

INCLUDES 74 ETHELS

# PEAK BAGGING PEAK DISTRICT

32 ROUTES DESIGNED TO COMPLETE THE BEST 121  
PEAK DISTRICT PEAKS AND ETHELS IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY



**ANNA PAXTON**

DOWNLOADABLE GPX FILES    1:40,000-SCALE CUSTOM MAPS  
TIMINGS FOR WALKERS, TREKKERS, FASTPACKERS AND TRAIL RUNNERS  
DETAILED LOGISTICAL INFORMATION



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32 ROUTES DESIGNED TO COMPLETE THE BEST 121  
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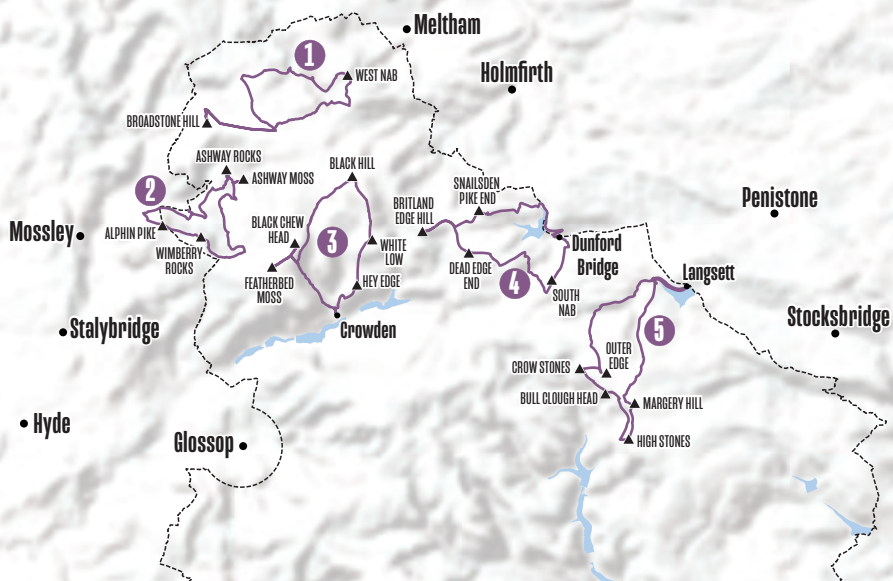
Download the GPX files from [www.adventurebooks.com/peak-bagging-peak-GPX](http://www.adventurebooks.com/peak-bagging-peak-GPX)

6▲ = Number of peaks on route



# DARK PEAK NORTH

**Opposite** The rapidly eroding path above Laddow Rocks, part of the Pennine Way (route 03).  
**Overleaf** High Stones on the beautiful and remote Howden Edge, looking across the Derwent and Howden reservoirs catchment (route 05).










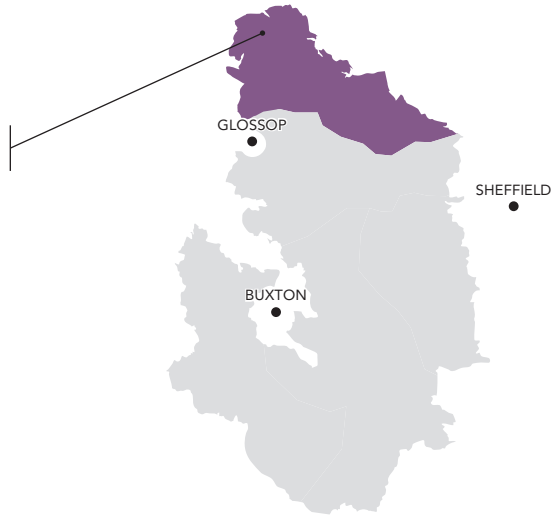








BROADSTONE HILL 454m   
WEST NAB 500m  



# 01 Wessenden Moor

GRADE 

DISTANCE **20.7km** ASCENT **505m**

TIMES **6:10hrs** (Walker) **5:15hrs** (Trekker)

