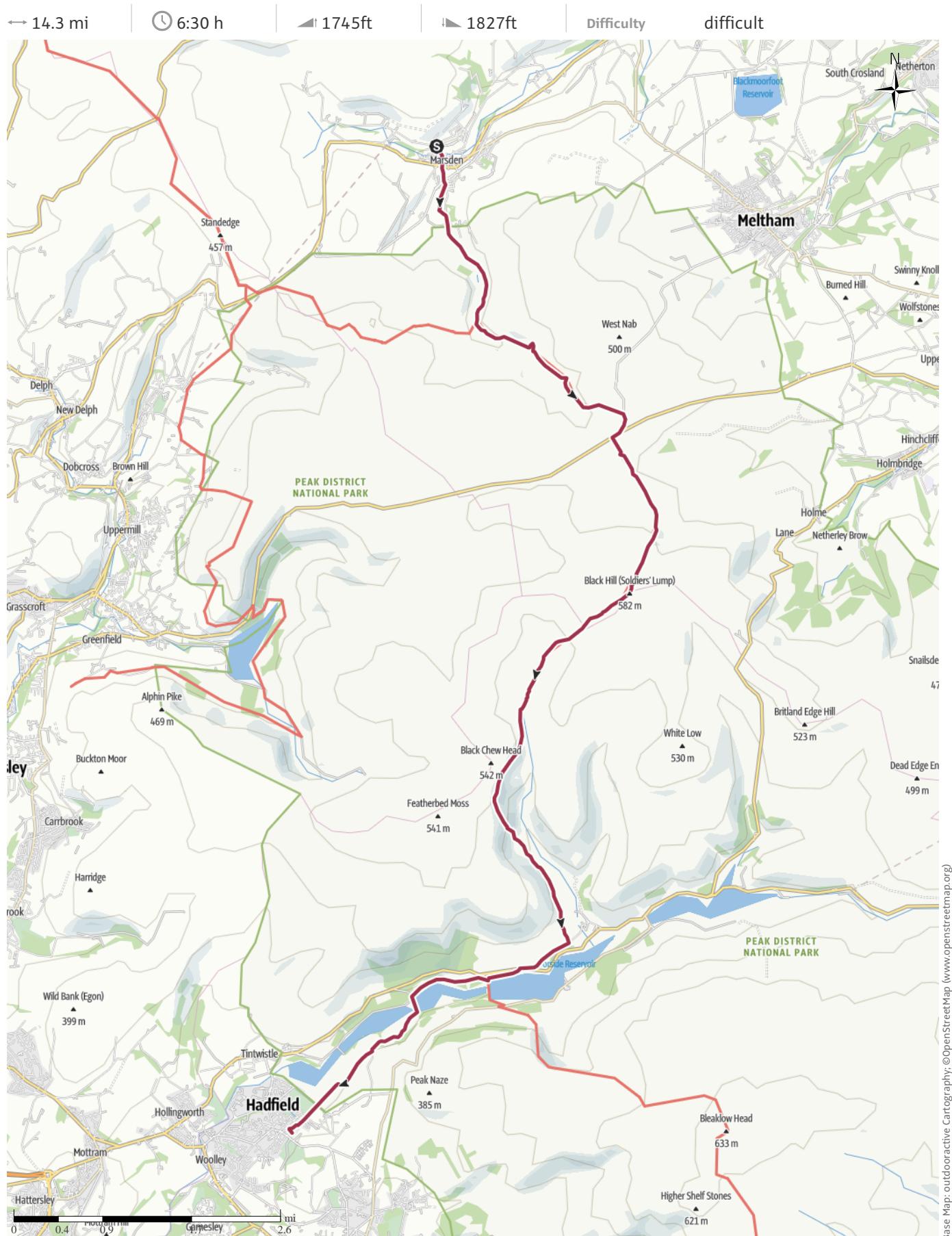


TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield



TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

↔ 14.3 mi

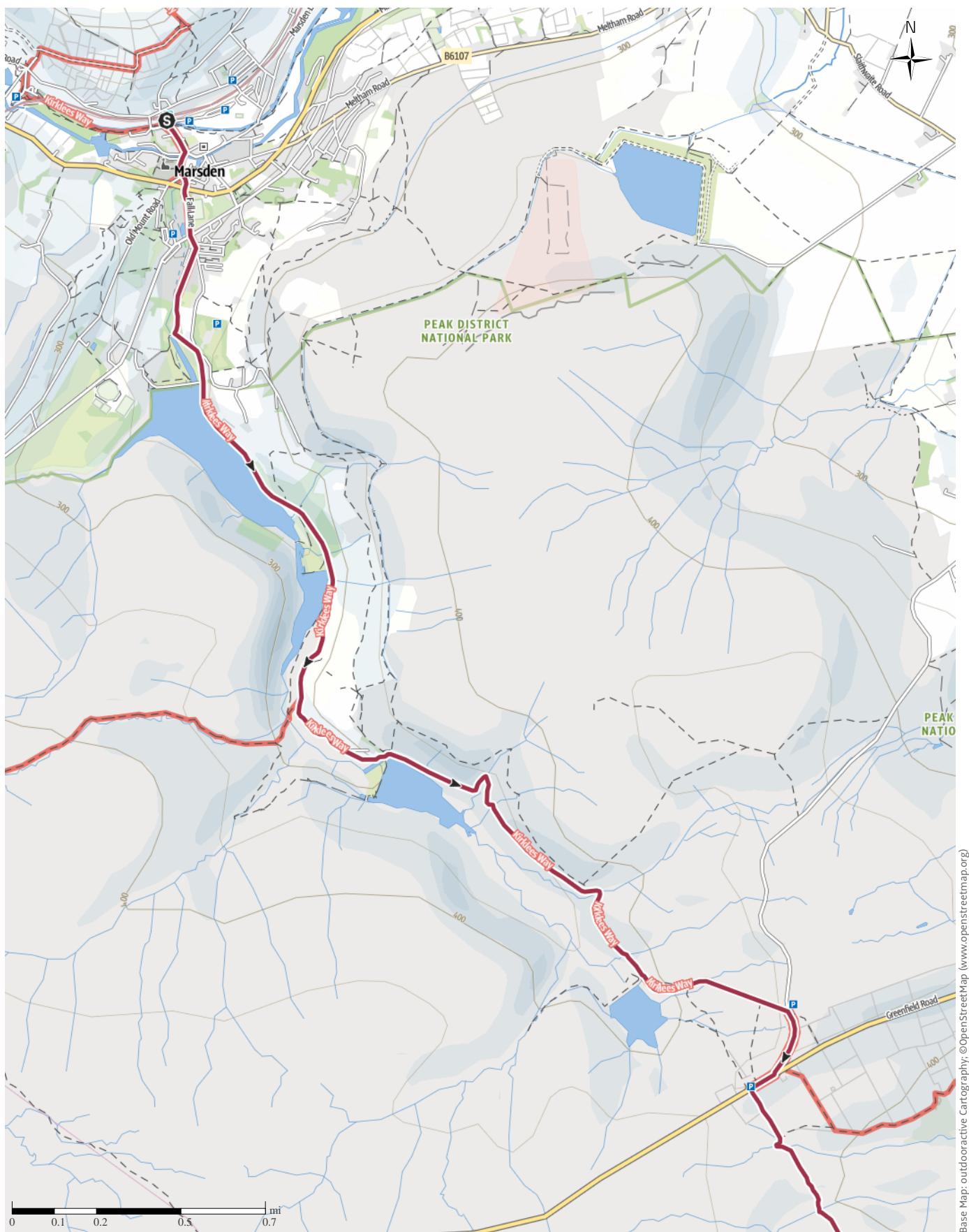
