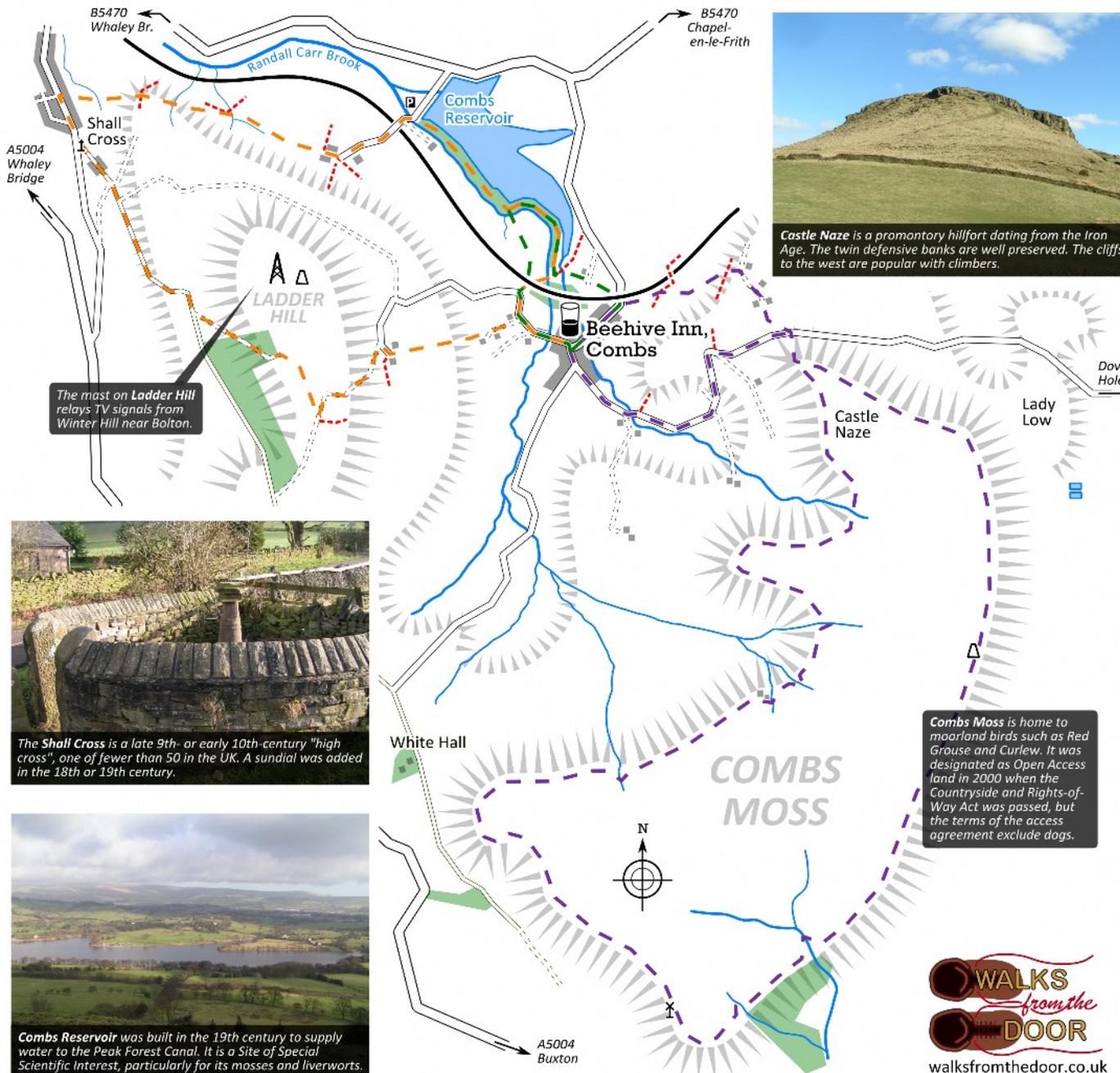


Three walks from The Beehive Inn Combs, Derbyshire



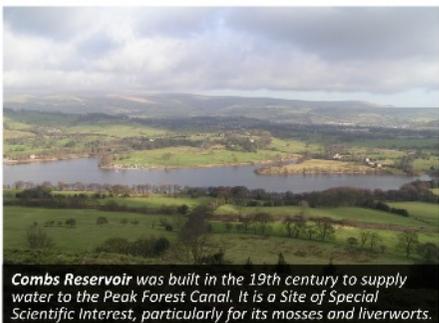
Castle Naze is a promontory hillfort dating from the Iron Age. The twin defensive banks are well preserved. The cliffs to the west are popular with climbers.



