

Try a Trail...

Dark Peak 27 miles (45km)

A two day walk taking in the classic start of the Pennine Way from Edale to Marsden



Day 1 Edale to Crowden - 16 miles

Overnight stay Crowden

Day 2 Crowden to Marsden - 11 miles

Train travel Both Edale and Marsden can be reached by train from Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds

Terrain Crosses the Dark Peak area of the Peak District National Park and involves two large climbs totalling around 1700m of ascent. The trail follows tracks, stone flagged paths and rough rocky moorland paths

Highlights

The walk takes in some of the finest walking in the Dark Peak including Kinder Scout, Kinder Downfall and Bleaklow Summit. Wild Moors, huge skies and moorland birds for company.

A bed for the night

Crowden isn't a big place, but has a campsite, Youth Hostel and B&B's. Booking in advance is essential. Visit the accommodation pages on www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennineway

Food and drink

You need to be self sufficient on both days of this walk as there are no facilities en route. You can order packed lunches from the B&B's and Youth Hostel and there is a small shop at the campsite.

Catching trains

Trains run frequently to Edale from Sheffield and Manchester Picadilly, and to Marsden from Leeds and Manchester Picadilly. Check nationalrail.co.uk for details.

Following the trail

Whilst the route is signposted at major junctions you need to be able to read a map and in poor visibility navigate with a map and compass.

For more information

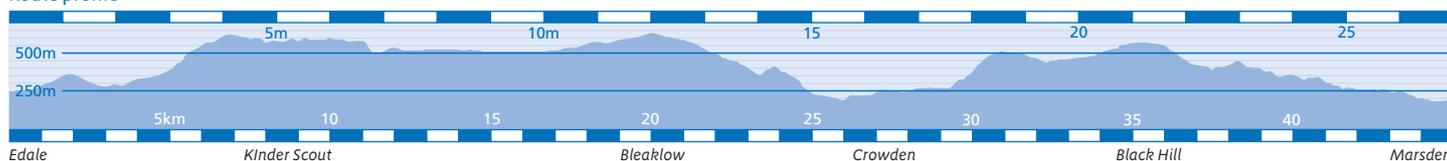
Yorkshire Dales
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

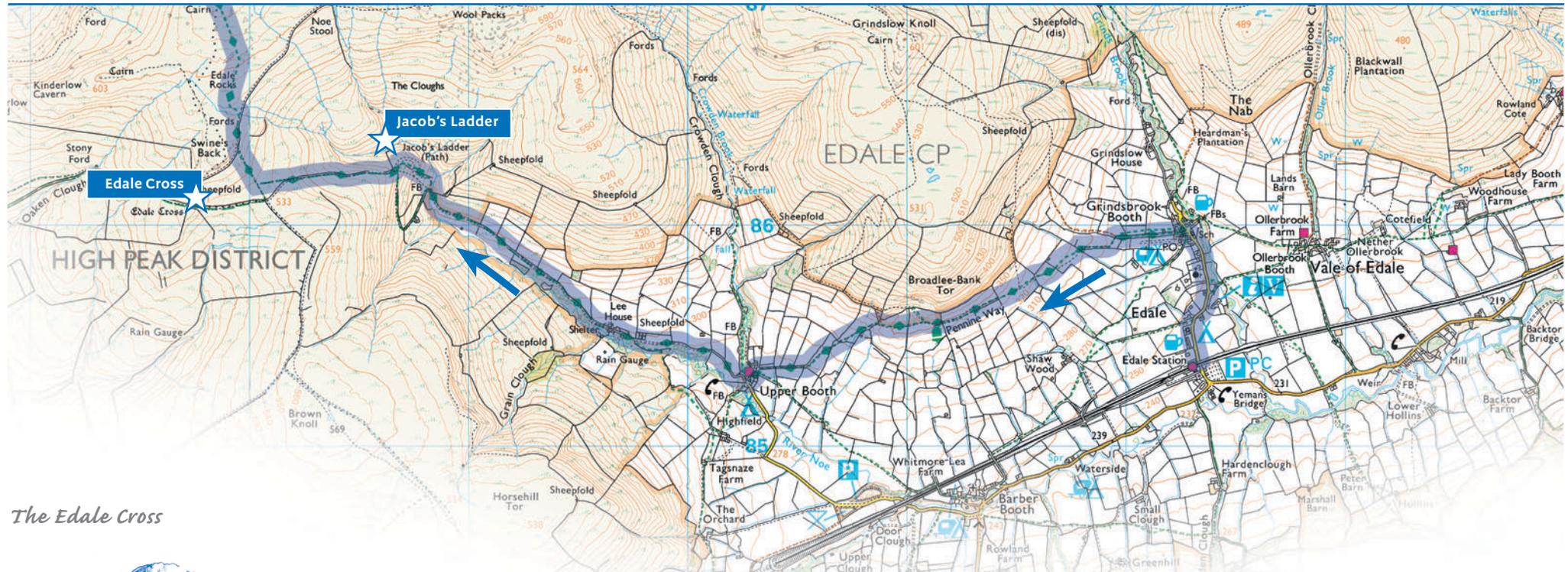
Pennine Way
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennineway

