Walk 20 - Kinder Scout
by Frank Chadwick

OS Sheet: Explorer OL1
The Peak District - Dark Peak Area

Description: This is a circular walk starting at the lay-by on the A624 road two miles south of Glossop at grid ref 034908 and visiting Kinder Downfall via the Pennine Way.

Distance: 10 miles.

Transport: Travellers by car should park in the starting point lay-by.

Route:

1. Start by crossing the high stile over the wall by the lay-by and following the track E up Chunal Moor. After a mile the path descends briefly to pass through a gate in the wall before continuing up to the trig point at Harry Hut.

Continue uphill bearing gradually right to join a paved path coming in from the right. Turn left on this path which shortly passes some wreckage from an American Liberator aeroplane which crashed there in 1944 and join the Pennine Way at Mill Hill before dropping to cross the path out of William Clough and then climbing steeply up onto the Kinder Scout plateau.
2. Follow the Pennine Way along the edge of the plateau to Kinder Downfall where it turns south and after about a mile cross the distinctive rock gully of Red Brook and pick up an initially indistinct path going down above the gully and to the right. After about 250 yards this levels out to become a good track. There are suitable spots for a lunch break down here.

3. Ignore the descent to Cluther rocks but continue to traverse the western flank of Kinder Scout for 1-1/4 miles descending to a field gate below Kinder Low End. Do not go through the gate but turn North keeping the wall on your left.

4. After 600yds cross a stile to the left and follow a good track across farmland, skirting the woods below Kinder Reservoir to cross the River Kinder footbridge and come up steeply to the north end of the reservoir embankment. Here take an abrupt left turn, climb up to Middle Moor and ignoring a left turn signposted “Hayfield” continue N-W past a shooting cabin and over a wooden footbridge laid on the moor.

5. After a good mile this path drops down to a footbridge near a road. Climb the track north of the bridge, joining the A624 at Chunal summit. Here a short walk along the road passing (or not) the Grouse Inn brings you back to your starting point.