

The Ladybower Dam

It's just a 3 mile gentle stroll .. Mostly. Starts the same as several other walks

Downhill from Blackberry and turn right into Victoria Road

Go right along to the end and left down a footpath (marked). On your right admire the allotment, full of amazing fruit and veg. Say "Hi" to David if he is working there.



2 things to be aware of as you head down the path

A) in the left hand garden you might meet Magic the black Labrador who is very bouncy and noisy but (to us anyway) very friendly



B) at the end is the road up to the mill; cars travel along this so exit with great care. Even though the Mill drivers themselves are very careful the exit onto the road is abrupt and a car travelling very sedately could be awkward.



Turn right up the road and then left by the enormous conker trees. If you are walking in the autumn and you have children with you; you could be some time here.

Left again in a few metres following the Touchstone Trail guide post down to the river, and.. The ducks are usually hungry so make sure you are adequately prepared

The stepping stones will be in some sort of (disrepair); could be a bit of a scramble unless they have been redone - they get washed away by flood water regularly however it doesn't usually take long for the appropriate authority to mend them again.



On the bridge you must stop and admire the FIRE touchstone.



Then it's across the field aiming towards Win Hill



At this point it's good to stop and ponder one of life's great countryside mysteries .. "Why do farmers always put the gate in the muddiest part of the field?"

Go past the barn, and through another gate; usually even muddier than the first.



Then angle left up the slippery muddy slope

At the top you will join the old railway track up to the dams

You could go straight on up towards Win Hill



Or left towards the garden centre

But this walk goes right along the track



If you really do need to get your breath back



Just keep walking along the track past the Earth touchstone and onwards;

keep looking right to get great views over the valley and up to



Bamford Edge; where Dinosaur Quarry is located.

And if it's the right time of year then admire the wild flowers.

Keep going and eventually the track crosses the minor road between



Thornhill and Yorkshire bridge. On this second part of the track you soon come to a dark and gloomy place; the steps down to the right lead to

Yorkshire Bridge and left would take you up a very steep and rocky path up to Win Hill.



The track joins a tarmac lane, keep heading uphill and admire the dam wall.

For the millennium, Jenny wanted to get a 'white horse' cut



into this grassy slope but couldn't get permission! When we went past, grass cutting was half done;

I would have liked to see the machine in

operation to understand how such a steep slope is manicured.





On reaching the dam, have a look over the wall at the overflow. When there is a lot of water around the flow down this is spectacular. Walk across



the dam wall, sadly you have to watch where you are putting your feet as we do

have some careless, arrogant, thoughtless dog owners in the area. At the end of the wall there is a clear path angling down to the right which we take; much preferable to walking back along the road into Bamford.. If you are walking this path in the autumn there should be a good crop of blackberries.



There are several small paths off to the right and left, all worth exploring and then back to the main path.

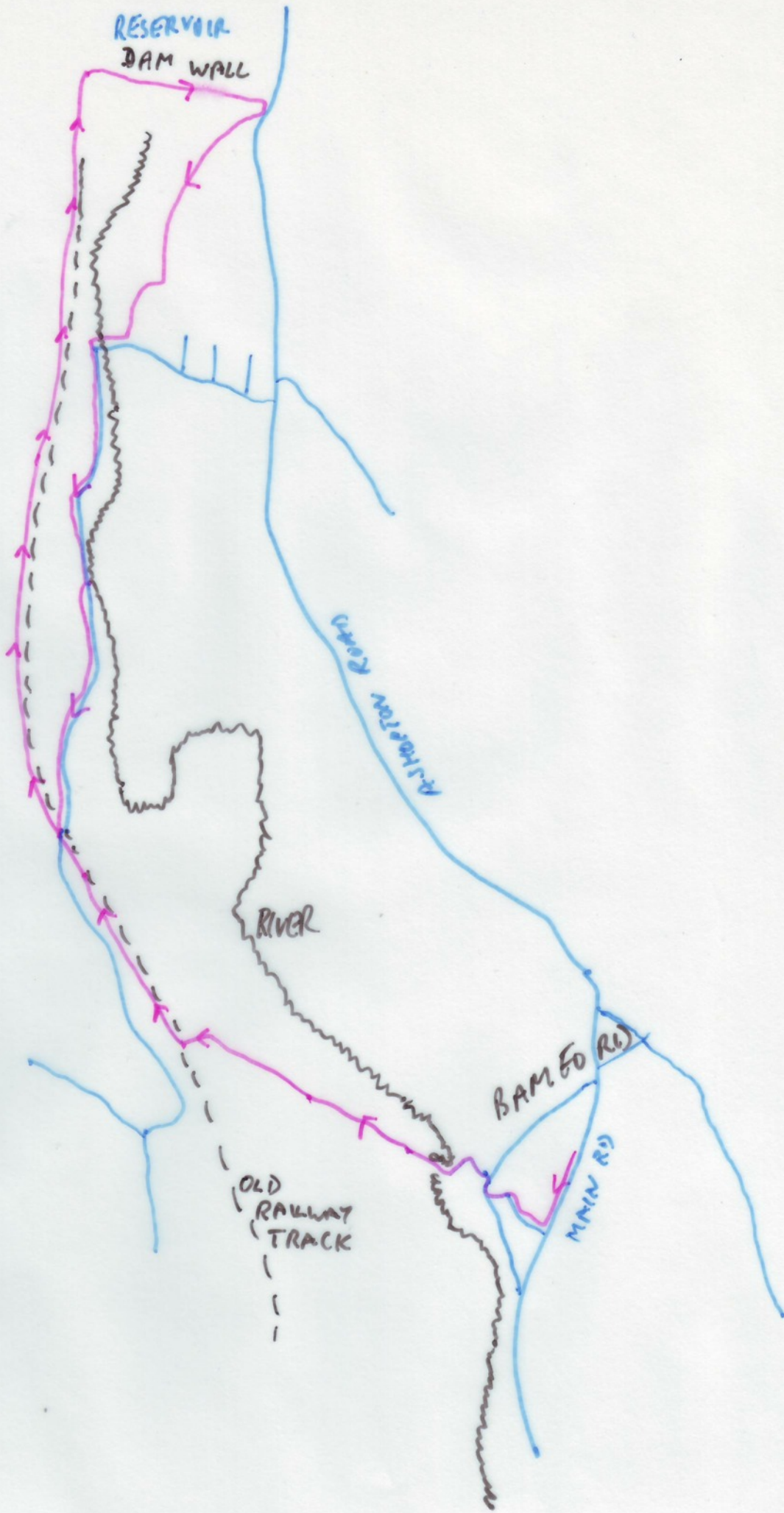
Near the bottom of



the path, detour right down to the river to look at the whale like ridge in the river; there's a sign to explain what it's all about.



Soon you will meet the tarmac lane, turn right and follow this, watching out for the occasional vehicle, until you get back to where the track crossed over the road previously; then follow your own footsteps back - being careful not to miss the turn off the old railway track towards the mill



RESERVOIR
DAM WALL

ALTERNATE ROAD

RIVER

BAMFO RD

MAIN RD

OLD
RAILWAY
TRACK