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around
GLOSSOP
and Surrounds**

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COWN EDGE • ROWARTH • SNAKE PASS
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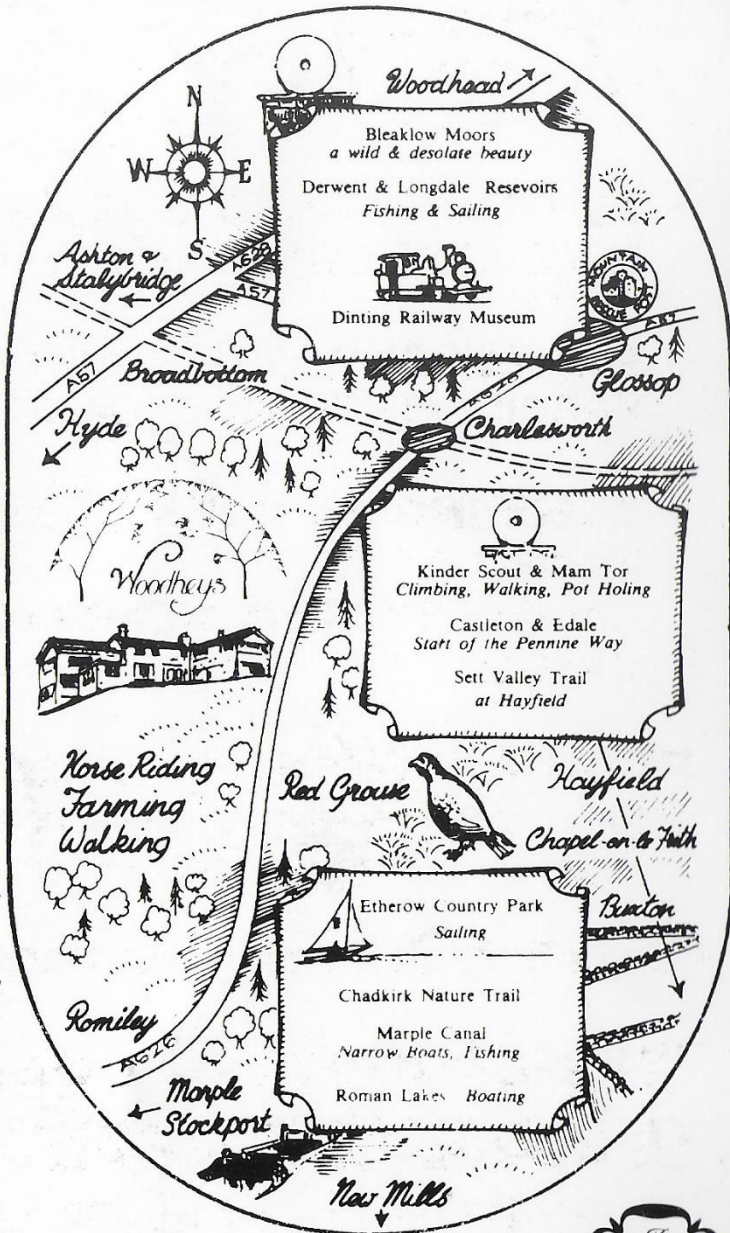
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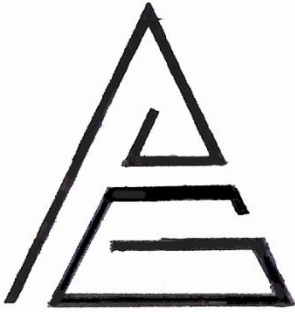
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Mileages are a rough guide—see text for variations.

Cover: Over Crowden

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Introduction

When the highly successful book 'Walking around Glossop' was ready to be re-printed the time was opportune to include some new walks and check that the old ones presented no problems.

There are many local people who enjoy walking the lovely and sometimes bleak countryside which surrounds the town and it seemed a good idea to invite them to say which particular walk pleased them.

In keeping with the first edition, this book is directed at the person who doesn't mind abandoning the car simply for the exercise and an opportunity to take a closer look at the town and its surrounds.

Glossop had previously suffered under the handicap of being a town for passing through en route to the scenic grandeur of the Snake Pass. Today, more and more people are discovering the town for its own sake and amongst its attractions are: the indoor and outdoor markets where the visitor can enjoy a good 'fuddle'; a swimming baths in the delightful setting of Howard Park; the old quarters of Whitfield and Old Glossop; the attractions of Manor Park with rides for children on its miniature railway and, for grown-ups the real thing at the Dinting Railway Centre.

These are some of the delights of Glossop which draw people in increasing numbers every year and this book completes their enjoyment by offering a number of walks in and around the town.

They are not difficult to follow and the O S map, Sheet 110, or better still the

O S Dark Peak Outdoor Leisure Map will help you to follow the walks described. Distances are a rough guide.

Where the walks include Old Glossop and Whitfield, you should allow yourself sufficient time in which to explore the nooks and crannies of these older parts of the town. Old Glossop is particularly photogenic.

Because Glossop lies on the edge of the Pennines much of the terrain is typically moorland and, in Pennine Way country, quite bleak. But there are also pleasant walks on the lower slopes and through the Longdendale Valley where water abounds.

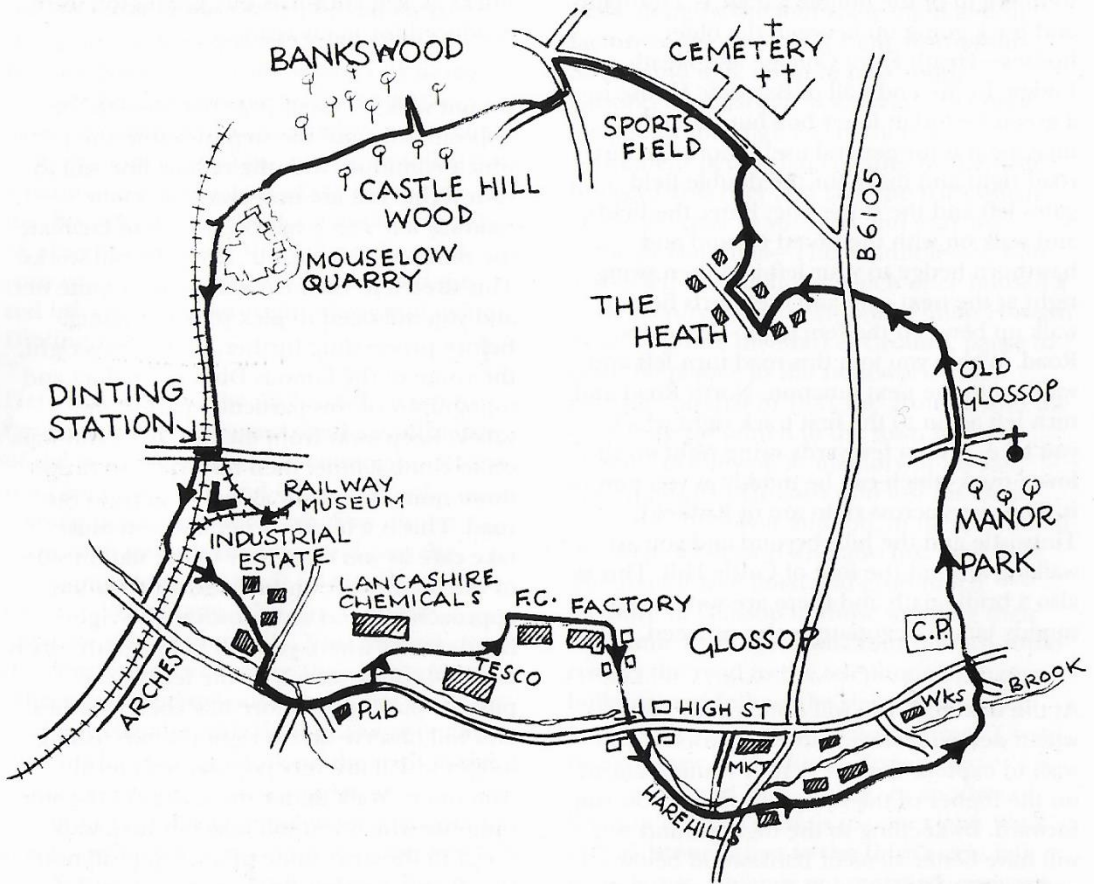
If you are a stranger in town there are two Information Centres which are staffed by friendly personnel who are most willing to help you enjoy your visit. The town's TIC is on the station forecourt whilst the National Parks Information Centre is at Torside and is open weekends during the summer. Also, for those who like to reminisce, there is a thriving Heritage Centre in Henry Street.

There is too, an extremely knowledgeable and helpful person in the guise of a Peak National Park Ranger and in return for his desire that you enjoy the countryside, he simply asks that you respect the country code—particularly with regard to footpaths, gates, dogs on leads and, of course, litter.

If you find these walks enjoyable you might like to try those in the companion books: Walking around Hayfield, More Walks around Hayfield, Walking around Disley/Marple and Walking around Chapel-en-le-Frith and Chinley.

1. Glossop Town Walk

Distance: 4½ miles



This first walk will be of interest to those who have come to reside in the town but have not yet had an opportunity to discover it in some detail. It combines the pleasanter parts on higher slopes where views are excellent with some of the industrial heritage. The changing face of the town will also be appreciated, with modern supermarkets where once stood those 'satanic mills' we often think about. Sadly, there are darker sides, particularly around the river which seems to attract litter and waste, but there are rumblings amongst those who care about the town. When the projected riverside walk is fully developed we shall, hopefully, enjoy a much improved vista.

Car parking for this walk as described, which can be undertaken within the space of two

hours, is Corn Street, Manor Park, but you could choose an alternative since the walk is circular. Walk through the park and exit in Old Glossop by the Post Office, then walk up to the church, turn left to go up past both church and school to the junction where Thorpe Street begins. Walk up this street and ignore the right-hand sweep of Blackshaw Road and continue along Thorpe Street which now descends to where the definitive path has been much improved. You will bear left with the path and climb to Woodhead Road, the B6105, and walk across, with care. Now take the stile on the right-hand of the drive to Kingsmoor Fields and walk on parallel to the drive. Keep the newish fence to your left and turn left behind the bungalow to join Bowden Road by the side of the new

fencing and Number 12. Walk down to pass the grit box and join the main road through The Heath and turn right to the pillar box and Bexley Close. At the top of this Close and to the right of the double garage is a footpath and track going up between the older houses—Heath Farm Cottage and Heath Lodge. In the end wall of Barnside House is a green Victorian letter box but I don't imagine it is for general use! Ignore the dirt road right and make for the double field gates left and the stone stile. Enter the field and walk on with the raised mound and hawthorn hedge to your left and then swing right at the next gate and the sports field to walk up between the fencing to Cemetery Road. Where you join this road turn left and walk on to the next junction, North Road and turn left again to the first track right which you take. After a few yards swing right on the lower track which can be muddy as you join it. The views across right are of Padfield, Tintwistle and the hills beyond and you are walking around the foot of Castle Hill. This is also a bridle path and there are some more muddy bits to negotiate as you proceed.

At the next fork you will note a path right which descends steeply to Bankswood if you wish to explore that area. Your route is ahead on the higher of the two paths which now run forward. By keeping to the high ground you will have better views of Bankswood below and a drier route since the left-hand path is somewhat sunken. Go ahead through the top line of the trees until you rejoin the bottom track as they merge, to walk on down a gully between walls to reach a wider dirt track. This has come up right from Bankswood and you are exactly opposite the rear of Hadfield Community School which is down below across the railway line. Now take the path diagonally opposite which again descends between walls and which is rock strewn to combat some of the wet. This is wild blackberry bush country and since there are numerous opportunities to pick the fruit you may wish to carry some form of receptacle with you. You can't really escape the wet and in fact, the path follows the line of the stream as it drops down to join a drier section by the side of the railway. Turn left and walk on to the first bridge which is Shaw Lane. There are

'patriotic' iron gates here, painted red, white and blue and you become aware of some old quarry workings—this is Mouselow and the site of the old Glossop Brickworks left, where bricks as well known as the Accrington were produced for many years.

Do not walk on the bridge but cross to the opposite stile and the steps down to the path which continues with the railway line still to your right. You are now aware of a new roadway left which has been built to facilitate the removal of shale, etc. from the old works. This stretch to the next exit point is quite wet and you will need to pick your way along. Before proceeding further, note across right, the route of the famous Dinting Viaduct and topography of this particular part of the valley. Keep away from the new road and walk on to climb a little, then turn right to drop down quite steeply by awkward steps to the road. This is a blind corner and you must take care as you cross over to the station side of the road. Walk on to the second station approach left and walk down to the right-hand corner where you will note a path which descends quite steeply to the feet of the pillars—passing yet more blackberry bushes. You will observe across right the two fishing lodges which are very popular with local fishermen. Walk under the arches to the stile opposite which you will take but first, walk down to the next stone pillar, (you will note that they are either brick or stone), and if children are with you they might play 'count the masons' marks'. These marks of various shapes and sizes are not difficult to identify and continue as high as the ninth row of stonework. Some background reading on the construction of the arches would perhaps reveal whether or not they actually are masons' marks.

From this stone pillar walk back up to the next brick pillar and take the pathway right, (ignoring the left fork), which first passes some kind of rusty iron air vent. Go ahead to climb a wooden stile and now note left the top end of the Dinting Vale Industrial Estate which is gradually being developed. Because the mills are no more, there are numerous small industrial sites being developed in various parts of the town.

This riverside path is part of the projected path which various bodies hope to bring to fruition in the not too distant future. On this next stretch the path hugs the high bank of the river and in parts it can be somewhat tricky unless you keep over to the line of fencing posts to your left as you walk along. Certainly if children are on the walk you would be advised to keep a tight rein on them around here. At the time of writing this is not a particularly scenic part of the walk and much work needs to be done to clear the area of unsightly rubbish. You will need to pick your way along to the new fencing and the red bricked bungalow right where you exit on Dinting Lane.

