

11.3km/7 miles or 13.8km/8 miles

3.5hrs or 4hrs

moderate

Upper Goyt Valley

The reservoirs of the Upper Goyt Valley occupy a scenic and popular location. Taxal church is in an attractive spot, after which the walk climbs grass and moor to follow a ridge over Windgather Rocks, noted for their rock climbs and the views over surrounding hills. The descent leads to the ruins of Errwood Hall, surrounded by varied woodland. There is then an easy walk along the banks of the reservoirs and beside the river to the start.

1 From lay-by, take track downhill. Cross river by footbridge, R, then climb to Taxal church. Turn L along lane. This deteriorates to a track. After crossing a stream, ignore a signed path, L, and ascend track to stile, and signpost, R, inside field, follow edge, still uphill, to another stile, L. A waymark directs you across field corner to next stile beside gate. Head for signpost, then keep uphill past two ladder stiles to lane. Ahead is Open Access, so make your way towards top corner of wood, joining a well-used path to ridge.

The walk

2 Descend few yards beside wood. Do not take ladder stile to L, but stile slightly R to follow fence and wall towards buildings, crossing stile on L part way. In front of house, turn L over ladder stile and walk up beside the wall to the top of Windgather rocks.

3 Follow path, or for better views, the top of rocks. At lane, do not join it, but use a path along wall beside lane. After nearly

1km, with a stile, R, fork L on distinct path following fence posts to reach a lane at Pym Chair.

4 Follow lane downhill to a sign to Errwood Hall on R. (You can shorten the walk by keeping on the lane to Point 6). A well-used path descends towards the valley. Ignore a L fork uphill. A small round building just below path is kept as a shrine. The path descends gradually across hillside. Pass another sign for Errwood, then watch out for a R and L zig-zag to cross stream. Soon you reach scanty remains of Hall, which occupy a pleasant position surrounded by trees.

5 Curve R on track past Hall, then turn back sharp L at junction. Cross stream, then, when track emerges from trees, bear L to reach Errwood Reservoir. Follow lane L to cross dam. There are toilets at car park a few metres further on.

6 Just past dam, follow sign to L to take track alongside Fernilee Reservoir. This easy promenade is well supplied with seats. Pass next dam, then descend a metalled lane on L to pass buildings. A sign shows the way. The path follows the river. Pass a footbridge to L. After a gate, path climbs away from river through woodland. Do not climb steeply to road. Path reaches track below lay-by where you started.

DETAILS

Country Walking ID 2755
Mag Route 8, March 2007
Region East Midlands
Area Derbyshire
Length of walk 11.3km/7 miles or 13.8km/8 miles
Time needed 3.5hrs or 4hrs
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain A climb of 200m (650ft). Mainly fields, tracks, and moorland paths
Stiles 10, all in first half of walk

PLANNING

Parking Lay-by on A5004 Buxton road 2km/1 mile south of Whaley Bridge, grid ref SK008798
Start grid ref SK008799

Nearest town Whaley Bridge

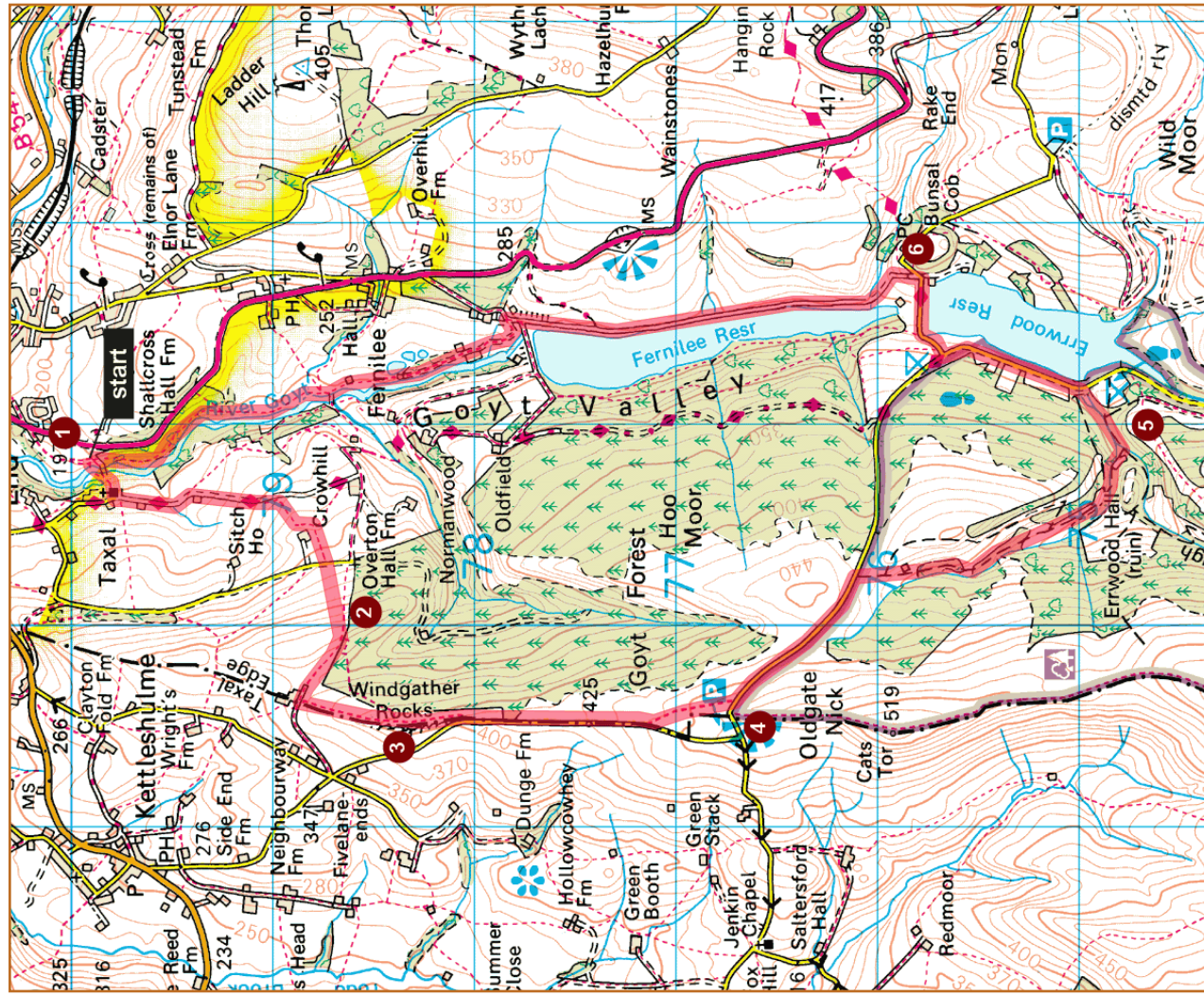
Refreshments Whaley Bridge

Public toilets Beside Taxal church, and at the car park at Point 6
Public transport 61 or 61A bus – Buxton to Glossop

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24; Landranger 118, 119

DEREK SPIERS



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