The mast on Ladder Hill relays TV signals from Winter Hill near Bolton.



The Shall Cross is a late 9th- or early 10th-century "high cross", one of fewer than 50 in the UK. A sundial was added in the 18th or 19th century.



Combs Reservoir was built in the 19th century to supply water to the Peak Forest Canal. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, particularly for its mosses and liverworts.

Combs Moss is home to moorland birds such as Red Grouse and Curlew. It was designated as Open Access land in 2000 when the Countryside and Rights-of-Way Act was passed, but the terms of the access agreement exclude dogs.



Combs village and Reservoir 1½ miles: Easy

A short, mostly level stroll round the village and its idyllic wooded reservoir. Allow 1 hour.

Ladder Hill & Combs Reservoir 4¾ miles: Moderate

A rewarding walk with superb views. Allow 2–3 hours.

Combs Moss circuit 9 miles: Strenuous

A scenic circuit of the little-known plateau of Combs Moss, featuring the imposing Castle Naze hillfort. Allow 4–5 hrs.

THE BEEHIVE INN

Combs, High Peak, Derbyshire. SK23 9UT

Mon–Sat: open 11am–11pm, food 12–2pm and 6–9pm

Sun: open 12 noon–10.30pm, food 12 noon–9pm

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Combs village and reservoir

1½ miles: Easy

Not recommended after prolonged wet weather, when footpaths near the reservoir may be very muddy or even impassable. Mostly level. Allow 1 hour.

1 Leave the Beehive and turn right. Ignore the no-through road on your right and keep along the main lane, passing a farm building with a high open archway, and crossing a stream after 100 yards or so. **2** Pass two farm entrances on your left, then take a footpath on the right to pass under a railway arch. Follow the right-hand edge of the field beyond. **3** As the field narrows, cross diagonally to a stone stile on the far side between two holly trees. **4** Head diagonally across the next field and pass through a gap to the right of some more hollies near the far corner. **5** Head diagonally left to reach a footbridge. Cross the stream and turn right. **6** Follow the path upstream with the reservoir on your left. **7** Beyond a gate the path opens out, and leaves the immediate streamside, now with another stream to the left. **8** Leave the original stream and cross a footbridge over the left-hand stream. Turn right and walk uphill. **9** Pass through a gap in the hedge and head to the right of a tumbledown barn beyond. **10** Cross the farm drive and the stone stile opposite. **11** Head across the next field to reach a gate into the road by the railway bridge. **12** Turn right under the bridge and follow the road ahead back to the Beehive.

Ladder Hill & Combs Reservoir

4¾ miles: Moderate

One stiff ascent; this section and the path alongside the reservoir may be very muddy after wet weather. Allow 2–3 hours.

1 Leave the Beehive and turn right. Ignore the no-through road on your right and keep along the main lane, passing a farm building with a high open archway, and crossing a stream after 100 yards or so. **2** Ignore the first farm entrance but take the second (Lower Thorny Lee Farm), with a footpath sign. (In very wet weather you might find it easier to keep to the road, rejoining the described route at point 5 below.) At the farm buildings keep right through a field gate. **3** The path enters open fields and heads uphill, keeping to the right-hand wall in successive fields. **4** As you approach the next farm, pass through a field gate and along a walled track between farmhouse and barn to reach the end of a public road. **5** Take the signposted track on the left which climbs gradually uphill, with a craggy slope on your right. **6** Shortly after a water trough within an L-shaped wall, double-back to your right, on a footpath through scattered gorse past a Peak and Northern Footpaths Society sign and into open pasture. **7** Aim slightly left of the TV mast and, once over the brow of the hill, head towards the far corner of the field. **8** Pass through a gate by a grove of beech trees and follow the track beyond. **9** The track descends through woodland then fields to meet a metalled lane; turn right. **10** Follow

the road, generally downhill, for ½ mile, passing Elnor Hill Farm and the Elnor Cross (in a walled enclosure on your left at a road junction).