Here turn right to the A57 and then left to the bridge where you can see the confluence of the two waters—the one coming under the road from the right and Glossop Brook coming down from the town. Stay on the main road towards the town and pass the newsagents to the gap left for the Lancashire Chemical Company, (the sign is on the opposite side of the road). Now walk on over the river bridge to observe the old tramway offices and shed to your left. **Do not** enter the yard but take the path right by the river and the old sluice valves. Walk on the path to the footbridge which crosses a rather weedy brook and climbs up between wire fencing to reach the back of Tesco's where some new buildings are being erected and the line of the path has been somewhat disturbed. The guardians of our footpaths will no doubt ensure that it is reinstated and you will then walk along behind Tesco's service entrance to the car park and the steps left which leave the roadway to take you on to your next path.

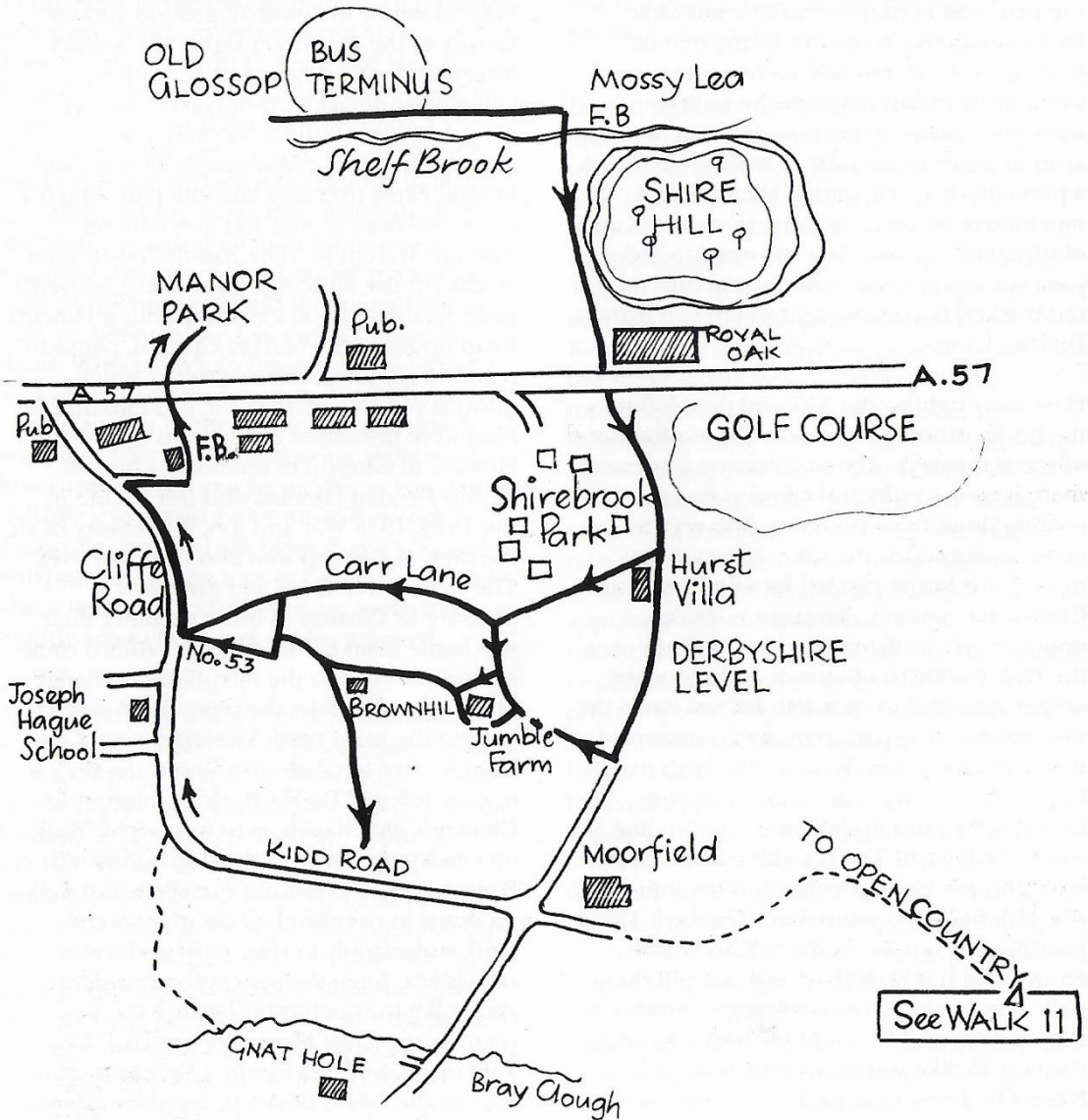
Note: On Tesco's car park a path runs down from the zebra crossing to the main road. This was the old 'grab alley' and you should ask older locals why it was so named—they could tell you they had helped name it! Now take the path as described and walk diagonally right to the corner of the football ground where the town's team play in a minor league. Older Glossopians will recall, with some pride I suspect, the days when

Glossop played on North Road and rose to the dizzy heights of the First Division, alas for but a brief spell.

Walk along by the football ground and the factory to the first street right, Shrewsbury Street, and walk down to pass another Glossop landmark of yesteryear—the old chapel. At the High Street there is a convenient pedestrian crossing by the river bridge. Cross over and take the path which keeps the river to your left and walk on through Harehills—The Sandhole—to note across left the buildings which once housed a glove factory. As you exit onto Phillip Howard Road opposite the Market Ground, pause to read the plaque in the stonework which informs you that in 1921 the grounds and the road were presented to the town by Lord Howard of Glossop in memory of his son, Phillip Fitzalan Howard who lost his life in the 1914/1918 War and too, in memory of all the men of Glossop who also lost their lives. The road is tree lined and gives much pleasure in Glossop to those wending their way home from the town. Your onward route crosses the road to the telephone exchange building and follows the steep hand-railed path to the main road, Victoria Street. Cross straight over to Gladstone Street, the vet's is to your left and Body Check, in another of Glossop's old chapels, is to your right. Walk up Gladstone Street to the third street left, Bank Street, which is not metalled, and walk on down to river level. Cross over where a bank rises steeply to your right and a mill yard is left. Keep the river still on your left and make for the footbridge and the new road on the Croft Manor estate. Turn left to walk up to the High Street, (A57) and cross over by the raised flower bed feature and on into Corn Street and your car. By reading the walk before embarking on it you can join it at the point most convenience to yourself. If you are not happy with the stretches which still require some attention you can, of course bypass them until such time as they are improved. Incidentally, it has not deterred parents from taking their offspring along as they have walked this route.

2. Derbyshire Level and Whitfield

Distance: 3-5 miles



Derbyshire Level is very popular with local people and Sadie and Bernard Bruckshaw find it to their liking as an evening stroll. There is a feeling of being out in the country yet not too removed from the town and there are interesting viewpoints from which well-known landmarks can be identified. You can start the walk in Old Glossop and proceed along Mossy Lea as for Walk 4, then cross the footbridge to enable you to climb the western side of Shire Hill. At the top right-hand

corner you will note the housing estate below and the track which takes you down to the A57 and the Royal Oak. Cross this busy road with care and take the minor road which runs on over the brook to pass the Wind in the Willows Hotel. Now climb quite steeply to pass Hurst Farm right and a notice left offering various produce. On the Level you now have several alternatives: walk straight on to the Moorfield crossroads where, if you turn left you can walk up into open country for

even more spectacular views, then return to the crossroads; half-way along Derbyshire Level is the farm road down to Jumble Farm which will be your next reference. The immediate choice once you have climbed the steep bank takes the footpath just before the large house right, Hurst Villa, and descends by the fence to the new housing estate, Shirebrook Park. You will exit by Warwick Close where a gravel path runs in front of the houses to the through road, Hathersage Drive. Turn left here and walk on as though circling the estate and at the junction with Bracken Way, the last avenue on the left, you will see the path ahead. It now runs between high fences to the stream which you cross to climb the steep bank and cross the field to the track where again you have a choice. By turning right you pass the barn and the site of Lower Jumble and walk on Carr Lane to where it exits on Cliffe Road. If you turn left towards the farm you can take a stile right before the stream and walk across the back of the farm buildings to another stile where you turn right and follow the path which climbs the hill to the far corner of the stone wall. This has now brought you to the top side of the prominent white Brownhill Farm where a left turn will take you down the gravel drive to Kidd Road.

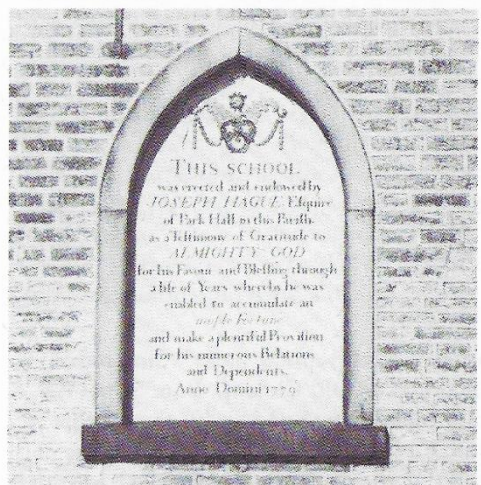
If you go ahead, not turning to Brownhill, you will join another track which goes ahead and descends to habitation leaving the wall to your left. At the iron stile turn left on this track as though making for Field Head but take the track right which exits by Number 53 Cliffe Road, Whitfield. Make a short detour here to walk on left past the Beehive and note the old Hague's School right with its descriptive tablet.

Now return to Number 53 and walk on Cliffe Road to the end row of cottages, Bright's Terrace. A utilitarian road sign tells you that this is Morley Street and the more decorative tablet high on the gable end also offers the same information. Walk down 'The Bonk' as it is known locally to the T-junction where you turn right for a few yards to pass behind Number 3 Cross Cliffe where a footpath sign is located. You can now see your way ahead which is over the brook and on to the new road which exits at Corn Street, the entrance

to Manor Park and your car if you are using this car park.

Once again, reference to the O S map will reveal several possibilities in the area. As mentioned above, the track left at Moorfield which leads up to the old turves pits could be the start of a more ambitious sortie into open country. The large house, scene of location shots for television, is an example of the large houses built by and for past local industrialists—in this case the Wood family. By continuing along Derbyshire Level from these crossroads you will note left another track leading to open country and across on the hillside a shooting lodge. This is a reminder that from the Glorious Twelfth the moors are not always available for access and notices to this effect are posted at access points.

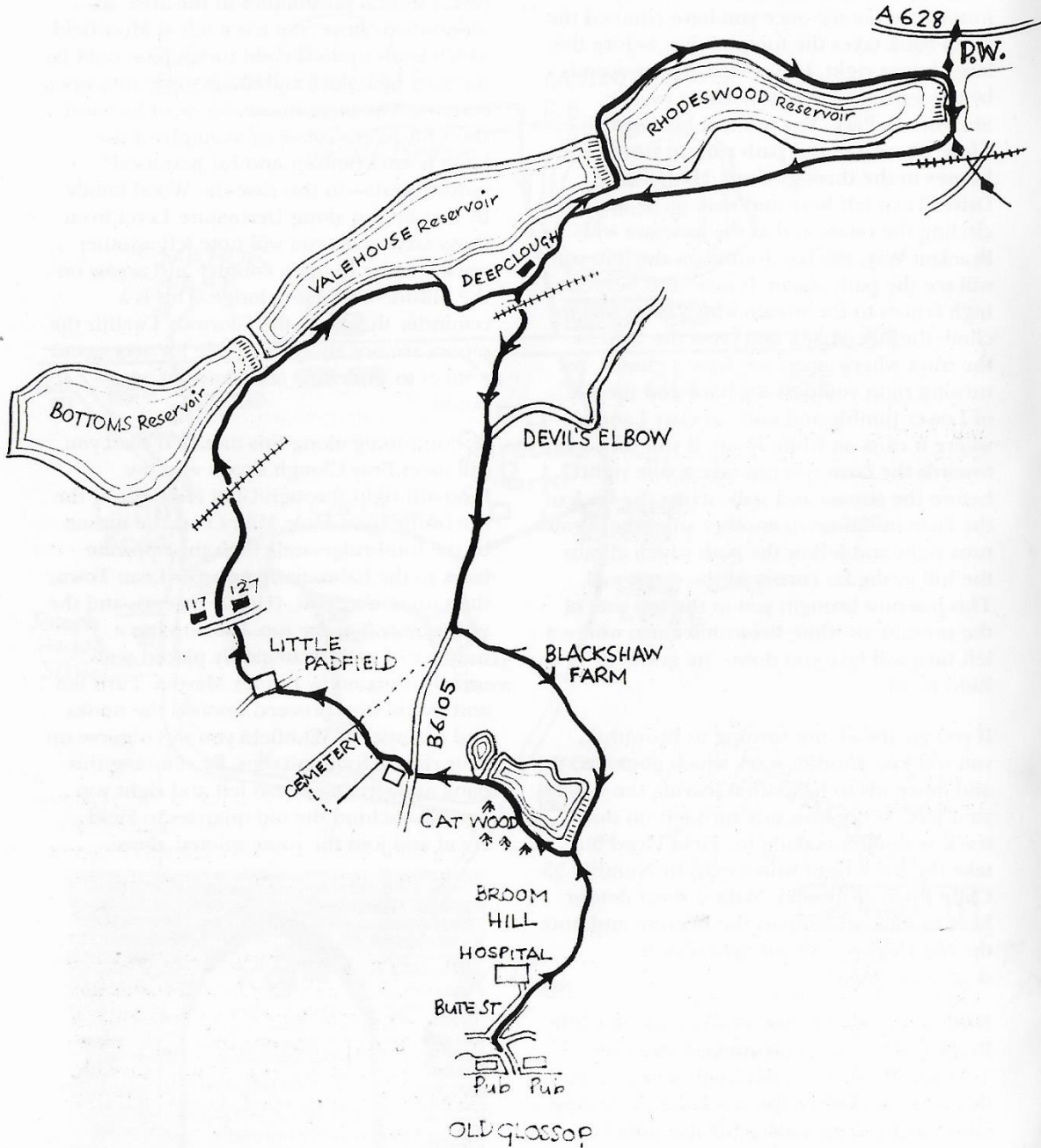
By continuing along this metalled road you will meet Bray Clough Brook and the footpath right through Gnat Hole Farm, the site of the Gnat Hole Mill. Cross the stream by the footbridge and climb the opposite bank to the habitation known as Lean Town, then up to the road, (Hague Street), and the welcome seat at the top. Glossop has a number of such strategically placed seats, usually donated by former Mayors. Turn left and as you now proceed towards the nooks and crannies of Whitfield you will observe on your right a footpath sign. By climbing this bank and striking across left and right you can pass behind the old quarries to Field Head and join the route quoted above.



