

DERWENT RESERVOIR WALK

Derwent Reservoir is one of our largest reservoirs, covering 1,000 acres on the eastern edge of the North Pennines and offering stunning views of the wide open surroundings of the upper Derwent Valley.

With a 4km multi user path which meanders along the waterside, through picnic areas, small bays and retreats, this is the perfect location to enjoy a relaxing day with the family.

An ideal location to begin the walk is Millshield picnic site where a large car park and toilet facilities nestle within colourful grasslands, woodlands and the waterside of Derwent Reservoir. The path begins in the corner of the car park next to the toilets and meanders east along the gently undulating hard surface path taking in the waterside views from the north side of the reservoir. The back drop is spectacular with the Pennine hills notable to the south as the path rises and moves north into Cronkley Bay where recently planted conifers thrive on the south facing slope with this area being a haven for a diverse range of wildlife.

After traversing along the board walk of Cronkley Bay the path opens out and travels east towards the reservoir Tower and Dam Wall. Just before reaching these landmarks a perfectly placed picnic area can be enjoyed with a view of the reservoir offering incredible sunsets on summer nights.

Once the Dam is reached a car park is noticeable and a detour to the left along this road will take you to the visitor centre shop and picnic area. This location is at the base of the Dam Wall sheltered by trees and enjoying the sweet aroma of Pennine wild flower meadows during the summer months. The shop is fully stocked with refreshments, ice creams, clothing and gifts and is an ideal relaxation point before continuing along the Dam Wall and west along the south bank of the reservoir.

The path then wanders into a hidden valley where Pow Hill County Park opens up before you. This popular location has a circular walk around the heathland and woodland and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The site is dotted with strategically placed picnic tables and benches and is an ideal place to relax before taking the path back east, across the Dam Wall and west to where you began your journey at Millshield picnic site.

Parking: Millshield picnic site car park along the north shore of the reservoir.

Distance: 4km – allow 1.5 hour, suitable footwear required

