

8½ miles/13.7km

4 hours

moderate

Black reputation

At first glance the Longdendale Valley does not look an ideal place in which to get away from it all, lying as it does between Bleaklow and Black Hill, two vast blocks of black moorland.

But persevere. The visible scars of the valley's electricity power lines, chain of reservoirs, and the busy A628 Trans Pennine road, disguise the beauty beyond. The railway also once ran through the valley, as if to underline the historical significance of this most important of routes over the Pennines. So why walk in this area at any time, let alone in February? The truth is, behind the visual intrusions, the valley is really quite beautiful, particularly when low winter sunlight strafes the rough, golden grasslands. The steep climbs, although hard work, give immediate reward in the views of Bleaklow and the surrounding moors, and once onto the high ground there is real peace and solitude to welcome the walker.

Bleaklow.

3 Continue on across the moor to the trig point. On clear days enjoy great views out toward Holmfirth.

4 Return toward Crowden following the rather less well-used path across Tooleyshaw Moor. Taking a compass bearing here is advisable.

5 Follow the track back down hill, keeping the disused quarry to your left to return to Crowden and the start of the walk.

The walk

1 From the Crowden car park, follow the path past the toilets and campsite. At the crossroads, turn left and go through the gate. Follow the track to cross Crowden Brook before turning right at the stile, onto the well-signed Pennine Way route.

2 Follow this obvious route as it climbs through the contours to the top of the valley at Laddow Rocks. Along the way there are great views back down the valley toward Crowden and across to the dark rough-sawn edges of

DETAILS
Country Walking ID 2150
Mag Route 12, February 1999
Region East Midlands
Area Peak District
Length of walk 8½ miles/13.7km
Time needed 4 hours
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Steep and often very wet
Stiles Several
Suitable for experienced walkers only

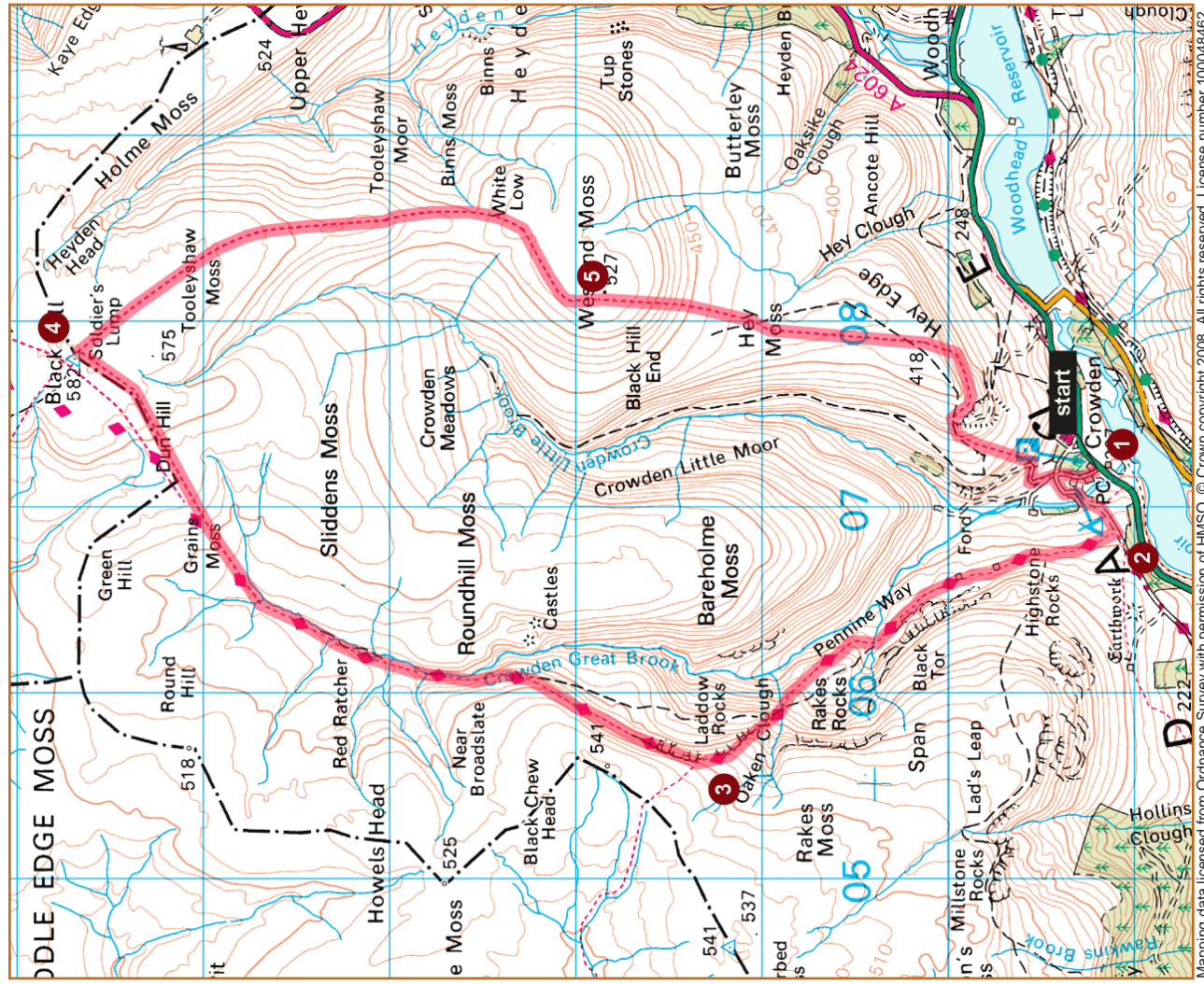
PLANNING

Parking Crowden
Start grid ref SK072992
Nearest town Glossop
Refreshments A628 layby at grid ref 11999
Public toilets None
Public transport For information tel Derbyshire Bus Line on 01332 292200; National Train Information 0345 484950

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Landranger 110; Outdoor Leisure Dark Peak

DAVID BROADBENT



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