Hague's School

3. Swineshaw, Padfield and Reservoirs

Distance: 5 miles



Another of the popular walks which have their origin in Old Glossop. Bute Street lies behind Blackshaw Road and is signed for Shire Hill Hospital. Walk up as far as the hospital drive, then take the track right which bends left to continue up beyond the hospital

grounds to pass a fishing lodge right and bungalow and cottage left. Some maps also indicate Broom Hill to your left and you should now locate a simple footbridge which crosses the stream just below a picturesque waterfall. Over the bridge bear right to climb

very steeply to the reservoir embankment and walk on to the end of the wall which is on your right-hand side. Now strike out across the field on a route at right angles to the Woodhead Road which you will see across left. You will exit opposite Allman's Heath Farm and you take the path on the right-hand side of the farm to continue to the corner of the cemetery wall. Here, you will have views of your onward route to Little Padfield and you drop down the hillside to that hamlet, crossing two stiles en route and making for an electricity power post. At the road you turn left for a few yards to pass a house right before reaching a recognisable stile also right. By taking this and walking on across the field you will arrive at Peel Street which runs on to Padfield Main Road.

Here turn left for a few yards to Number 117 with the date stone JW 1806 and lamp post number 45945 on the opposite side of the road. I am afraid I can't tell you why the house on the other side of this gap is 127 and not 119! The gap is your onward route and you walk on to a stile left which is before the gate ahead of you. From the stile descend the field diagonally right to an underpass which gets you to the other side of this once busy line—now alas no more.

Walk on to climb a ladder stile, after which you will arrive at Bottoms Reservoir where you turn right on this path and walk on to the next reservoir. This is Valehouse and you stay on this same side of the water to continue on the track leading up to Valehouse Farm. Walk on and bear right to climb up to the minor service route and here turn left for Deepclough Farm. Some yards before the farm buildings appear you will note a track right by an old barn and this is your return route. (A slightly longer addition is described below.) Pass under the old line and look up to the road at an angle of about 30° right where you should pick out a finger post. Make for this spot on the Woodhead Road

and you will be the Glossop side of the Devil's Elbow bend and you turn right here towards Glossop. Pass the top of the Padfield turn-off and just before reaching Windy Harbour right you take the track left over the cattle grid to Blackshaw Farm.

Walk on in front of the farm to the crossroads of paths where you turn right and wend your way down to the gate and turnstile, passing the old settling tanks. This track is returning you to the waterfall and your outward route. Continue past the cottage and bungalow to the hospital lodge where you join Bute street and reverse your steps into Old Glossop.

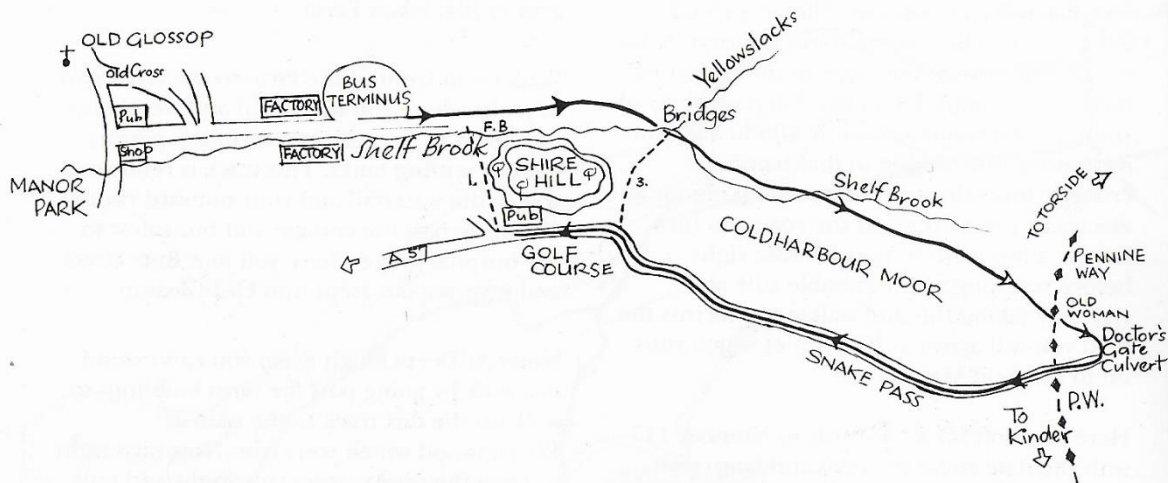
Note: At Deepclough Farm you can extend this walk by going past the farm buildings to walk on the dirt track to the dam at Rhodeswood which you cross. Now turn right to keep the reservoir on your right and walk up to where you meet the line of The Pennine Way which has crossed the dam at Torside. Turn right to cross the dam but do not follow The Pennine Way route up to the main road. A footpath sign right will direct you back to Rhodeswood along a recognisable path. You are asked to keep to the path and if you do have a dog with you, then use the lead. This is sheep farming country and particularly at lambing time the farmer is naturally concerned for his flock.

You will exit on the track just before reaching the farm and you return again passing the farm buildings to the track left which passes under the line. You now continue as described above.

This is one of Peter Pedley's favourite walks which is not surprising since he mans the Torside Information Centre from time to time. There, he has plenty of opportunities for gazing at water—a pastime enjoyed by many visitors who can picnic there whilst watching sailing and wind surfing.

4. Doctor's Gate, and Snake Pass

Distance: 4 miles each way



This is probably the best known walk in the Glossop area but by no means the easiest. The majority of these walks can be undertaken as rounds, thus avoiding the problem of how to return to your car or public transport.

The Doctor's Gate linear walk does require you to return via the Snake Pass with the co-operation of a friendly driver. There are however, several variations which will be described elsewhere.

From The Queens in Old Glossop walk up by the river to pass the factory buildings left and right and, at the end of the metalled road, the bus turning circle. Walk on the dirt road to the footbridge which is the route of the walk over Derbyshire Level but go ahead, still keeping Shelf Brook to your right. This is Mossy Lea and the wooded Shire Hill (or what is left of it) towers above on your right.

On the Derbyshire Level walk you will be able to observe that contractors are beavering away removing much of the hill but we are assured that not all of it will disappear!

Continue up Mossy Lea to its confluence with Yellowslacks Brook and at this point you can also return to Glossop by turning right to cross the bridge. Walk on up to the lodge at

the A57 and turn right to walk down to the town, passing the Royal Oak en route.

The Doctor's Gate route goes ahead over the stile and is well signed. It keeps the brook to your right as far as the Edwin Ambler Memorial Bridge which you cross, thus leaving the brook to your left.

The track can now be somewhat damp but it is well defined and brings you to its junction with the Pennine Way at the Old Woman.

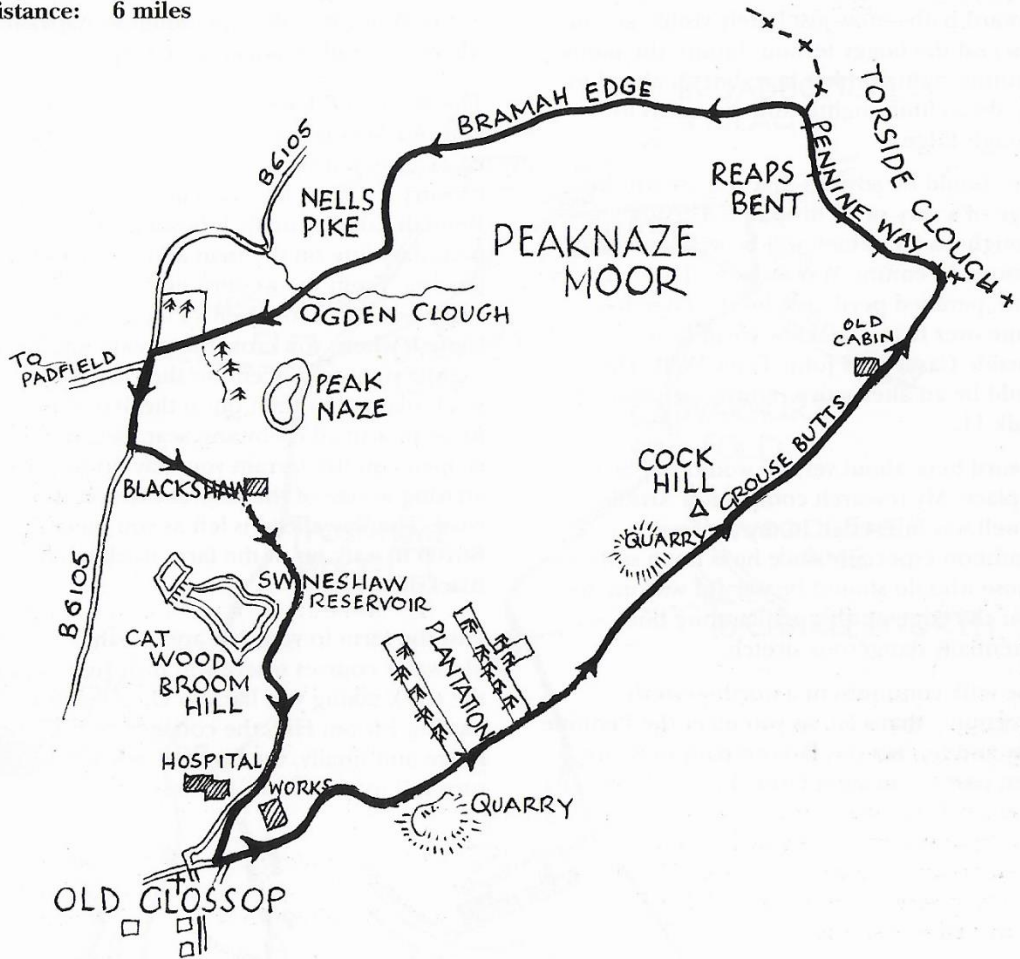
Incidentally, whilst some maps refer to Doctor's Gate as 'Roman Road, course of', it is thought to be more likely an old pack-horse route. The tag Doctor's Gate is related to Doctor Talbot, a local clergyman who walked this way.

At the Old Woman you would cross over the route of the Pennine Way to emerge, in another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at the Doctor's Gate Culvert where the A57 begins its descent. It is from this point or the actual summit that you will need to walk the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles back down the Snake Road unless transport has been arranged.

The walk can be extended by following the alternatives on Walk 11, which follows the Pennine Way south to Featherbed Moss and beyond.

5. Old Glossop, Cock Hill and Bramah Edge

Distance: 6 miles



Another of the walks which start in Old Glossop. Your first reference is along Hope Street to Charles Lane (see detail map). At the top of this metalled road take the stile left to join a rather tricky route up past old quarries. This might seem something of an obstacle course but since it is popular with walkers it obviously does not deter them. When quarrying ceased in these parts they forgot to 'tidy the place up' so that the rock-strewn and sometimes wet route can be quite a challenge but do persevere—the rewards are worth the effort.

There are a number of stiles to negotiate as you climb steadily, first passing a smallish quarry right and a plantation left. At the Open Country access sign the path runs behind the next stretch

of wall to a point where the wall turns sharp right and you do also.

Now stay with the wall to the wire fence which has a number of convenient strengthening timbers to help you over. Take the one nearest the wall and continue to where the wall turns again right as though completing the square. At this point you will have observed two possibilities: a sharp climb to your left and a more gradual one ahead and bearing left round the foot of the high ground. As you continue to climb round the lower slopes of Cock Hill the trig' point comes into view on the skyline left. The remains of more quarry workings is evident at this point and as you leave the area you come up to the line of grouse-shooting butts.

Walk on up by the butts to the ruins of an old shooting cabin which is identified on older maps. Beyond it is another ruin and your onward path—now just barely visible as you descend the boggy terrain. Ignore the paths running right and left here but go ahead to dip then climb slightly and dip again to Clough Edge.

You should be advised that you are on the edge of a very steep drop into Torside Clough—a fact which will be well-known to seasoned Pennine Way walkers. This narrow path, perched perilously on the edge has come over from Bleaklow Head by way of Torside Castle and John Track Well. This could be an alternative return—see map on Walk 11.

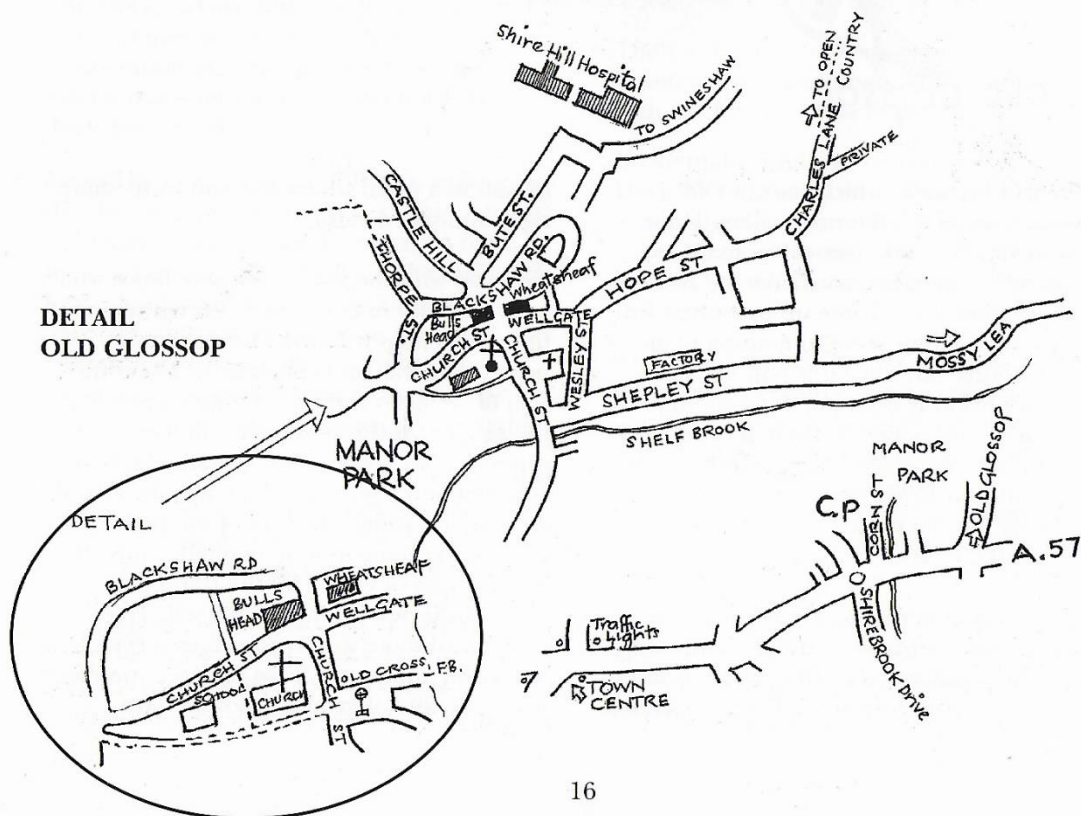
A word here about vertigo would not be out of place. My research companion Arnold Powell was interested in my confessing to this condition especially since he is not a sufferer. Those who do should be wary of walking too near the edge on this exhilarating but potentially dangerous stretch.