**3:55hrs** (Fastpacker) **2:50hrs** (Trail runner)

START LOCATION **Wessenden Head Road car park, A635**

START LATITUDE/LONGITUDE **53.5650, -1.8851**

START GRID REFERENCE **SE077076**

START W3W **///soups.spoke.lime**

	ETHEL	TRIG
Broadstone Hill	○	●
West Nab	●	●

## Introduction

In the far north-west of the Dark Peak, trigs and Ethels are few and far between – this walk visits peaks at opposite sides of Wessenden and Saddleworth moors, via the reservoirs that punctuate the watery landscape. After a brief stretch along the Pennine Way, the route takes an adventurous turn, crossing the dam of Wessenden Head Reservoir to follow Shiny Brook. Use the stream as a guide when the intermittent path fades away, and don't consider this after heavy rain or when rivers are in spate. An out-and-back across Saddleworth Moor leads to a sentimental trig at Broadstone Hill, re-sited by

Saddleworth fell runners as a sweet memorial to a fellow runner. The return along an easy flagstoned route leads to Black Moss Reservoir where it joins a longer section of the Pennine Way, finishing alongside Wessenden Reservoir with a climb to the trig at West Nab.

## Public Transport

There are no public transport services close to this walk.

## Parking

Wessenden Head Road car park, or lay-bys at the junction with the A635.

## Shorter Routes

To shorten the route, miss out the out-and-back to Broadstone Hill to leave you with a 13.4-kilometre loop. Broadstone Hill can be visited separately by parking in a large lay-by off the A635 south of Featherbed Moss in a 7.9-kilometre out-and-back.

## Refreshments

There is often a van at the junction of the A635 and Wessenden Head Road.

Flagstones lead the way through the notoriously remote Wessenden Moor.



Wessenden and Blakeley reservoirs.

## The Route

**5** Cross the road from the car park and take the path on to Wessenden Moor following the track down towards the reservoirs. Turn left and cross the dam at Wessenden Head Reservoir, then stay on the path as it bears round to the right then follows the valley up Shiny Brook Clough. Stay alongside Shiny Brook, where the path is sometimes indistinct (not advisable when water levels are high or after heavy rain). As the left bank becomes steep and boggy, keep the brook on your left and the path will become clearer and easier to follow for a while.

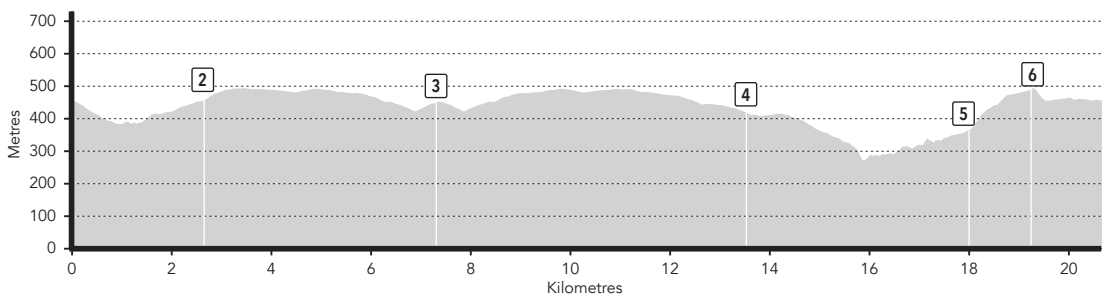
**2** As it fades to a faint (or invisible) trod, continue west for about 400m to a fence with several gates. Continue south-west from the fence for around 600m to meet the flagstoned public footpath that leads to the A635. Don't depend on finding a path to follow; a compass may be useful. Leave the flagstoned public footpath to follow a peaty path on the opposite side. This is quite clear on the ground and follows a drainage ditch across Saddleworth Moor. At the remains of a small stone building at Running Hill Pits, take a path up to the left to find the trig at Broadstone Hill.

**3** Return along the drainage ditch back to the flagstoned footpath, then turn left and follow it all the way to Black Moss Reservoir. (It is possible to cut out the return leg of the out-and-back by navigating across Broadhead Moss, but since the going is heavy there's no advantage in leaving the established path.)

