

A Disappearing Landscape

Kinder Scout (Standard 7.5ml & Adventure 10ml)

Kinder Scout is one of the “Iconic” walks and the highest point in the Peak District.

While it offers a fairly typical hill walk along it’s edge, a trip onto it’s moor is to encounter a very rare, and rapidly disappearing landscape.

Until recently the moor had little vegetation, 12+ft high peat valleys and a seriously boggy top that was difficult to navigate. For a few years now (early 2017) the National Trust have been seeding the moor with grass and heather. Soon this rare landscape will have gone to be replaced with a heather covered moor, probably with obvious paths across it. While it continues to be more challenging than a typical hill walk, it is now at least a little less difficult to navigate.

So **now** is the time to experience this rare landscape while it still exists. The moor is largely flat, no other peaks are visible and only minor contours offer any navigating clues. To tackle the moor route, it is *essential* to be comfortable navigating in these conditions. A GPS mapping system is desirable. On a summer’s day there will be a number of walkers meandering over the moor looking lost. Please don’t be one!

Alternatively a “standard” 7.5 mile/1,700ft, 12Km/625m walk follows the edge of the plateau (which is part of the Pennine Way) and would be viewed as a typical hill walk in terms of terrain and risks.

This booklet describes both the “Standard” 7.5mile/12Km walk and options for a more adventurous moor walk of 8miles/13.5Km or 10miles/16Km and perhaps 1,860/690 ascent for the moor options.

Whether on a good summer or winter day, it is a beautiful place to walk with excellent views around, intriguing rock formations and either hardly a soul around, or on a hot summer day, quite a lot of walkers!

The walks start from the Bowden Bridge car park SK22 2LE, 1 mile out of Hayfield on the Kinder Reservoir Road and opposite the camping site. There are toilets opposite the car park.

See overleaf for a map of the routes.

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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This booklet describes mainly three routes over Kinder Scout.

The Blue route is the conventional (7.5ml) route along the Western Edge.

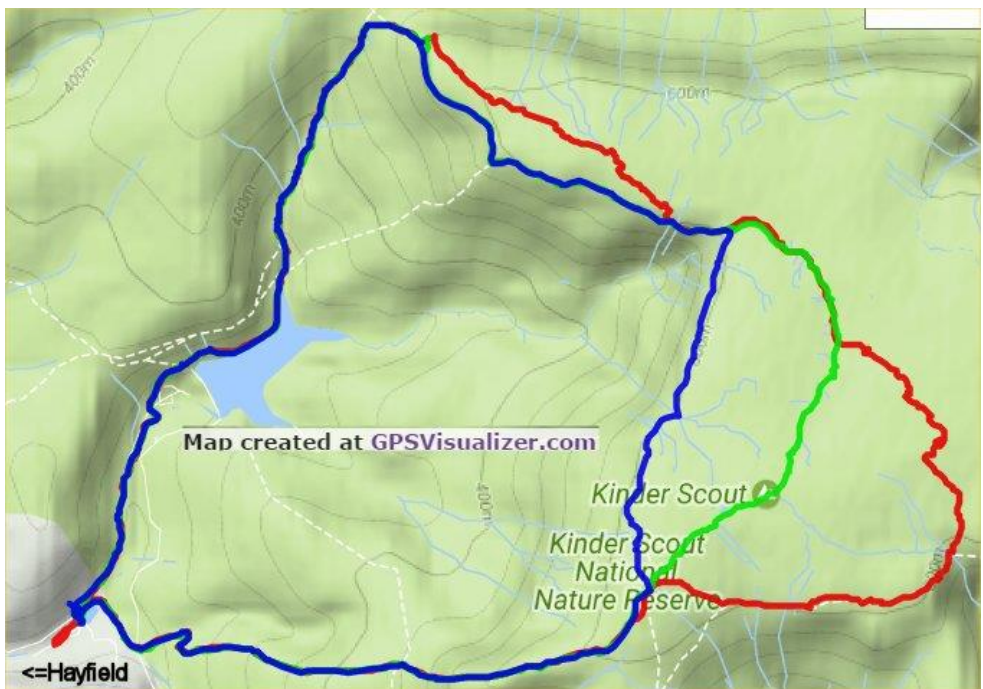
The Green route traverses $\frac{1}{2}$ of the moor making an approx. 8ml route

The Red routes traverse the bulk of the moor route and includes walking along the Southern Edge.

All three routes ascent onto Kinder via Willaim Clough valley, and recombine at the trig point at Kinder Low to follow the same route back to the car park.

In bad weather the moor routes are neither wise nor pleasant.