The Mountain Code

- Carry a map and compass and know how to use it.
- Know the weather signs and local forecast; plan within your capabilities.
- Know simple first aid and the symptoms of exposure
- Take waterproofs and a fleece.
- Ensure somebody knows your planned route.
- Keep alert all day.

Route profile





The Edale Cross



Jacob's Ladder
Named after Jacob Marshall, who created the stepped route on the packhorse route in the 18th Century. He provided an overnight stopping place for the pack horse drivers at the nearby now ruined Edale Head House. The drivers were known as 'jaggers' a name derived from the German 'jaegar' ponies they used.

Edale Cross
One of a number of stone crosses marking the boundary of the Royal Forest of the Peak – the hunting forest gifted to William Peveril by his father – William the Conqueror. The date on the cross, 1810, refers to the year it was re-erected.

Moorland Centre
(marked on map as visitor centre)
Located in Edale, this flagship centre of the Moors for the Future Partnership provides a national focus for moorland research and an inspirational experience for visitors to the Peak District National Park. The Moorland Centre's design and interactive exhibitions reflect its upland setting. It has a living roof of sedum turf, intersected by a waterfall tumbling over glass panels into a pool at the entrance. The turf acts as an eco-friendly insulator, and the building is fuelled by an energy saving ground-source heat pump.

Snake Pass

The summit of the A57 Snake Pass is 512m above sea level making it one of the first roads to be closed in the winter snows. The route was created as a Turnpike by Thomas Telford in 1821. The 'snake' in the name doesn't refer to the windy nature of the road, but rather the crest of the Duke of Devonshire.

The Doctor's Gate

Once an important thoroughfare before being replaced by the Snake Pass road. It is named after Dr John Talbot, vicar of Glossop (1494-1550), who often travelled the route on horseback.

Featherbed Moss

Once one of the most notorious boggy sections of the Pennine Way is now a stone flagged path which provides easy walking.

Europe's largest wader, the Curlew (numenius arquata) breeds widely on windswept Pennine uplands but moves to the coast in winter. Look out for the long down-curved bill and conspicuous white rump in flight.



