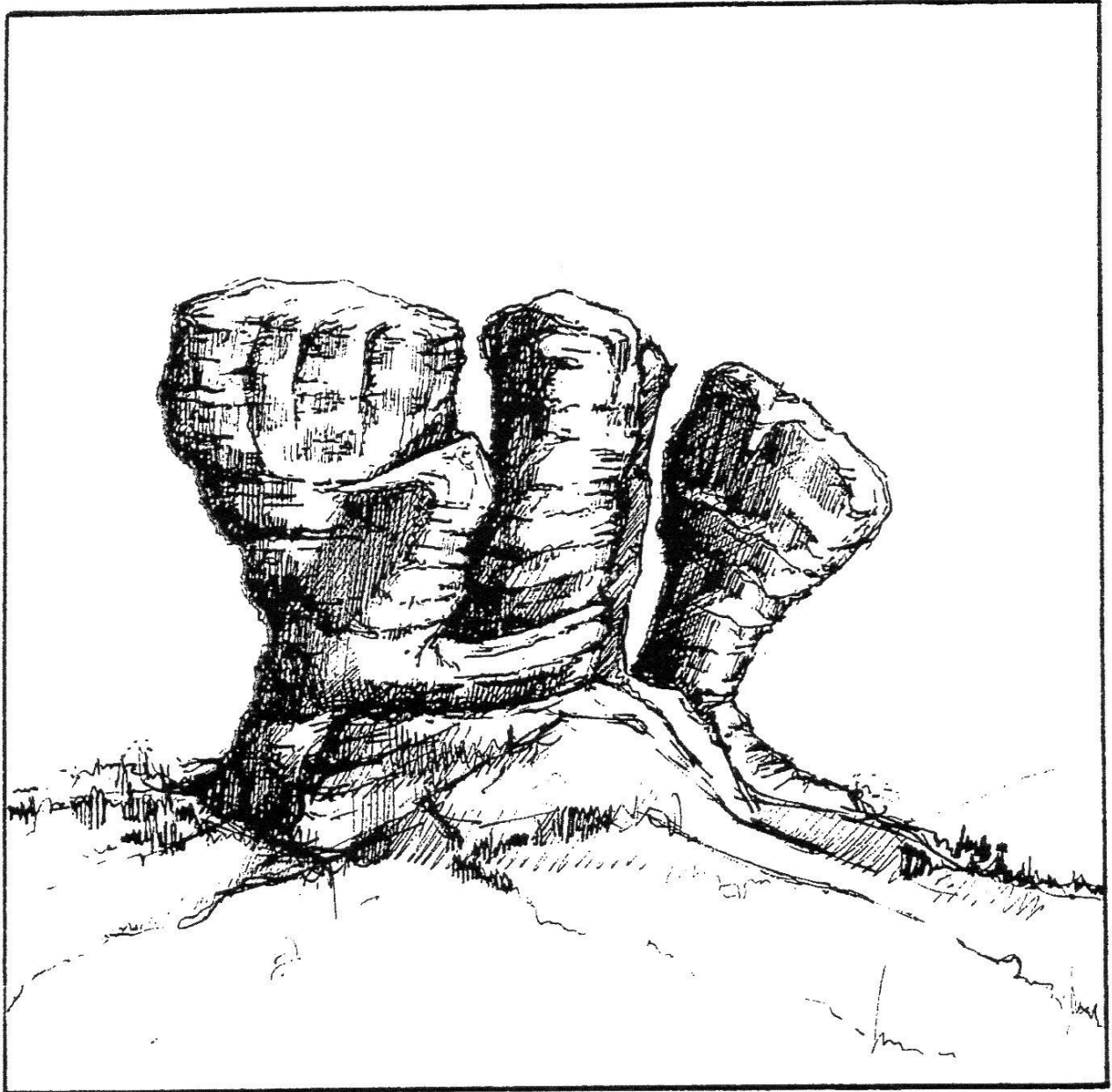


KINDER KILLER



Ken Jones

A 33-MILE CHALLENGE WALK
IN THE DARK PEAK.

DEvised AND INAUGURATED

BY

KEN JONES IN JULY 2002

THE KINDER KILLER

Kinder Scout is the most impressive mountain in the Peak District. It has the highest summit at 2,088ft. which is surrounded by a complex system of convoluted ridges and valleys that tumble down in all directions. The edges of the summit plateau abound in precipitous rocky escarpments along with uniquely shaped and individually named stones. It also boasts three trig points and the dramatic downfall which sits majestically at the head of a valley and provides spectacular viewing in winter during high winds or frozen snowy conditions. Surrounded by huge valleys such as the Vale of Edale, Ashop and William Clough, and the Hayfield valley, a varied and ever changing vista is guaranteed. Rarely are the views the same as the light source and weather interact with the hills culminating in a myriad of colours and textures. It never fails to surprise and enthrall.

