

Bosley and Croker Hill Walk

An energetic long loop walk from Bosley village climbing up onto the summit of Croker Hill.

Grade	Strenuous
Distance	13kms/ 8 miles
Time	4 to 5 hours
Start	Bosley village / A523 GR SJ 918 657
Map	Explorer 268
Terrain	Cross field footpaths, tracks, minor roads and moorland paths.
Barriers	Approximately 10 stiles, steep slopes
Toilets	None
Contact	01270 686029



Route Details

This is an energetic but spectacular walk with fabulous views across the Cheshire Plain and Peak District. On the ridge top there is no shelter from the wind, rain or snow so make sure you are correctly equipped for the conditions.

Bosley is a small active village situated between Congleton and Macclesfield and sits on the very edge of the Cheshire Plain, with the steep hillsides of the Peak District rearing up behind the village. The church of St Mary's, built before 1402 as a half timbered structure, is now a mainly restored, brick built building, but it has the most amazing perennial wildlife garden within its grounds. A detour to visit the graveyard is highly recommended in summer months.

The route follows the shore line of the large Bosley reservoir for quite a way. The reservoir is a Site of Biological Importance Grade A, and has some beautiful woodland around its eastern shore line. The reservoir was constructed to supply water to the Macclesfield Canal.

The climb up to the ridge top of Croker Hill at 1319 ft (402 m) is well rewarded by magnificent views. The walk uphill is really beautiful too, following old sunken tracks and passing little copses and old hedgerows, through quiet peaceful countryside.

The radio communications tower relays radio and TV signals across Cheshire. The structure is 286ft (87m) high.

The long ridge walk across Bosley and Wincle Minn follows a single track road across the high pasture, where stone walls provide little shelter from the weather. At the far end of the Minn (the southern end) look for the two stones which appear to be gate posts. Some people think these may be formerly standing stones, as there are others located in this area.

Directions

1. Park in Bosley village and walk out of the village, passing the school and the church and pub. Follow the pavement for a short distance then cross the road with care, to the stile in the hedge.
2. Follow the footpath across the field over the next stile and across the next field to a gateway in the hedge. Go through the gate and walk towards the reservoir embankment.
3. Cross the stile and walk up the embankment and turn right to follow the embankment, with Bosley reservoir on your left.
4. Cross the stone stile onto the road and turn left and after a few metres turn left following another footpath around the reservoir edge all the way to the A 54.
5. Turn right and walk carefully uphill. Just after the corner take the footpath on the left which runs steeply uphill on a track.
6. Follow the well way marked track uphill for about 1km/.6 mile, passing an old red bricked barn.
7. Near to a cottage cross a stile and turn right towards the cottage. Go through a field and shortly turn left uphill to join the track to the cottage. Turn left on the track and follow it to the top of the ridge.
8. Turn right on the ridge top track and follow the Gritstone Trail. Just before the next cottage take the Gritstone Trail footpath on the left downhill across several fields to the A54.
9. Turn left and walk along the A54 for a short distance then cross onto a minor road and follow this road across Wincle and Bosley Minn.
10. As the road bends left take the footpath on the right which leads diagonally left and downhill.
11. At the next stile turn right – do not cross this stile but follow the fence downhill.
12. Follow this path into a valley across a bridge and up a short slope which takes the footpath into a hedged wide green lane.
13. At the dwelling follow the lane ahead until it reaches the road below.
14. Turn right at the road and follow it back to the stile by the reservoir.

15. Cross the stile and walk ahead back along the embankment of the reservoir. Follow the footpath back across the fields to the A523 and Bosley where the walk began.