Kinder Scout

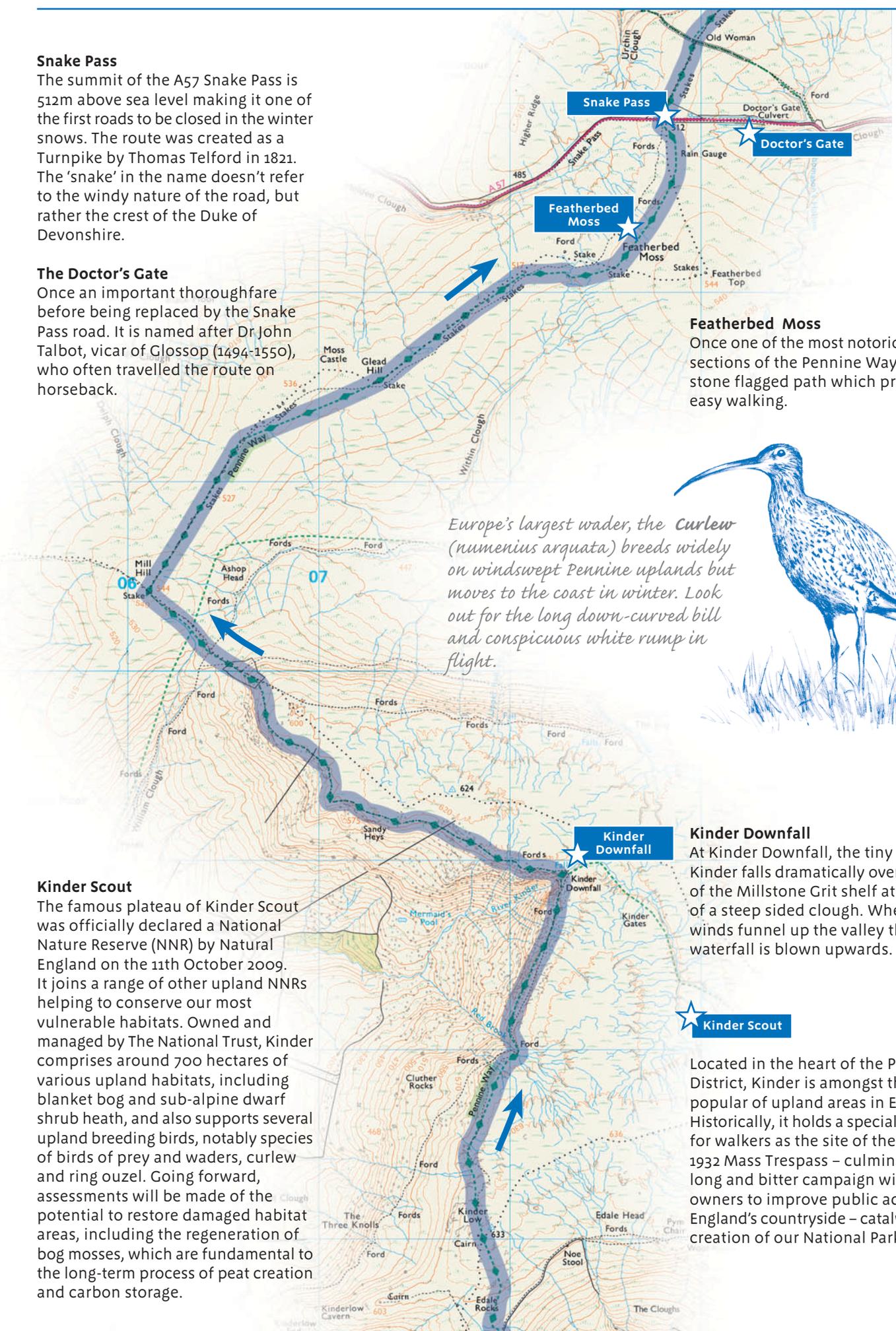
The famous plateau of Kinder Scout was officially declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR) by Natural England on the 11th October 2009. It joins a range of other upland NNRs helping to conserve our most vulnerable habitats. Owned and managed by The National Trust, Kinder comprises around 700 hectares of various upland habitats, including blanket bog and sub-alpine dwarf shrub heath, and also supports several upland breeding birds, notably species of birds of prey and waders, curlew and ring ouzel. Going forward, assessments will be made of the potential to restore damaged habitat areas, including the regeneration of bog mosses, which are fundamental to the long-term process of peat creation and carbon storage.

