

Bus No. 350 Huddersfield to Marsden Hard End

Start and return to Fall Lane roundabout - duration 1½ hrs 2.7 miles (4.4kms)

Marsden  
10 minute walk to  
Marsden Rail Station

Crowther's  
Mill

Mount Road

Binn Road

# Walk the Wild Wood

## Butterley Reservoir Circular

Steps

Steps

Sports & cricket field

10

Award winning  
new woodland

Step stile

Forest Farm

Metal handrail at  
stream crossing

8

7

Restoration of Hemplow Wood

Schofields old barn  
Grid ref. SE 04645 10224

Bracken beds  
Breeding site for twite

Lone Oak

Bilberry

Ladder stile

Approximate scale:  
1cm:60m

Holme Bank Wood  
Ancient woodland

Lagoon

4

Conifer plantation

Bridge

Moorland restoration area

With special thanks to:



The twite  
(actual size)



# Walk the Wild Wood



## Butterley Reservoir Circular

### Walk description

- 1 Leave Fall Lane roundabout along Binn Road.
- 2 After 100 yards turn right on to the track that leads between Crowther's Mills. Follow the track through the mills and wood to the base of the reservoir dam. Follow the dam steps to your left leading steeply up to the road side.
- 3 At the top do not rejoin Binn Road but follow Wessenden Road the track to the right along the reservoir side. Continue along this track for a few hundred yards until you meet a farm gate with a ladder stile on the wall to the right of the track. Use the ladder stile to cross the wall, walk through the sheep pen and follow the track around the "lagoon" to the small bridge. Cross this bridge going through the self closing gate and then bear right following the post and wire fencing on your right.
- 4 Do not go through the farm gate but follow the waymarker posts that lead to the nearside corner of the conifer plantation. Enter the plantation keeping to the path until you reach the fence. Pass through the kissing gate picking up the waymarker posts.
- 5 Cross the stream and continue to follow the waymarkers passing the bilberry and then the bracken beds up to the Lone Oak tree. At the tree bear right following the way markers crossing grassland until you get to the right of some old hawthorn trees. Follow the waymarkers into the bracken beds. These bracken beds are important for ground nesting birds so please keep to the path and your dog on a lead. As you enter a grassy clearing turn right and down to Schofield's Old Barn which has been partially restored as a viewing point.



*The Colne Valley Tree Society (Est 1964) with support from the White Rose Forest and in partnership with Yorkshire Water have created a circular walk around Butterley Reservoir. Agreements have been made with tenant farmers to remove sheep to allow the process of natural regeneration of the moorland fringe and ancient woodland around the reservoir, bringing back the Wild Wood.*

*Walkers and wildlife watchers will encounter numerous natural hazards within the reserve including cliffs, bogs, steep drops and dangerous stream crossings. Suitable clothing and walking boots should be worn. Care must be taken at all times and children must be accompanied by responsible adults.*

*Schofield's Old Barn is an ideal place to watch for Twite who nest (Mid April - end of July) in the surrounding bracken beds, seeking food from the hay meadows across the reservoir. Please keep your dogs on a lead during this time especially near the bracken beds.*

For more details contact:

Colne Valley Tree Society Tel: 01484 841747

White Rose Forest Tel: 01484 234079

Kirklees Countryside Unit: 01484 234077.

*The Colne Valley Tree Society gratefully recieved funding from:*



- 6 Leaving the the Barn return back to the waymarkers and continue along the contour until you reach two waymarkers posts close together marking where the bracken beds end and the new planting at Butterley Clough begins. Follow the way markers through the new planting rising slightly and note when the arrows point back down to your right as the path begins to zig-zag to the bottom of the clough. Care should be taken here as the hillside is steep.
- 7 Cross the stream by the metal handrail. BE CAREFUL, the rocks forming the streambed are very slippery. Once you have crossed the stream follow the waymarkers up to your left as they ascend to the last oak tree in the remnant stand of oaks that is all that remains of Hemplow wood.
- 8 At the top turn sharp right and follow the contour into the Hemplow oaks, taking care of the steep drop to your right. Continue through the old wood until on your left wooden steps by small sheep pen guide you into the new planting above you on your left. Entering the new woodland bear right and walk with the boundary wall immediately on your right. The wall will take you up and left to a step stile that marks the end of the new woodland and the beginning of recreation facilities.
- 9 Step over the stile and continue straight ahead with the football pitch and then the cricket nets to your left and the boundary wall to your right.
- 10 As you approach waste ground, take a right turn down joining the dam steps to the base of the dam. Return to Fall Lane roundabout via the track through Crowther's Mills to complete the circular.

# Walk the Wild Wood

## A circular walk round Butterley Reservoir Marsden



Colne Valley Tree Society



The northern gateway to the Peak District