

## **Walk: KR2**

### ***A Walk around Lamaload***

**Starting Point:** Car Park, east of Lamaload Reservoir SJ976753. If the entrance is locked, use the lay-by, about 150m NE and uphill from the car park entrance.

**How to get there:** From the B5470 Macclesfield-Whaley Bridge Road, take either of the minor roads (Pike Road or Smith Lane) that head east. These roads converge and pass Blue Boar Farm before heading downhill to a road junction where you keep right and continue for a few hundred metres to the car park.

**Map:** OS Explorer OL 24 – The Peak District, White Peak Area

**Length:** 5 miles

**Grade:** Moderate/strenuous

**Duration:** Two and a half hours

---

This takes you through countryside that is isolated and beautiful – yet so accessible for a motorist lucky enough to own a pair of boots. Depending on how energetic you feel, you may wish to complete just this walk or to link up with Walk KR3 which takes you over to Macclesfield Forest.

Walk from the car park towards the reservoir, and to the right of the toilet block which is in a large stone building. Turn right just before the building and continue for about 30m, joining a track that leads to a stile (1). Cross this and continue on a path over the hill and through a large gap in the wall towards the water treatment buildings (2) below the dam.

Follow the path down the hill, and towards the buildings. At the foot of the hill, turn left, and cross a stream. Walk along a track, between a pair of stone walls. At a gate, keep right along a paved path, then turn left at the access road and walk along this for about one mile, passing firstly Snipe House Farm (3) and then Higherlane Farm (4).

The road now dips (5) – as it rises again, Bollington and White Nancy are visible straight ahead. 50m after the second building on your left after Higherlane Farm, and just before a cattle grid, cross a stone stile set into the wall. The waymark has been bent (August 2004) in favour of a permissive path, which you can use if you feel inclined. But to use the right of way (which scarcely intrudes on anyone's privacy) just head diagonally to your left (6), crossing the stile set in the stone wall near the back gate of the smartened-up house on your left.



The classic view of Lamaload

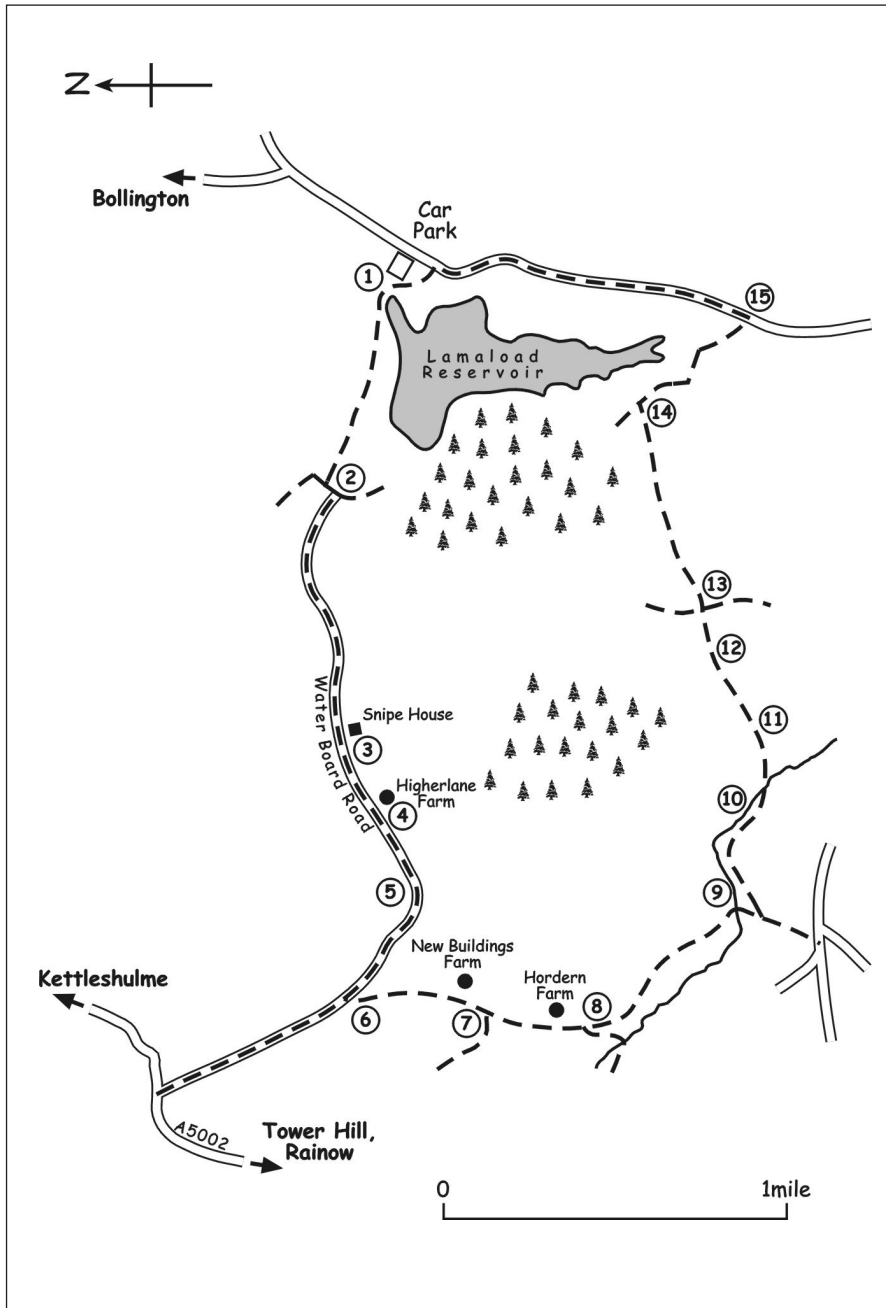
Carry on in the same direction, uphill, and cross the next stile in the wall facing you. Continue uphill, with the wall on your immediate right. Just before the remains of a wall jutting out to the left, cross the stile on your right. Turn left and again head uphill, with the wall initially on your immediate left and Newbuildings Farm further to your left. As the wall turns away leftwards, carry on in the same direction that you were heading and cross a stone step-stile by a gate (7).