The walk continues in a north-westerly direction—that's left as you meet the Pennine Way and follows this famous path to Reaps then past the maggots farm (hence the odour)

to drop down to the Woodhead Road. The onward route if you are following this line could be along the new concessionary paths of the Water Board, depending perhaps on where you had arranged a pick-up.

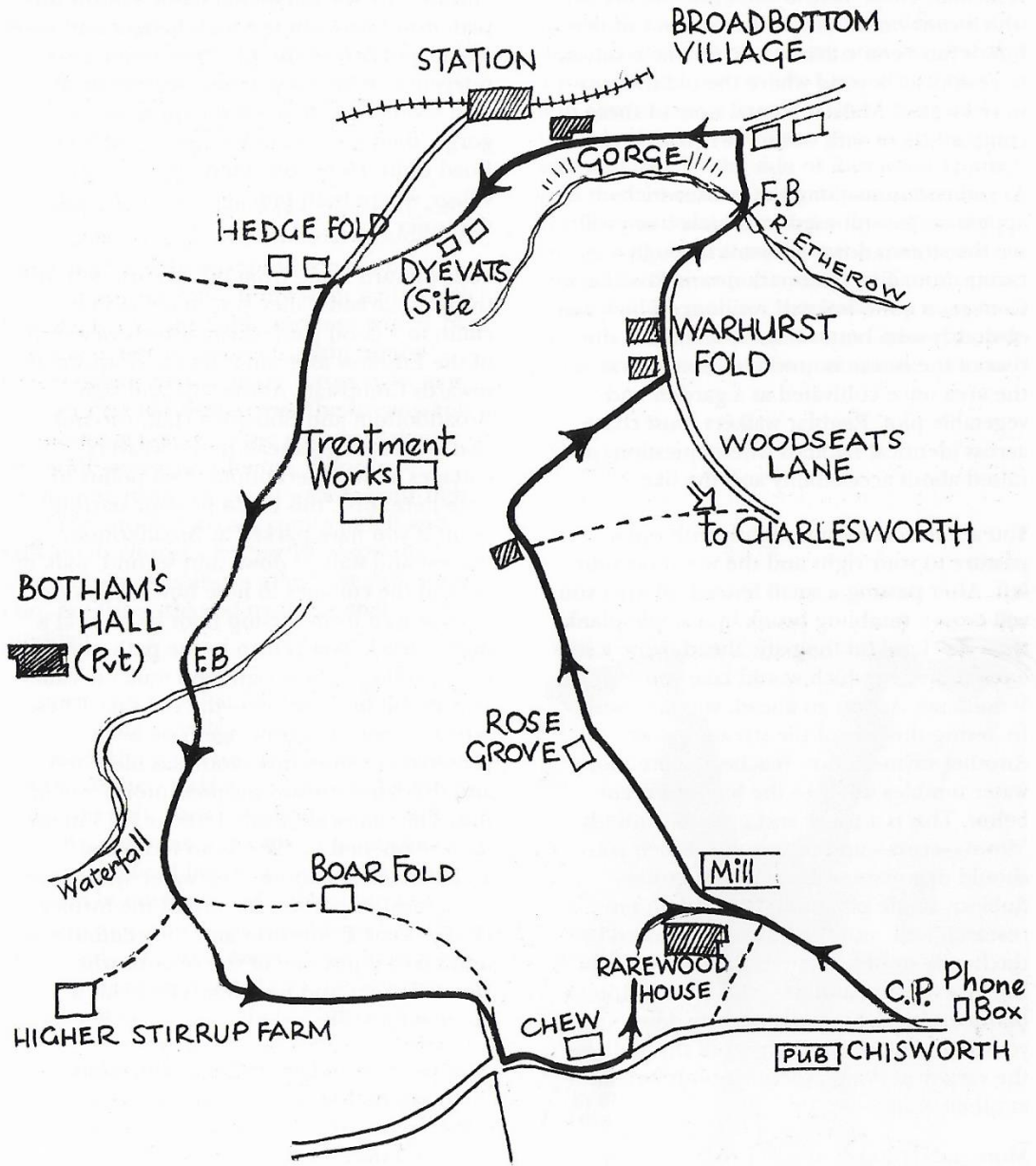
The Bramah Edge return route from the Pennine Way is as follows: where the Way takes a steep drop at the boundary of open country you turn left and climb up on Bramah Edge, actually following the boundary line on the map and the plantation fencing. From the western end of the Edge strike out left across Nell's Pike to Ogden Clough where you cross the stream and bear slightly right to descend to the corner of a small plantation then on to the Woodhead Road by a small lay-by and seat. Because this is open country terrain you may find yourself arriving at one of the several exits on this road. The way ahead is left as you meet the B6105 to walk on to the farm track left for Blackshaw Farm.

Pass the farm to your left and go ahead to the old water courses where you turn right to join the track taking you back to Old Glossop passing Broom Hill, the cottages and fishing lodge and finally, the hospital, where you turn left to walk down to your car.



6. Chisworth and Broadbottom Circular

Distance: 4 miles



This short four-mile walk of about two hours duration can start at either Chisworth or Broadbottom. It is described as from Chisworth with reference to the Broadbottom alternative. Car parking is possible by the telephone box on the A626, just a few yards

before The Hunters at the far end of Chisworth. Follow the track signed Rarewood House and walk on past the 'village hall'—a Porta Kabin—towards the old Kinderlee Mill. At the red bricked chimney you will observe a fork, the left one will be your return route

and now take the right fork to walk on past the corrugated roof of the old building right. You are now dropping down into the wood on a rather muddy track which is obviously vehicular. Pause before you cross the brook, which runs on into the Etherow, and notice how it has been culverted under the roadway to re-appear beyond where the old dye-vats were located. Make a mental note of these to compare them with others at Broadbottom.

As you continue along the track, which appears to be still used by vehicles, you will see the stream down left runs through a ravine. Your first landmark now is Rose Grove Cottage, a quite isolated residence which has obviously seen better days. A section at the rear of the house is now derelict, as too is the area once cultivated as a garden and vegetable plot. Regular walkers must come across identical habitats where questions are raised about accessibility and the like.

You are now climbing slightly with open pasture to your right and the wood on your left. After passing a small fenced off area you will cross a tumbling brook by a single plank, then stay level on the path ahead. Note a stile and path right which would take you over to Woodseats. As you go ahead, you are loosely following the line of the stream below. Another ravine is now reached where more water tumbles down to the feeder stream below. This is a tricky and probably muddy 'down—cross—and up' section which you should negotiate with care. The rather dubious single plank was ignored on our research walk and the water was crossed by the handy stones. Climb out of this gully to the new fencing and the path is now quite defined with the wood now away down and to your left. One of the delights of this walk is the variety of flora and fauna both here and at other spots.

More habitation is now approached with another track right leading up to Woodseats. This spot is also Rose Grove and the path goes on through the gate, past the houses to an open spot where more views are possible. Crossing the exposed section with open field right and fence left, the view ahead is of Broadbottom arches and station buildings, whilst away left is Werneth Low.

At Sylvandale Farm there are two carved greyhounds atop the gatepost. You have now joined the metalled road coming down from Woodseats and you turn left to pass the entrance to Warhurst Fold Farm. Follow this path down between the high hedges and note ahead and below, the Etherow—your next reference. Where you cross the river by the iron footbridge note left the quite steep gorge, then walk on to the bottom of Well Road right. Here you could pop up into the village where both pub and cafe will satisfy the inner man.

Your onward route from this point is left with the way-marked Valley Way and you first climb to a good path which affords views left of the Etherow as it winds its way downstream towards Compstall. At the stile and sign, Broadbottom and Botham's Hall, (no not that Botham), go ahead to the weavers' cottages at Summerbottom. Two points to note here: first, this could be your starting point if you have parked at Broadbottom Station and walked down and second, walk up behind the cottages to note how the goods were moved from the top floor by steps at a higher level. Now return to the path in front of the cottages, turn right and walk on Valley Way to the next feature—the dye-vats. These artefacts from a bygone age have been preserved to show how cloth was bleached and dyed and various plaques inform you of this. The timescale reads 1805 to 1913 in use, then re-opened in 1987 as an industrial archaeological feature. The water system too was a most important feature of the former Hodge Lane Printworks and this reminder of times past is just one of the reasons why Derek Turner and his friends find this a fascinating walk.

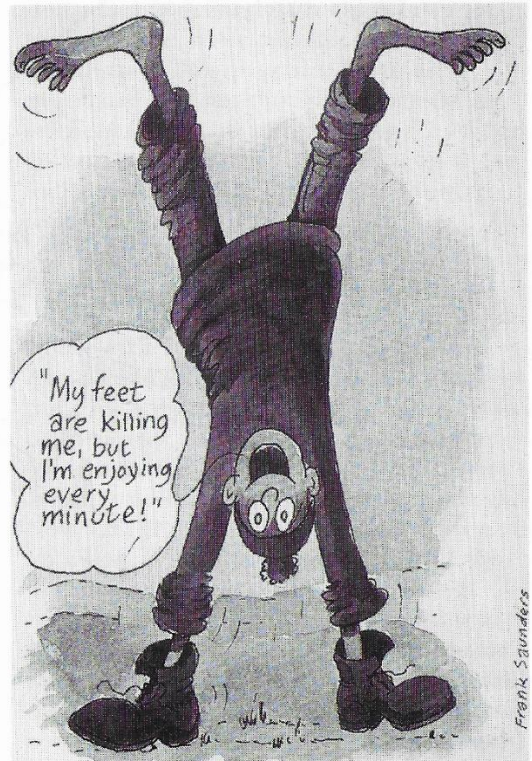
Now proceed to Hodge Fold—the hamlet at the bottom of Moss Lane, where the date stone reads 1676. Go ahead to the footpath signs and note Great Wood ahead which would take you over towards Hattersley. You must take the path signed Werneth and Compstall and on through the gate at the side of the white house. Now pass the treatment works left and continue to a point where you can observe the complex of Botham's Hall away to your right, but it is private. About this point on the path note a

tree and stile left which both carry the yellow way-mark signs. Take this stile and walk diagonally right across the field to the iron bridge which crosses the river. You are now at 'Broadbottom Beach' a sort of rural Blackpool where a small sandy strip has proved most welcome to locals who have, with vivid imagination, 'been to the seaside'. The larger wooden bridge downstream is not a public right of way.

Once over the river there is a choice of route, both leading up to your eventual destination. The left path climbs steps which are quite visible, but your route is the right path which first takes you over a stile and into a field. Stay with the hedge on your left, right up the corner where a path strikes across right to a clapper type footbridge over the stream. You will notice across right the river has taken a very wide sweep hereabouts. Before continuing from this point walk to your right to where another stream comes in left and walk up its course a few yards to view the waterfall which is always at its best after some rain, but the paths you tread are that much muddier!

Return to your spot at the footbridge and now climb up steeply through the wood bearing right at the top as though making for the top of the waterfall. Go over a stile into a field, and walk ahead as though making for the gully, but note left a tufted path which goes up the field between the trees, making for farm buildings ahead. Follow this line right up to where the old buildings have been renovated—you will observe Boar Fold Scout Camp over to your left. At the houses the track right goes up to Higher Stirrup Farm and the Glossop Road, but your way is ahead, past the new house to the road which too has come down from the main road. You can either stay with the metalled road or cut the corner by entering the field right over a rickety stile and making for the first line of hawthorn bushes. The power-line pole is labelled Boar Fold sub station and that is a handy reference. Now bear slightly left with the hedge to your left and walk up to meet the road at another collapsed stile. Turn right here to walk up to the main road, the A626, and note the sign for the Scout Camp and the

