



The Crashed Plane Hike Route Guide

Note: When writing this step-by-step guide, I've tried to be as concise as possible whilst still providing enough information so that anybody can use it to walk the route with ease. However, I would highly recommend using a pre-planned route on a navigation app as you can then be certain you are always following the correct path; there are parts of this route which are extremely difficult to describe (i.e. the section after you leave the Pennine Way until you reach the crash site, and from the trig point at Higher Shelf Stones to the defined path which runs parallel to Crooked Clough) and therefore the instructions may be difficult to follow.

1. Make your way to the start point of the hike, see figure 1 for a photo of the start point. There are two routes that start from this location, one heading north on the Pennine Way (the green arrow on figure 1) and one heading south (the red cross on image 1). The northern route has a gate that is around 90 meters from the road; the gate for the southern route is only 8 meters from the road. You're going to be following the northern route on this hike (as an added check that you're headed in the right direction, look for the anti-car bollards on your left at the very start of the route (see figure 2), you want to head to the gate just beyond on them on the same side of the road).



Figure 1 – Start Point of the Crash Plane Hike



Figure 2 – Pond on the Left Side of the Northern Pennine Way Route

2. Walk along the path and pass through the gate, please ensure to close it behind you. If you're lucky there may be some National Trust leaflets in a small green box on a sign to the right of the path, just after the gate (for all you scrapbookers out there). Continue to follow the gravel path, it will change multiple times between gravel and stone flags. You will be walking along this path for roughly 45 minutes. Eventually the path will start to veer to the west (your left); to your right there will be a gully (this basically looks like a small grassy valley) with a stream running through it (see figure 3). The green line shows the path that you should take. The thin blue line above the section of path that veers west is the river in the gully. The dotted line heading north on the image is the Pennine Way. As you can see in figure 3, eventually your path will cross the stream and continue straight ahead, it's here that you will be leaving the well-defined Pennine Way and travelling across Bleaklow moorlands towards Higher Shelf Stones and the site of the crashed plane.

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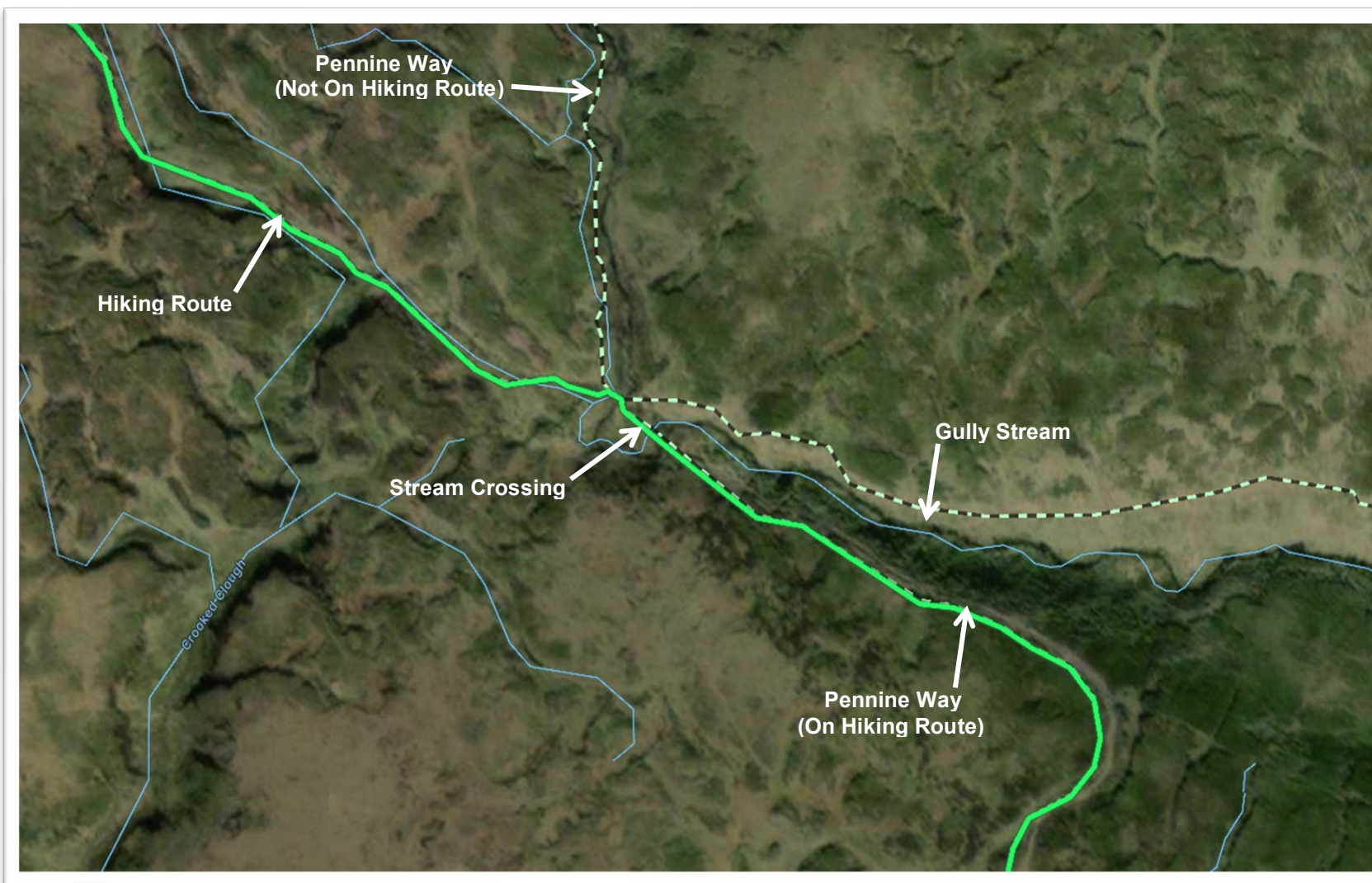