The Kinder Killer was created as the ultimate outing on this fine mountain. The concept was simply to include the most aesthetic and attractive lines on offer by exploring all the major paths that wind their way up, down and around this 'Jewel of the Peak'. All the deep valleys together with the high ridges, which plunge down from the summit plateau are systematically climbed. Many are well known, but included are some delightful surprises, especially the scrambling alternatives in Grindsbrook, Jagers and Blackden Clough. These rocky sections are in rugged narrow cloughs clambering up boulder chokes amongst cascading waterfalls. They are quite unique, reminiscent of ghyll climbing in the Lake District and can be made as easy or as difficult as one wishes. Easier alternatives are always possible to the sides of the cloughs if the volume of water makes it unsafe, or for the faint-hearted. Connecting these valleys and ridges are pleasant traverses around the base or outer rim of the summit plateau, which provide both fine views and respite from the ascents. This grand tour involves 9,000ft. of ascent over 33 miles encompassing the finest and best the mountain has to offer.

The original intention was for the walk to be tackled as one long outing making it a demanding proposition. However the geographical structure of Kinder provides the ideal opportunity to divide it into two smaller walks if required. Between Blackden Clough and Nether Tor, one can easily and quickly cross the narrowest section of the plateau to link the Snake Valley with Edale. There is also the alternative of starting the walk from the Snake Inn, and stopping off at the Nag's Head or Edale campsite café for food and drink half way round.