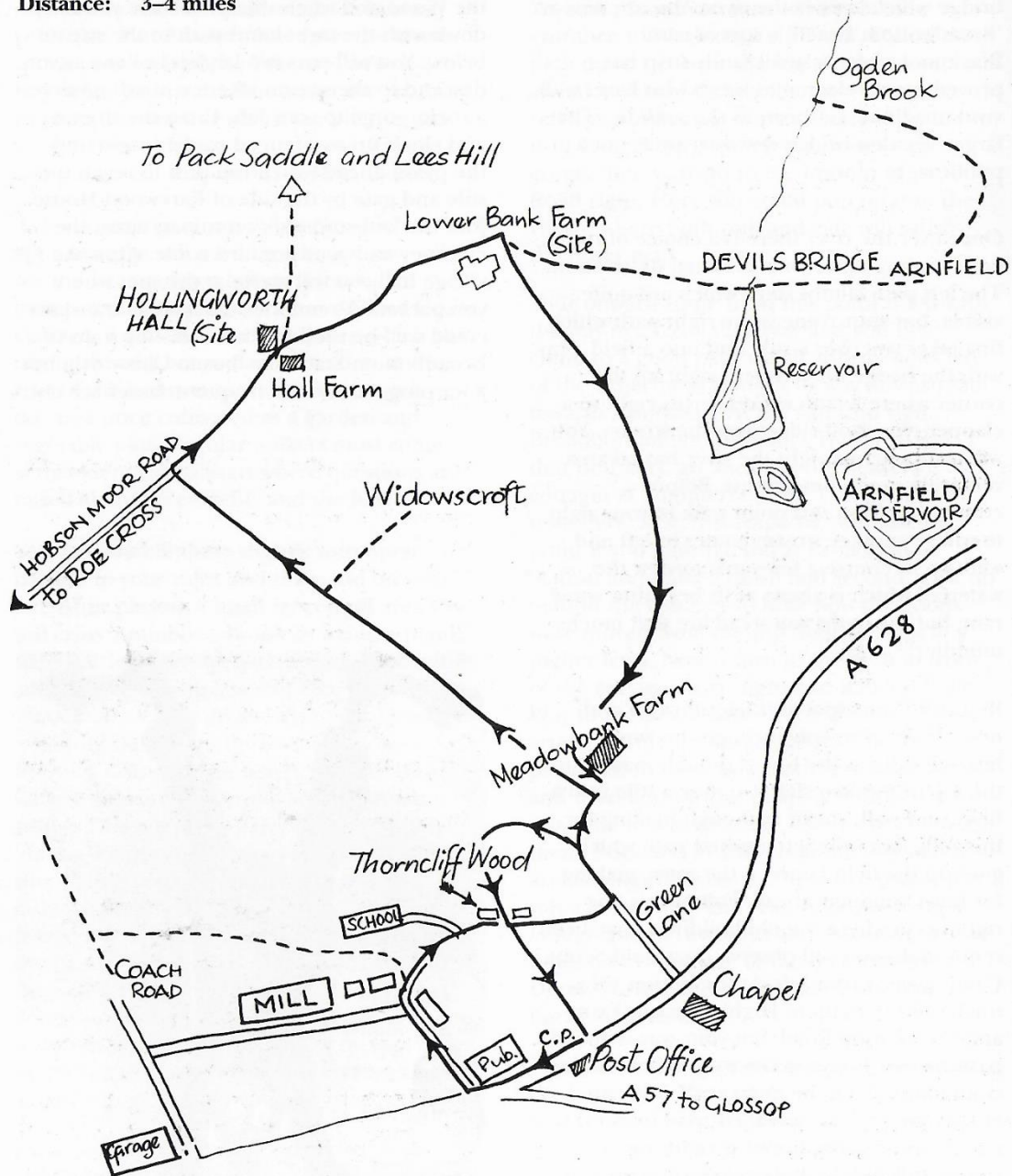
yellow way-marked posts. Turn left and walk down to Chew where, as you reach the last house left, The Kells, is a footpath sign. Enter the Wood and where the path forks you drop down with the right-hand path to the stream below. You will pass two largish hollows as you descend to the stream where you will observe a rocky gorge to your left. Cross the stream and climb up to a fenced pasture right and the pylon ahead which you pass to reach the stile and gate by the side of Rarewood House. Join the lane and walk on to pass again the chimney and your outward route. After the village hall you will arrive at the spot where you parked. A reminder that public transport could well be used for this walk—by train to Broadbottom Station or bus to Chisworth, but a warning—trains are frequent, buses are not!



One of Peter Pedley's funny postcards.

7. Hollingworth Circular

Distance: 3-4 miles



The advantage of this local walk is that it can be taken as a short circular to introduce young children to the pleasures of walking, (there were four on our research walk), or it can be extended to include wilder terrain. Car parking is possible opposite the Post

Office on Market Street, Hollingworth, and you walk back to The Gun—a Harvester hostelry—at the traffic lights. Turn right up Wednesough Green and note the date stone on the side wall of this old inn. Walk up to the top row of cottages, passing the old

schoolhouse and Sunny Place with its peculiar sign 'Terms of Lease forever' and date 1792. This was once the home of that former stalwart of Coronation Street, Pat Phoenix.

The top cottage now facing you is dated KWG 1774 and you bear right here going between the houses to your onward path. Note here that had you turned left and walked on past the old Albion Mill, then turned right at Coach Road, you could have taken a longer route to Hobson Moor Road. Your paved path ahead takes you to the approach road to the secondary school and the now derelict Spring Street Methodist Chapel, though the graveyard is still operational. At the Chapel ignore the track left and go ahead between the houses, making for the iron centre post and cobbled path which exits by a post and litter bin and a concrete drive. Note here the narrow path left which may well be your return route. Descend the drive to the few houses at Thorncliff Wood and the metalled road right which is Wood Street. Here walk ahead passing number 24 on your left, to the three stone steps and pillar and this short path now exits by more steps on to Green Lane where you turn left. Walk up to the right-hand bend and note a small electricity junction box and track left, (your return route). Walk on to Meadowbank on your left where again parking is possible if you are starting the walk at this point.

You will note a footpath sign just at the left of the farm drive and this will be your return path. Now walk back a few yards to the metalled road, Cow Lane, leading to Hobson Moor Road, 'public footpath'. This is a steady climb right up to the T-junction passing right a dirt road going off to a farm. Where the metalled road peters out and you are now on a cart track the ground falls away steeply to your left to a stream running through the gully. It is quite wooded here and you pass a stile and gate before reaching Hobson Moor Road which runs off left to Roe Cross. This spot is something of a rural crossroads with Peak and Northern Footpath Society signs for Stalybridge via Shaw Moor ahead and Swineshaw and Arnfield right—which is your onward direction.

Note: If you have walked up Coach Road or any of the other alternatives from The Gun and Mottram Moor, then this is the spot you must make for.

Walking on, there are good views across right over Glossop Dale towards the far hills. On your left you will meet the site of the former Hollingworth Hall, a gateway and wall now remaining, and to the right is the farm. When you reach the house left, pause and look back to the rhododendron cluster where the Hall once stood. Now look ahead past the house to the onward track which leads over to Swineshaw and beyond. It is at this point that you can extend the walk by going ahead to Lees Hill—rounding it and returning by Ogden Brook to Arnfield.

Our shorter route lies over the stile opposite the house and note now the way-marking signs and at the next stile, the sign Ogden Brook. Go ahead to a solitary post in the next field, (again way-marked), and on across a rather windy, exposed stretch where a fence enclosing a wood comes up right. There is now a clearly defined path which takes you to a wall, gate, fence and stile and a rather muddy spot. This quagmire has to be negotiated and you should go immediately left behind the wall and make for the higher ground before turning at right-angles to the wall and keeping the newish fence to your left.

At the next way-marked post bear slightly right to make for the wall and a heap of stones—the remains of Lower Bank Farm. Again, you can plot your own route ahead in one or two different directions, but our walk doubles back as though walking round the spot where the buildings once stood. There's an old sink still serving as a drinking trough. Now walk on between the walls for a few yards until you are left with just the one wall right as you proceed across an open stretch of field. Go ahead to the next wall running at right-angles to your route and after this you will have a hawthorn hedge right as you walk on. By staying at this higher level you have better views over to your left and also avoid having to climb back up to this contour. The path now descends to a gate and stile at

Swallows Wood and you go down to cross a stream, then climb up via the left fork and on through the wood. You will pass gateposts which have holes in them to accommodate horizontal bars.

Now descend again to where the fish hatcheries were located until a disease is thought to have brought that activity to a close. There is wild life in the wood, including pheasants, and the whole area is quite pleasant. Cross another stream and climb up to a ladder stile at the wall and then go ahead to the point where the wall left turns sharp left and your path is visible ahead. This is a muddy stretch and the higher ground is usually a safer bet.

The huge beech tree now ahead has quite long lateral branches which vibrate at the slightest touch. The muddy path follows the line of the next three trees to a ladder stile at a little copse. Over the stile cross a brook and climb a muddy path to a fence left and open pasture right. The path eventually merges with the fence and here you will see below you a man-made water course. There are iron uprights at the next stile—could they be old railway lines?

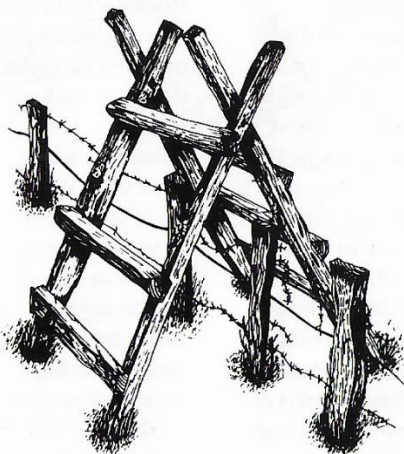
The path is now quite defined as it continues towards a wall, a gate and a stile. You must take the gap in the wall to the right of the gate to exit on the correct path which makes for the farmyard. As you pass through the stile at the farmyard, you must turn **immediately** right to go up and round the top

side of the barns. Keep the buildings to your left and walk on to where a stile and footpath sign lead you back to Green Lane and your car if you started the walk at Meadowbank.

Otherwise, turn right to walk on the lane to the left-hand bend and the track right which goes down between hawthorn hedges. Note across at high level before you descend, the wooded area in the direction of Thorncliff Hall.

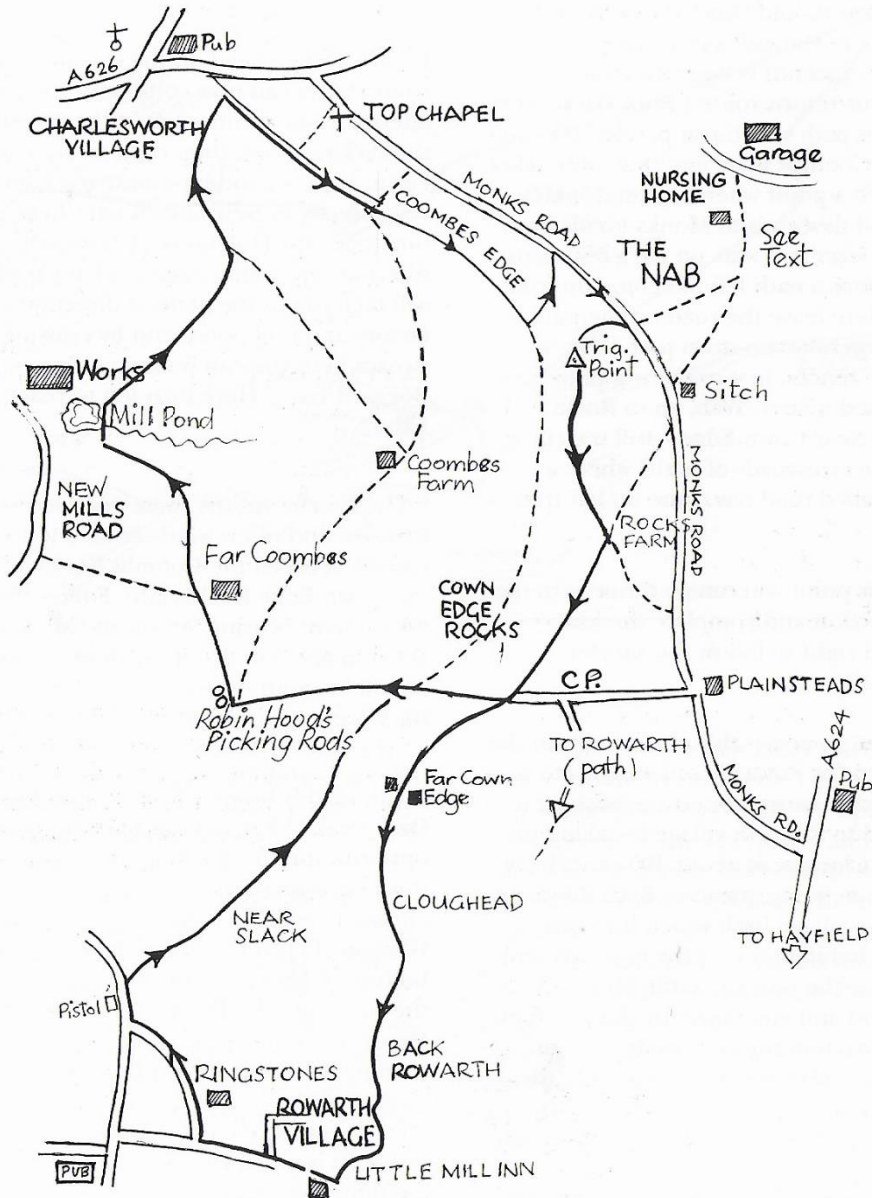
At the cottages in the bottom, turn left through a stile to go ahead on a path running parallel to the brook left. Go ahead to the high fence left and the hedge right and continue—the path now quite narrow and wet after rain. As you exit by the litter bin and post, turn left, descend the drive and turn right down Wood Street to the main road. There's a pottery shop at this junction and a cafe on the front if you are seeking refreshment. Also, of course, numerous pubs. Turning right and walking back to your car note the three-storey house next to the chemist and its smaller windows on the third floor. This point of interest and the fact that Market Street was once known as Treacle Street might lead you to investigate further.

The shortest version from Meadowbank is about 1½ hours and though passing through some quite muddy bits it has always proved a popular walk. When Derek Turner was Headmaster of Hollingworth Primary School, his pupils found it an enjoyable alternative to more formal lessons.



8. Charlesworth, Cown Edge Rocks, Coombs Edge and Rowarth

Distance: 4½/⅞ miles—see text



There are so many short and longish walks from Charlesworth that choosing one to describe in detail is not easy. The one quoted here takes in excellent view points along Cown Edge which can be compared with

those obtained from The Pennine Way above Torside Clough.

Parking for the northern section of the walk, which begins in Charlesworth, will need to be

somewhere convenient in the village. Walk up Town Lane from the centre of the village and turn right onto Back Lane which runs up behind the school. You can now either take the right fork with the footpath sign to Coombs Edge or go on ahead along the rough road which is Back Lane. If you go right then you should climb the bank and take the stile by the wall and proceed. (The track which descends is Boggard Lane and could be your return route.) Both Back Lane and the field path which run parallel take you on towards Coombs Edge and this route takes Back Lane to a point where a path doubles back left and descends to Monks Road. Turn right at the road and walk on for a few yards to a spot where a path left has come up from The Nab. Here leave the road on the path right and now take the steep path left between the fences, first to the trig point and then a disused quarry. Walk on to Rocks Farm, then Near Cown Edge—still travelling south, to the crossroads of paths where a private metalled road has come up left from Plainsteads.

Note: At this point you can continue with the southern section and complete the longer walk or turn right to follow the shorter northern walk.

