

13.6km/8½ miles

4 hours

moderate

Round rugged rocks

Edale was once known as the 'Island Valley' and it was virtually cut off until the arrival of the railway in the 19th-century. A steep climb leads up, passing the outcrops of Ringing Roger onto the edge of Kinder Scout. The path skirts the deep cleft of Grindsbrook Clough with far-reaching views. This edge is punctuated by rocky ravines and gritstone outcrops, including the famous Woolpacks – an amazing cluster of rocks weathered into weird and wonderful shapes. By Mark Reid.

The walk

Grindsbrook Clough. At the head of the ravine, follow the narrow path, L, along the other side of the ravine. Follow edge again, then R, where you join eroded Grindsbrook path at Fox Holes.

3 At the head of this ravine, bear slightly L, passing L side of the large cairn to join a flagged path – follow this to join the edge of the plateau again. Follow the path along edge for 750m to Crowden Clough.

4 Cross the rocky stream, then follow path steeply up bank, then gently to Crowden Tower. Continue along the clear eroded path to the Woolpacks. Follow the path through these outcrops, then straight on across boggy peat hags (still following the edge of the plateau) to reach Noe Stool. Follow the path bearing slightly L along the edge of the plateau, dropping gently down for 750m to reach a large cairn at the junction with the Pennine Way path at Swine's Back. Carry on along the pitched-stone path for a short distance, then, where the path bends L, carry straight on alongside a wall, L, to reach another wall. Turn L to a gate that leads onto a clear track beside Edale Cross.

- 5** Turn L along this track and follow for 1km to the brow of a steep hill at the top of Jacob's Ladder (footpath). Follow path L, snaking down to reach the Packhorse Bridge across the River Noe. Cross bridge, then follow track down the valley to Lee Farm. Head through the farmyard, then follow lane down into the hamlet of Upper Booth.
- 6** At the 'phone box in Upper Booth turn L, signposted Edale, and follow the track bending R through yard of Upper Booth Farm. Round to L then, where track forks, follow the R-hand track towards Edale. Go straight on through a gate, follow path bending L, then up past a ruined barn to a stile. Bear R, passing between the hillocks, to a stile at the top of the small hill. Follow path, with Edale before you, through a series of bridlegates and stiles back to the start.

DETAILS

Country Walking ID
2562

Mag Route 12,
February 2006

Region East Midlands
Area Derbyshire

Length of walk
13.6km/8½ miles

Time needed 4 hours

Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Steep climbs and boggy paths

Stiles 4

Suitable for children, disabled, dogs

PLANNING

Parking The Old Nag's Head, Edale, grid ref SK124860. Large car park at Edale.

Start grid ref SK123860

Nearest town Castleton

Refreshments The Old Nag's Head, Ramblers Inn or cafés at Edale

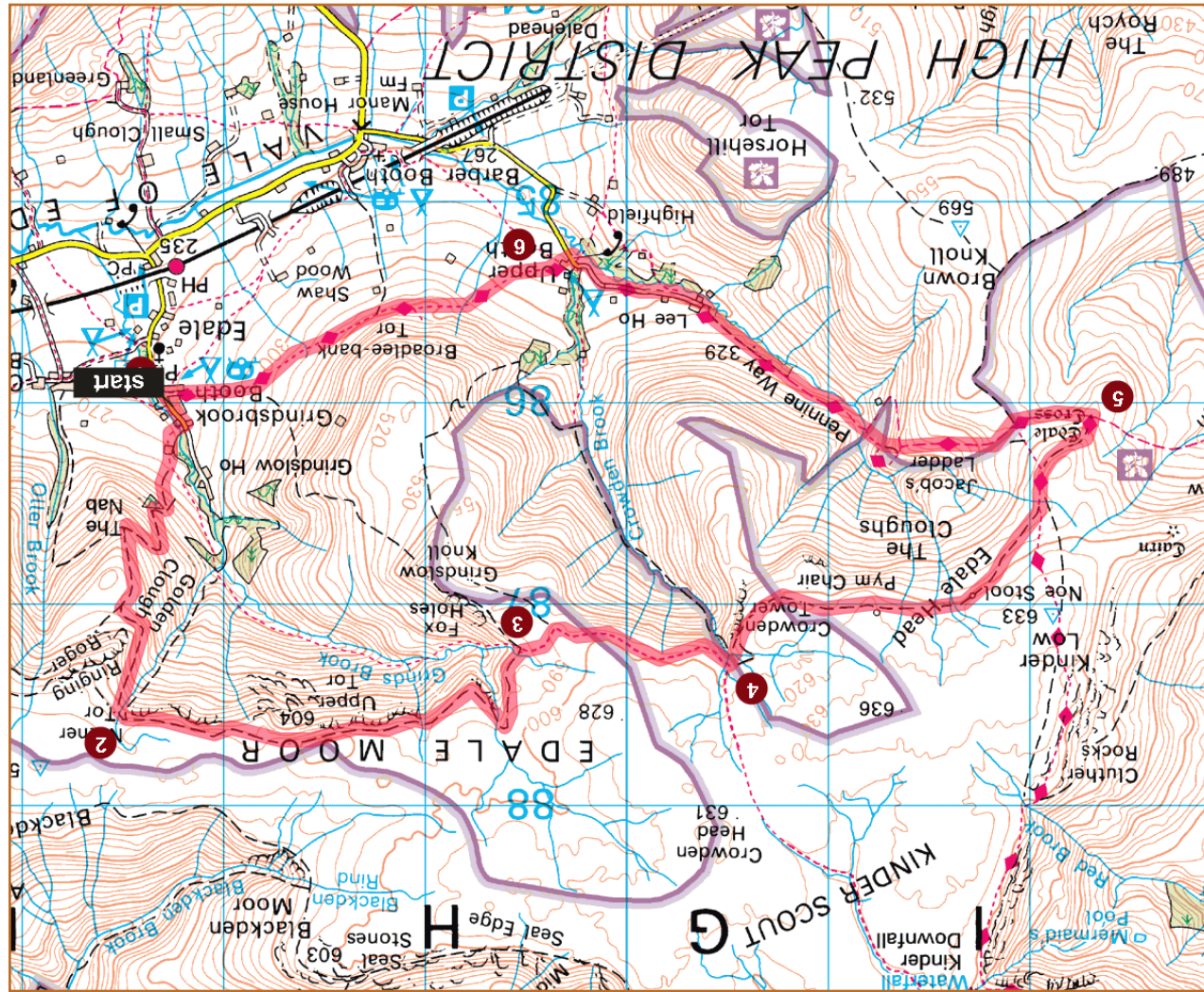
Public toilets Edale

Public transport Edale is served by the Sheffield to Manchester railway system. For details call 08457 484950

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL1, Landranger 110

MARK REID



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