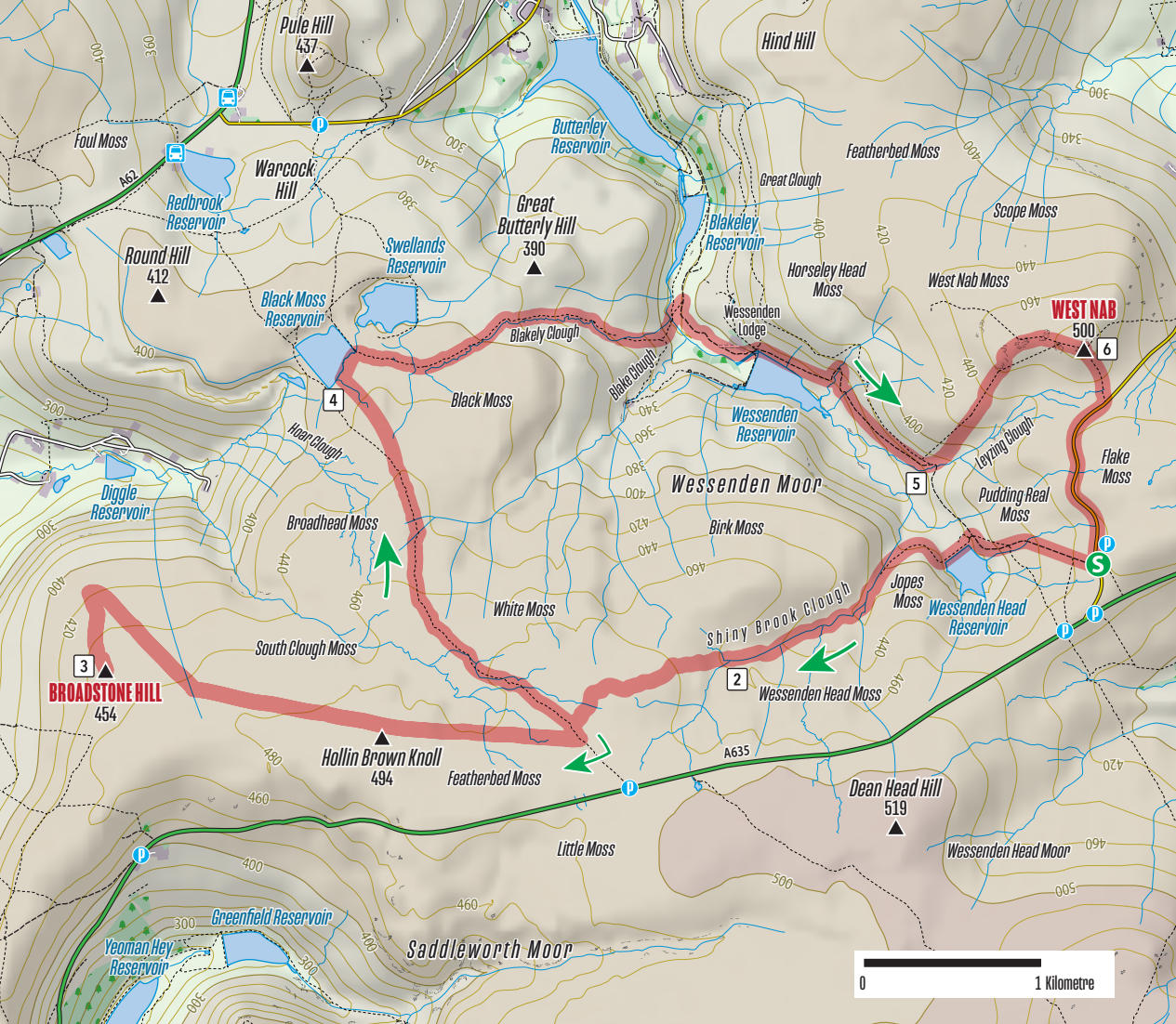
**4** Turn right along the side of the reservoir to the opposite corner by a bridge. Turn right to join the Pennine Way, which is easy to follow, to reach Blakeley Reservoir. Descend a very steep and rocky footpath then cross a bridge and head up to join a track. Turn right, then take the left fork to follow it around the side of Wessenden Reservoir.

**5** Just as the path makes a sharp curve at Leyzing Clough, take a higher path that goes up to the left to reach Raven Rocks. Cross the fence and stay on the path as it initially turns left and then bears right round to the trig (and Ethel) at West Nab.

