
The Saddleworth 'Five Trig Points' Walk

This walk is a strenuous circuit of approximately 20 miles (32km) over the Saddleworth Moors, linking the triangulation stations on Alphin Pike, Featherbed Moss, Black Hill, West Nab and Broadstone Hill. The walk starts and finishes in the village of Greenfield, about six miles east of Oldham, and can be attempted in either direction.

For the most part the route is across open moorland and the inevitable peat groughs ; footpaths and tracks occur at intervals, and less than a mile is along a metalled surface. The walk is on a high level throughout - after leaving the starting point at Greenfield, the lowest altitude is around 1000 ft. (310m) at Wessenden Reservoir, before returning to Greenfield some twenty miles later.

Two interim checkpoints occur between the trig. points - at Wessenden Reservoir (057086) and at the War Memorial at Pots and Pans (011051).

At certain times of the year the wet state of the peat makes for very heavy going and slow progress ; probably the best time of year to tackle the walk is during the summer months or in winter when the peat has been frozen into some semblance of solidity.

A Peak District 1" Tourist Map, or preferably either the O.S. 1:25 000 Dark Peak Outdoor Leisure Map, or Sheet SE 00 (Saddleworth Moor) which cover all the route, together with compass are essentials, as are waterproofs and similar items of equipment. Mist descends very quickly on Black Hill, where navigation can be particularly difficult.

In case of emergency, help can usually be obtained at Crowden Youth Hostel or Outdoor Centre, or (weekends only) at the Wardens Briefing Centre at Dovestone Reservoir car park.

The fastest circuits to date have been 2 hours 38 minutes for the Southern circuit via Alphin Pike, and 3 hours 00 minutes for the Northern circuit via Broadstone Hill. The fastest time for a double circuit (one in each direction) is 8 hours 45 minutes. The fastest time by a lady is 3 hours 58 minutes.

For timing purposes the walk starts and finishes at the Clarence Hotel in Greenfield, at the foot of the A635 Holmfirth Road.

<u>The Route</u> :	1	Alphin Pike	1537'	469m	003028	App. 1 mile
	2	Featherbed Moss	1774'	541m	046012	4
	3	Black Hill	1908'	582m	078047	8
	4	West Nab	1641'	500m	076088	12
	5	Wessenden Res.	1015'	310m	057086	14
	6	Broadstone Hill	1491'	454m	021069	17
	7	Pots and Pans	1350'	411m	011051	19
	8	Greenfield	550'	168m	002040	20

Certificates (20p each) for authentic completions of the walk - please enclose details of date, times, etc. - can be obtained from :

Bob Tait., Burnlee House, Burnlee Road, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. HD7 1LF

Badges for the walk are also available :

Washable woven badges, circular design (78mm diameter) @ £1.00 each

Screen-printed cloth badges (less durable) @ .50p each

Please enclose a large SAE (minimum 9" x 5") with applications.