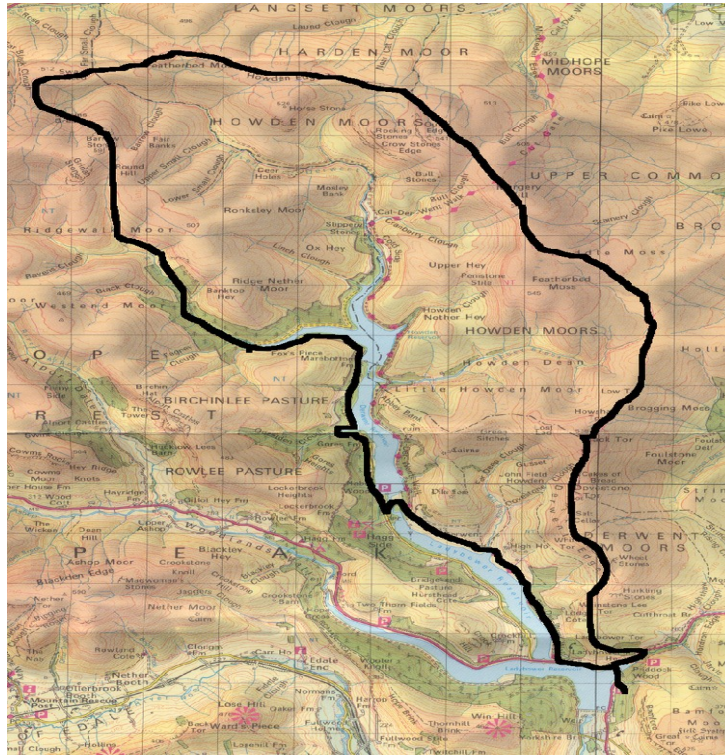


WALK 1.
RESERVOIRS 1.
25.5 miles. 7 hours 30 minutes.
Map Dark Peak. SK28/38. SK29/39.



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This is not a walk for the inexperienced; it requires an ability to read a map and use a compass, also an ability to find a way off the moors if bad weather comes in, but it is a very rewarding walk.

The car park, Heatherdene, is pleasantly situated at (203859), at the side of the Ladybower Dam. Walk N on the road from the car park, over the viaduct, then turn right on the A57 to Sheffield. In a few hundred yards, go left at the Ladybower Inn on a rough path, walking SW then W, going around the headland and climbing as you go. The path turns N and eventually passes the Trig. Point at (200868) on the Ladybower Tor, becoming a good path as it goes over Lead Hill, Whinstone Lee Tor and passes another Trig. Point at White Tor (198888). Salt Cellar lies on the track at (196893), then N to Back Tor (198910). Note the metal footpath signs on the route (Moscar – Derwent; Abbey Grange – Strines).

From Back Tor, this is a difficult part to follow especially in mist. Go to the right hand side of the stones, you see a good path going N; it starts as a clear, wide path then becomes thinner and fainter. Abbey Brook and valley can be seen to the left where a footpath comes up and crosses your path; this goes to the right across the moors called Dukes' Road. Cartledge Brook is now on your left. I find the best route is to keep the brook to your left, rough walking

over the groughs. The track starts N then curves around E. If you are lucky you will see several paths leaving Cartledge Brook going E; these lead to Howden Edge. Follow Howden Edge up to Margery Hill (189956). From Margery Hill, go W of N to Outer Edge (176970) making use of several poles, and one or two cairns. To the W are Crow Stones; these are useful; take note of them as the path curves around to the W, and see how they change their shape as you go around.

Walking now on the watershed: Cats' Clough's Head to the N; the source of the Derwent down below to the S. The path is quite good as it goes along Howden Edge, proceeding W, its line marked by several welcome poles. Pass Hoar Stones at (157982); Swain's Head at (133982) then, in half a mile, swing S as the path turns to keep to the high ground on its way to Bleaklow Hill. At the point of turning, there is a noticeable stone, Toadstool, with the date 1894 deeply carved in it. In about 1,000 yards, leave the friendly path and strike off E over rough grass and groughs, no path here, and make for Barrow Stones (135970). You will now have gone around the head of the River Derwent.

From Barrow Stones (1920ft), go S downhill, Grinnah Stones high up on one's right, into Grinnah Grain, rough going; the grass is long and there is no path at the start. At last a thin path appears, and eventually leads to a Landrover track cut out of the hill. Below, on the right the River Westend flows SE towards the Howden Reservoir, and just where it enters its final rest, a footbridge leads you to a pleasant walk E along a tarmac road, with the reservoir on one's left.

A long and predictable walk takes you past Howden Dam, down to Derwent Dam where you recall scenes from the Dambuster film; and where you admire the plaque to Tip the canine hero. In 1953 he stayed at the side of his dead master, Joseph Tagg, for fifteen weeks in heavy snow. Cross over to the other side of the water underneath the Derwent Reservoir Dam wall to walk down to the viaduct whose welcoming sight you have long been waiting for. Thence to the car park at Heatherdene.

Checked. 21.10.2002