**6** From West Nab trig, head down to Wessenden Head Road and turn right to return to the car park and start.







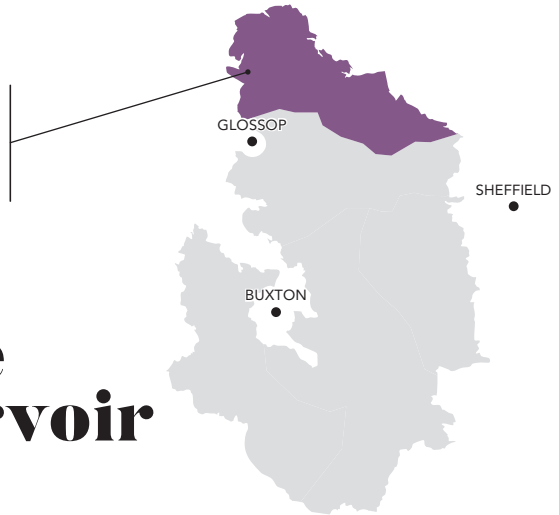


The Ethel and trig at West Nab.





ALPHIN PIKE 469m   
 WIMBERRY ROCKS 457m  
 ASHWAY MOSS 497m   
 ASHWAY ROCKS 445m



## 02 Above Dove Stone Reservoir

GRADE 

DISTANCE **16.5km** ASCENT **510m**

TIMES **5:20hrs** (Walker) **4:35hrs** (Trekker)

**3:25hrs** (Fastpacker) **2:25hrs** (Trail runner)

START LOCATION **Dove Stone Reservoir car park**

START LATITUDE/LONGITUDE **53.5277, -1.9811**

START GRID REFERENCE **SE013034**

START W3W **///quench.reservoir.cutaway**

	ETHEL	TRIG
Alphin Pike	●	●
Wimberry Rocks	○	○
Ashway Moss	●	○
Ashway Rocks	○	○

### Introduction

A route that, after an initial climb, stays high to take in views from two opposing edges above Dove Stone Reservoir. Sitting on the western edge of the Peak District within the boundaries of Greater Manchester, the first Ethel at Alphin Pike demonstrates this perfectly as it looks across to the distant city skyline. The route, however, turns the opposite way, traversing under Hoarstone Edge above Chew Brook and pausing to take in the view from Wimberry Rocks before meeting Chew Reservoir at its head. From here the path skirts

Dove Stone Moss where a series of distinctive rock formations frame picturesque views of Dove Stone Reservoir and Saddleworth Moor. The next Ethel at Ashway Moss is a short diversion away from Ashway Cross, a memorial to James Platt, an MP for Oldham who was accidentally shot in 1857. Descend past a final viewpoint at Ashway Rocks to end with a stroll alongside the reservoir.

### Public Transport

The nearest bus and train services are in nearby Greenfield.

### Parking

Dove Stone Reservoir car park (pay and display), Greenfield, Oldham.

### Shorter Routes

To divide this route into two shorter halves, use Chew Road, the tarmacked access road that leads up to Chew Reservoir.

### Refreshments

There is often an ice cream van in Dove Stone Reservoir car park during weekends and school holidays.

Looking towards Wimberry Rocks from Alphin Pike.

## The Route

**5** From the far end of the car park at Dove Stone Reservoir, turn left and follow the access road past Dovestone Sailing Club. Take the first right up a track towards a farm, leaving the reservoir behind.

**2** Through the main entrance gate to the farm there are two smaller gates on the left. Go through the right-hand of these gates and follow the footpath along the wall towards woodland. Continue straight on through a gate along the bottom edge of the woods. Go straight ahead on to a farm track.

**3** The farm track becomes a road (Intake Lane). Stay on the road for 400m then turn left to follow a path across open access land to a wall on the opposite side. Turn left to join the main route up to the summit of Alphin Pike, which is well walked and clear. A small cairn to the left gives views to the north-east over Dove Stone Reservoir to Dick Hill and the obelisk opposite. Alphin Pike trig itself, which is partially subsumed by a circular stone shelter, looks south-west to the skyscrapers of Manchester.

**4** From the trig, continue across the plateau of Slack Head Brow, over a stile. There are multiple paths here – stay left along the edge for the best views from Wimberry Rocks. Stay on this path to reach the head of the valley and Chew Reservoir.

**5** Turn left to cross the dam wall, then drop left off the wall to take the first (and smaller) of two paths which makes its way through boggy ground for about 800m before joining the easier and drier path around the edge above Dove Stone Reservoir. Continue as the path crosses a stream at the top of Charnel Clough; from here the route passes a number of rugged edges above Charnel Holes, Bramley's Cot, Dove Stone Rocks and Dean Rocks.

