church to Eyam Hall. From the entrance of Eyam Hall cross the road and walk up New Close, through the estate, At the junction, follow the path opposite which eventually brings you to the edge of the village. After crossing a track and the first small field, you reach Tideswell Lane. Turn left and continue for just over a mile until it ends at a road junction. Here, turn right and follow the tarmac road back to Foolow, about 10 minutes.