Figure 3 – Hike route leaving the Pennine Way



3. The route is well walked and fairly well defined, it heads generally West but the initial section of the route proceeds in a north-westerly direction, it will then start to proceed in a south-westerly direction before ultimately taking you West, see figure 4 (the green line on this figure is the route you will be walking and the black and white dashed line is the Pennine Way (**NOTE:** you will be leaving the Pennine Way after you cross the stream)). If you continue to follow the path shown in figure 4, you will eventually start to head up hill, remember the crash site is located on Higher Shelf Stones which is one of the highest mountains in this area. From the point when you crossed the stream and left the Pennine Way, it will take you roughly 15 to 20 minutes to reach the crashed plane site.

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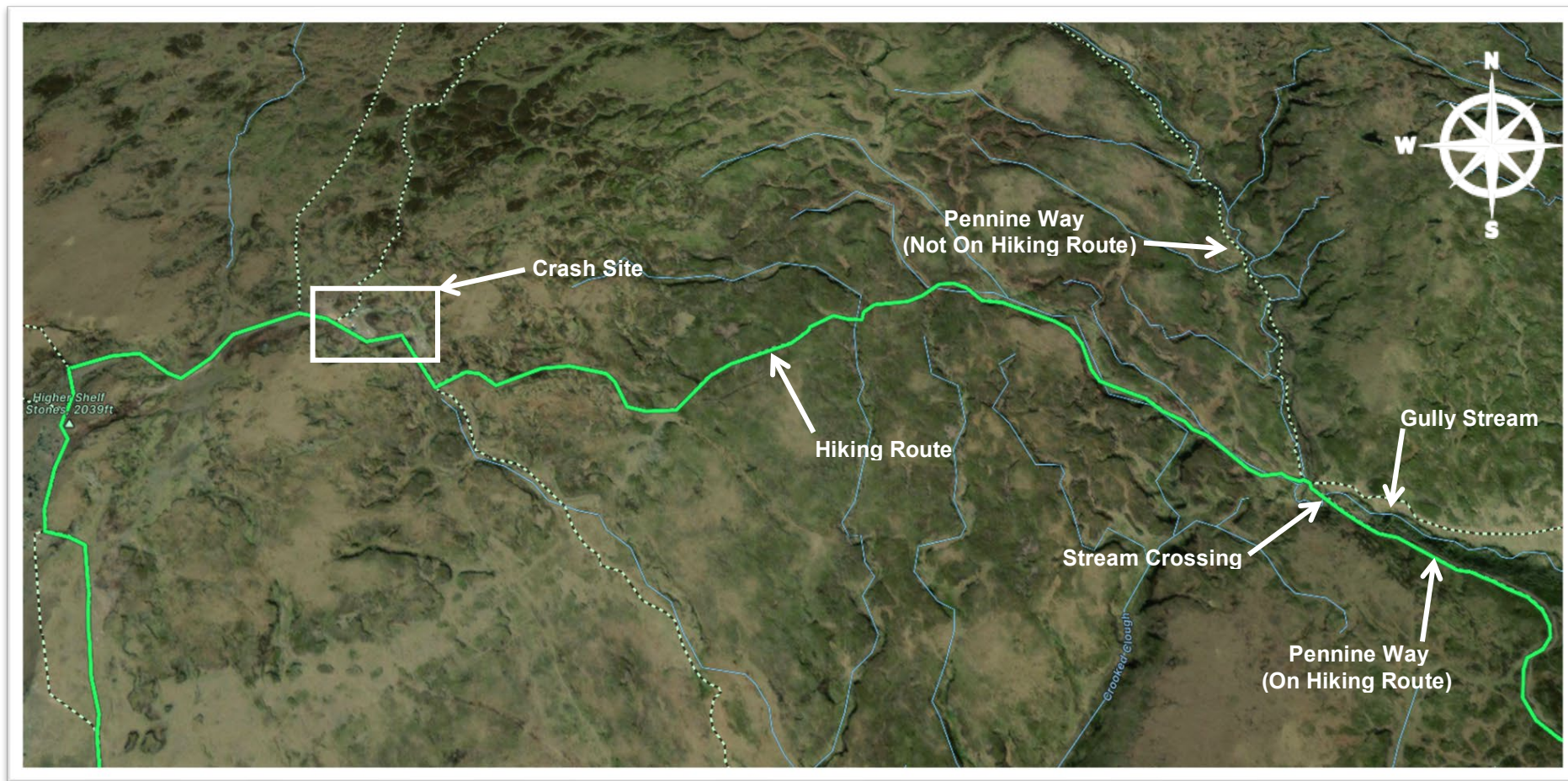


Figure 4 – Route to Higher Shelf Stones after leaving the Pennine Way



4. You've reached the crash site! Have a look around, be respectful and please don't disturb any of the remains of the plane. When you're ready to continue the hike, locate the memorial plaque at the western end of the site (see the blue arrow on figures 5 and 6) and when standing directly in front of it turn 90 degrees to your left and follow the path (see red hashed arrow on figure 5) until you reach the Higher Shelf Stones trig point. Admire the amazing view from the near the trig point; the winding Snakes Pass can be seen in the distance.