**6** Cross a second stream, where there are a few easy scrambling moves to get out of the valley.

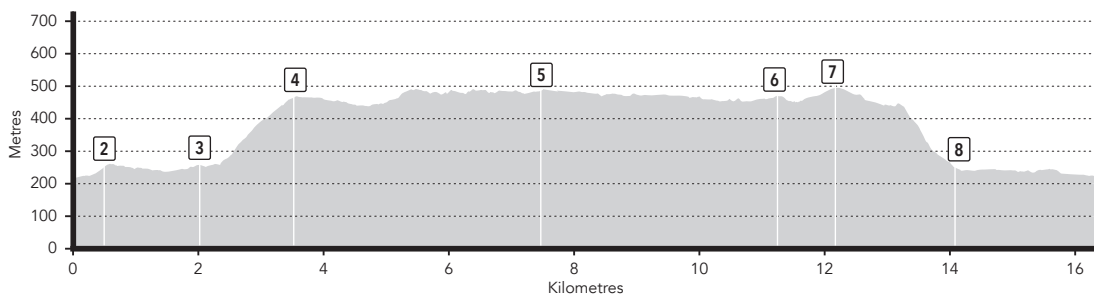


Chew Road neatly divides the route into two shorter walks.

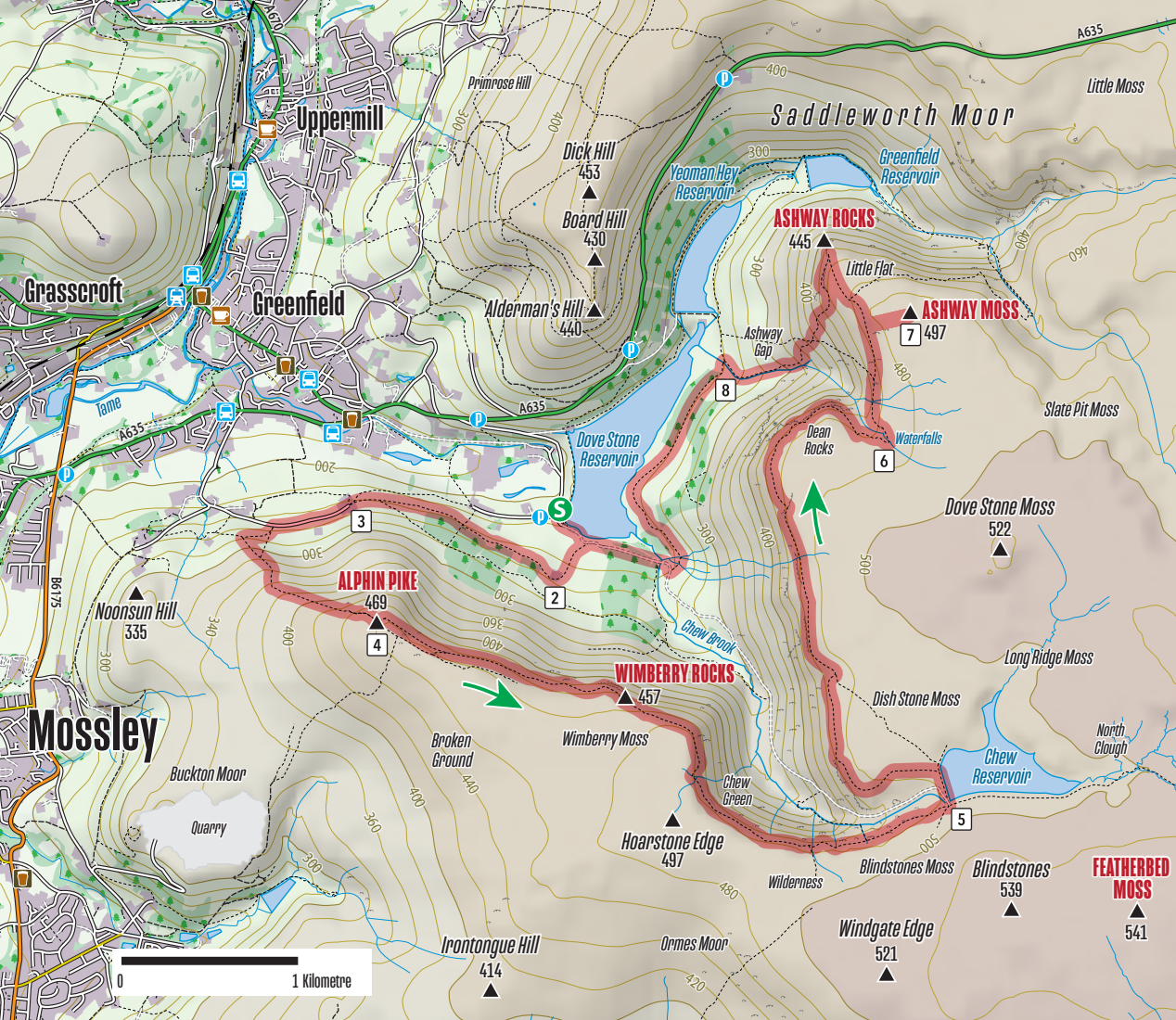
From here the paths may split through peaty ground; take the one furthest right and continue through heather towards Ashway Cross. The precise summit of Ashway Moss, an Ethel, is about 150m east of the cross, although it is unmarked.

