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**SADDLEWORTH TEN RESERVOIRS**

**Map Outdoor Leisure No 1 the Dark Peak, covers the whole route.**

The 26-mile (42k) Saddleworth Ten Reservoirs challenge, is a high-level moorland route with 4400ft (1371mtrs) of ascent. The route forms a circuit around the Saddleworth Moors, starting and ending at the Saddleworth Rangers Rugby Club, Shaw Hall Bank Road, Greenfield OL3 7LD

There are 2 starts: 8am for walkers and non-competitive runners and 9am for the race.

The start of the route will start from the grassy open land, 5 minutes walk from the clubhouse **(GR 995044)**. Head towards the bridge, cross over and follow the path bearing left at the split point until you cross the A635 Manchester Rd **(GR 995040)**. Carefully cross over and take Friezland Lane, uphill until it turns left to become Intake Lane **(GR 993 035)**. Follow this lane until it becomes a track and splits **(GR 001 035)**. Fork left (Bradbury Lane) and follow straight ahead until you come out at Dovestones Res car park.

From the SW corner of Dovestone Reservoir, go along the dam wall **(GR 013039)** and follow the path around the reservoir to Yeoman Hey Reservoir **(GR 019045)**. About two miles up the valley above Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs **(GR 027054)** leads to the stream junction below the crags of the Ravenstones. The left fork - Holme Clough - is taken, where a faint path follows the left bank of the stream, below the rock face of Standing Stones. After half a mile the stream divides again. Look for **CP1 (GR 041052)** near the base of the flagged uphill climb. Follow the flagged route uphill to the top. Follow a small path along the grouse butts until you reach the track near Rimmons Cottage (ruin). Head north east across the moor to the A635 road at the Boundary Stone and carpark **(CP2 GR 051063 Refreshments).**

The signpost indicates the next section of the route. The first part of this section, over White Moss, is over stone slabs and the going is not as treacherous as once it was. At the north west corner of Black Moss Reservoir **(CP3 GR 031088)**, follow the path around to the east and inbetween the two res’s of Black Moss and Swellands Reservoir. Follow the Pennine way eastwards, gradually descending towards the Wessenden Valley. Due to ongoing repair work to the path down to Blakeley Res, CP4 will be located on the air shaft **(CP4 GR 052088).** Continue along the path, crossing the stream at GR 050085. Keep following the path over the dam wall to reach the main track up the Wessenden Valley (GR 057087). A distance of two miles leads pleasantly upwards above Wessenden **(GR 058087)** and Wessenden Head Reservoirs **(GR 070077)** to the Meltham Road lay-by **(CP5 GR 077075 Refreshments)** and to the junction with the A635 'Isle of Skye' road.

From here the route climbs Black Hill, 1908' /582m, by the well-defined, Pennine Way track, then follows the ridge SSE (Bearing of 155) over Soldier’s Lump and Tooleyshaw Moss. **CP6 can be found on the stile over the new fence (GR 085028).** Onwards over White Low and Westend Moss to reach the Trig Point at Hey Edge **(CP7 0800054)** Head west and downhill to Crowden, keeping the quarry to your left. The checkpoint is an out and back to the Outdoor Centre **(CP8 GR 070995)** for well deserved re-fueling. From Crowden, the lowest point on the route at 700'/215m, follow the main track westards to rejoin the Pennine Way **(GR 068990)**. The route follows the Pennine Way to Laddow Rocks, and then takes a left hand turn **(GR 056013)** by the well-cairned path over the moor to Chew Reservoir **(GR 036017)**. All that remains is to head down the Chew Road and turn off towards the final checkpoint **(CP9 GR 018026)**.

After that, follow the path through the woods , eventually reaching the split point of the route at the start **(GR 001 035).** Follow Intake Lane and then downhill along Friezland Lane. **Carefully** cross the A635 Manchester Road **(GR 995040)** and follow the path opposite bearing right to the footbridge **(GR 994 042)**. Immediately turn left along the track, keeping the stream to your left until you come out onto the road near Tesco. Head left up the road and then left again at the bend onto Shaw Hall Bank Rd and finally down the steps back to the clubhouse. Don’t miss the steps otherwise you’ll have to run in where the cars come in and if I spot you doing that……you’ll be named and shamed! 😊

**Well Done!**

The Route:

Start Grassy open area (SD 995044)

CP1 Rimmon Pit Clough (SE 041052)

CP2 A635 road crossing (SE 051063 - Manned with Refreshments but no hot drinks)

CP3 Black Moss Res (SE 031088)

CP4 Blakeley Res (SE 054093)

CP5 Lay by on Meltham Rd (SE 077075 - Manned with refreshments inc. hot drinks)

CP6 Fence crossing on Toolyshaw Moor (SE 085028)

CP7 Hey Edge Trig Point (SE 0800054)

CP8 Crowden Outdoor Centre (SK 070995) - Manned with refreshments inc. hot drinks)

CP9 Gate into Chew Piece Plantation (SE 018026)

Finish at the Clubhouse (SD 991 045)