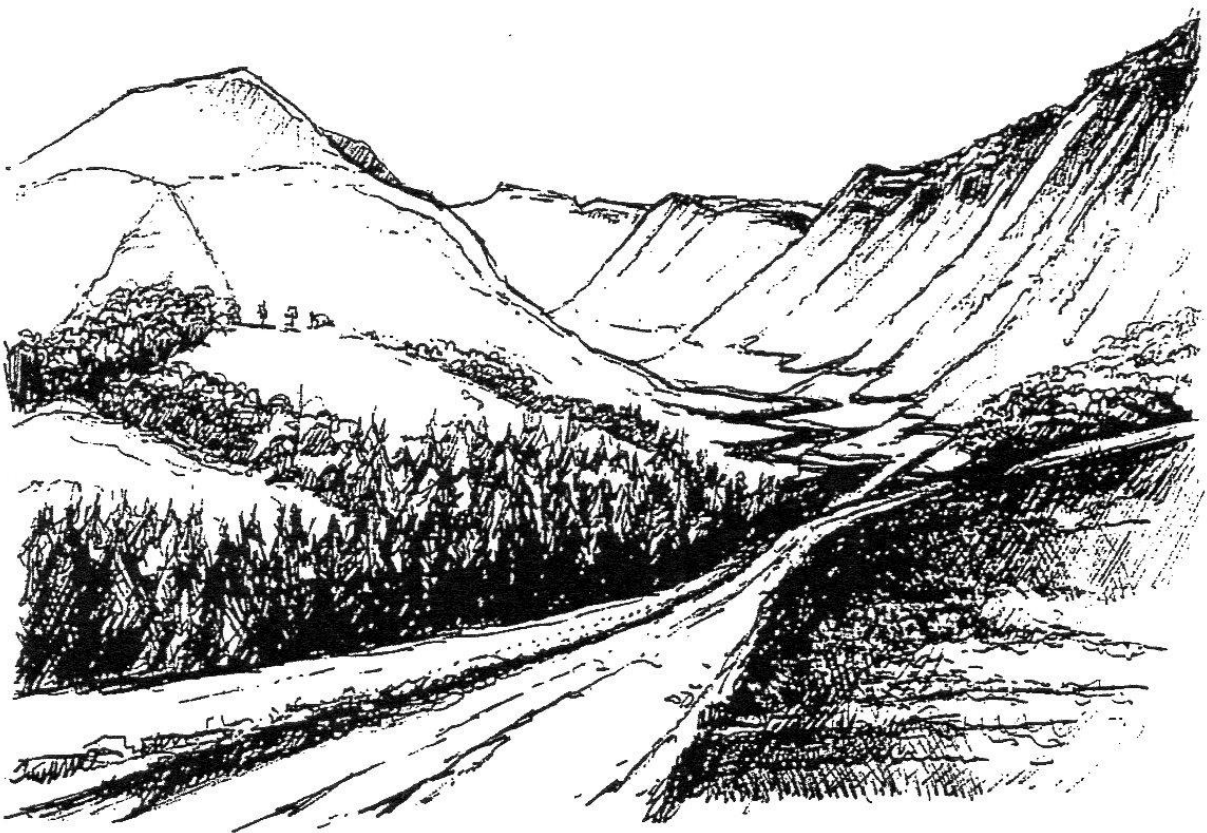
KINDER KILLER - GRID REFERENCES

Edale, Nag's Head	123860
Grindsbrook Clough	
Harstshorn	
Ringing Roger	127875
(Kinder East Trig - optional)	129878
Druid's Stone	135875
Rowland Cote YHA	140866
Gate/Ford (Jaggers Clough)	154873
Jaggers Clough	
Crookstone Moor	
Crookstone Gate/Roman Road	159879
Upper Ashop Farm	143891
Blackden Access Point	131893
Blackden Brook	
Seal Stones	116888
Gate Side Clough	
Sheepfold/River, base of Fair Brook	114900
Fair Brook	
Fairbrook Naze	097898
The Edge	
(Sandey Heys Trig - optional)	077893
Ashop Head, sign post	063902
William Clough	
Kinder Reservoir, wooden bridge	059888
River Kinder	
Kinder Downfall	083889
Kinderlow Trig	079871
Kinderlow, gate/stile	067866
Edale Cross	077861
Jacob's Ladder	
Youngate bridge	088861
Woolpacks	091869
Crowden Tower	094871
Crowden Clough	
Crowden Clough, path junction	102863
Broadlee, access point	019856
Grindslow Knoll	110868
Edale, Nag's Head	123860

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The following description is only a rough guide and must be used in conjunction with the OS 1:25000 Dark Peak Map.

Starting from the Nag's Head in Edale, head N out of the village, then R down a 'cutting' to cross over bridge and onto paved path leading up Grindsbrook Clough. Follow beside stream easily at first until it gets steeper near the head of the valley and two streams converge at GR 107872, (below Fox Holes). Leave the main path and cross stream to follow the R branch heading N, (this is much quieter and also shorter than the L branch). Continue until progress in the riverbed becomes increasingly problematic and scrambling is required up rocks to gain the top. In very wet conditions this final section may be extremely difficult, in which case it is more prudent to escape up any of the short rocky gullies on the R.



At the top, turn R and follow Kinder Edge path passing above Hartshorn and Nether Tor to reach the summit cairn of Ringing Roger. A deviation on this next section may be made to visit Kinder East Trig on the way to the Druid's Stone. Continue around path until almost above Roland Cote YHA, nestling deep in the valley below. Above you the Druid's Stone suddenly appears, silhouetted on the

skyline above. Make the short ascent to visit this famous stone, then return to cross the main path and seek the faint track (not obvious) descending down L into the head of Lady Booth Brook, or simply follow the easiest line trending L. On reaching the brook follow the obvious path to its R down to the YHA.

Just before entering the hostel grounds turn L through gate and over bridge to follow path contouring around the hillside passing above Clough Farm. This undulates a number of times before arriving at the gate/ford of Jaggers Clough.

Turn L leaving the main thoroughfare and ascend Jaggers Clough. Once again some sporting scrambling (easy but rather entertaining if wet), leads you back to the summit plateau. Turn R and follow main path. Before reaching Crookstone Knoll, at an obvious boulder (GR 135881) which denotes junction of a path from Mad Women's Stones, descend down R over Crookstone Hill. Pass through a gate and after 300 yards at a small old signpost, leave the main path which goes down to Crookstone Barn, and follow minor path L heading E down gentle grass slope to old Roman Road/gate (GR 159879).

Turn L and follow bridleway NW, crossing Blackley Clough, then down a stony section which levels out onto a narrow tarmac road leading to Upper Ashop Farm, (GR 143891). On route be sure to savour the fine views of Alport Valley to your R.