**7** From Ashway Moss return to Ashway Cross then turn right to continue on the main path. Turn left down to Ashway Rocks, which overlook the reservoirs. From here, continue down to a fence and stile. Stay left of the wide tourist path that leads straight down to the dam at Yeoman Hey Reservoir, instead taking a path that runs alongside a series of weirs in a stone water channel that runs down to Ashway Gap.

**8** Join the main track at Ashway Gap picnic area and turn left over a small bridge. When this accessible footpath leads to a tarmac path, turn right over a wooden footbridge, then turn right again to cross a concrete bridge on to Dove Stone Reservoir access road. Follow this all the way past Dovestone Sailing Club, back to the car park and start.





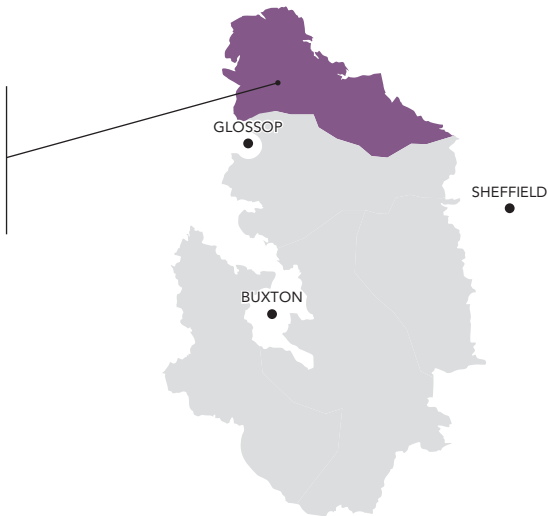


Picturesque views from Dove Stone Moss.





HEY EDGE 424m ▲  
 WHITE LOW 530m ▲  
 BLACK HILL 582m ▲  
 BLACK CHEW HEAD 542m ▲  
 FEATHERBED MOSS 541m ▲



# 03 Above Crowden

GRADE 3

DISTANCE **17.6km** ASCENT **625m**

TIMES **6:00hrs** (Walker) **5:10hrs** (Trekker)

**3:50hrs** (Fastpacker) **2:40hrs** (Trail runner)

START LOCATION **Crowden car park, Woodhead Pass (A628)**

START LATITUDE/LONGITUDE **53.4899, -1.8922**

START GRID REFERENCE **SK072992**

START W3W **///lashed.lined.frown**

	ETHEL	TRIG
Hey Edge	○	●
White Low	●	○
Black Hill	●	●
Black Chew Head	●	○
Featherbed Moss	●	●

of an old quarry to Hey Edge trig, traverses open moorland to the unmarked Ethel at White Low, before searching out the Pennine Way at Black Hill. From here the rocky and eroded trail rises along the valley of Crowden Great Brook to Laddow Rocks, visiting two more Ethels at Black Chew Head and Featherbed Moss. A remote-feeling route where the path is sometimes elusive, but on the right day you'll be rewarded with the sound of moorland birds – skylark and curlew – and panoramic views across Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire beyond.

## Public Transport

There are no public transport services close to this walk.

## Parking

Crowden car park, signposted off the A628 (Woodhead Pass).

## Refreshments

There is a small shop at the campsite in Crowden.

