

# Crowden

## Site Information



To be read in conjunction with Education Visits or Engagement Events risk assessment

**Site: Crowden**

**Site details:** Crowden Valley, used mainly for school visits, both Primary (River Study, Mountain Environment) and Secondary (Hydrology). Guided walks and family activities may also take place here.

**Meeting point:** Crowden Car Park

***Nb. The car park is used as meeting point and introductory activities, but the main part of the day takes place further up the valley, around the footbridge over Crowden Little Brook.***

**Car Park grid ref:** SK 0729 9936. **Postcode:** SK13 1HZ **What 3 Words:** porch.nibbled.gambles

**Main river site grid ref:** SK 0696 9989 **What 3 Words:** group.reverses.muddle

**Mobile phone signal – Poor**

(intermittent at car park; best signal is on the reservoir side of main road. No signal at main river study site.)

**Nearest landlines:** Crowden Outdoor Education Centre; Campsite office (March- October).

**Nearest A + E:** Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care unit (Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 9RW)

**Nearest minor injury unit:** as above.

**Nearest PDNP office/base** Longdendale, tel: 01457 855487

***All PDNP leaders have more emergency contact details of other colleagues/centres etc on laminated cards on their rucksack.***

### Specific Advice / Information

**PDNP leaders are provided with and must wear PPE including; Waterproof clothing (when appropriate); Walking boots/shoes**

School/ other groups are advised (when booking) to bring warm and water proof clothing + outdoor footwear for their visit.

In the summer months, there may be midges; staff and participants may wish to apply insect repellent before visiting.

## General Description of site

The Crowden Valley is an upland area of rough grassland and moorland, with two rivers in the valley. There is little tree cover, so the area is exposed to both sunlight and wind/rain depending on the weather. Once at the river site, there is little shelter, so it is very important that groups dress correctly (see notes on appropriate clothing), and bring suncream and drinking water in summer. The photos below give a general view of the terrain, the route taken by most groups and some specific risks.



After leaving the car park, access to the river is along an old farm track. The surface is generally solid, but uneven, and there can be large puddles in places.



The river is generally not deeper than about 60cm (and much shallower in places), but there are deeper sections; Peak District staff are aware of these and will inform participants of safe areas. Water levels swell in response to rainfall, and the river may become considerably deeper and extremely fast flowing after wet weather. Again, leaders will judge the risk of this, and decide if it is safe for the group to enter.



Groups may cross this stile (though there is also a gate that can be used).



Climbing above the floodplain, the track remains solid but uneven. There may be loose rocks at the edges

## Lunchtime Information

In good weather, groups will remain outdoors for a picnic lunch. There are no handwashing facilities, so teachers/group leaders may wish to bring their own hand sanitiser. In bad weather, school groups will return to Longdendale Environmental Centre for lunch.

## Toilet facilities

There is a small toilet block at Crowden car park, also open to the public. This includes an accessible toilet (radar key access).

**Car/Coach Parking**

A public car park is provided at Crowden, just off the A628. Turning space can be limited, so coaches are encouraged to park on the wide access road to the car park, immediately after turning in off the main road. There is room for them to make a three-point turn here. The car park is not gritted, so is inaccessible in icy weather.

**Distance/timing between important site locations**

The distance between the car park and the footbridge over the river is about 1.5km, or 15 minutes walk for the average group. On river study days, groups may split into smaller subgroups for different activities, each with a PDNP leader, but these groups should all be in sight of each other around the floodplain area. group. Hydrology groups walk about 1km further, to the bridge over Crowden Great Brook.

**Site Information written by & date: Matthew Ross 20/01/2020**

**Reviewed by and date:**