Also there is a small path half way along the Edge route that provides an early gentle descent in bad weather or if steep downhills are a problem.



1: SK 048869 Check the plaque in the car park in memory of the mass trespass. Leave the Bowden Bridge car park and turn left (NE) along Kinder Road. Follow the road for ½ mile/800m over an incline to reach another stone bridge beside the gates to the reservoir.



2: SK051876 An information board explains the old sheepwash there. Cross the bridge and immediately turn left to promptly find a gate onto a riverside footpath. Walk (261yd/235m) beside the river until meeting a crossing path leading to a bridge.



3: SK 053880 Turn left over the footbridge (often with a muddy stretch) across the river to find a gate to a path up the side of the reservoir.



4: SK 052880 Go through the gate and up the steep cobbled path to reach a level above the reservoir. Take time for a view of the whole Kinder edge of the walk and an information board. Continue along this largely level path through some gates. After about 2/3rds mile (1.1Km) reach a bridge.





5: SK 059888 Do NOT cross the bridge. This is the start of the main ascent. Follow the path(s) up the William Clough (nearly 1 mile/1.5Km, 710ft/300m). All path options lead to the same place. The lower of any option usually works well. The incline is gentle at first getting steeper near the top.



6: The river is crossed a number of times and there is one small scramble. (see pic). Nearer the top a valley appears on the left (4th(?) river) and at the same time the path may seem to lead right into the stream, while there may seem to be a path up the left valley.



7: SK 062897 Despite that, find a way to the right hand valley. Usually walking briefly up the river bed unless it is too deep. The path now becomes steeper and close to the top is a flight of steps. Up the steps and a few yards further is the shoulder of the ridge.



8: SK 064901 This is now the Pennine Way. Look to the right to see a further set of steps leading to a large cairn. The cairn is at the beginning of the plateau. Climb to the cairn. As a rough guide it is likely to take about 1hr30min +/- 15 min from the start to reach the cairn.

9: SK 067899 The “standard” walk continues along a well defined path n othe edge of the plateau and reaches the Kinder Downfall after 30 min/1.25mile /2,000m. (Consider a brief diversion crossing the fence on the left for a view over the other side of Kinder Scout.). If following the standard route, jump forward to **point 13**.



10: There are two trig points on Kinder Scout. To visit the first one, head 120deg true (SE or about 30deg left of the main path) for about 2/3rds Mile/1Km. The fence has to be crossed on one of the many styles. Alternately just follow the line of fence until it is close to the trig point and then cross it.



11: SK077894 Having reached the trig point, either head right to cross a fence and continue downhill to pick up the Pennine Way along the edge and turn left towards the downfall OR continue across the moor towards the Downfall.



12: To continue on the moor head slightly right of the previous direction (124deg). In the far distance you may be able to see two trees barely visible. They are far beyond the Downfall but heading just left of these trees will lead more directly to the Downfall. If in doubt, follow any small “valley” down (SW/right) to the Pennine Way.



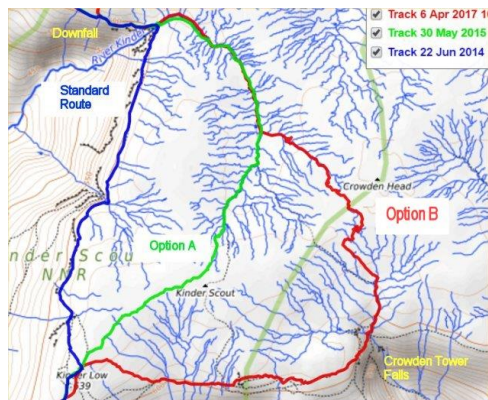


13: SK 083889 Kinder Downfall is the usual place to take refreshments. In good weather the downfall may have but a trickle of water. In freezing weather it may be frozen. Sheep used to steal your sandwiches but the NT's fence now keeps them off the plateau to let the grass and heather grow. *Now is the major decision point.*

14: For the "standard" Pennine route, cross the stream and continue along the edge of the plateau for over 1 mile/ 1.7Km to reach the trig point at Kinder Low. Avoid, at SK081880(Red Brook), accidentally taking a small downward sloping path. (Bad weather escape path). Jump to **point 25:**

-----Understanding the Moor -----

From the highest point on the moor, the "valleys" head either North towards the Downfall, or South towards Crowden Tower. The two moor routes follow a valley up from the downfall towards the moor top and then Either, cross the top to find a South bound valley (Option B) and then heads West along the southern edge to reach Kinder Low, OR head across the relatively flat top to join the Pennine Way at Kinder Low (Option A). The "standard" route (Blue) follows the edge.