## Introduction

The northern moors of the Dark Peak can be wild and committing. Public footpaths on the map dissolve into featureless bogs on the ground, and there's nowhere to hide from the weather, come sun, wind or rain. The route climbs above Torside Reservoir past the remains

Hey Edge trig.



A high section of the Pennine Way heading towards Laddow Rocks.

## The Route

**5** From the car park at Crowden, take the path in the corner past the information board. Turn right at the public toilets, continue straight on past the entrance to the campsite, then take the public footpath on the right off the entrance road of Crowden Outdoor Education Centre.

**2** Follow the path steeply up to a stile and path beneath the disused quarry, then go straight on with the remains of the quarry on the right. Continue climbing, with the quarry directly on your right, then at the highest point turn left and leave the quarry behind. From here, a sometimes boggy trod leads up to Hey Edge trig.

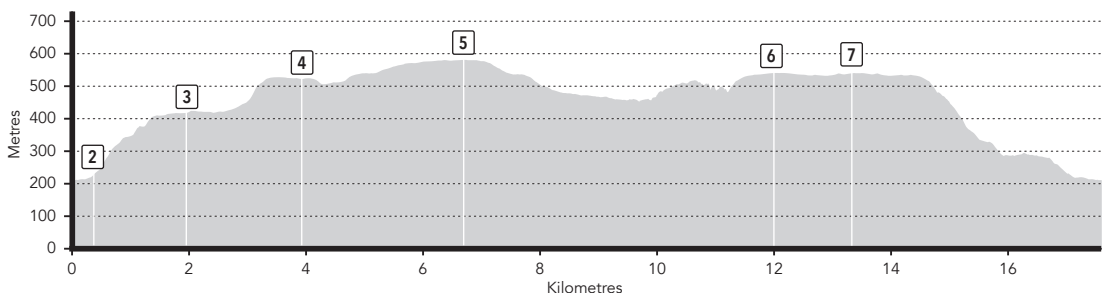
**3** From Hey Edge trig, follow the path across the plateau (there are two – the right-hand path is a better option when conditions are wet) up to Westend Moss, where the way is marked by a series of wooden posts. This passes to the west of the OS-marked summit point (and Ethel) at White Low, although on the ground there is no distinguishing feature amongst the tussocks.

**4** The same path continues to a fence line and stile, then through the dark and peaty Tooleyshaw Moss before leading to Black Hill trig.

**5** From Black Hill trig, turn left to follow a flagged section of the Pennine Way, where the going eases for a while. Cross a stile and stay on the sometimes-eroded path that runs alongside (and occasionally through) the river before traversing the steep-sided valley towards Laddow Rocks. Take a path on the right which leads up to a gate at Laddow Moss. To visit Black Chew Head (an Ethel), turn right and follow the fence line for about 400m.

**6** From Black Chew Head, return to the gate at Laddow Moss, then follow a faint path roughly straight on (not along the fence) to Featherbed Moss trig.

**7** Return to the gate again, this time turning right to rejoin the Pennine Way. Follow the main path down past crags at Rakes Rocks and Black Tor, then take a path off to the left which descends to Crowden Outdoor Education Centre. Follow the entrance road out over a bridge and continue straight on to arrive back at Crowden car park.








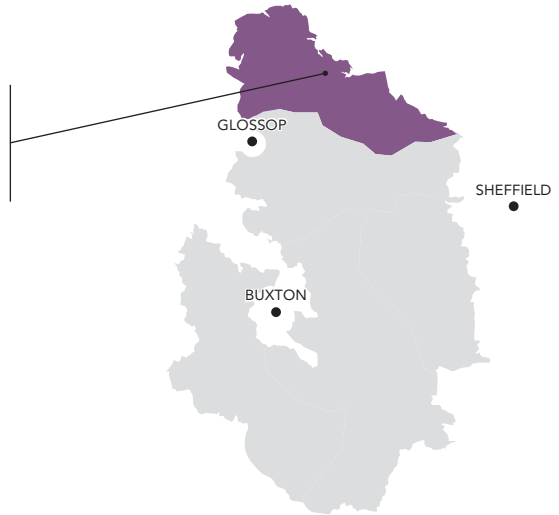








SNAILSDEN PIKE END 477m   
 BRITLAND EDGE HILL 524m   
 DEAD EDGE END 499m   
 SOUTH NAB 461m 



## 04 Dead Edge End

GRADE 

DISTANCE **19km** ASCENT **430m**

TIMES **5:30hrs** (Walker) **4:40hrs** (Trekker)

