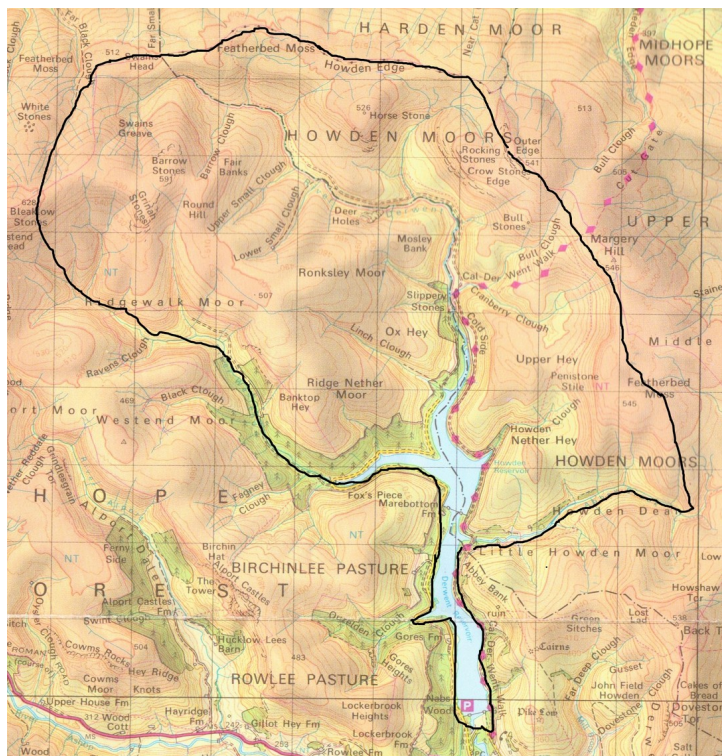


WALK 75.
RESERVOIRS 75.
22 miles. 6 hours 30.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Fairholmes car park (171898). Walk N for two miles on the road with the reservoir on the R to the Westend Inlet, then, at 155927, go L off the road to a wooden stile at the R of a gate and enter Ditch Clough plantation. A sign indicates open country. Walk through the woods on a hard, wide track. Come eventually to a wooden foot-bridge by which the river is crossed and continue going NW on the track. Soon leave the trees behind on the R, and then, on the L; near here, go L down to the level of the river and walk alongside the water.

Pass Dry Clough on the R; a few trees are scattered here and there; part of the opposite bank has fallen away revealing the level strata; the valley is quite wide. Ahead can be seen fine interlocking spurs which could confuse in misty weather. At this point on the R, the waters of Grinah come down through the clough, and flow over a flat slab of gritstone. Here look for a worn path that comes down from Grinah; take it and walk E along the Westend but rise above it on a fairly high level, an easier route than the one near the water.

Carry on up the Westend past Ravens Clough where it joins the Westend. Proceed to a flatter area where the river meanders. The path enters and leaves a small clough on the R then descends to the level of the valley floor, now arrived at the waters of Deep Grain that flows down from a clough on the R. However continue to follow the main stream E and pass a rain gauge that is marked on the map. Does anyone ever come here to read it? In 200 metres from Deep Grain come to a clough on the R (122951). Do not go straight on but go R up this clough going N. In 100 metres, this clough divides in two; bear L up the major clough, climbing a wet bank, stream on L, then continue clough-hopping alongside the stream. Fragments of path appear here and there; pass a small fall on the hillside, and a pool in the stream at another, always climbing gently, crossing

the stream back and forward untill the clough becomes shallow and its head has been reached. Pass a tiny feeder clough on the R and pull up into a basin where there is still a bit of work to do, but the stream has almost disappeared beneath the grass and reeds to now be going W.

Look back NE and there above stands Grinah Stones against the sky, a fine reward for a struggle up the enclosed valley. This is, alas! What is missed in bad weather? This point is now Westend Head. Proceed N and hit a path which seems to follow the contour, going NE. but leave this and strike for the top and Bleaklow Stones (112965). The views are panoramic and magnificent; soon to reach the stones. There are some neatly executed carvings on the Trident; these are three massive rocks weathered by the wind and water.

Of the several paths that lead away from here; take the one going E ensuring it does not lead to the Grinah. Walk now on level ground, the occasional stake giving some guidance when travelling this narrow watershed. In a few hundred metres, the path goes NE; Grinah stands to the R drop in and out of shallow peat areas. In just under a mile turn to walk N and now Barrow Stones stand out to the R. Carry on and look down into the head of the Derwent at Swains Greave and see the infant river cutting its way through stubborn rock. The path turns R to go E where Far Back Clough goes down to the Etherow and follow the staked path through the narrow watershed.

N of Dean Stones pass a curious stone shaped like a toadstool carved with some letters and the date 1894. Horse Stone Naze stands out ahead; immediately to the S, see Barrow Stones. Continue over Featherbed Moss; pass the intricate pattern of Coldwell Clough Head. Ahead at last Crow Stones appear those amazing shapes that form a splendid marker from any angle. Continue to follow the faint path over Stainery Clough Head whose valley begins to look impressive now climb, gently but relentlessly to pass two stones carved with a strong B.

One of the great rewards of moorland walking is to discover just how far has been walked look back to see the places and stones passed. Now passed Crow Stones; head for the trig point at 177969 then on to Cut Gate at 186960 where a Cairn stands. Continue to the trig point at Majory Hill at 186960 and then walk on the edge path Howden Edge and Wilfrey Edge. The land falls away to the R in a huge bowl at the base is Cranberry Clough which expands as preceded until the length of the clough with its interlocking spurs formed by possible landfalls. For a while enjoy the good edge path which is pointed here and there with rock outcrops. Ahead is Back Tor, rearing above against the sky, its rocks forming a fine marker. In front now on to Back Tor is the huge valley of the Abbey.

At 188936 now overlooking the Abbey Valley. Bear L and walk on high ground around the huge bowl which drains into Gravy Clough to the S, passing Robin Hood Moss and Greenfield Howden on a feint path. The views down Abbey Clough get more impressive as the walk proceeds, and see the waters glistening in the sunlight, with the path that the walk will follow standing out on the hillside. Come to the shoulder of a hill passing a grouse butt made of stones, now turn E and walk round it (196929) descending fairly steeply down the hillside into and out of Foul Clough, then round Berristers Tor and down to the stream itself.

This narrow valley lies N to S and down it flows the Abbey Brook, and what a valley it is. Short, but impressively narrow, its banks rise almost vertically from the stream. Look up to the L up this clough to Crook Clough, but cross the stream and turn R to walk uphill then round to a sheltered spot where the ruins of a hut stand. Bear R here along a fine path that will lead down Abbey Clough.

Walk now NW; and see the view of the route passed before. And as the walk proceeds rise above the stream and this interesting path proceeds on its pleasant way until it comes to Cogman Clough to then go around a shoulder down to a stream then climb back out of it to regain the height lost. A good ladder stile is taken at a gate and now walk with wall and fence on the R and a plantation on the R. the stream now flows in a wide-based valley where it meanders gently to eventually join the reservoirs, find the way onto the road and turn S to walk along the road back to the start. The walks back is pleasant walking on a hard surface while reminiscing on the day's events and contemplate the surrounding beauty of the scenery.