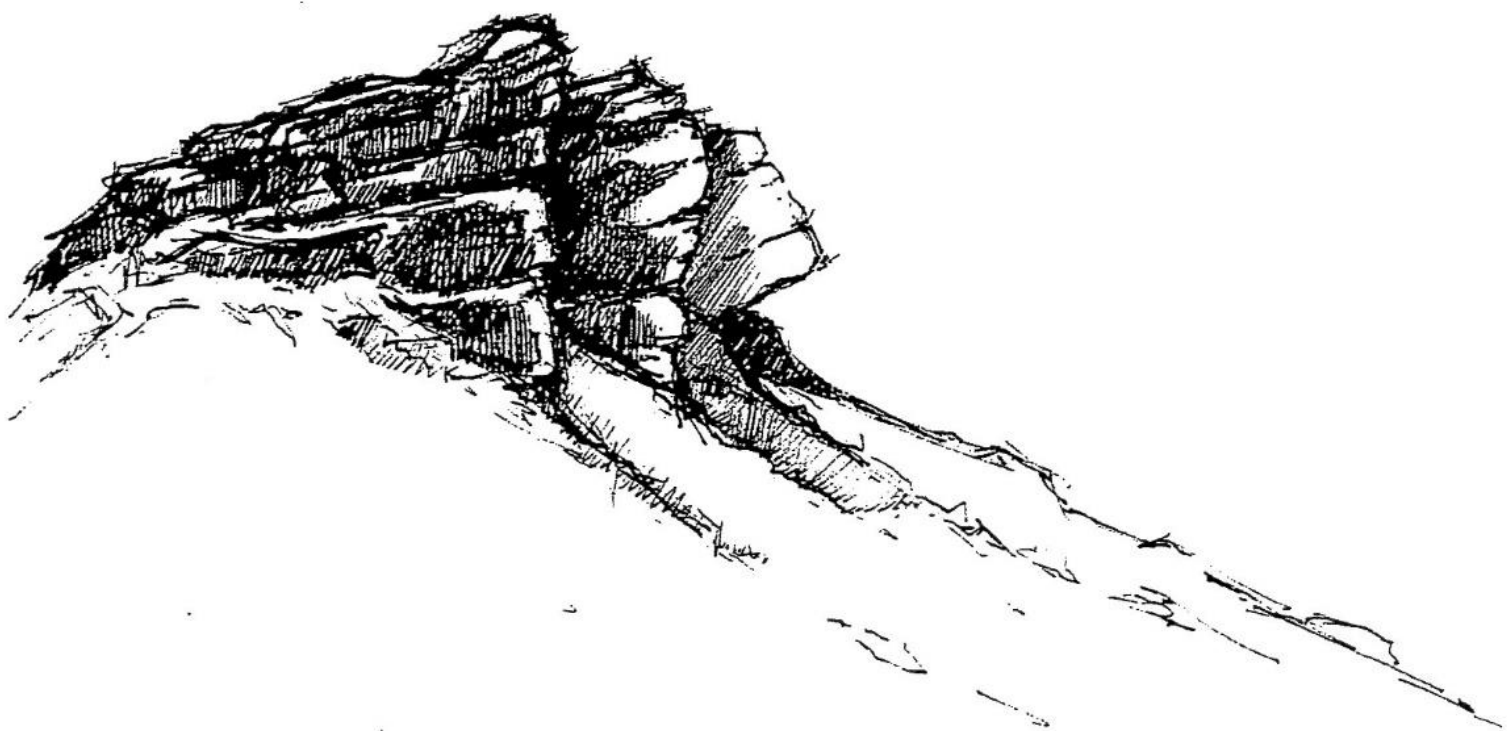
Immediately before entrance gate to Ashop Farm, ascend path L passing above the farm, to quickly arrive after 150 yards at a gate on the R with an obvious Land rover track ascending diagonally up the hillside. Do not follow this track, instead continue on faint path immediately L of wall, on CB300. This contours around maintaining the same height passing two small streams to arrive at the access point opposite Blackden Barn, (GR 131893). Turn L and ascend the delightful Blackden Brook, taking extreme care where path is damaged and in dangerous condition above a very steep section and waterfall. This is one of the finest cloughs on Kinder and the higher one gets the more intricate and entertaining the scrambling becomes.

Turn R at the top and follow the Edge path N around Seal Stones until GR 116888, when Gate Side Clough comes into view. Descend diagonally into this clough by the faint path, or continue further around the edge to reach the main path which descends alongside shooting butts and a derelict wall. Follow Gate Side Clough down to reach a sheepfold and river at base of Fair Brook (GR 114900).

The next objective is Fair Brook Naze and there are two alternatives depending on whether you prefer ridges or valleys. Either ascend the path up hillside N of stream between the sheepfold and the bridge, which winds its way W (sometimes overgrown), finishing up the short but very pleasant ridge directly below the Naze. Or, follow the path adjacent to the stream to the top and turn R.

