

WALK 77.
RESERVOIRS 77.
22 miles. 6 hours 20 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Fairholmes (171898). Walk E under the great dam that looks tremendously gaunt and forbidding in morning light to the road, then turn R and walk S on the road as far as 187884 (just over a mile), to a gate over the road, a gate on the L and a good wooden step stile on the L of the road near a metal P.D. and N.C. F.P. Society; strangely this one has no number or date. Climb the hill admiring as the view of the reservoir opens up. At a fence, go R, fence on L; follow it round the corner to walk N, Grindle Clough on R to reach a wooden gate at two stone farm buildings. Go R through these, passing a third and smaller stone building and a gate with a stile on the R. go up on a well-established wide track, grassed over, once the route of Jaggers.

Come to and cross a stream then go through a gateway, no gate, then pass another, but smaller signs from the same society directing the walker to Moscar and Derwent. About 50 metres of good stony leads, wall on R to a gate from which to go uphill, wall on R, climbing steeply at first. Walk E with fence and trees on R to a gate and another sign and so enter moorland and climb up on a worn path up the W side of Grainfoot Clough. Look up to see the dramatic shapes of rock outcrops against the sky giving character to the walk.

Go through a gap in a wall and leave the old track that continues on its way to Moscar; go directly uphill to the wide and worn path on the edge. Turn L and walk N past White Tor, Salt Cellar and other familiar landmarks. Pass another green sign (Abbey Grange to L, Strines to the R). Soon reach Back Tor and trig. Point (198910).

Drop down, (then up) to Lost Lad where stands a cairn and panoramic brass plate indicating the views from this point; a list rings like a roll call of the beauties of peakland. Go NW from Lost Lad on a path that goes to a ladder stile on the route to Abbey Grange, cut off it in

a few 100 metres and go NE on a discernible path through long grass. Several raised grass embankments may be seen as approaching Sheepfold Clough, drop down to a sheltered flat spot containing the remains of a stone building. Cross the stream, then rise on a narrow path that goes N into a most striking valley, the path rising high above the Abbey Brook as the hillside is climbed; there is scarcely a clough like this in the area. Climb around the shoulder of the hillside into Bents Clough, then back out of it again in the way many paths do, then along the edge to see up into Crook Clough before the walk turns NW; there is a small but fierce gorge on the L. soon to pass this by.

Continue N through Cart ledge Bents, to the L the Cart ledge Brook runs in its shallow bed. The path is now level, the climbs gently through the grass to pass a cairn or two before coming to a sign post supported by a cairn; the path to Dukes road goes off uphill but do not take it and continue in more or less the same direction as before on a path clearly visible through the heather.

The aim now is to get to Howden Edge just below Margery Hill. The route curves NW then W following roughly Cart ledge Stone Ridge. First, pass a gritstone upright on which is carved R.W. then embark on a long slog on a clear narrow path which is hardly more than a sheep path. A path forks off to the L ignore it and continue on the same direction, climbing slightly to walk with Cart ledge Brook on the L; the path comes to a shooting butt neat which some posts stand. Follow the path unerringly through a landscape that has few distinguishing features; it then suddenly drops into a grough. Finding the path on the other side is a common problem to paths that run into peat. Go to the L through heather to pick up a feint path that goes W up the gentle slope that leads to the edge. Margery Hill is to the N.

Bear R and walk N along the edge to head to Round Hill, but before push on to Cut Gate with a good track. At Cut Gate where a post stands in a cairn, go straight over the ancient track and make for Bull Stones, following a feint path through heather; not dropping but keeping to the contour to get to Bull Stones (179962); they make a noble pile, a fine landmark with satisfying views.

Go NW now, walking always under the edge and keeping to the contour. Unfortunately, from here on there is hardly a semblance of a path, though, here and there, odd scraps show up then disappear. In a few minutes look down into Broadhead Clough and see the remains of two stone cabins on the hillside. Cross the stream that flows down the clough, then drop to the remains of the hut, passing a shooting butt. Follow the path on high level out of the clough, around the shoulder and drop steadily to the broad track below at river level.

At the confluence of Stainery Clough with the Derwent (165964), cross the stream and continue to walk W on the broad track that steadily climbs the hillside, rising above the Derwent. Continue on the path until Upper Small clough appears on the other side of the Derwent, leave the track and take to the heather and grass to drop to the river, no path, and cross the river (when not in spate).

Now face a slog up Upper Small Clough that makes few concessions to the walker, and wearily sigh for a path that has yet to be made by an unknown band of resolute walkers yet to come. It is advisable not to leave the stream for the heather is quite unforgiving. At the head of the stream take to the heather to go SW. eventually high step to the good path that goes S from Round Hill and turn L and walk along it (139958).

Walk SE with the aim of coming eventually down to the Derwent at the point of Howden Reservoir. Head towards Ridge Clough, so keep to the path, soon pass several shooting butts that stand at the head of Lower Small Clough and find a sunken path, quite wide, an artificial draining ditch (it seems) to walk easily in a straight line on good grass.

The path comes down through a shallow clough to an old wall, the boundary of a wood. Enter the wood through a gap in the wall and go through trees and head down to the road at 159931. Turn R and walk along the road to the start; a long walk but pleasant one through rare scenery `enlivened by the sight of those dams whose huge stones are so well cut and laid