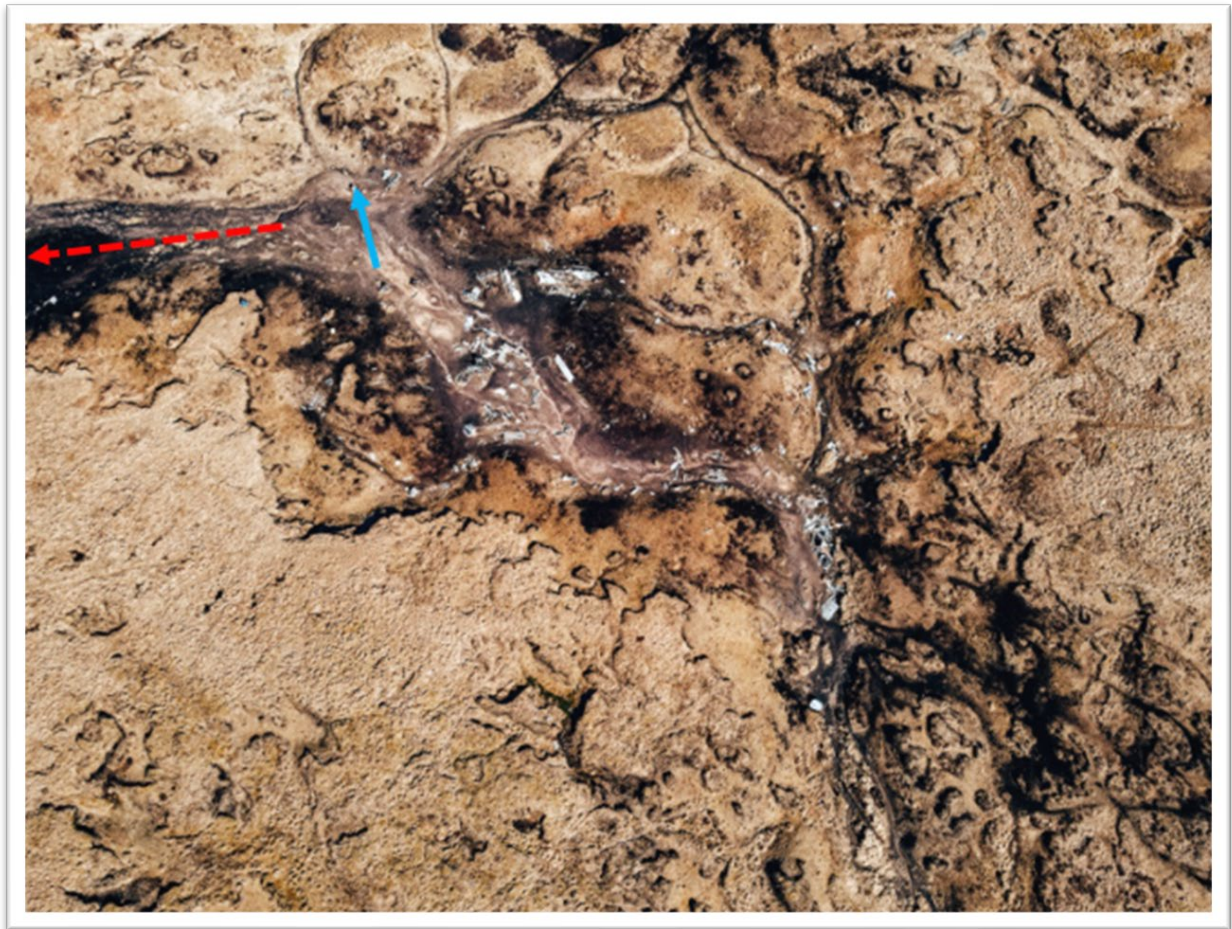


Figure 5 – Site of the crashed plane

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Figure 6 – Memorial to the airmen who died in the crash

5. Take the path to the left of the trig point, passing large engraved boulders to your right and continue to follow the path downhill, initially south but then in a south-easterly direction (see figure 7) until you reach a small stream which you must cross (see figure 7). Please note that the path between the trig point and the stream crossing does not appear on older versions of the OS Explorer maps, however after you cross the stream it does appear as a black dotted line. If you have a very recent paper or digital map the route has now been added. The path between the trig point and stream crossing is well walked and should be easily visible (see the trampled grass path on the left of figure 8) unless the ground is covered in snow or there has been heavy rain.

