

Trail Guide:



The 'Fancy That' Factor

Where the earth really did move: on 1977 the old Stockport to Sheffield road slipped and slithered until eventually the powers that be decided it could not be mended any more and the road was closed

Castleton – or Castle Town – takes its name from Peveril Castle built as part of the Norman defence chain by William Peveril – son of William the Conqueror

Mam Tor – or 'Heights of Mother'. Yes, seriously – where do you think we get the word Mam from? It may go back to the Latin root for 'breast'

This fascinating drive of about 18 miles (30 Kms) will take you about two hours but longer if you stop at some of the attractions. Visiting all the caves will make it a full day! It will take you up and down some steep hills, past all the famous caverns, and through the lovely Vale of Edale. You will see where the old A625 vanished under the 'shivering mountain' of Mam Tor and travel to a wonderful viewpoint high above Castleton. An interesting and photogenic journey for you.

Start at the **Visitor's Centre in Castleton** and discover the history of this interesting village from prehistoric times. Why is there a Bronze Age fort? Why were the Romans here? Why the Normans? What did the Victorians do? And why all the mines? Discover all at the Centre.

Next, drive up the former main road out of town past the **Treak Cliff Cavern**, famous for its Blue John stone and stalactites which hang down like icicles. The entrance is the largest cavern entrance in the British Isles. This road used to go all the way up the hill but one day in 1977 the mountain moved and the road with it. Despite repairs it was finally abandoned in 1979. Look at the waves in what is left and you will see why!

Now drive back down towards Castleton and take the main road (the 'new' A625) towards **Speedwell Cavern**. You can stop and visit the cavern or drive on up the steep **Winnats Pass**. Follow the signs to the **Blue John Cavern** and you can see the other end of the old road that vanished. Take in the views of **Mam Tor** – also known as the shivering mountain – with its

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Bronze Age fort and the remains of the road! Imagine having been there when the earth really moved!

Then it's up and over the hill and steeply down with wonderful views of the Vale of Edale and Kinder Scout – the great hill behind it which in 1948 gave rise to the peaceful protests about land access for walkers which we all enjoy today. **Edale** village is worth a visit with its walker's pubs and old stone buildings.

Take the road adjacent to the railway and river Noe which all follow this picturesque Vale down to **Hope** village. From here turn **left** onto **A6187** and you will see the modern face of the valley – quarrying. Limestone and other materials such as lead have been taken from these hills since before Roman times, indeed when you travel the **B6049** road from Brough

to Bradwell you are actually following a Roman road. Now there is only one big quarry left with its enormous chimney belching smoke into the air.

Then drive up the looping road that takes you high above Castleton. There are the remains of old quarries everywhere and some of the best views in the area. Look at the dramatic ridge from Mam Tor to Hollins Cross and ending at Lose Hill. **Lose Hill Hall** is well known for the courses it runs on writing and interpretation for all ages.

From here, return to **Castleton**.

So, you've still got some more time? Then why not try the walk that takes in these hills and some of the wonderful places that you can't reach in your car. Enjoy.

Castleton Trail No. 38

Vales, Views and a Vanished Road



38.4 km
24 miles

Key