To continue, go across this crossroad with the footpath sign for Rowarth and walk on to pass Far Cown Edge Farm around the back. You will descend to Rowarth village by taking the left path to Cloughead about 300 yards from the farm, then going ahead to Back Rowarth and then the village itself which is in two halves. The habitation is in the first part and the hostelry—the popular Little Mill Inn—is in the second and you make for this whether or not you are wanting refreshment. Your onward route takes the road back from the Inn and climbs to a road right leading to Ringstones—this is after the minor road right which doubles back to the village. Go on past Ringstones, ignoring the paths left and right and walk up to Gun Road where you turn right and proceed to the sharp left bend at Pistol.

Opposite this farm is a track right which soon splits but keep ahead to Near Slack for the

return route. (The track left to Far Slack will take you to Robin Hood's Picking Rods if you have a mind to view them at this junction.) By going ahead beyond Near Slack you will return to the area around Cown Edge Rocks where you meet the path left, again a route to the Picking Rods.

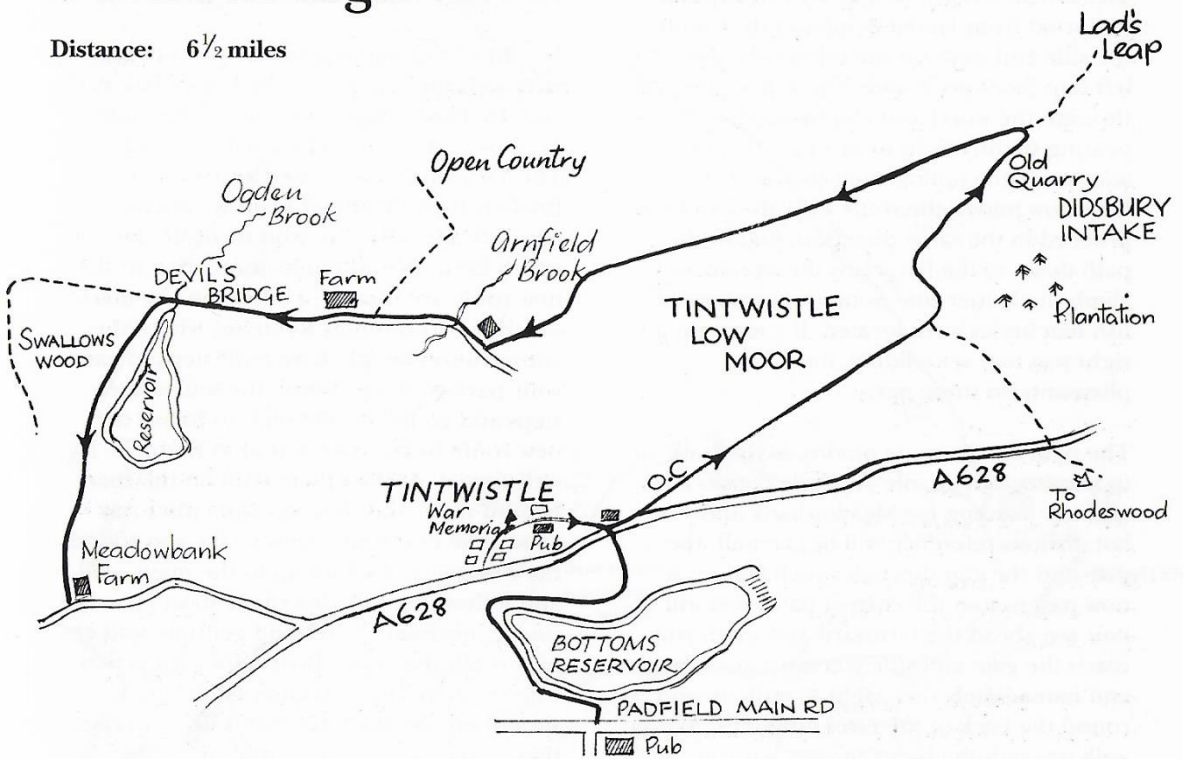
Before going ahead on the shortest return route, * you can now consider a longer alternative by turning left in the direction of the Picking Rods, then right to Far Coombs Farm. Here a good limestone track left takes you directly to New Mills Road where you turn right for Holehouse, Chisworth. Alternatively, going ahead at Far Coombs will take you in the general direction of the factory and mill pond, and by crossing the stream here you can walk up either path to Boggard Lane. Here turn left to reach Back Lane.

* The shorter return route goes across this exposed and often windy crossroad to take you on between the Coombs Rocks left and the Cown Edge Rocks right. Follow this escarpment bearing left on the Mare's Back and you are now dropping down about parallel to your outward route until it joins Back Lane and your way down to the village.

It can readily be seen by examining the Dark Peak O S map that there are many opportunities for plotting one's own routes in this interesting area. You might, for example, choose to walk up from 'the back road' in Glossop. This reference is the garage at the bottom of Slatelands on Turn Lee Road, and the sign right for The Pennine View Nursing Home, once the location of a Glossop landmark—the Hobroyd Rope Works. A fire destroyed the factory in October 1985 and it has now been re-built as a private nursing home. It is a well-known reference for walkers climbing The Nab, (Whiteley Nab on the map), and you can ascend to three different spots on Monks Road: Plainsteads, Sitch or opposite the trig point. If you do choose this approach from Glossop you would, of course, need to return the same way if you have parked somewhere on Turn Lee Road.

9. Tintwistle Circular, Arnfield and Devil's Bridge

Distance: 6½ miles



For those walkers who may not yet be ready for the wider open spaces and bleaker terrain of Black Hill here is a walk which touches on the fringe of those wilder spots.

Park near the War Memorial on Old Road, Tintwistle and walk on past The Bull and the chapel to exit on the main road, the A628 and turn left. The last solitary house is Saunders Cross House, known locally as 'the monkey house', and a track to open country runs off behind it. This is a vehicle track which leads up to the plantation at Didsbury Intake, passing first, Townhead Farm and keeping well south of Round Intake and Tintwistle Knarr. The track winds its way up to the brook, the gate and the wall and then shoots off right to descend to the main road again opposite the drive down to Rhodeswood. You can follow this to walk the new concessionary paths around the water then back to your car.

The longer route which takes you on to higher ground continues to climb round the back of the plantation, past the open country access points to the old quarry and the two stiles where the path has come down from Black Gutter and Lad's Leap. By turning left and taking the other stile you will pick up the path from Walk 10 which leads down to Arnfield Brook, passing grouse shooting butts en route. After the last of the open country boundary signs you will exit by the gamekeeper's cottage at Arnfield where you would turn left if you are now ready to return to your car.

By turning right you will walk down to cross the brook and on to the farm with its huge stone trough which no-one is likely to move to a new location. Leave the farm buildings above you as you walk on the track left to a ladder stile and gate. There is now a footpath sign for Devil's Bridge and you walk across

the field to the next stile which drops down to Ogden Brook.

This is now crossed by a new Devil's Bridge—imported from Holland apparently. Climb the stile and steps on the other side and bear left into Swallows Wood. Now follow the path through the wood as it climbs steadily, bearing slightly right to meet a wall and another path coming from the right. You have now joined the route of Walk 7 and you proceed in the same direction. Follow the path down to the left, cross the stream and climb the ladder stile noting where the old fish hatcheries were located. If your timing is right you may see wildlife, including pheasants, in these parts.

The path can be quite muddy as you walk on to another ladder stile at a little copse. You are now heading for Meadowbank and your last obvious reference will be the wall, the gate and the gap through which you must now pass to join the correct path. You will now see ahead the farmyard and when you reach the gate and stile you must go through and **immediately** turn right to walk up and round the back of the farm buildings. As you walk on, with the barns to your left you will see ahead a stile and footpath sign leading you on to Green Lane. Turn left here towards Throstle Nest and walk on this metalled road

until you join the A628 where it's left again to walk up to the village. At the fork take Old Road and walk up to the War Memorial where you left your car.

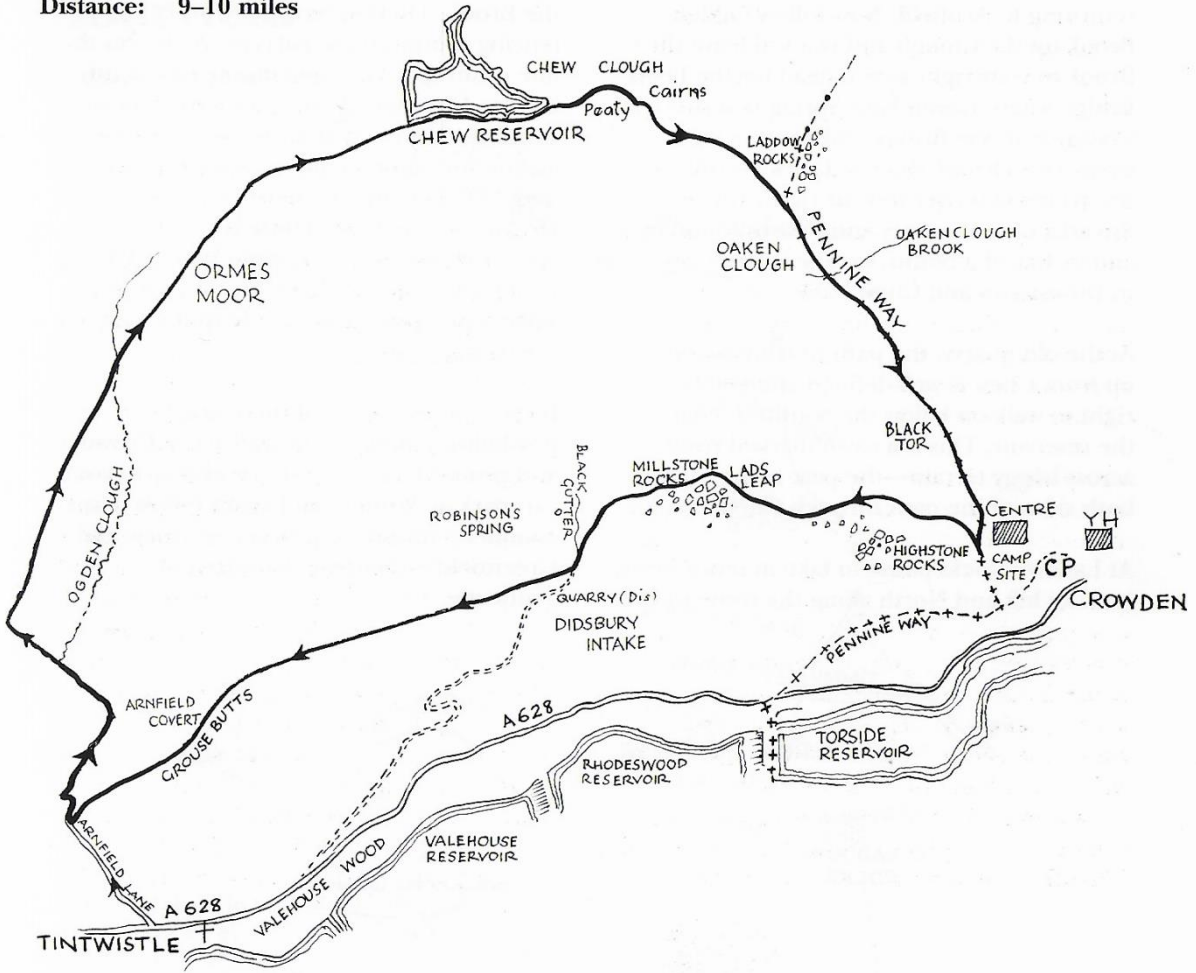
For those wishing to combine parts of this walk with the new paths which the Peak Park and the Water Board have jointly brought into use you could make a start in Hadfield. The Victoria Inn is located at the junction of Brosscroft and Padfield Main Road and opposite the pub is an iron turnstile through which both the old public footpath and the new route are located. Follow the way-marked one down to Bottoms Reservoir where the conservation people have built steps to ease your passage down. Climb the wall at the steps and go left on the path to follow the new route by the dam round to Bottoms. It is well signed. At the offices walk on the road behind them and now you can either stay with these new routes which take you round the reservoirs or climb up to the main road and follow the walk described above. It is not usually necessary to remind genuine walkers of this but the Water Board does stress that when you are in a catchment area you should not do anything that is likely to cause these concessions to be withdrawn. The Longdendale Valley is a walkers' paradise and both the Peak Park and The Board have made a great effort to enable us to enjoy it.



Robin Hood's Picking Rods

10. Crowden, Chew and Laddow Rocks

Distance: 9-10 miles



In the first book of Glossop walks this was presented as a linear walk from Crowden, over by Laddow Rocks and Chew Reservoir to Greenfield. It can still be followed that way if you have some means of returning from Greenfield but it is now presented in a clockwise direction either from Crowden or Tintwistle (Arnfield).

From Crowden car park you follow the route as though taking the Pennine Way, that's leaving the Camp Site to your left and bending round to the stile and the point where you can pick up the Way. At the Open Country sign and the wall a path runs off left, behind the wall, to climb past Highstones Rocks to Lad's Leap and Millstone Clough. The terrain to the North, the Mosses of

Rakes, Featherbed and Robinsons, is extremely uninviting but your onward route stays with a well-worn path by Black Gutter now bearing left and descending.

At the old Tintwistle Knarr Quarry there are 2 stiles, the left going down Didsbury Intake and the right-hand one your route. There is now a good defined track and fencing as you proceed, still Westward, to pass Grouse Shooting Butts before reaching the boundary of Open Country and then the Keeper's Cottage at Arnfield Brook.