🕒 6:30 h

▲↑ 1745ft

↓ 1827ft

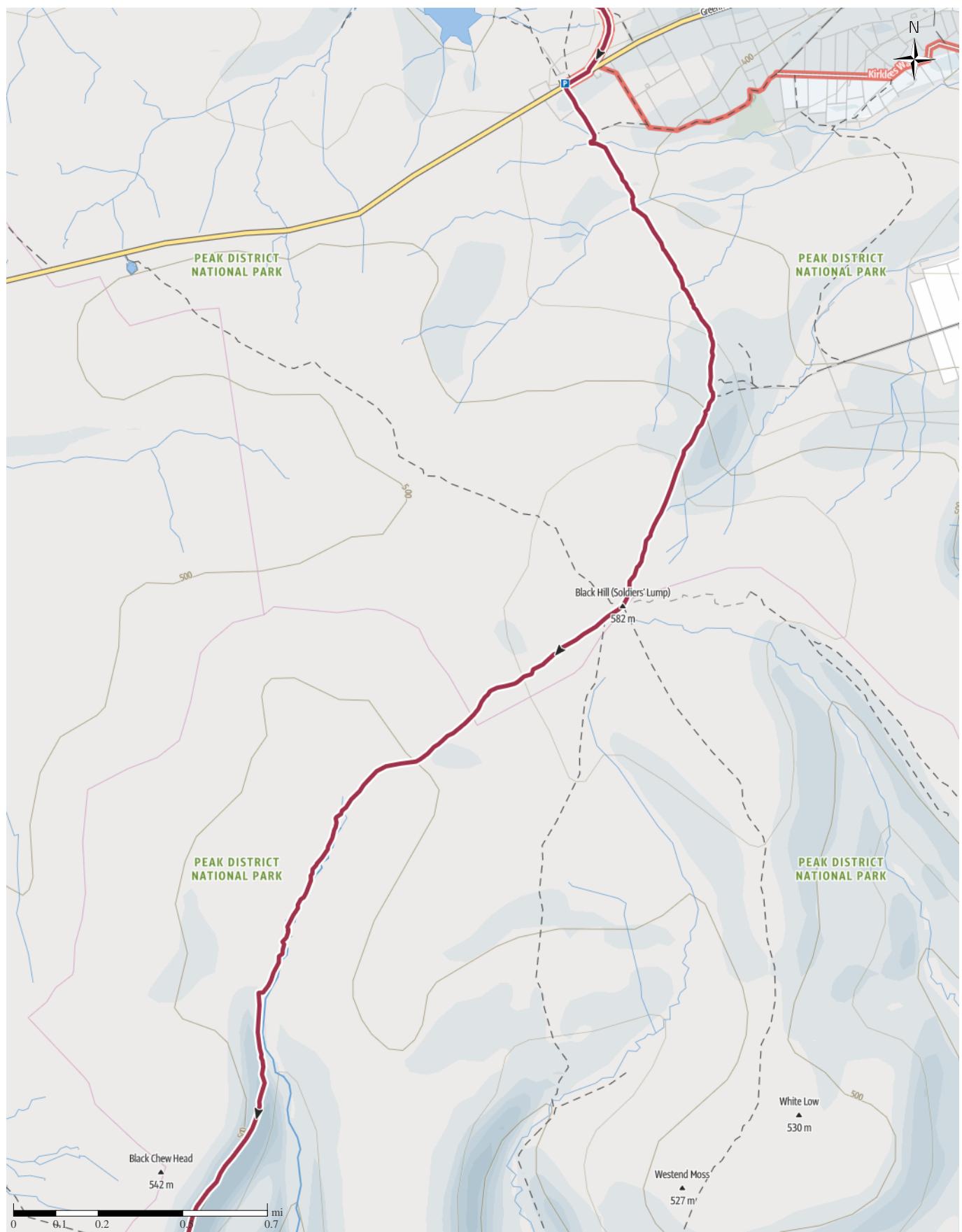
Difficulty

difficult



