

Dovestone Reservoir

This is a 9 mile circuit of the Dovestone Reservoir and its Ashway and Dovestone Mosses. The easy outward route goes along the 3 reservoirs to reach Greenfield Brook. The initial part of the walk up Greenfield Brook is non trivial. It is a very narrow path with some minor scrambling and sheer drops until the waterfall is bypassed. After that the climb onto the moor is straightforward.

An obvious but narrow path traverses the Ashway Moss with wonderful views of the reservoirs. There are different path options nearer or further from the edge and likely to be few people. There is a route down Old Grouse Butts should weather be a problem.

The paths on Dove Stone Moss are more substantial as this Moss is more accessible for a shorter walk and so busier but also opens to more great views of the area. The final descent is down the road from Chew Reservoir.

The only navigational issue is the transfer from one moor to the other without following an exit route.

Tackling the walk in reverse may be preferred, if descending the awkward Greenfield Brook suits abilities.

The walk starts at the car park at the base of Dovestone Reservoir. At this time there is a cost of 60p for 3 hrs or £1.30 all day. SE013036 OL3 7NE



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

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1: SE 013036 The walk starts from the top of the car park at some stairs. It doesn't matter which way is followed around the first reservoir, but this description goes anti-clockwise. This takes you past the yachting club and reaches a memorial garden.



2: SE 016132 You can walk through the memorial garden if wished. It comes out further along the road. Either way a bridge is reached.



3: SE 019031 After the bridge turn left. (the road bearing right is your return route.). Continue around the reservoir on the managed path until you reach the end of the reservoir. (should you choose to return via Old Grouse Butts you arrive near here.). Turn right to start up the second reservoir (Yeoman Hey). Shortly the path splits.



4: SE 020048 The left path is a managed path leading more gently up to the next reservoir whereas the right path is rougher with a steeper final stretch. In either case a small bridge is crossed onto a final incline to the next level. Follow the managed path to the end of this third reservoir (Greenfield)

5: SE 031053 At the end of the reservoir cross the bridge and continue on the good track. After a time the path quality degrades somewhat. In 1/2 mile (800m) a weir is reached.



6: SE 038050 It is essential to cross the right hand bridge into Greenfield Brook. This is the start of the awkward energetic ascent up to and past the waterfall.



7: SE 038050 Care is needed on this next 340yd (300m) stretch. There is a very narrow path on the left hand side so you need start by crossing the brook. (usually easy). At times some minor scrambling is needed. At times you walk on the rocks in the river, often there are sheer drops.



8: SE 039047 From the waterfall the path begins levelling out and in 180yds (160m) the path comes to an end at a place where you can cross to the other side on stones.





9: SE 041046 (This picture is from the other side of the crossing.)
One path ahead crosses boggy ground, the more uphill path swings around to join up after the boggy area. It's a steady climb up to some impressive overhanging rocks directly above the weir.



10: SE 038048 This could be a refreshment stop though there is a more convenient rock formation a little further on. From here you follow any obvious path. The formal public right of way sticks to the edge of the moor but the obvious paths cut the corner. The paths are clear but narrow. In around 1/2 mile (800m) the view ahead opens up to see the Dovestone Reservoir.



11: SE 030047 This is the one place where conscious navigation is needed. Avoid following a path downhill that would descent to the reservoir. You can go slightly down and then contour to the left and eventually get to Point 14 below but will have missed the memorial cross. However, on your left should be a path uphill.



11: SE 030047 Take this short uphill path that reaches the top of the moor and an obvious path heads off to the right. Follow this path and encounter the memorial cross after about 150yds (130m).

13: SE 031044 Continue 1/3rd mile(550m) on the obvious path toward the Ashway Gap. Along the way the path up from Dovestone and the contour path merge with this path. (should you need to leave the moor early, this is the opportunity.) The path finally drops down a little and crosses a little waterfall before reaching another little waterfall at the top of Ashway Gap.



14: SE 032038 (Note there is a formal footpath from here across the moor to Chew Reservoir which would be a short cut – condition unknown) Ascend the other side of the dip and choose any of the paths ahead. The paths are wider as this is a more popular part of the walk. After about 1/2mile(800m) there are some rocks to ascend.



15: 026037 It looks as if this bit could be boggy in the wrong conditions but should not be a problem to get up and through the rocks. There are more rocks to pass through/around on this stretch. As the path bends left around the edge, views of Chew valley appear. Chew Reservoir is a further 1.3 miles(2Km) away.



16: SE 029025 (approx.) The obvious path on the other side of the valley is the Oldham Way.





17: SE 034019 Eventually whichever final path is followed the road to the Chew Reservoir is reached. Turn down this road and after 1.5miles(2.4Km) a familiar bridge is reached



18: SE 019031 This is the same bridge as early in the walk. You are approaching from top right in this picture. Continue back down the road to return to the car park.



19: SE SE 013036 Perhaps stop off to read the information boards near the car park. (a moor fire had just started).

End of Walk.

Author: Eric Crichton

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Eric Crichton
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