Here turn right on Arnfield Lane, cross over the Brook and turn sharp right up the stoney track before you reach the farm. At the Open Country sign and gate turn left to the next

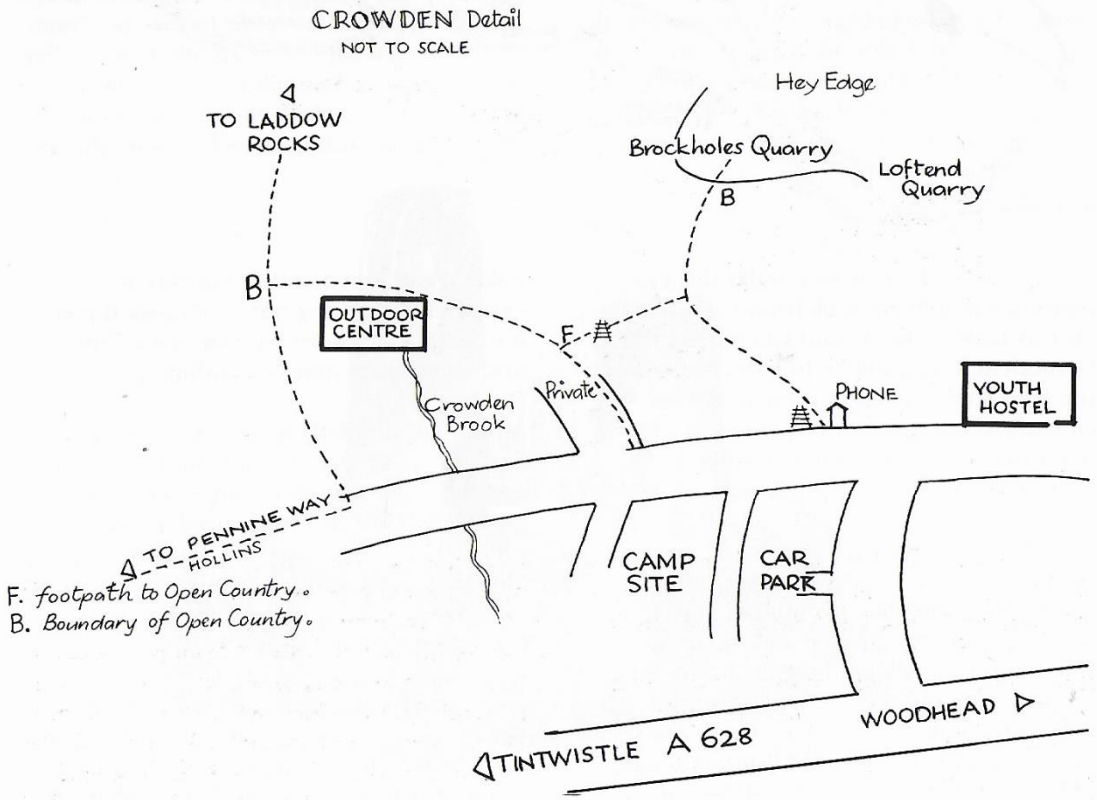
sign then right to head North for Ogden Clough. Around here you will see paths going across left for Swineshaw Reservoirs and returning to Arnfield. Now follow Ogden Brook up the Clough and you will leave the Brook to your right as you head for the Plank Bridge where Green Spot Spring is across left. Continue to the Bridge and another sign, then cross Ormes Moor to Chew Hurdles with the Wilderness over to your right. You are in the area of old County and Parish Boundaries and by way of a bonus, excellent views down to Dovestones and Chew Valley.

At the old quarry, the path which has come up from Chew is well-defined and you bear right to walk on below the Southern edge of the reservoir. This is a cairn marked route across boggy terrain—the peat being high on both sides of the path through Chew Clough.

At Laddow Rocks pause to take in more views, looking left and North along the route of the

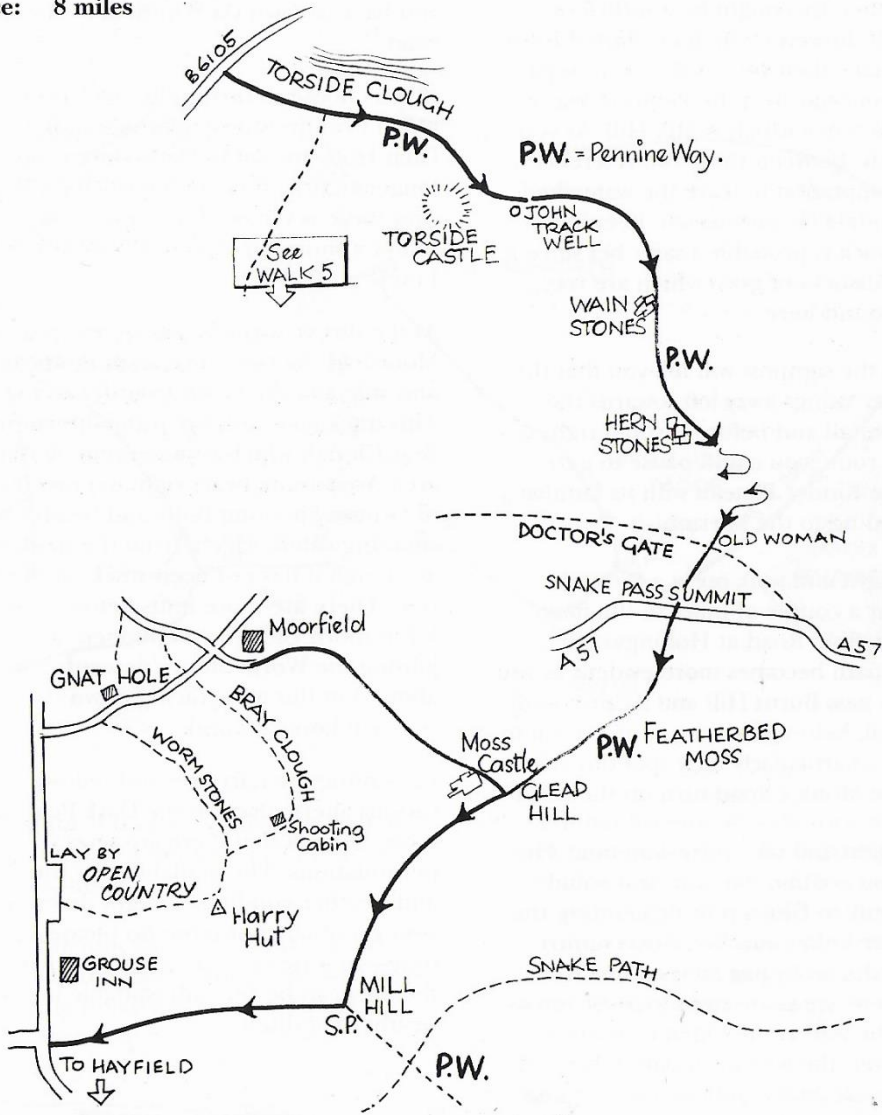
Pennine Way, to Castles Rocks—quite an interesting formation. Now head South, again on the Way, to Oaken Clough and cross the Brook. There is ‘erosion combating’ fencing around these parts as you follow the line of this popular long distance footpath back to Crowden. As you descend you can strike out left to cross in front of the Outdoor Centre or continue down along the Pennine Way to the Quiet Shepherd Farm and The Hollins on the A628. There is a plan to re-route the line of the Pennine Way at The Hollins, by Torside Reservoir, to cross the A628 at the plantation a little to the East of the dam.

It can now be seen that there are 3 possibilities using this map: Park at Crowden and proceed as a ‘round’, returning to your car; park at Arnfield and again follow it as a complete ‘round’ or proceed to Chew and Greenfield either from Crowden or Tintwistle.



11. Pennine Way, Featherbed Moss and Moorfield

Distance: 8 miles



This is an extension of the Doctor's Gate Walk No.4 or it can be followed independently from the Snake Pass Summit.

It first follows the route of the Pennine Way, South over Ashop Moor and once again the advice is not to tackle this terrain alone if you are unfamiliar with it. Far better to walk with someone who has been this way before. This

is watershed country and there is a profusion of little streams as you proceed along the line of the Way, heading for Glead Hill and Moss Castle. This latter is about 1½ miles from the Snake road and it is here that a return route runs off right to descend via Black Moor and Highmoor Pits to Moorfield. After ¾ mile you will meet a vehicle track and the area of the old turves pits where locals could dig out fuel.

The track descends quite steeply, passing left the access to the old Wood's Shooting Cabin and exits at Moorfield crossroads on Walk 2.

If you have already followed the Doctor's Gate Walk then this might be a sufficient extension. If, however, you have started fresh from the Snake then you could carry on past Glead Hill and stay with the Pennine Way to the next reference which is Mill Hill. As you climb slightly, between these two references, there is a temptation to leave the watershed which meanders on this stretch. Keeping to the sheep-track is probably a safer bet since it avoids the tussocks of grass which are very plentiful around here.

At Mill Hill the signpost will tell you that the Pennine Way swings away left towards the Kinder Downfall and before turning right to follow your route you could pause to gaze across to the Kinder Plateau with its familiar rocks extending to the horizon.

Now turn right and walk on in a Westerly direction for a couple of miles to the main Glossop/Hayfield Road at Hollingworth Head. The path becomes more evident as you continue to pass Burnt Hill and a cairn, and then the wall, before reaching your exit on to the road at a particularly busy spot directly opposite the Monk's Road turn on the A624.

Now turn right and take refreshment at The Grouse if you are in need of it. You could return directly to Glossop by descending the main road or follow another cross-country route from the lay-by just beyond The Grouse. There are stone steps to assist you as you climb the wall at the Open Country sign and once over, the well-worn path takes you on over the rise. Still climbing and heading East you will reach the trig' point Harry Hut on Chunal Moor.

From here a clear path descends quite steeply in a Northerly line to Shaw Moor and the Worm Stones. In about 500 yards you will meet a path which has come in right, over from Whitethorn Clough (see below). Continue down the Worm Stones until you observe the small plantation left and you meet a wall and stile. Once over the stile ignore a path running ahead to Gnat Hole

and strike out diagonally left to drop down to the bottom corner of the plantation. Here you climb a stile to join the minor road just below the A624 at Chunal. As you start to climb this road a footpath sign right will take you back to town via Whitfield or the main road.

If you choose to turn right, once over the Open Country stile, you would walk on past Gnat Hole and on to Derbyshire Level for a longer return route as described on Walk 2. And there is yet another opportunity to follow a short circular walk from Derbyshire Level.

At the dirt crossroads before reaching Moorfield the right turn leads down to a gate and stile and the Open Country access point. This track takes you up in the direction of Bray Clough which is something of a 'no go' area. Your route bears right to cross the line of Grouse Shooting Butts and heads for the shooting cabin, which, from the road, looks as though it has just been stuck on the hill side. There are more butts before crossing Whitethorn Clough (mentioned above) and joining the Worm Stones descent. Springs abound in this area, racing down the gullies to reach lower ground.

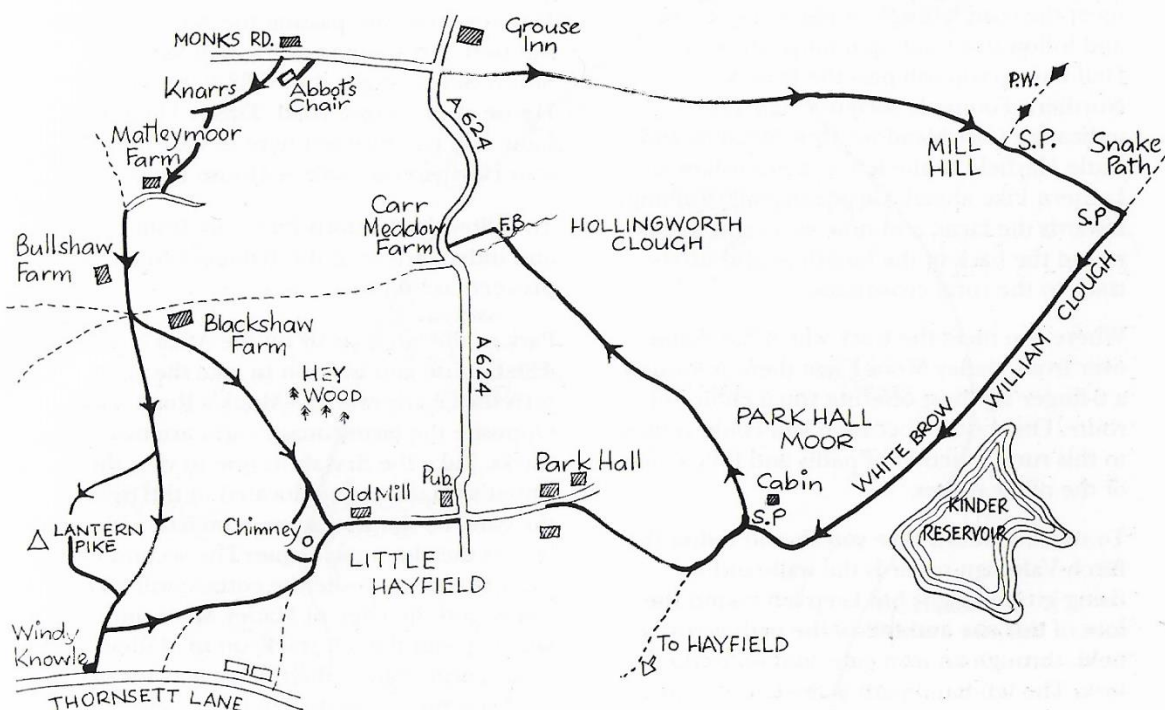
By reading the narrative and following the various alternatives on the Dark Peak Map it can be seen that there are several permutations. The availability of transport and weather conditions might determine your eventual choice but do please take note—in spite of its proximity to civilisation, the area can be very inhospitable in bad weather conditions.



Abbot's Chair

12. William Clough, Carr Meadow and Lantern Pike

Distance: 5-8 miles



Car parking for this rather ambitious walk is available at the lay-by before The Grouse on the A624 at Chunal.

Walk on to the junction with Monk's Road, right, and take the path through the wall left which is by the Road and Open Country Signs. The track is quite well defined as it leads over to open country and in about a couple of miles you will meet the Pennine Way at Mill Hill, passing a cairn and Burnt Hill en route.

At Mill Hill go ahead on the Pennine Way, in the direction of Kinder, for some 500 yards where the Snake Path crosses the long distance footpath. The left turn is the route to the Snake Inn via Ashop Clough but your onward way is now with the sign for William Clough. For about a mile you will make the gradual descent of the Clough, the path crossing the stream several times. In places

this path has become so well-worn that walkers tend now to use the higher ground, the shoulder, on the more difficult stretches. Where you reach the top end of the Kinder Reservoir at Nab Brow you follow the boundary of Open Country along White Brow then bear right to pass the shooting cabin.

At the signpost, the Snake Path turns left to descend to Kinder Road, Hayfield but you go ahead across Middle Moor to cross a line of Grouse Shooting Butts where the stream has come down the gully from Leygatehead Moor.

