

WALKS FROM WWW.MIKES-WALKS.CO.UK --- BLACK HILL

A pleasant circular stroll from Crowden in Longdendale. Be surprised at how isolated you can feel within a few miles of Manchester

Distance 13.7 km, Ascent 691 m

Terrain – much of the path is well made BUT as with any other hill on the Dark Peak, Black Hill itself is a large area of rough peat. Avoid when wet, and for preference, save this walk for a dry summer or freezing winter day

Map – Outdoor Leisure 1, The Dark Peak – buy it [here](#)

Grid Ref	Direction	Dist	
072 994	219'		From the car park at 072994, take the footpath at the west end of the car park towards the toilet block and go right up the path, then left in front of the large farm buildings. As the tarmaced track climbs, take the track off to the right signposted 'Pennine Way'. When after a few hundred yards you come to a small plantation of trees on the right and another path crosses yours, carry straight on. This brings you out on to a shoulder of the valley, with Crowden Great Brook below you to the right and Black Tor and Rakes Rocks above you to the left. The open path ascends, and is surfaced with stone flags in places, such as the approach to Oaken Clough. Eventually, you reach the top of the valley wall, with the valley itself dropping away steeply on one side, and the path, being heavily used, becomes a narrow trench in the peat in some places
060 022	N	4.6k	Roughly level with the 'castles' on the map (actually just rock outcrops) the path starts to descend as the valley floor rises and the valley opens out. Keep the brook to your right and cross several tributaries coming from your left. After a while, the path is once again surfaced with stone flags, which take you all the way to the trig point at Black Hill
078 046	133'	7.62	From the trig point, because of the peat nature of the summit, there is no obvious path in our direction. However if you take the bearing of the path on the map and follow the bearing, you will after a few hundred yards come across a stile over a fence (which on a good day is just visible from the trig point). Cross the stile and carry on on the same bearing and you may see traces on an indistinct path in places as you cross Tooleyshaw Moss, and you should, at the end of the moss, come across a six foot tall marker post on the left hand side of the path. From here the path bears slightly to the right and descends. Again, as the path Crosses White Low and Westend Moss, it becomes indistinct and you need to keep your eye on map and compass
085 022		10.4	Before descending the flank of Westend Moss, take time to look down on Hey Moss below and work out your route. The route marked in yellow on the website map was marked as a public footpath on the OS map I used on this walk, but the current OS Map shows the public footpath taking a different route. As you cross Hey Moss, you can see the track that runs between the two disused quarries just above Crowden, and the path drops down off the right flank of Hey Moss straight in line with this track, which it meets. Once past the quarries, take the stile on the right of the track, and drop back down to Crowden and take the track to the car park

RESOURCES	
Car Parking	There is a public car park at 072 992 – please use the car park rather than clog up the lanes around the Youth Hostel
Toilets	At the end of the footpath that leaves the car park
Refreshments	Can't have everything !
Map required	
Warnings	<p>If you are familiar with the 'Dark Peak', you will know what to expect. If not, you need to know that on the top and flanks of Black Hill are typical 'peat grough' environments. Down in a grough, you wont be able to see very far. Because it is peat underfoot, it is almost impossible to tell where the path should be, and if the ground is at all wet, it is even worse.</p> <p>I recommend you wait for a dry summers day or a freezing winter one to do this walk !</p> <p>Also bear in mind shooting takes place on Black Hill, and in the season, paths are likely to be closed</p>
Points of Interest	
Website	
Feedback	If you download the route, walk the walk, or have any other issues, please email feedback@mikes-walks.co.uk
	A 'grough' (pronounced 'gruff') is an eroded channel in upland peat moors, especially in the Dark Peak. The erosion often uncovers patchy areas of rock, which show as light grey - sometimes almost white - against the ribbon of black peat cutting through the heather.