



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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Additional Walk: **Crowden Circular (Bramah Edge)**

- Length – 7.5 miles
- Grade – moors, woods and fields with mostly well marked paths. Some boggy areas and steep climbs. Can be exposed and/or muddy in parts
- Start – Crowden car park
- Grid Reference – SK 072 993
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak
- Parking – Crowden car park (no charge)
- Refreshments – none on this route
- Public Toilets – Crowden car park
- Public Transport – [National Express route 350](http://www.nationalexpress.co.uk) (Liverpool to Cambridge) stops at Crowden

Description

Starting from the car park, we cross the A628, then head SW alongside two reservoirs. We then loop onto the moors along Bramah Edge before returning along the Pennine Way. The route includes extensive views both down and across the Longdendale Valley.



Valehouse Reservoir, seen from (8)

Route Instructions

1. Leave the car park, heading towards the main road (A628). Cross the road. Turn right, the left through a wooden kissing gate (1)

TAKE CARE

The A628 is a major trunk road and can get very busy. It connects Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire by crossing the Pennines via the Woodhead Pass through the Peak District National Park. The height and the exposure of the road often creates problems during poor weather. It is occasionally closed due to snowfall or high winds.



The A628 is mentioned in a Human League track "The Snake" (2001). It is suggested as an alternative route to the M62 or the Snake Pass (A57). Originally formed in 1977, The Human League are a highly influential Sheffield synthpop band. As David Bowie said in 1979; "I have seen the future of Pop Music, they are called The Human League!"

2. Follow the path towards Torside Reservoir. Then, turning right, follow the path for about 1.0 km, along the bank of Torside Reservoir. The path crosses a wooden bridge at the start of the Nature Reserve (2)
3. When the path then joins the Pennine Way, take a left turn. Then, at the gate, right past a kissing gate. Cross a tarmacked road to access a gated track on the left. This follows the side of Rhodeswood Reservoir
4. After 1.0 km, at the end of Rhodeswood Reservoir, turn left across the dam wall (4) which separates Rhodeswood from the next reservoir, Valehouse. At the end of the dam wall, turn left, uphill, along a gravel track, passing a large electricity pylon on your right
5. 100 m after the pylon, turn sharp right (5a). After another 50 m, over a stile and sharp left (5b). A further 30 m brings you to the Longdendale Trail. Turn right
6. Follow the trail for 400 m until you reach a marker post on your left, indicating the path to Deepclough

The Longdendale Trail follows a disused railway line. It starts in Hadfield and runs alongside a series of reservoirs before finishing at Salter's Brook.

7. Turn left through two kissing gates. Then follow an indistinct grassy path parallel to the wall on your left until the path curves to the right and crosses a small stream. Trend leftwards and then ascending through brambles to reach a kissing gate which opens into a larger pasture area
8. Head for the marker post in the field up to your right (8). Take a sharp right when you reach the farm buildings and follow the wide gravel track. You exit Higher Deepclough Farm when you reach the B6105
9. Turn right, walk to the bend, then crossing the road, pass through a gap in the wall, over a stile and then left to pass through a kissing gate to take the path opposite (9)
10. A narrow path runs parallel to the road, below a wooded ridge, high up to your right. After about 1 km it turns, to the right, away from the road, keeping parallel to the forest boundary higher up. The path joins the remnants of an old pipeway and can get boggy. It may be sensible to descend slightly to your left before returning to the line of the old pipeway
11. After a further 1.5 km, at marker sign number 384, you reach the Pennine Way. Turn sharp left and descend steeply towards the line of reservoirs
12. After 700 m, you reach the B6105. Cross the road and turn



right. After 20 m, take the second left turn (Pennine Way)

13. Follow the Pennine Way towards, and across, the dam wall between Rhodeswood and Torside Reservoirs
14. Ascend the steps and at a kissing gate, take the path immediately to the right, following the Pennine Way, walking through woods, keeping Torside Reservoir on your right

The Pennine Way is a National Trail which runs 267 miles (429 km) from Edale, in the northern Derbyshire Peak District, north through the Yorkshire Dales and the Northumberland National Park and ends at Kirk Yetholm, just inside the Scottish border.

15. Continue following the Pennine Way as it bears to the left (15) and crosses the A628, then, as a tarmacked track, passes a disused quarry (on your right) and earthworks (on the left)
16. At the T-junction when the Pennine Way goes northwards to your left, continue straight and, keeping the campsite on your right, return to the start point



The Manchester Corporation Waterworks Act 1848 allowed the construction of Torside and Rhodeswood Reservoirs, and an aqueduct to convey the water to the Arnfield reservoir where it would pass through the Mottram Tunnel to Godley.

Rhodeswood Reservoir was constructed by John Frederick Bateman between 1849 and June 1855 as part of the Longdendale chain to supply water from the River Etherow to the urban areas of Greater Manchester. Water is extracted to pass through the Mottram Tunnel to Godley for Manchester. During construction, landslips were a problem. Bateman consulted both Robert Stephenson, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Subsequently, pipes were sunk to draw off water from the underlying shale.



Rhodeswood Reservoir, looking west



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