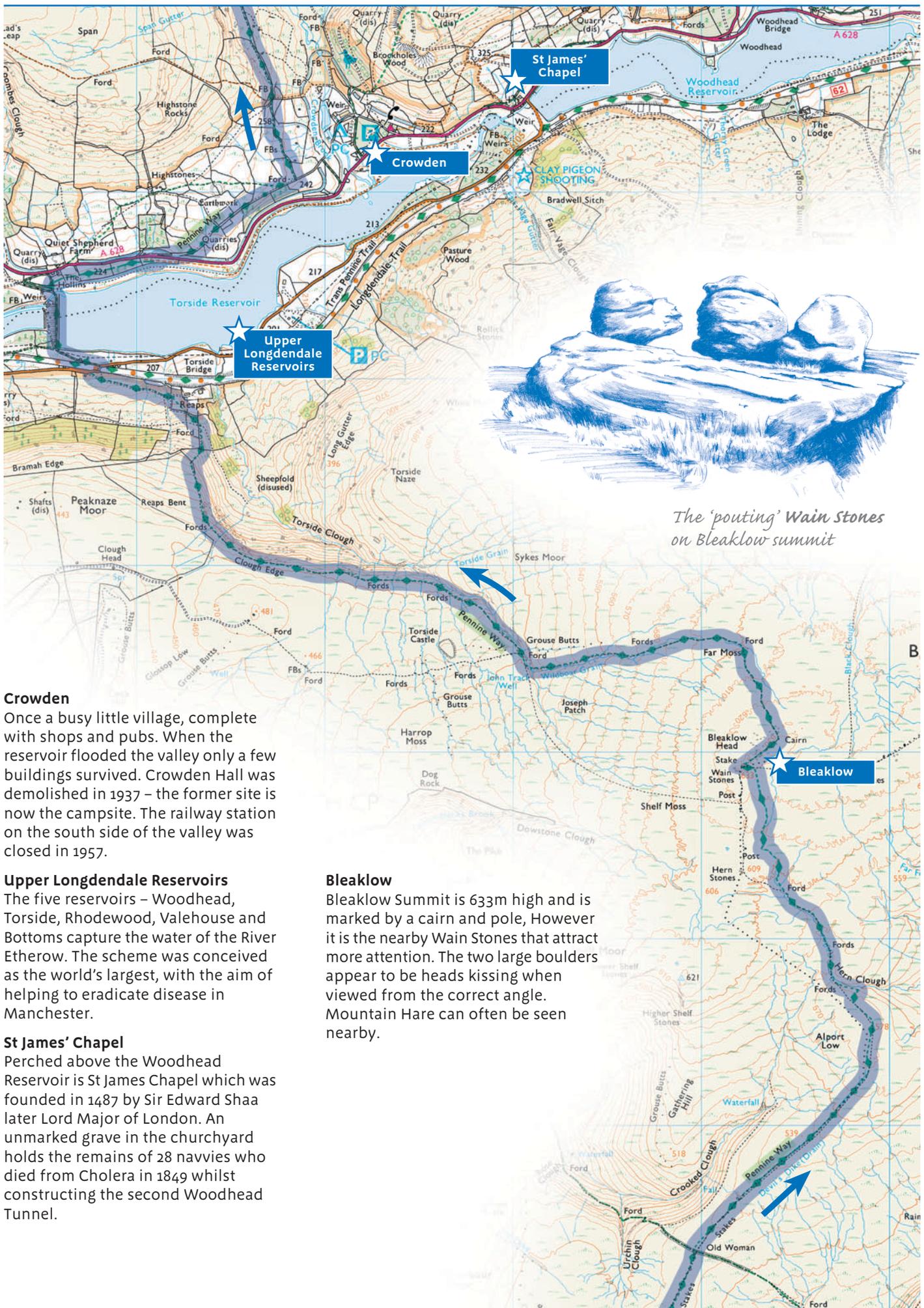
Kinder Downfall

At Kinder Downfall, the tiny River Kinder falls dramatically over the edge of the Millstone Grit shelf at the head of a steep sided clough. When strong winds funnel up the valley the waterfall is blown upwards.

