

Exploring Greater Manchester

a fieldwork guide

Web edition edited by Paul Hindle



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4.2 Wayfinding and map design: mountain map navigation

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Aims: A comparative exercise examining how different map designs perform as wayfinding aids, and exploring the reasons for these differences. Groups plan a route using different maps, and evaluate the performance of these products in the context of a day's hill walk.

Starting point: Chinley Station.

Estimated time: Full day.

Distance: 8 miles (13 kilometres).

Advice: Check weather forecast, do not leave the group, observe the Country Code, know emergency procedures in event of accident.

Equipment needed: walking boots, waterproof clothing, first aid kit.

Maps:

Harvey Maps: *Superwalker 1:25 000 Map Dark Peak North and South sheet,*

Ordnance Survey: *1:25,000 Explorer OL Sheet 1 Dark Peak.*

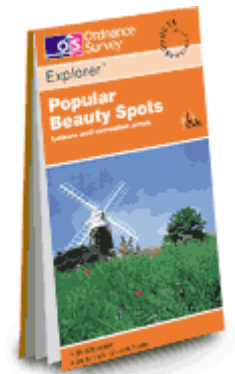
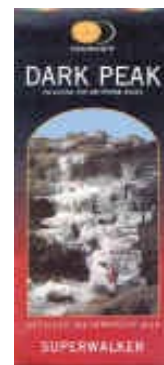
Further reading:

Crampton, J (1992) A cognitive analysis of way finding expertise *Cartographica* 29 (3-4) 46-65

Perkins, C.R. (1992) Mountain mapping *The Alpine Journal* 1992/3

Potash, L. M., Farrell, J. P. and Jeffrey, T. (1978) A technique for assessing map relief legibility *The Cartographic Journal* 15 28-35

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Background notes

It is safer to carry out this exercise in groups (a minimum of four is best for safety reasons).

Read the three articles cited in the bibliography.



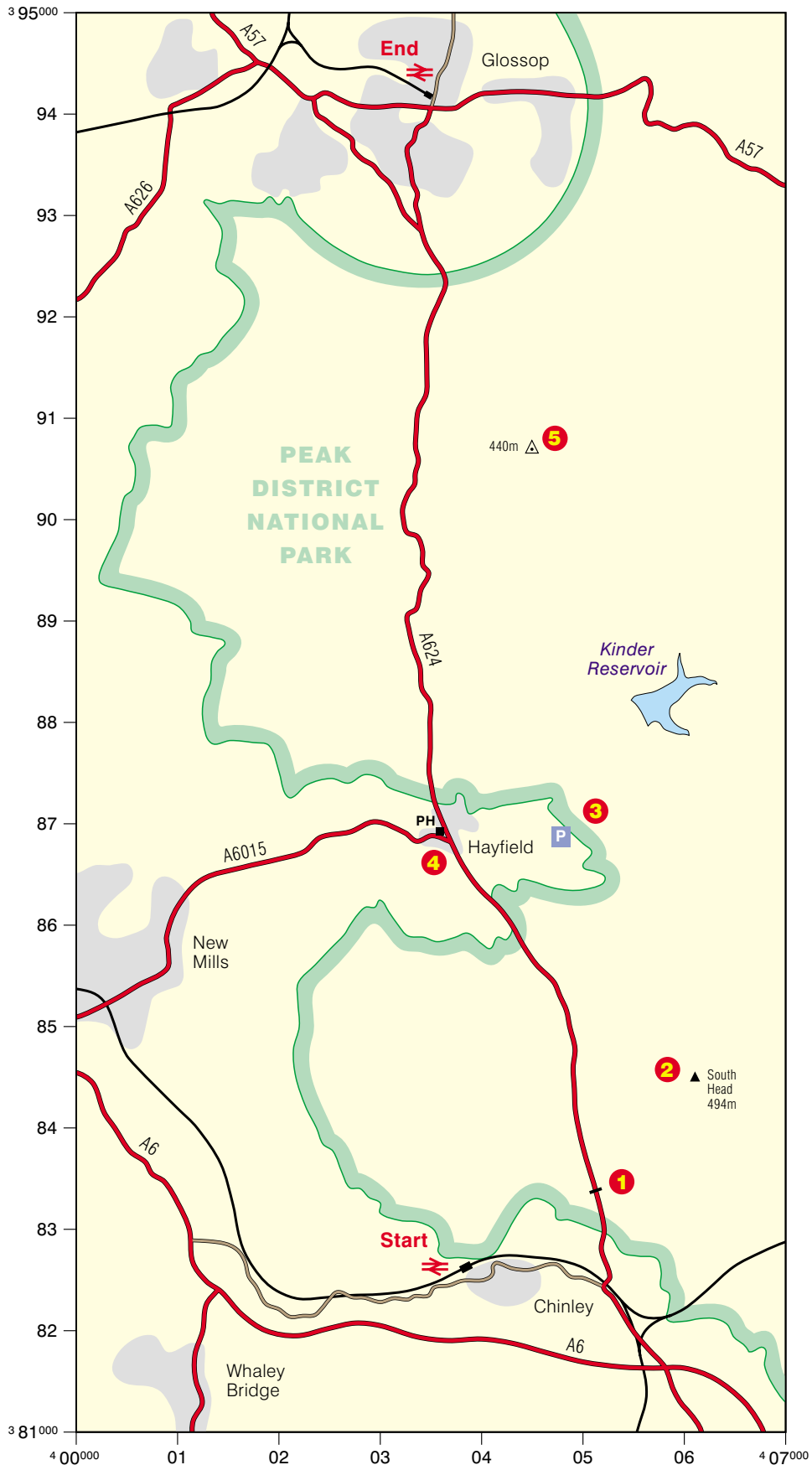
Commemorative plaque in Quarry car park (site 3).

Before you go

- define the type of walk you would like, considering features such as relief, path conditions, length, scenic features.
- study both of the maps, a Harvey Walkers Map and an OS Explorer Outdoor Leisure, and decide which one to use for navigation (lead map) – the second map is for comparison.
- plan a route to include each of the listed grid references, using the lead map.
- list every navigational feature on the planned route, and the decisions that will need to be taken, in the field, as suggested by the same map, such as: uphill for 250 metres, getting steeper, wood on right, stream on left, go to path junction, turn left, cross marsh.
- make a separate list of points on the route where difficult navigational decisions might arise.
- prepare a second set of information as in (d) and (e) for the same route using the other map.

Fieldwork route

Start	Station car park	SK 038825	3	Quarry car park	SK 048869
1	Stile over wall onto pavement	SK 052834	4	Public House	SK 036869
2	Summit	SK 061845	5	Trig point	SK 045907
			End	Station car park	SK 036942



On the walk

Follow the planned route. During the walk one person should record every navigational decision made by the group, in response to the conditions on the ground.



Possible route may follow clearly marked footpaths.

Post fieldwork

Compare your route choice with that taken by a group who used a different lead map. Evaluate the representation of the route on both maps; with reference to the actual route in the field. Include a self-evaluation of your navigational abilities against Crampton's criteria.



Gritstone edges are typical of the terrain.



Off-path route may involve traversing steep-sided gullies.