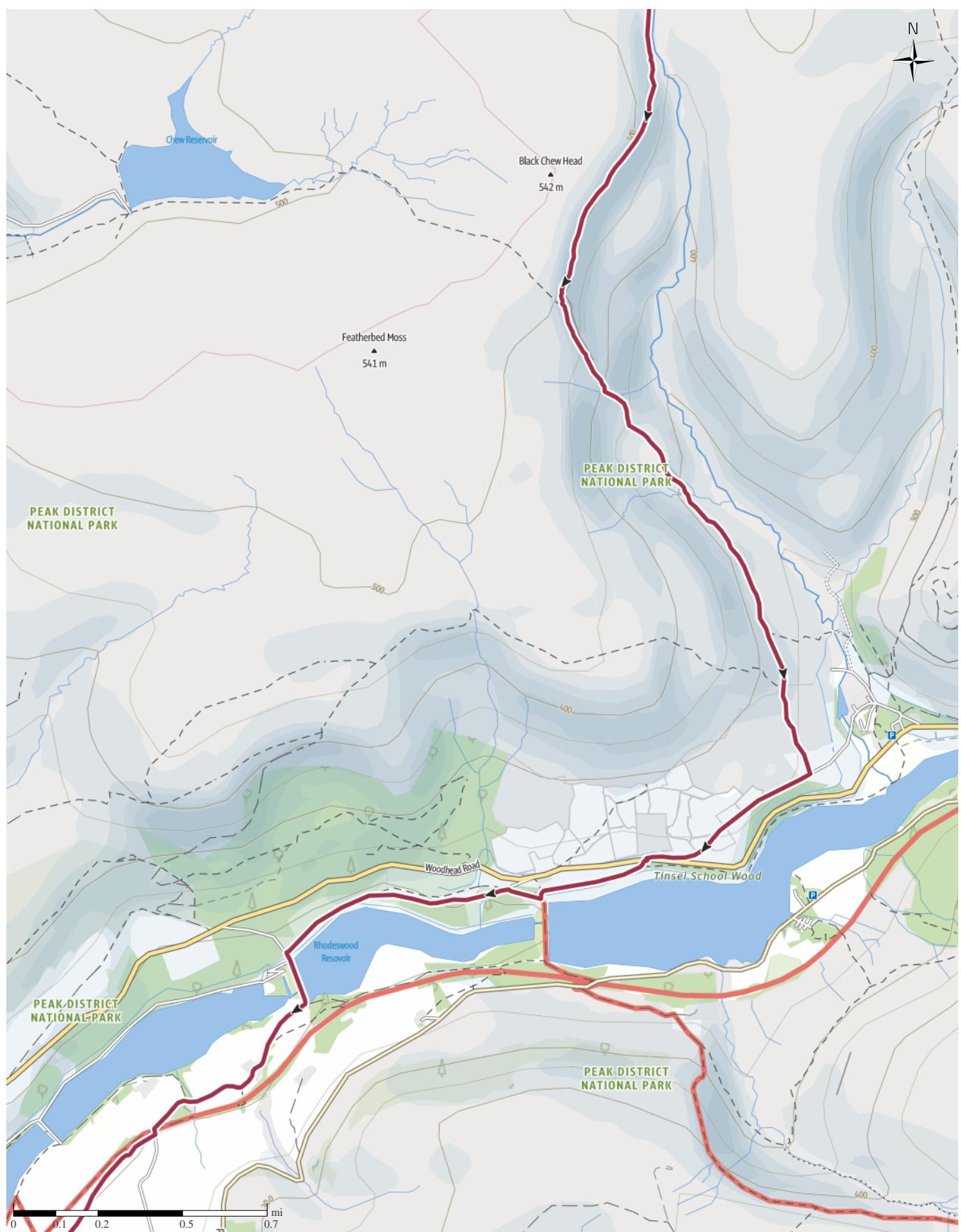
TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