Kinder Scout

Located in the heart of the Peak District, Kinder is amongst the most popular of upland areas in England. Historically, it holds a special affection for walkers as the site of the famous 1932 Mass Trespass – culmination of a long and bitter campaign with land owners to improve public access to England's countryside – catalyst for the creation of our National Parks.





Crowden

Once a busy little village, complete with shops and pubs. When the reservoir flooded the valley only a few buildings survived. Crowden Hall was demolished in 1937 – the former site is now the campsite. The railway station on the south side of the valley was closed in 1957.

Upper Longendale Reservoirs

The five reservoirs – Woodhead, Torside, Rhodewood, Valehouse and Bottoms capture the water of the River Etherow. The scheme was conceived as the world’s largest, with the aim of helping to eradicate disease in Manchester.

St James’ Chapel

Perched above the Woodhead Reservoir is St James Chapel which was founded in 1487 by Sir Edward Shaa later Lord Major of London. An unmarked grave in the churchyard holds the remains of 28 navvies who died from Cholera in 1849 whilst constructing the second Woodhead Tunnel.

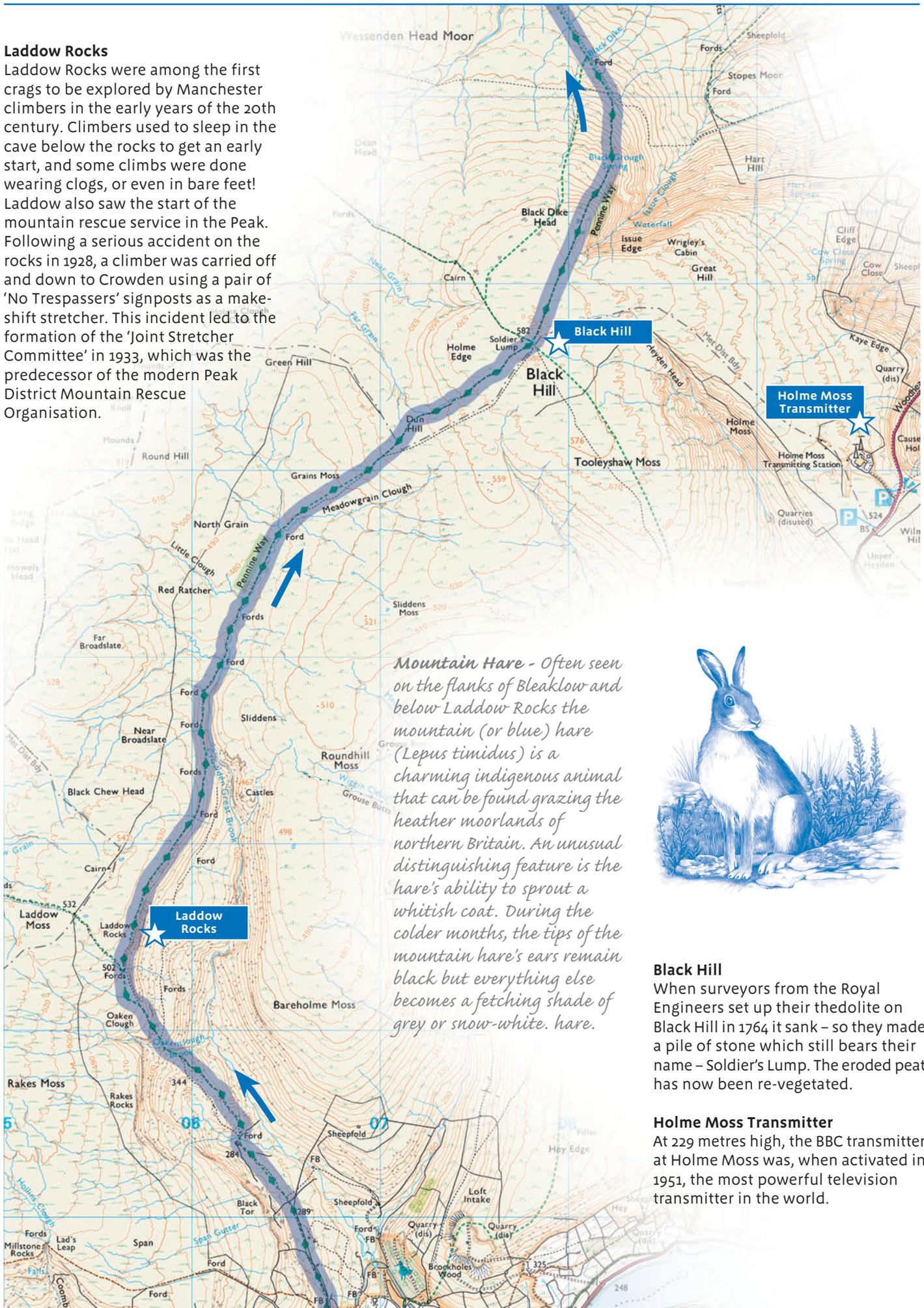
Bleaklow

Bleaklow Summit is 633m high and is marked by a cairn and pole, However it is the nearby Wain Stones that attract more attention. The two large boulders appear to be heads kissing when viewed from the correct angle. Mountain Hare can often be seen nearby.

The ‘pouting’ Wain Stones on Bleaklow summit

Laddow Rocks

Laddow Rocks were among the first crags to be explored by Manchester climbers in the early years of the 20th century. Climbers used to sleep in the cave below the rocks to get an early start, and some climbs were done wearing clogs, or even in bare feet! Laddow also saw the start of the mountain rescue service in the Peak. Following a serious accident on the rocks in 1928, a climber was carried off and down to Crowden using a pair of 'No Trespassers' signposts as a makeshift stretcher. This incident led to the formation of the 'Joint Stretcher Committee' in 1933, which was the predecessor of the modern Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation.



*Mountain Hare - Often seen on the flanks of Bleaklow and below Laddow Rocks the mountain (or blue) hare (*Lepus timidus*) is a charming indigenous animal that can be found grazing the heather moorlands of northern Britain. An unusual distinguishing feature is the hare's ability to sprout a whitish coat. During the colder months, the tips of the mountain hare's ears remain black but everything else becomes a fetching shade of grey or snow-white. hare.*

