

How to get there

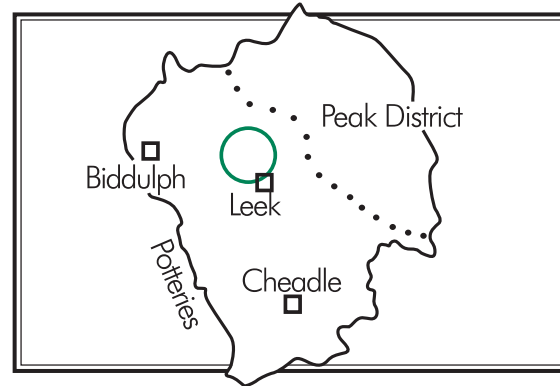
From the monument in the centre of Leek, set off down Ball Haye Street, cross straight over the traffic lights and through Ball Haye Green. Just after a playing field on the left, turn into Tittesworth Avenue. Buses run regularly into Leek from Stoke-on-Trent and other destinations. For bus timetables contact: Traveline Public Transport Information. Telephone 0871 200 22 33.

Around the Water

Tittesworth Reservoir was increased to its present size between 1959 and 1969, when the dam was constructed to supply drinking water to Leek and the Potteries. It is fed by the River Churnet and other small streams in this upper part of the Churnet Valley which in turn forms a vital component of the River Trent drainage basin. A variety of habitats are encountered during the walk. The ancient mixed deciduous woodland of Hindsclough contrasts with the coniferous blocks of pine and larch. In these, tits, warblers, badger, fox and occasionally red deer are sighted. In the open pastures and around the tributary streams curlew, lapwing, skylark and meadow pipit are common. Closer to the water's edge it is possible to catch sight of heron and at appropriate times a variety of winter wildfowl or spring migrant birds.

Enjoy the Walk

Starting conveniently from Leek, the walk rises above the west banks of Tittesworth Reservoir, through the pretty Moorlands village of Meerbrook on the edge of the Peak District towards the Gritstone outcrops of the Roaches. It then doubles back along the east edge of the reservoir. The walk is about seven miles long and should take 3-4 hours to complete. Stout shoes or boots are recommended. The 1: 25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No OL24 'The White Peak' covers the area.

LOCATION OF WALK

Remember, these paths cross private land.
Please follow the Countryside Code:

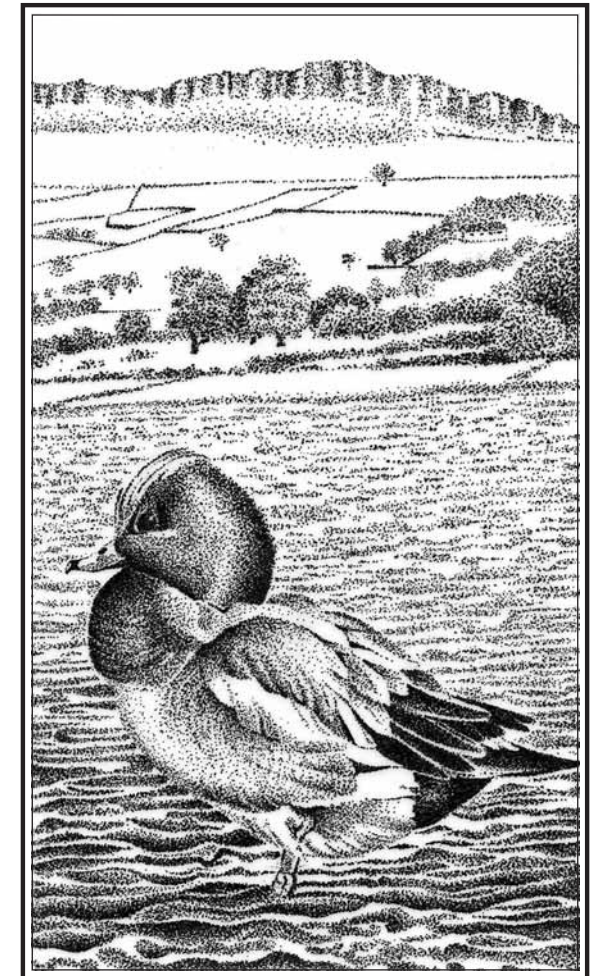
- Be safe plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

The Parks and Countryside Service,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffordshire,
ST13 6HQ.

Telephone: 0845 605 3010
countryside@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk
www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/countryside

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Available in alternative formats

