

9 miles / 14 km

ALL THINGS
PEAK DISTRICT

Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoir Circular Walk

Discover one of the Peak Districts hidden gems, Alport Castles. Stroll along The Derwent Reservoir (Training location for the 'Dam Busters Raid') and Howden Reservoir before striking uphill to the UKs largest known natural landslide.

Start Point: Fairholmes Car park. Post code: S33 0AQ. what3words: [///budding.compress.flotation](https://www.what3words.com/#!/budding.compress.flotation). OS Grid Ref: SK 17227 89416.

1. The walk begins at Fairholmes Car park. Post code: S33 0AQ. what3words: [///budding.compress.flotation](https://www.what3words.com/#!/budding.compress.flotation). OS Grid Ref: SK 17227 89416. From the Fairholmes Café take the path which is signposted 'Derwent Dam Trails' for 50 metres. The path then turns into a single lane road, follow the sign for 'The Valley of the Dams' for 160 metres, turn left leaving the road up stairs signposted 'Derwent Dam West Tower'. After 300 metres you come to a road, turn right.

2. We now follow this road/path which straddles the Derwent and Howden Reservoirs for 5Km. See if you can spot the Commemoration for Tip the Dog at the beginning of this stretch. After 5Km you will come to a metal gate just before a stone bridge, which crosses a tributary into Howden Reservoir. Do not cross the bridge, go through the metal gate.

3. Go 200 metres then take the track to your left leading sharply uphill, signposted 'Via Alport Castles'. Follow this for 1.8Km, firstly through Woodland and then Moorland. When you come to the edge, looking down into Alport Dale and the Alport Castles turn left. Follow this track for 3.2Km then go through a gate followed by a second gate next to a ladder stile. Keep following the track down towards the treeline. Turn left on a gravel road running adjacent to the trees.

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4. Walk past Lockerbrook Outdoor Centre. A further 200 metres from Lockerbrook Outdoor Centre go through a gate on your right, signposted 'Fairholmes'. Follow the concession track, keeping the stone wall on your left for 180 metres. Go through a gate entering Lockerbrook Coppice. Follow the track through the wood for 300 metres. When you come to a road turn right and follow this downhill for 1Km to Derwent Reservoir. At the bottom take a right and follow the path back to Fairholmes Car Park.

KEY INFO

LENGTH: 14 km / 9 miles.

TIME: 4 – 5 hours.

ASCENT: 346 metres / 1135 feet.

STILES: 0.

TOILETS: Fairholmes Car Park.

REFRESH: Fairholmes Café.

PARK: Fairholmes Car Park.

START: W3W:

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OS MAP. Explorer OLI Peak District

Dark Peak Area.