It is best to go up the valley as far as possible and then stay close to the valley to reach the top. On crossing the top, favour weaving West as most of the easier Southern routes approach from west of the main valley.

15: To take the routes over the moor, go left up the Kinder river.

****PLEASE** *these are only suited to walkers who are comfortable navigating with minimal landmarks***

Follow it for about 0.6 mile/900m.

There are paths at either side and you may find you can walk up the river bed.



16: Notice that the valleys on either side which are getting deeper and deeper. The ones on the right are becoming more grassed over. The left side valleys are less overgrown (2017). Look out for a cairn in the middle of the stream (IGNORE the earlier large one on the right side)

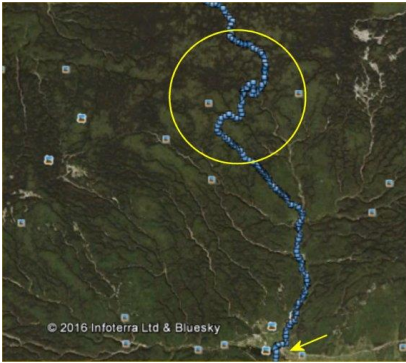


17: SK 089884 For the shorter route, jump to **point 23**:. Otherwise, go left up the deep peat valley. Watch for another cairn indicating a valley to follow. The valley gets narrower and narrower and eventually it becomes sensible to climb out of the valley. It is **IMPORTANT** to climb out on the right and continue to follow the valley as best as possible.



18: It can be necessary to get across some smaller valleys to reach the largely featureless moor. To the right should be slightly higher land (only 21ft/7m higher). It runs largely north to south. Generally head south though you will have to navigate around boggy areas (favour west/right) and look for some higher points becoming visible in the distance.





19: The most left hand higher point directly ahead is Crowden Tower. The valleys directly south funnel into falls just East/left of Crowden Tower. As can be seen from the (blue) track in this picture, finding a route ahead may be erratic. Err to the right while heading south and a vague path is likely to be found. Nearer the falls it is possible to walk in the valley.



20: SK 095873 Having reached the falls, the route ahead is up the stairs to the right of the falls. Continue along the mainly obvious path on the south edge of the plateau. Enjoy the various rock formations along the way. (favour paths going around the left of outcrops). Look for “Noe Stool” outcrop.



21: SK 083870 At this point it is **IMPORTANT** to head away from the edge. It's a bit vague at times but continues in the same direction until it reaches the Trig point at Kinder Low after about 1/4mile/400m.

22: NOTE: if you happen to miss that turning you will end up going down to a major crossing path (Oaken Clough). Just go right and follow it downhill to, and then follow (right) along the valley back to the start. Or if you spot the trig point before going downhill, head to the Kinder Low trig point.

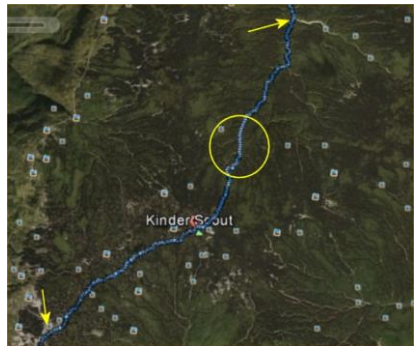
Jump to **Point 25**

=====Shorter Moor Route=====

23: This route continue straight on past the centre cairn. Watch for a path developing on the right which works its way up out of the valley but follows the valley. Eventually (after about 1/2mile /800m) the valleys fade away leaving only the featureless moor. At this point the highest point (636) on Kinder is nearby but not obvious.



24: Around SK 086876 Looking half right (SW) a trig point should be in sight. If not, head more right probably reaching a slightly higher level. In either case, head SW along an area that lies between the main north and south valleys. At some point the Kinder Low trig point should be visible and is the next goal



=== All the Routes Converge Here ===

25: SK 079870 At the trig point, the route leaves the Pennine Way going SW. PLEASE take care to take the correct route, indicated by a large cairn, leading to what becomes an obvious ridge leading off the mountain.



26: Follow this ridge to reach and pass an ancient burial site (wrong ridge if not found!). Look right for views of the whole of Kinder Edge. Finally reach steps at the end of the ridge.



27: SK 068866 From the top of the steps the route is clear, going through gates and across a number of fields. Go down the steps and through the gate and follow the obvious path. The fields eventually give way to a path around Tunstead Clough Farm onto it's driveway. Follow the driveway down as it becomes a road which eventually leads back to the starting car park

The End

Eric Crichton 7-4-17