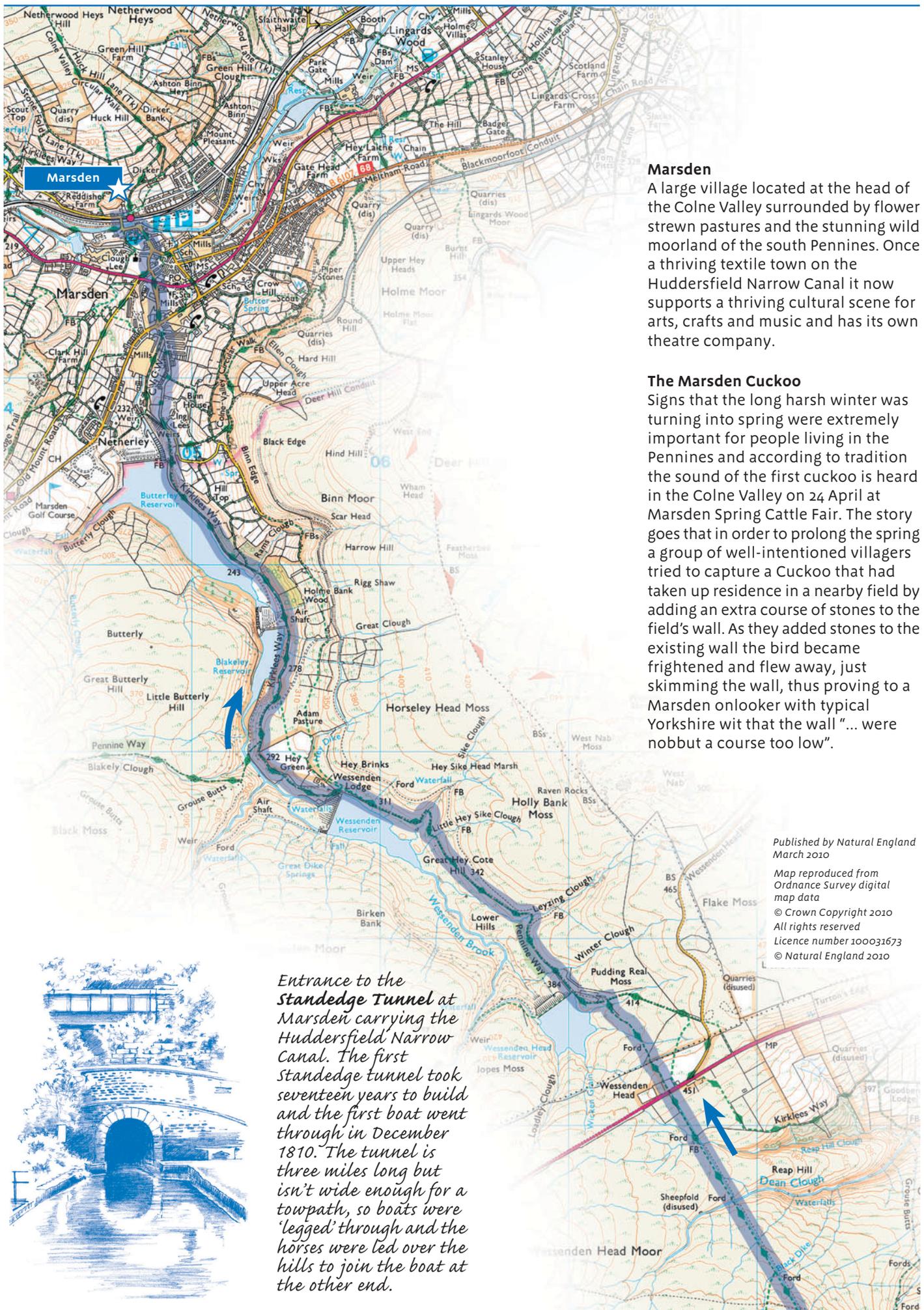


Black Hill

When surveyors from the Royal Engineers set up their theodolite on Black Hill in 1764 it sank – so they made a pile of stone which still bears their name – Soldier's Lump. The eroded peat has now been re-vegetated.

Holme Moss Transmitter

At 229 metres high, the BBC transmitter at Holme Moss was, when activated in 1951, the most powerful television transmitter in the world.



Marsden

A large village located at the head of the Colne Valley surrounded by flower strewn pastures and the stunning wild moorland of the south Pennines. Once a thriving textile town on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal it now supports a thriving cultural scene for arts, crafts and music and has its own theatre company.

The Marsden Cuckoo

Signs that the long harsh winter was turning into spring were extremely important for people living in the Pennines and according to tradition the sound of the first cuckoo is heard in the Colne Valley on 24 April at Marsden Spring Cattle Fair. The story goes that in order to prolong the spring a group of well-intentioned villagers tried to capture a Cuckoo that had taken up residence in a nearby field by adding an extra course of stones to the field's wall. As they added stones to the existing wall the bird became frightened and flew away, just skimming the wall, thus proving to a Marsden onlooker with typical Yorkshire wit that the wall "... were nobbut a course too low".

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Entrance to the Standedge Tunnel at Marsden carrying the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. The first Standedge tunnel took seventeen years to build and the first boat went through in December 1810. The tunnel is three miles long but isn't wide enough for a towpath, so boats were 'legged' through and the horses were led over the hills to join the boat at the other end.