



The route starts at Binn Green car park (GR SE018044). From the car park entrance turn right up the A635 for 600m to a stile from where a waymarked path goes up towards Alderman Hill. Approximately half way up the hill side, turn right on to a path which climbs to a group of rocks at GR016052. As you climb, extensive views open out over the Chew Edges and across Greenfield Reservoir towards Holme Clough, a place we will visit later on the walk. Beyond it, Black Hill and the transmitter at Holme Moss are prominent to the east.

From the rocks, a clear path heads up the hill towards a fence. As the path bears right and levels out, walk across the moor to a gas pipeline marker situated alongside a track at GR015055. Go left down the track for 100m and then right on to a clear path at an Oldham Way signpost. Follow this path along the ridge from where the attractive villages of Saddleworth can be seen spread out in the valleys below.

At a gully where the Oldham Way starts to descend (GR017062), continue on the path along the ridge to the trig point at Broadstone Hill which is visible ahead. A number of paths radiate from here, and you should continue along one heading off on a bearing of approximately sixty degrees from the trig point.

After 300m, a shallow boggy ditch is crossed and the path turns right on the far side. The ditch is all that remains of the Cotton Famine Road, construction of which was undertaken to provide employment for local textile workers when the supply of raw cotton dried up during the American Civil War. The ditch drives relentlessly on over the featureless wastes and one can only imagine the terrible conditions under which people must have toiled during the building this "road to nowhere". The atmosphere of despair doesn't lift until the paved route of the original Pennine Way is joined which is followed for a short distance to a small car park on the A635 at the Kirklees / Oldham boundary.

Turn right and walk along the road for 400m to a stile located on the south side at GR047062. From here, there are no visible paths so the easiest way to proceed is to follow a bearing of 220 degrees to a fence corner at GR045058. Continue along the fence line with Rimmon Pit Clough to your left and where the fence goes right at the ruins of Rimmon Cottage, go straight ahead over two small streams and continue along the ridge. Rimmon Pit Clough is seen descending rapidly to join Holme Clough but you should continue along the ridge without losing height as walking at stream level is difficult.

The route swings to the right towards Standing Stones while views open out across the reservoirs and the Chew Edges. Continue along the ridge towards Standing Stones until the gradient of the hillside to your left eases and it becomes safer to descend to the valley below. Descend over the open moorland to cross the stream at the confluence of Birchen and Holme Cloughs (GR038050). From here, the route is easy to follow along the water company track past Greenfield and Yeoman Hey reservoirs to the dam where the track changes to tarmac. Follow it for a further 300m to a gate on the right from where a short path ascends through a wood to the start point.