Leek to Peak

AROUND TITTESWORTH

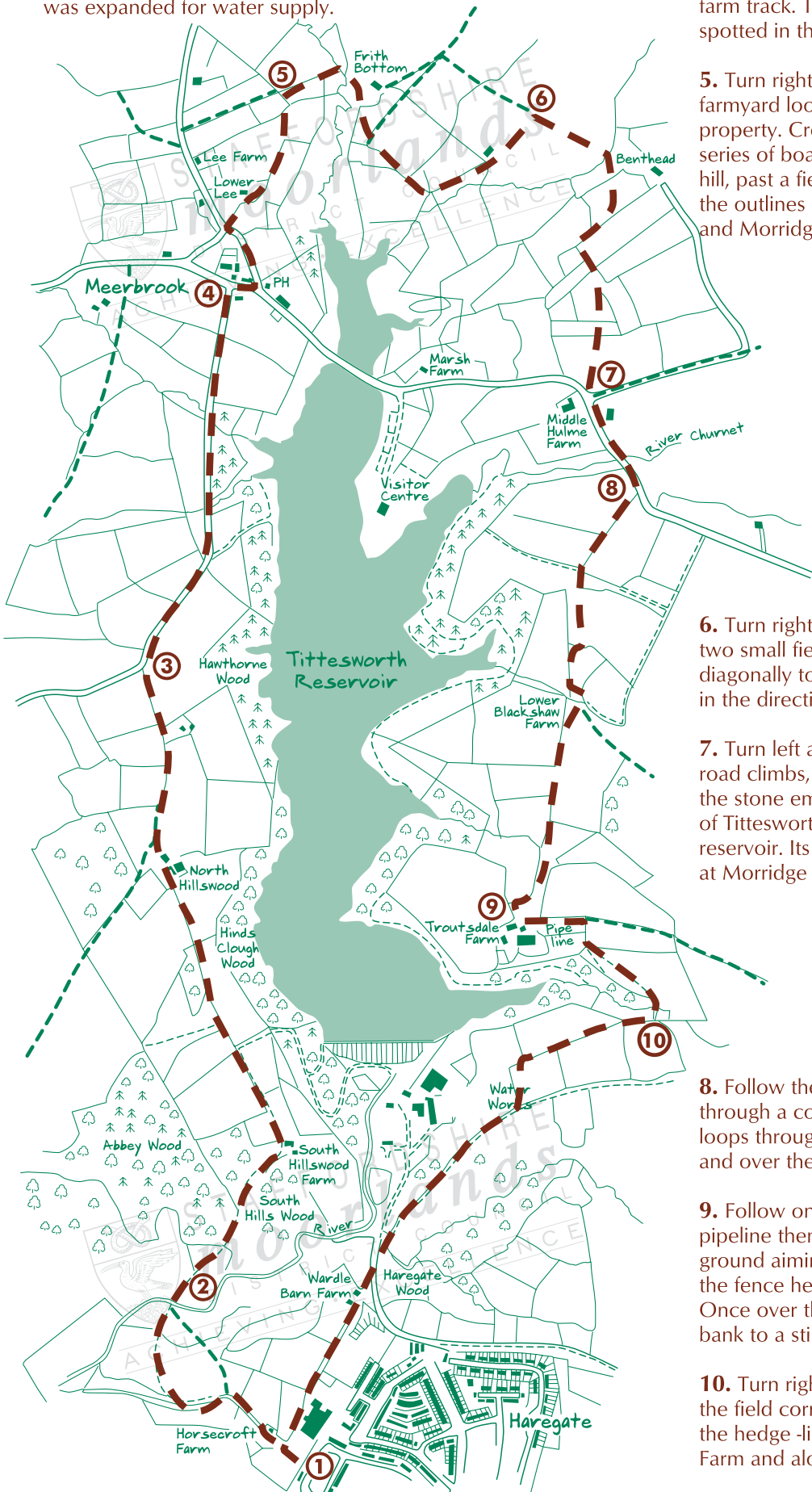
1. From Tittesworth Avenue, follow the track through Horsecroft farmyard and down into the Upper Churnet Valley. Cross the river on its way around Leek to the steep wooded valleys around Consall, Froghall and Oakamoor towards the River Trent.

2. Continue up the track to South Hillswood then turn left onto the tarmac track passing North Hillswood on the way. The first views of the reservoir can be caught through the conifer trees, planted when the reservoir was expanded for water supply.

3. On reaching the road, turn right and continue for about a mile to Meerbrook. Along this stretch you can look over the lake to the amenity area and plantations of native deciduous trees, reflecting the changing attitudes towards management of reservoirs.

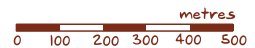
4. Turn right at the village, then left at the Lazy Trout public house. After 200 yards take a track to the right, passing an old farmhouse. In the field beyond bear left then follow the boundary through several fields to a farm track. There are a wide variety of birds to be spotted in this area around the top of Tittesworth.

5. Turn right to Frith Bottom but on approaching the farmyard look out for a path to the right skirting the property. Cross the next field, over a stile then, over a series of boardwalks on over a stream. Head left up the hill, past a field barn (towards Windygates). From here the outlines of the Roaches (left) Hen Cloud (ahead) and Morridge Edge (right) are spectacular.



Look out for the Lapwing emblem on a yellow arrow that marks the way.

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6. Turn right just before the next stile and cut across two small fields in front of Benthead Farm. Bear right diagonally to a gap in the hedge then follow the stiles in the direction of Middle Hulme farm buildings.

7. Turn left at the road. After crossing the river, as the road climbs, look out for a gate and stile at the end of the stone embankment. The River Churnet, main feeder of Tittesworth is seen here as it approaches the reservoir. Its source is just a few miles up into the hills at Morridge Top.

8. Follow the wall, cross a track at the end then pass through a copse to Blackshaw Farm. The footpath loops through the farmyard then right across a field and over the hedge again onto the Troutsdale track.

9. Follow on around Troutsdale, past a paddock with pipeline then turn right off the track. Stay on the higher ground aiming to cross the valley at the top edge of the fence head down to the stream via a flight of steps. Once over the footbridge climb the steps the opposite bank to a stile.

10. Turn right, through two fields then left at the stile in the field corner. After a further stile turn right and follow the hedge-line to the road. Cross over to Wardle Barn Farm and along the track back to Tittesworth Avenue.