11 Beyond, opposite the entrance to Shallcross Road on your left, take a signposted footpath on your right that descends to cross a small stream. **12** Climb the hill beyond then follow the field edge beyond. **13** Having crossed another small stream, the path heads half-left down the slope. **14** At the end of this field, beyond a well, pass through a narrow gate and continue along the field edge beyond with views over Combs Reservoir, until you reach a track that leads to Tunstead Farm. **15** After passing between farm buildings on each side, turn left down the metalled road. **16** Cross the railway then the canal feeder and turn immediately right into the reservoir compound. **17** Follow the path between the reservoir (on your left) and the canal feeder (on your right) for ¾ mile, ignoring a footbridge on your right to keep to the reservoir when stream and path bend left. **18** At the end of the reservoir, cross the stream via a footbridge on your right and follow the path beyond to pass under a railway arch. **19** Rejoin the metalled road and turn left to return to the Combs and the Beehive.

Combs Moss circuit

9 miles: Strenuous

A serious excursion over peat moorland with a long opening ascent and rocky or boggy sections, though the path round the plateau edge is generally level and the views are spectacular. Do not attempt in bad weather. No dogs are permitted on Combs Moss. Allow 4–5 hours.

1 Turn left out of the pub and walk down the road to the railway bridge. **2** Just before the bridge follow a footpath on the right between the railway and an adjoining property. **3** After about 200 yards, negotiate a stile on your right and cross a couple of paddocks. **4** Walk uphill briefly then turn half-left and follow an obvious path that climbs the slope obliquely. **5** At the top of the field ignore a stile on your left, instead passing through the gate ahead of you. Walk right up the field to a stile into a farm lane. **6** Turn right up the farm drive, passing the gates of Bank Hall and then passing between farm buildings. **7** Beyond the farm, take the right-hand of two field gates and walk up the field edge beyond to a narrow lane. **8** Cross the lane and stile opposite and climb the steep slope to Castle Naze, picking your way through the rocks at the top. **9** Turn left and follow the wall round the Naze, crossing a stile with the double bank of the hillfort to your right. **10** Follow the edge path beyond to reach a further stile at the end of a wall. **11** At a minor summit the path leaves the plateau's edge to pass through the heather to the right for a short distance before rejoining the edge. **12** Keep on above the crags of Hob Tor, passing the end of a broken wall leading across the moor on your right. **13** Now accompanied by a wall, the edge path continues to the trig point on Black Edge. **14** Beyond the trig point the path continues to follow the wall in similar fashion, passing the low ruins of a stone building by the end of another broken wall across the moor. **15** The path descends, still following the wall, with the TV mast on Brown Edge

away to your left. **16** As you approach the rocky cleft of Flint Clough, the path bears right to cross the stream, before heading back to the moor edge, now with open woodland beyond the wall on your left. **17** At a stream crossing the woodland ends; continue along the wall, turning right shortly before passing a small wind turbine. **18** Keep along the top of the crags as the wall departs to pass below them and then rises to rejoin the path. **19** When the route reaches the southwest corner of the moor (overlooking the White Hall Outdoor Education Centre surrounded by trees) turn right (northeast), and follow the wall as before, before dropping to cross a clough. **20** Rejoin the wall and follow it to a stone-built shooting hut and adjacent shelter, beyond which you cross two minor streams, the path becoming a shooters' track. **21** After a third stream crossing, *do not* follow the obvious track down the valley, but keep to the edge, now with the familiar wall on your right, passing above a line of prominent crags. **22** The path swings right, still with crags on your left and the wall on your right, down to a final stream crossing. **23** Shortly afterwards, the tumbledown wall is met by another rising from the left, which you cross via a stile, remaining outside the edge wall as you approach the climbers' crags of Castle Naze. **24** Descend from Castle Naze by the same route you ascended, to reach the metalled road. **25** Turn left and follow the lane downhill for a mile back to Combs and the Beehive.



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