→ 14.3 mi | ⏰ 6:30 h | ▲ 1745ft | ▲ 1827ft | Difficulty | difficult



TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

→ 14.3 mi | 6:30 h | 1745ft | 1827ft | Difficulty | difficult



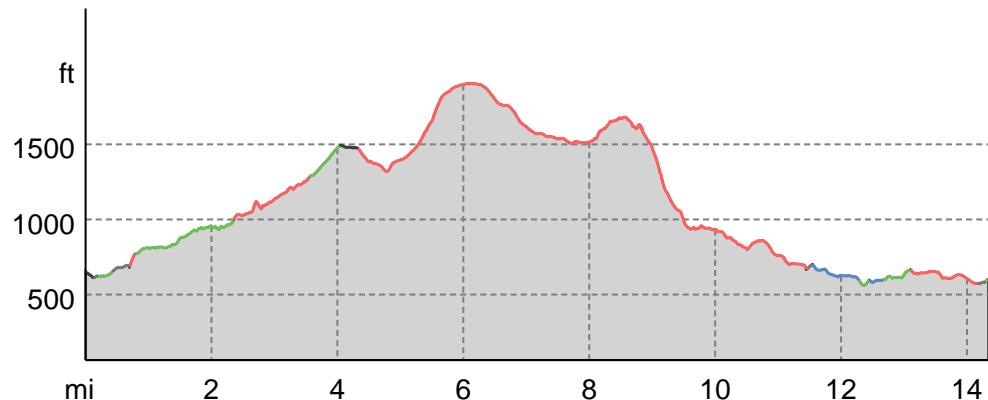
TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield



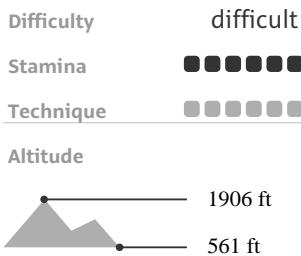
TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

Road surface

Asphalt	0.5 mi
Dirt road	0.9 mi
Way	3 mi
Path	9.5 mi
Street	0.4 mi

Elevation profile

route data
Hiking route

Distance	14.3 mi
Duration	6:30 h
Ascent	1745 ft
Descent	1827 ft


Best time of year

JAN		FEB		MAR
APR		MAY		JUN
JUL		AUG		SEP
OCT		NOV		DEC

Ratings
Authors

 Experience 

 Landscape 
Community

 Route (1) 
More route data
Properties

Public-transport-friendly	Linear route
Multi-stage route	Scenic
Geological highlights	Summit route

Awards
 Refreshment stops available

Matthew Ball

Update: September 16, 2021

Stage 10 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail:
Marsden to Hadfield via Black Hill

Starting from Marsden Railway Station we head southwards through the town before picking up the Kirklees Way, which takes us past impressive mills and then up a long flight of steps to Butterley Reservoir. We then just continue along the Kirklees Way until its junction with the Pennine Way (which should come

about 45 minutes in to the walk), at which point we take the left fork to head towards Wessenden Reservoir. We then follow the PW across the A635 and across Dean Clough to the summit of Black Hill, where the edge of the plateaux makes a good place to stop for lunch just short of 6 miles in to the walk.

Progress is relatively easy up to this point because of the stone flagging of the PW, which continues till about 7.6 miles into the walk before giving out to broken stones and gravel making for slower progress towards the Laddow Rocks. The Rocks do afford spectacular views but also come with the hazard of a sheer drop to the left of the path that continues for about a mile. We continue following the PW till it reaches the floor of the Longendale Valley and crosses the A628. We leave it at The Hollins in order to stay on the northern side of Rhodeswood Reservoir before crossing the dam to the southern side of the valley between Rhodeswood and Valehouse Reservoirs. We then follow the road to the right past Deepclough Farm, before following the Longendale Trail back to Hadfield Railway Station.

Author's recommendation
This route was walked by Manchester Weekend

Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) on Saturday 24th July 2021.

As well as being a walking route in its own right, it is also Stage 10 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail, a 13-stage long distance walk that completely encircles the city of Manchester. The Trail is designed to be accessible by public transport, and to take in a varied selection of the best scenery in the Manchester area. It is 157 miles long in total and has about 6,000m of ascent.

The Trail starts in Macclesfield, and then proceeds in a clockwise direction via the other twelve staging points (Wilmslow, Knutsford, Lymm, Leigh, Blackrod, Entwistle, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Marsden, Hadfield, Edale, and Buxton) before the last stage takes it back to Macclesfield again to complete the loop.

