



The Ladybower and Derwent Reservoirs

A strenuous walk over diverse landscapes ranging from wild moorland to flat lakeside. The views across to Derwent Edge to the east and Kinder Scout to the west are impressive

Essential Facts

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Route distance: | 15.3 km (9.6 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time: | 4 hours 30 mins |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 695 metres |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SK 186 864 |
| ▪ GPS Ref: | SK 18643 86427 |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer OL1 |
| ▪ Toughness Rating | Peaks 4 |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

Up For A
CHALLENGE ?

Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with

A Donation

An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The walk starts from the car park at the start of the Snake Pass road on the northern shore of the Ladybower Reservoir. Leaving the car park, **S**, turn left and follow the road across the viaduct. Once over the viaduct there is a footpath to the left, by the tarmac track, which follows the edge of the reservoir. This passes Grainsfoot Clough and arrives at the site of the old Derwent Village, **A**. The village was lost when the valley was flooded. There is an information board here with historical information. Continue out of the village area along the reservoir path. Just after the bend take the footpath off right uphill at **B**.

This track winds steadily uphill into National Trust land and onto Pike Low at **C**. From here the path crosses wild moorland with great views to the right of Derwent Edge and Derwent Moors, and of the reservoir to the left. There are plenty of finger posts indicating the correct route.

The path eventually starts to descend slightly and a cairn with a direction sign is reached at **D**. Two paths cross here. Turn left, taking the path downhill towards the reservoir which you reach at **E**. Go left here back towards the Derwent Dam. Next to the dam there is a footpath right, take this and take the steps all the way down to the bottom of the dam wall. Then follow the path diagonally across the valley at the bottom to join the road. Go right here past the car park and visitor centre at Fairholmes. Toilets and refreshments are located here.

Just after the exit road from the car park there is a footpath and forest trails sign on the right at **F**. Take this path, following the green arrows up through the wood. When a woodland road is reached turn right and pick up the green arrows again on the left. The path comes out of the wood and after a field turns left towards Lockerbrook Farm. Continue along the path past the farm until you reach the edge of the woodland at **G**. From here the path goes left along the ridge, with the wood on your left. Half way along the ridge the green trail turns off left but our route continues forward. There are great views along here of Kinder moorlands and the Mam Tor Ridge over to the right.

The path passes to the left of Crook Hill. Just before reaching Crookhill Farm take the new permissive path to the left at **H**. This goes around instead of through the farm. Eventually it reaches the road at **J**. Turn right and right again on to the Snake Pass road and back to the car park, **S**.

Refreshment

The Ladybower Inn
Pub with accommodation
Bamford
Tel: 01433 651241
Snacks, meals and ales

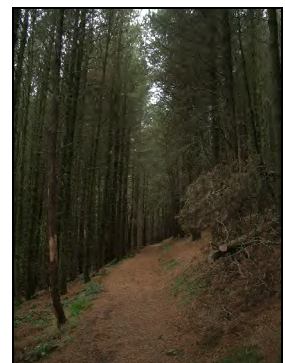
The Yorkshire Bridge
Inn
Public House
Bamford
Tel: 01433 651361
Sandwiches, meals and drinks



Pike Overlooking
Derwent Reservoir



Ederwent Reservoir Dam



Woods Near Derwent Reservoir



The Yorkshire Bridge inn

LOCAL INFO

The Derwent Valley dams were constructed by the Derwent Valley Water Board, primarily to provide water for Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham and Leicester. These dams created three great reservoirs; Ladybower, Howden and Derwent.