This may be varied by branching off R (before meeting the small streams at GR 098895), and ascending diagonally passing beneath small outcrops to arrive at the Naze (GR 097898).

Continue W along the Edge passing Nether and Upper Red Brook and numerous rock sculptures, taking particular note of the impressive Boxing Gloves at GR 078898. On route a deviation may be made to visit Sandy Heys Trig. At the W extremity of the Edge leave the plateau path and descend NW, in direction of Mill Hill, via a large cairn and cobbled steps to reach the prominent signpost at Ashop Head (GR 063902). Turn L and descend into William Clough.



Down William Clough to reach small wooden bridge (GR 059888) immediately in front of Kinder Reservoir. Cross bridge and follow minor path a short distance up and around the hillside, with wonderful views of the reservoir below. After the second stile, either descend slightly to the River Kinder, which is then ascended. Or, to save a little height, follow the small grassy path contouring over three boggy patches around towards the wood. Just before the trees, descend down to stile next to river. Continue up the tranquil and peaceful river with the famous Kinder Downfall towering above and beckoning you forward. The Downfall is without doubt the most impressive feature of Kinder, especially during high winds in winter when the river pours over the cliffs, only to be blown dramatically back on itself. Shortly before reaching the base of the Downfall, traverse R underneath large crags until it is possible to escape up onto the Edge once again.

Follow the Edge S along the Pennine Way, passing Kinder Low Trig and a massive stone cairn. Do not follow path S to Edale Rocks and Swine's Back, but at GR 078868 head W passing small cairns to gain a paved section. This leads to pleasant grassy paths down Kinderlow ridge, and then steep stone steps, passing Kinderlow Cavern, to reach gate/stile at the base, GR 067866.

Turn L through gate and follow grassy paths, initially S and then gently rising E, to arrive at stile at Stony Ford, where the bridleway crosses Oaken Clough. Turn L up bridleway to arrive at Edale Cross, the site of the ancient monument. Descend long stony track down Jacob's Ladder until cairn/signpost (GR 087863) at the start of the steep stone steps is reached. Instead of continuing down the artificial steps, turn R through gate and follow the more pleasant and secluded old bridleway passing a small ruin to arrive at Youngate Bridge, GR 088861.

Immediately before the bridge, leave the bridleway and follow the L side of the stream a short distance uphill (approx. 50 yards), until opposite a fence which descends the hillside. Cross the stream and ascend directly up very steep faint path immediately L of fence. When fence ends continue N heading for the famous Woolpacks. These are a weird and wonderful collection of stones eroded by the ravages of weather. In misty conditions they create an eerie setting as amorphous animal like shapes silently appear then melt once again into the background. Pass through them and continue the short distance to arrive at the top of Crowden Tower, GR 094871.

Descend down the steep path beneath the Tower into Crowden Clough. Continue down this until 200 yards before the access point, where a small path branches off L at GR 102863. Follow this, which traverses around the hillside above a wall, past a sheepfold, then over a trickling stream and above a small wood. Continue contouring until a broken wall descends to meet the path at GR 019856, opposite an access point shortly before Broadlee Bank Tor. Turn sharp L and follow extremely steep path on L of wall. Continue up this murderous ascent until it mercifully levels out, then head N passing two small tarns reminiscent of the Lake District, to finally gain the last peak of the day, Grindslow Knoll. From the summit cairn, turn R and drop down main track towards Edale. Very soon the church spire becomes visible, then the smoking chimneys of the hamlet and finally back to the Nag's Head.

KINDER KILLER

Ashop Head, sign post

Fairbrook Naze

Sheepfold/River, base of Fair Brook

Blackden Access Point

Upper Ashop Farm

Seal Stones

Kinder Downfall

Kinder Reservoir, wooden bridge

Sandey Heys Trig

Crowden Tower

Woolpacks

Younggate bridge

Edale Cross

Broadlee Access Point

Edale, Nag's Head Start/finish

Ringing Roger

Druid's Stone

Gataford

Crookstone Gate

Rowland Cote YHA

KINDER KILLER CERTIFICATE

Walkers successfully completing the Kinder Killer are eligible for a certificate. Send a photocopy of this form, duly completed, together with a strengthened A5 (9" x 6") or A4 (12" x 9"), stamped addressed envelope to:

Ken Jones
Longview
163 Long Line
Sheffield
S11 7TX

I have completed the kinder Killer

Date of Walk.....Time Taken.....

Name.....

Address.....

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Any comments?

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