Cairns mark your way over to Carr Meadow, the path is well defined through heather, and you will pass Spray House Wood to your left before dropping down to the footbridge and the exit at Carr Meadow, the A624. The Lantern Pike walk is now described. You can

either follow the route from Carr Meadow or from the Abbot's Chair on Monk's Road.

First, from Carr Meadow, turn left as you exit on to the main road and walk on for about 400 yards to the minor road right leading down to Brookhouses. Walk on until you meet the road left signed Blackshaw Farm and follow this road up towards the farm. Half-way up you will pass the Peak & Northern Footpath Society's Sign 110 indicating Carr Meadow; How Meadow and Little Hayfield to the left and Blackshaw and Lantern Pike ahead. Go ahead, still climbing, towards the farm, and now turn right to pass round the back of the buildings and up the track to the rural crossroads.

Where you meet the track which has come over from Matley Moor Farm there is located a 6-finger signpost offering you a choice of route. On another occasion you could return to this rural junction of paths and follow one of the other routes.

To reach Lantern Pike you should follow the Birch Vale sign towards the walls and the rising ground right but keep left round the foot of this rise and follow the path across a field, through an iron gate, and on to the fork. The left-hand path is the lower route and the right-hand one leads up to the summit where the memorial to Edwin Royce is located. You will find binoculars very useful here and from this vantage point you should be able to identify—in a clockwise direction from approximately North: Cown Edge, Black

Hill, Bleaklow, Mill Hill, Kinder Downfall, Kinder Low, Brown Knoll, Mount Famine, Chinley, Shining Tor, Bowstones, Marple, Cobden Edge, Mellor and back to Cown Edge. On a clear day you might also pick out the Holme Moss Television Mast.

You now descend, passing the National Trust signpost and keeping to the wall to reach Sunny Side Cottage then Windy Knowle House at the minor road. This is Thornsett Lane and you turn left here to walk down into Hayfield via Swallow House Lane.

To follow the Lantern Pike walk from Glossop and independent of the William Clough walk, proceed as follows:

Park in the large lay-by on the A624 before The Grouse and walk on to take the right turn for Charlesworth—Monk's Road. Opposite the farm cottage right are two tracks. Take the first short one to view the Abbot's Chair, a stone located to the right of the gate. Its shape, a stone armchair without legs, is the clue to its name. The second farm track exactly opposite the cottage will take you round the edge of Matley Moor and, keeping with the left track, on to Matley Moor Farm. Where the track meets the access road you turn right for the farm. Now pass in front of the farm and bear left towards Blackshaw, passing Bullshaw Farm on your right.

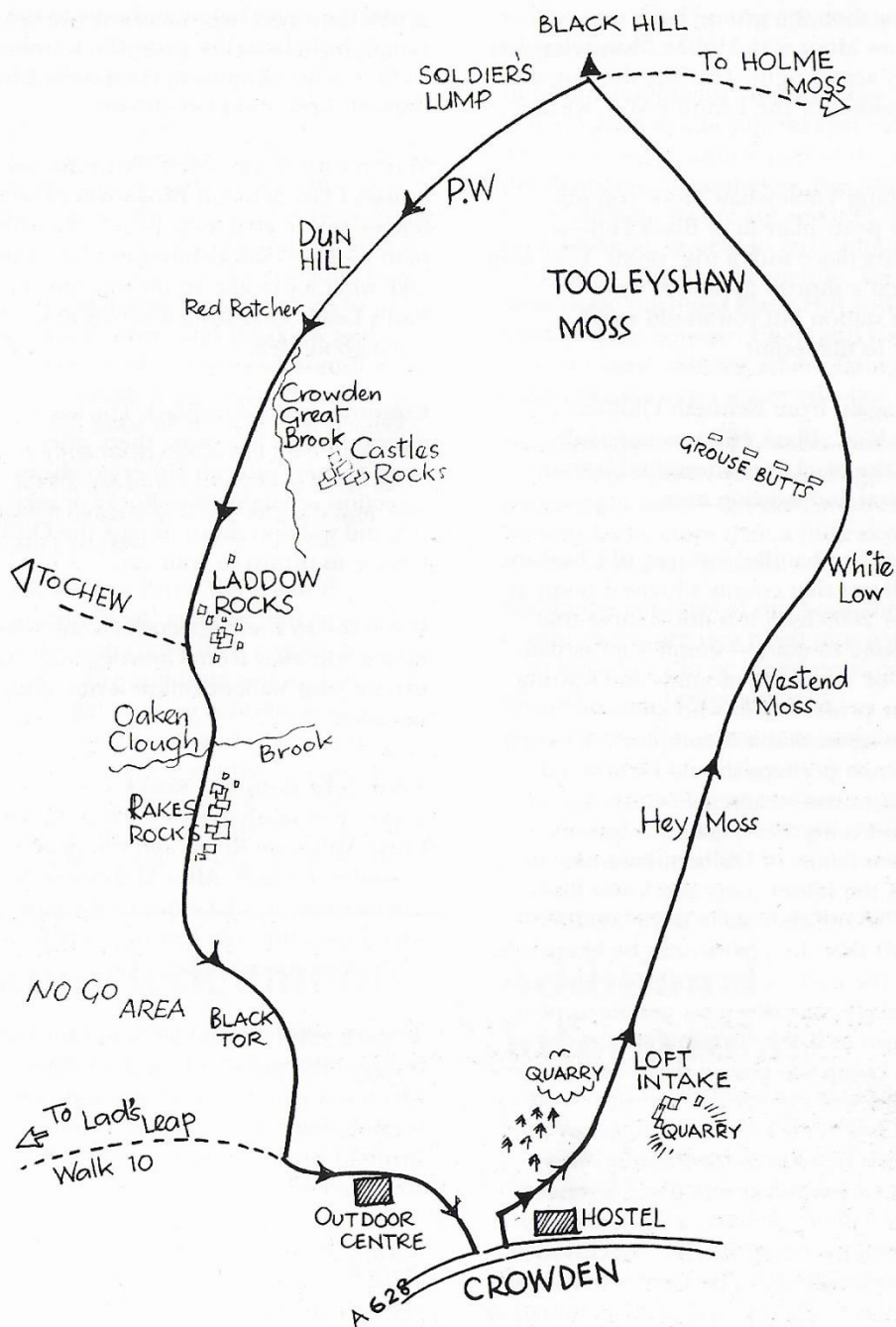
At Blackshaw you meet the multi-signed fingerpost and proceed as described above.



Manor Park Miniature Railway.

13. Crowden, Black Hill and Laddow Rocks

Distance: 8½ miles



Car parking is available at Crowden and the detail map will reveal your approach route from the Open Country access point over the stile.

Climb steeply, staying with the path nearest the back of the hostel which now goes ahead, climbing to pass the old quarries—Loft Intake is to your right. You are well and truly

into open country now and compass work comes into its own where paths are not too well defined. The references now in order of appearance are: Hey Moss, West End Moss, White Low then the grouse butts on Tooleyshaw Moor with Holme Moss television mast away across right. This was the original line suggested for the Pennine Way, we are told.

Still climbing Tooleyshaw Moor you will reach the peaty plateau of Black Hill—a rather hairy place with a trig' point. Your map will suggest a shorter approach from the television station but you would need transport to that point.

Quoting again from Kenneth Oldham's 'Pennine Way', Black Hill is wonderfully named—the blackness intensified by rain-sodden peat and swirling mist.

When the 'pan-handle' was part of Cheshire, Black Hill was that county's highest point at just under 2000 feet. It is not an area that endears itself to many—simply a crossroads in a land of 'shapeless mounds and wasting peat'. The professionals who know the area well stress again that it is compass work over terrain which perhaps should be avoided altogether in bad weather. Frost is okay when the ground is hard and easier to traverse. The Noden family of Oldham have always preferred the wilder parts and know Black Hill well. So unpredictable is the weather in these parts that the plateau can be likened to a walk in the park or the most treacherous terrain imaginable. Even so, people appear to be drawn to it. The original trig' point at Soldier's Lump was placed there by the Army we are told.

Your return route is by the Pennine Way towards Laddow Rocks and the references are: Dunn Hill, by which is a cairn, then a boggy patch near Red Ratcher. At Crowden Great Brook you have The Castles to your left and Laddow further down. One is tempted to compare rock formations and escarpments and Castle Rocks certainly come high on various lists of excellent viewing spots. In the wet season you may have problems with Great

Brook—but then, you may also have problems in other places after much rain.

Laddow Rocks afford really magnificent views across the valley below and over to the far range. Note here the path which swings away right to Chew Reservoir (said to be England's highest) and on to Greenfield.

Your return to Crowden continues south, crosses Oakenclough Brook where 'erosion fences' are in evidence. Bear right with the path to Rakes Rocks but don't be tempted to take what looks like an obvious short-cut to Lad's Leap. That stretch across Rakes Moss is not a good idea.

Continue instead to Black Tor having taken a pronounced left swing then, after crossing Span Gutter, you can either go ahead in the direction of Highstones Rocks or take a stile left and walk on down to pass the Outdoor Centre to return to your car.

If you follow the Highstones route which is taking you away from Crowden you can extend your walk or follow it on another occasion.

Turn right along the Rocks where there are good views south as you walk on to Lad's Leap, Millstone Rocks and the head of Coombes Clough. After Millstones Rocks you can descend Black Gutter to the path left which goes through Didsbury Intake and on to the Woodhead Road.

At the 2 stiles it is the left-hand for Didsbury Intake—the right-hand is the longer route which is a well defined track and part fenced leading down to the keeper's house at Arnfield Brook—passing more grouse butts as you descend.

A word about aircraft wrecks would not be amiss at this point. Ron Collier of Glossop has researched and written extensively on this subject and his Dark Peak Aircraft Wrecks is available locally. The area from Kinder to Black Hill is a veritable graveyard for all types of aircraft.

Notes on Old Glossop and Open Country

Car parking opposite the Wheatsheaf in Old Glossop may not still be available when this book is printed. There is parking available at the town end of Manor Park—on Corn Street. (See map detail on page 16.)

There are several walks which have their origin in Old Glossop and you might care to spend some time looking at this older part of the town—in fact the original Glossop. Walter and Alice Agutter's pamphlet on the area is worth reading and should be available from the TIC. Walks 4 and 5 both lead up to Pennine Way country and Bleaklow and though this note of caution may sound off-putting, it is simply a reminder that this wilder terrain must be treated with respect. Several people of my acquaintance have found the Bleaklow area much to their liking, it being not as busy as some of the lower and often easier routes.

Peak Park Ranger Peter McGowan likes to 'get away from it all' and put into practice much of the pub chat which is often too much verbalising and little action. He reminds us that wanting solitude and the more rugged scenery that this area offers does demand a deal of common sense. It is compass work territory and not to be ventured onto in bad weather. The record of the local Mountain Rescue Team is

impressive and they can be relied on to bring you back safely, but they are not exactly looking for work so, whether Scout or not, be prepared!

In Kenneth Oldham's book of *The Pennine Way (Dalesman)*, he affirms that without doubt this is the wildest part of the whole of the Pennines. Nevertheless, the Noden family from Oldham, (there are seven of them, all keen walkers), appear to have adopted the area—they visit it so frequently. Their 'repertoire' includes Black Hill and the bleaker spots between Chew and Crowden, and, of course, Kinder, where father Alan would like his ashes scattered—but not yet!

Having logged over 200 walks—most of them in the Peak District and of average length seven/eight miles—it would seem that the Nodens know more than a little as to where the best walks are located.

Within the confines of this book the better known routes are described plus suggestions as to how they can be lengthened or varied to suit individual preferences.

The Peak Park and North-west Water have jointly produced a pamphlet on Upper Longdendale which has interesting information about the area plus some walks into open country.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the following for their valuable help in the preparation of this book:

Alice and Walter Agutter who checked the original walks.

Arnold Powell who introduced me to some new ones.

Several members of the Longdendale and Glossop Dale Footpaths Preservation Society, particularly Derek Turner, who pointed me in the right direction.

Peak National Park Ranger Peter McGowan and Footpaths Officer Harry Jones who also checked the walks.

Robert Brown who drew the maps and sketches. The advertisers for supporting the book.

Additional Information

Glossop and its environs has much to offer to both young and old. The staff on duty at the Tourist Information Centre and the Heritage Centre will be happy to supply you with information about the town. The Carnival and 'In The Park', and the Victorian Weekend are two very popular annual events.

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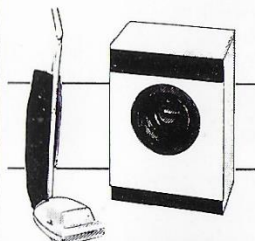
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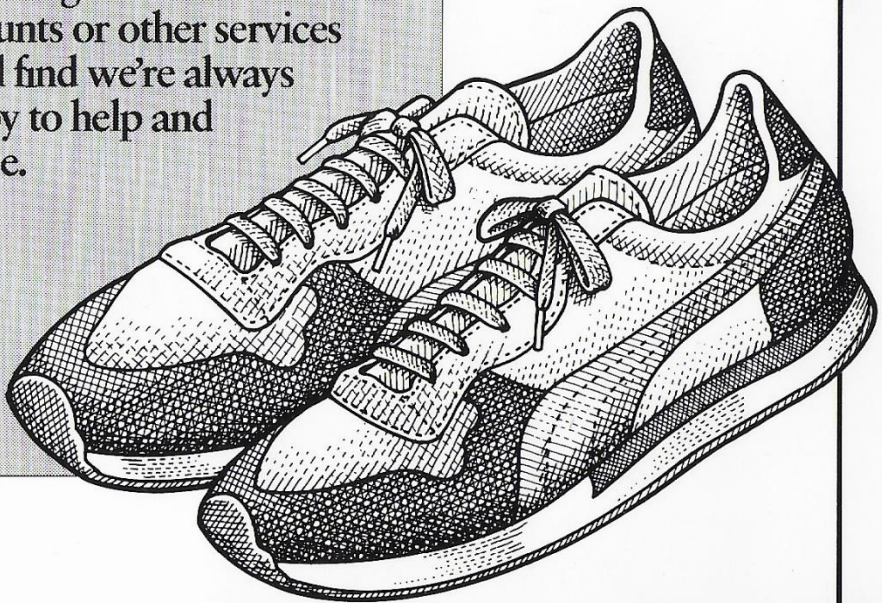
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