**3:30hrs** (Fastpacker) **2:35hrs** (Trail runner)

START LOCATION **Dunford Bridge**

START LATITUDE/LONGITUDE **53.5179, -1.7635**

START GRID REFERENCE **SE157023**

START W3W **///guidebook.vibrates.pizzeria**

	ETHEL	TRIG
Snailsden Pike End	●	○
Britland Edge Hill	●	○
Dead Edge End	●	●
South Nab	○	●

### Introduction

A satisfying route following broad moorland ridges to visit a series of Ethels and trigs requiring relatively little ascent. Starting at Dunford Bridge next to Winscar Reservoir in the grouse moors of South Yorkshire, and making use of shooting tracks over Snailsden Edge to arrive at Snailsden Pike End.

From here some navigation is required before an easy out-and-back along a fence to the unmarked Ethel at Britland Edge Hill, with panoramic views and a remote feel. Another handy fence leads to Dead Edge End, before picking up the route of the disused Woodhead Tunnels. A final climb around the Windleden reservoirs leads to a roadside trig at South Nab before a final stretch of navigation, aided by grouse butts, and the descent to Dunford Bridge. Not one for wet conditions as it's guaranteed to be boggy.

### Public Transport

Buses from Sheffield, Penistone and Holmfirth.

### Parking

Trans Pennine Trail car park, Dunford Bridge. There is also a car park at Winscar Reservoir.

### Refreshments

None on the route.

Trig and Ethel at Dead Edge End, not one for wet conditions.



Posts guide the way along Snailsden Edge.

## The Route

**5** From the Trans Pennine Trail car park at Dunford Bridge, turn right along the road. Turn left along Dunford Road then immediately turn left to follow a path into access land on Broad Hill Bank. At Winscar Reservoir, bear right along the access road through Broad Hill car park, then turn left on to the main road. Just before the next house, turn left to follow the private access road over the reservoir wall, and take the path on the right that follows the wall for a short way before trending up left towards the disused quarries at Harden Clough.

**2** Follow the track as it turns left by grouse butts just before the quarry, then as it approaches a wall, turn right and follow a row of posts along Snailsden Edge. (If you want to visit the trig, it is slightly off the path to the right; look for a faint trod and a tiny cairn. Return to the main path afterwards.) Continue on the main path to reach the Ethel at the end of the ridge at Snailsden Pike End.

**3** From here, some navigation is required as there is no established path through Swiner Clough Moss, which will be boggy. Aiming for the fence about 1km south-west, one option is to drop south to Swiner Dike then follow it west where it meets the fence line. Look out for a five-bar gate where the track along Great Grains meets the fence. Don't

go through the gate; follow an established path along the fence line to reach a corner where there is a stile on the right. Cross the stile and follow the fence line which leads to the high point of the route at Britland Edge Hill.

**4** This section is an out-and-back, so return to the stile in the corner of the fence; cross the stile and keep the fence on your right to reach the Ethel and trig at Dead Edge End.

**5** Continue along the fence to a sharp corner where it angles back on itself at Upper Dead Edge. Leave the fence behind and take a peaty path to the right, which ultimately leads to a pile of stones by a track that marks the route of the disused Woodhead Tunnels. Turn left along the track, passing a concrete pillar on the way.

**6** At the square stone remains of an air shaft, the track bears right to a gate and road. Cross the road and continue straight ahead on the path down to a stream at the tip of the reservoir, then up and left around a metal fence. At the corner of a wall, go through a gate and up Woodland Clough. Just before the path reaches the A628, bear left to reach the South Nab trig (this is not the most peaceful spot due to the busy A628).

**7** From here, navigation may be required as the path that leads from the trig towards Dunford Bridge fades away into the heather. Aiming for a large track between two broken walls about 1.8km north-east (where wind turbines are visible in the distance), one option is to keep the gully of Long Grain on your right. This leads to grouse butts, where it's possible to pick up the shooting track alongside them which emerges by a drainage channel opposite a wide, clear track. Follow it down through a gate, then turn off right along a neat zigzag path that leads to the back of the car park and start.

