



The route over Bigstone is 10km (6.25 miles) with 350m climb. The highest point is 450m so it's another good option when looking for a comparatively short run, if conditions are such that you don't want to do anything higher or longer.

There are options to extend the run by going up the Pennine bridleway and back over South Head & Mount Famine to re-join the route as it returns along the Dragon's Back. This increases the distance to 12.8km (8 miles) and around 490m climb, with the highest point on the route now 494m.

Turn left out of the Royal car park **(1)** then turn right past the Church and over the pedestrian crossing. Follow the path round the edge of the bus station to the Sett Valley Trail and run along here for around a mile. At the path crossroads, immediately after the fishing lakes, turn left up to Hayfield Road **(2)**.

Cross the main road and head up Moorlands. Go straight on through the gate and continue up the track to the junction at the top **(3)**.

Go through the gate to your right and follow the track between the two stone walls. It's often extremely muddy along here. When you get to the signpost at the top of New Allotments, turn left and continue over the top of the hill and down to the stile. Across the stile and follow the path to Bigstone **(4)**.

Drop down steeply on the left side of the rocks and follow the small trod down to the path below. Turn left and follow this through the fields to join the large track to Peep O'day and turn left at the main road. Cross the road and, after around 100m, turn right onto another track. Follow this to the off-set crossroads at the top **(5)**.

From here, to do the short route, turn right then immediately left through the gate and follow the Pennine bridleway to the next gate **(8)**.

To do the longer route, turn right and continue up the hill, through two gates, and follow the track round below South Head to where a small trod crosses it **(6)**. Turn right and ascend South Head, go over the top, back down and across the bridleway to join the path up Famine. Cross the stile at the top **(7)** and continue along the wall to the steep descent that brings you down, over the ladder stile, and back to join the shorter route by the gate **(8)**.

From here, turn left if you've come along the shorter route or go straight on if you've come down from Famine, and ascend the path that follows the wall along the Dragon's Back. Continue to the wall corner before going straight on, along a small trod that drops down to Christine's Gate **(9)**. Go through the gate and follow the bridleway down the hill and back into Hayfield.
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