Since 2019, Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) have been walking each of the stages in order roughly once every four weeks (pandemic permitting), which results in the full loop being completed once every year. The first five stages cover mostly lowland territory, and so are walked in the winter months, leaving the sunnier parts of the year in which to tackle the hills that otherwise nearly surround Manchester on three sides.

As of the summer of 2021, it is intended that the Trail will at some point be registered with the Long Distance Walkers Association as an "official" long distance path, although this hasn't yet happened at the time of writing. However, all 13 stages are available on the Outdoor Active website and can be downloaded as GPX files.

Safety information

Take care on the Laddow Rocks, as there is a steep drop to the left of the path.

Also take care crossing the main roads, especially the A628 on the approach to Torrside Reservoir.

Another major consideration to bear in mind for this

walk is that it is a long walk (15 miles across difficult terrain), and that there is no really straightforward bailout point. The A635 crossing is only 4.3 miles in to the walk, and would involve a taxi pickup from a remote location. We meet the A628 a bit later, at Crowden, 10.5 miles in - this is probably a bit more feasible, as there is a campsite with facilities here, although they are just slightly off the route.

Equipment

Good walking boots and otherwise sensible hiking gear.

Additional information

Tips and hints

Assembly Point:

The southern exit from the station, onto Station Road opposite The Railway pub, is the most obvious place to gather everyone together.

Toilets:

No toilets at walk start so use either Piccadilly or go on the train. There are no toilets en route, but there should be plenty of privacy in these remote moors. At Hadfield there are also no public toilets, so go on the train or else at one of the pubs.

Obstructions:

None known as of July 2021.

Timings:

0:45 - Join the Pennine Way

1:45 - Cross the A635

2:45 - Black Hill (trig point) & lunch break

3:30 - [stone flagging peters out]

4:30 - Laddow Rocks (highest point)

5:45 - Pennine Way crosses A628

6:20 - Deepclough Farm

7:30 - Hadfield Railway Station

Bail-Out Points:

To bail out from this walk you would be looking at getting a taxi from one of the road crossings, i.e. the A635 before Black Hill, or the A628 near the end. Otherwise, from the summit of Black Hill, there is a

TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

path off to the left leading to Holme Moss TV Transmitter that is fairly flat and straight and also takes you to the A6024.

Alternative Routes:

There is a windy weather alternative to going up on the Laddow Rocks, which instead just follows Crowden Great Brook at their feet, before rejoining the Pennine Way when it returns to the valley floor. There are also various alternative paths available through Longendale from Crowden to Hadfield, but the route indicated is designed to be the easiest that avoids spending an excessive amount of time on the Longendale Trail.

Lunch Stop:

There is a hotdog stand at the crossing of the A635, but I have never used it so can't vouch for it. The trig point at Black Hill is the most obvious lunch stop – or, alternatively, whatever place of the edge of the Black Hill plateaux will give the best shelter from any wind.

Post-Walk Refreshments:

There are two excellent choices in Hadfield, both right by the Railway Station. The Palatine is more traditional and is beautifully furnished, so they may want you to take any muddy boots off. On the other hand, Edwards is actually in the station building itself, and has excellent beers and friendly service.

Turn-by-turn directions

Starting point / trailhead

Marsden Railway Station

Coordinates:

DD: 53.603136, -1.930302

DMS: 53°36'11.3"N 1°55'49.1"W

UTM: 30U 570782 5939899

w3w: //owns.recorder.overlaid

Point of arrival

Hadfield Railway Station

Turn-by-turn directions

From Marsden Railway Station the road southward heads downhill across the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, the River Colne and then the A62 – all in about 500 yards. Then we carry on south past some impressive mills, and then head straight on across Mount Road to head past some more of the same (this is now the Kirklees Way). Shortly after this, we reach a long and steep flight of steps at Netherley that take us uphill to Butterley Reservoir. We then follow the reservoir along

its eastern bank until we enter the Peak District National Park about 1.5 miles in to the walk. The next half mile southwards along the Kirklees Way takes us past Blakeley Reservoir to the junction with the Pennine Way, at which point we take a leftward fork to carry on southwards (the right fork would bend around to the right and head north again after a while).