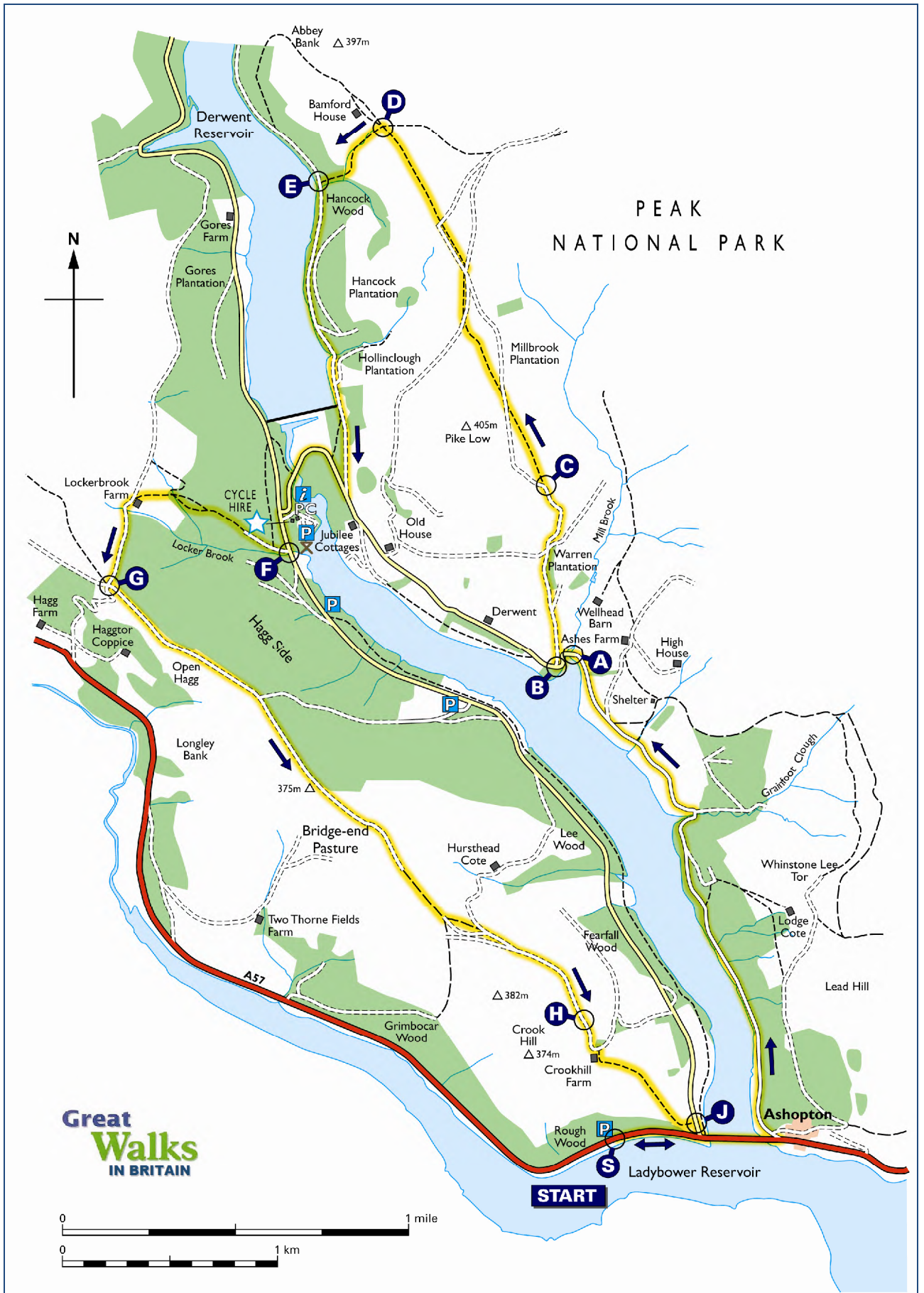
Howden and Derwent, were built between 1901 and 1916. As it was such a large project a village called Birchinlee was built to house the workers and a railway was put in between Howden Dam and Bamford. The dams were opened in 1916. In 1935 Ladybower Dam was constructed. This included flooding the area around the junction of the rivers Derwent and Ashop. It was controversial because it involved the flooding of two villages, Ashopton and Derwent.

The project was finished in 1943 and opened by King George VI. It then took two more years for the reservoir to fill and at the time became the largest reservoir in Britain. Remnants of the edge of Derwent village can be seen on the walk route. In summers when it is very dry further evidence of the village can be seen and the church spire was only demolished in 1959.

The Derwent reservoirs are also famous due to their association with the 'Dambuster' squadron of the RAF. It was here that they used to practice their famous raids. The area is often used to commemorate this and often sees fly-pasts of old bombers and aerial displays including the Red Arrows. Much of the Dambusters film was shot here. There is a small museum on this theme in the west tower of the Derwent Dam.

THE LADYBOWER AND DERWENT RESERVOIRS G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

| WAYPOINT NAME | MAP REF | | CO-ORDINATES | | ELEVATION: Metres |
|------------------|------------|----|--------------|-------|----------------------|
| DER S | S | SK | 18643 | 86427 | 211 |
| DER A | A | SK | 18544 | 88711 | 201 |
| DER B | B | SK | 18405 | 88672 | 208 |
| DER C | C | SK | 18414 | 89488 | 355 |
| DER D | D | SK | 17646 | 91183 | 379 |
| DER E | E | SK | 17358 | 90903 | 248 |
| DER F | F | SK | 17193 | 89207 | 237 |
| DER G | G | SK | 16383 | 89076 | 365 |
| DER H | H | SK | 18585 | 87046 | 317 |
| DER J | J | SK | 19115 | 86545 | 221 |



| MAP LEGEND | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Great Walks route | | Church with tower | | Spot height - metres |
| | M6 Motorway | | Church with spire | | Information centre |
| | A23 Main road | | Other place of worship | | Parking |
| | B2116 Secondary road | | Cathedral / Abbey | | Public convenience |
| | Minor road | | Building | | Public house |
| | Other road | | Built up area | | Picnic site |
| | Track | | Woodland | | Camp site |
| | Footpath | | Sand, shingle or mud | | Major tourist feature |
| | Bridleway | | Water feature | | Other tourist feature |
| | National trail | | | | |
| | Railway | | | | |

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

Most of our **Peak District** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Peak District.