Turn right here, walking along the farm track. Ignore the signpost for the Gritstone Trail, and continue along the track (with a good view across to Jodrell Bank in clear weather) until you reach a group of buildings based on Hordern Farm. Continue past all these and through a gate (8). Walk along a well-used track, initially with a wall on your left, above the small valley of Gulshaw Hollow. Continue alongside the remains of a dry-stone wall to a stile across a stream (9).

Go uphill about 100m and turn left along a concrete track towards what I originally described as “a near-derelict farmhouse”.

*Not any more! It's now a superb modern home, and the right of way still runs through the grounds. Begin in a novel way by pressing '2' and then '#' on a keypad and the gate slides open just far enough, and long enough, for a walker to pass through. I've never seen anything like this before!*

Kettleshulme & Rainow



Continue on the driveway, bear right and pass the house on your left then proceed to a stile. Cross this, then follow the track over a stream and pass a barn on your left (10). From here, head left with the wall on your left. After the wall has bent to the right, you will see a stone stile. Cross this (or one of the many gaps) and continue in the same direction – heading over the hill using the wall on the skyline (11) as your marker. From here, carry straight on to another stile set in a wall, and likewise to the next one.

After crossing the hill, the next stile is a wooden one in the top-right-hand corner of the field (12). Cross this and head along a path making an approximately 45° angle with the stream. This takes you off again in roughly the same direction of travel as before, towards a line of power cables.

Cross the farm drive (13) and enter the next field across a stile near a gateway. Continue straight ahead, with the wall on your right. Cross a stile and footbridge and carry on, soon with a wall on your right. After about 200m, do a wiggle through a gateway to put the wall on your left (don't follow the direction of the waymark, which will take you much too far to the right). In the corner of the field, cross a stile and head towards the left of a conifer plantation; Lamaload can be seen on your left.

Carry on downhill to the abandoned building and turn right at the track (14). After a few minutes, cross a stile into the wood – the stile is marked as leading to a path and has a “Danger, Deep Water” sign nearby. Follow this concessionary path through the wood and up to the road (15) where you turn left and head back to the car park.