The Pennine Way now takes us gently uphill, past Wessenden Reservoir and then Wessenden Head Reservoir, before meeting the A635 (the main road from Mossley to Holmfirth). At this point (now 450m above sea level) there is normally a roadside cafe selling refreshments in the shape of hot dogs and tea and coffee. After crossing the road, the PW now heads straight for the summit of Black Hill, which, at 582m above sea level, would now only be a 130m climb away, apart from the fact that we have to drop down a bit to cross Dean Clough before heading upwards again. Once we reach the summit, we find that there is a bit of a plateau which the PW takes us across – but at the edge of it, near the head of Issue Clough, is possibly a good place to stop for lunch, with views across towards West Yorkshire from this side of the plateau.

The PW is stone flagged as it crosses the peat bog that forms the plateau, so progress is quite easy up to this point and indeed down the other side again, up until about 7.6 miles in to the walk at Meadowgrain Clough, where the stone flagging runs out and the path becomes peaty again. We carry on for another 1.5 miles till the spectacular Laddow Rocks. The PW then carries on southwards for another 2 miles before turning 90 degrees right to head west, along the north side of Torrside Reservoir in the Vale of Longendale.

After a mile heading westward along the PW, we come to a junction of ways called The Hollins, at which the Pennine Way turns left to cross between Torrside and Rhodeswood Reservoirs, but at which we leave the PW to head straight on westwards along the northern side of Rhodeswood. After just over 3/4 mile we reach another crossroads, and this time we turn left to pass over the dam between Rhodeswood and Valehouse Reservoirs. Immediately after crossing over the dam, the path bends to the right, leading us onto a minor road that passes through Deepclough Farm, before crossing over the Longendale Trail.

Immediately after the bridge over the Trail we turn right through a narrow gap to follow a footpath that runs parallel to the Trail for about 1/2 mile, before an opening appears to our right through which we can join the Trail for the last 1/2 mile of the walk. The Trail ends in a car park, which we exit and then follow the road to the right for 100 yards before Hadfield Railway Station appears to our left.

Getting There

 This route is conveniently accessible by public transport.

Public transport

Trains to Marsden from Manchester Piccadilly leave once an hour on Saturday mornings, taking around 30 minutes for the journey.

Getting there

The return services from Hadfield run twice an hour on Saturday evenings, taking about 40 minutes to make the journey to Piccadilly.

Parking

Best place to park would be Manchester City Centre, somewhere near Piccadilly Station.

Protected areas

National park Peak District

Some or all of the following may apply in protected

areas:

Observe local conservation rules and information

Comments & Ratings



September 16, 2021 · Hiking Route · RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

Reviews



Takeaway route for iPhone and Android



Scan QR code, save this route offline, share with friends and more...

Website

<https://out.ac/lInFue>



Wessenden Reservoir

Photo: Matthew Ball, Community

TOP RMHT Stage 10: Marsden to Hadfield

Legend

Topography

	Wood, forest
	Moor, swamp, marsh
	Moorland
	Residential building area with single building
	Industrial real estate with single building
	Cemetery
	Golf course
	Sportsfield, stadium
	Stadium
	Open-air pool
	Vineyard
	Petrograph
	Country border
	State border
	District border
	Contour line
	Special use area
	Nature reserve

Topographic single signs

	Summit cross
	Elevation point
	Rock
	Cave
	Church
	Chapel
	Cemetery
	Palace/Castle
	Abbey
	Monument
	Ruin
	Mine
	Cairn
	Broadcasting tower
	Windwheel
	Water-/windmill
	Viewpoint

Streets and ways

	Freeway with number
	Highway with number
	State, country, district street
	Village road
	Main agricultural road
	Agricultural road
	Trail
	Via Ferrata

Lifts, Railway

	Ropeway lift
	Gondola lift
	Chairlift
	Ski-, draglift
	Aerial ropeways
	Railway
	Suburban train
	Subway
	Tram
	Railway station