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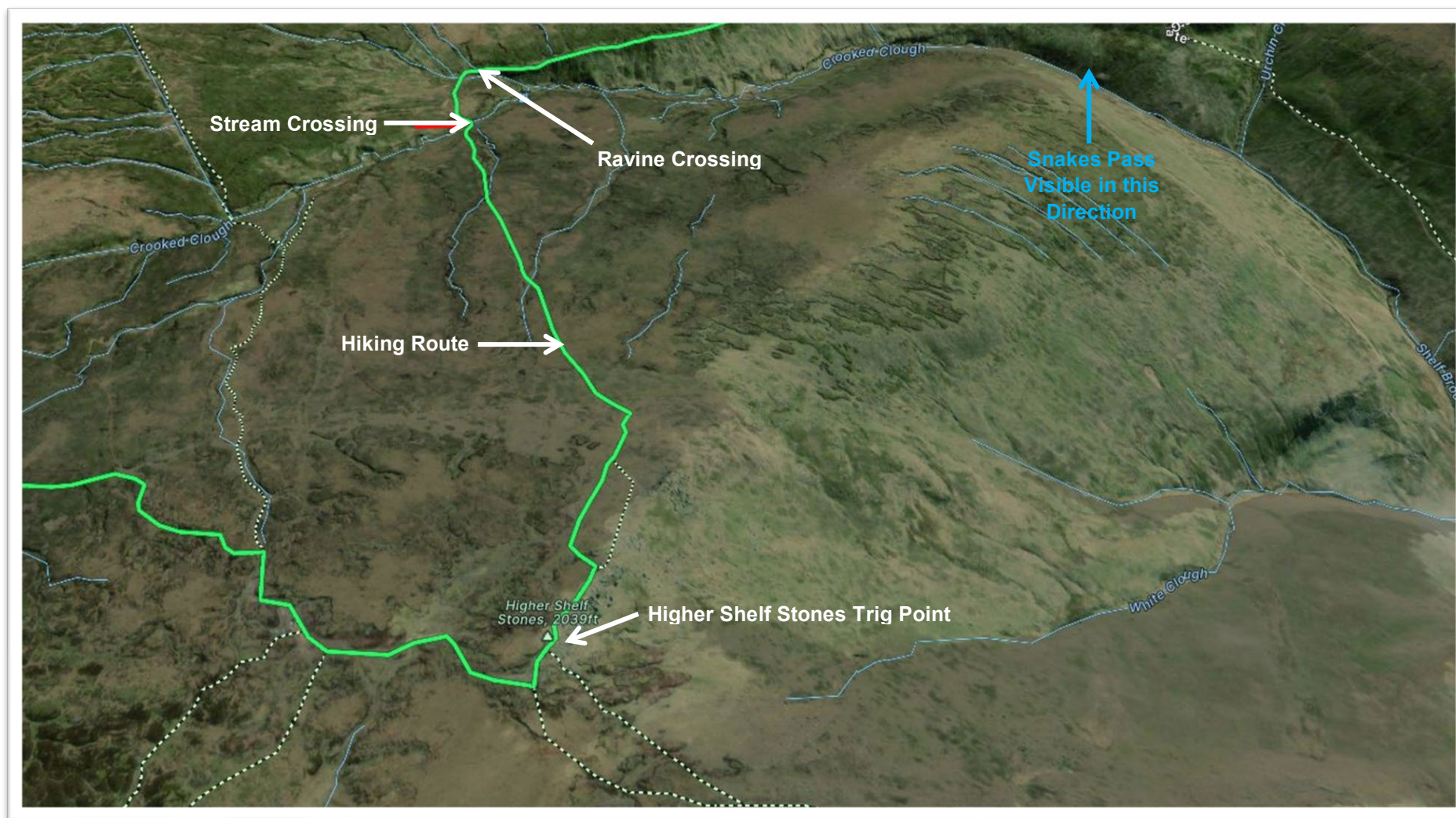


Figure 7 – Route from Higher Shelf Stones to the stream and ravine crossing



Figure 8 – Trodden grass path from the trig point to the stream crossing

6. After crossing the stream bear right, following the path until you reach a steep decline into Crooked Clough valley (if you look right when you're in the valley you will see the image in figure 9). Follow the path into the valley and then straight up the other side (see figure 7). Follow the defined footpath keeping the valley on your right, after around 100 meters you may hear the sound of gushing water, if you look to your 5 O'clock i.e. diagonally behind you to your right, you will see a small water fall (see figure 10).

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Figure 9 – View down Crooked Clough Valley

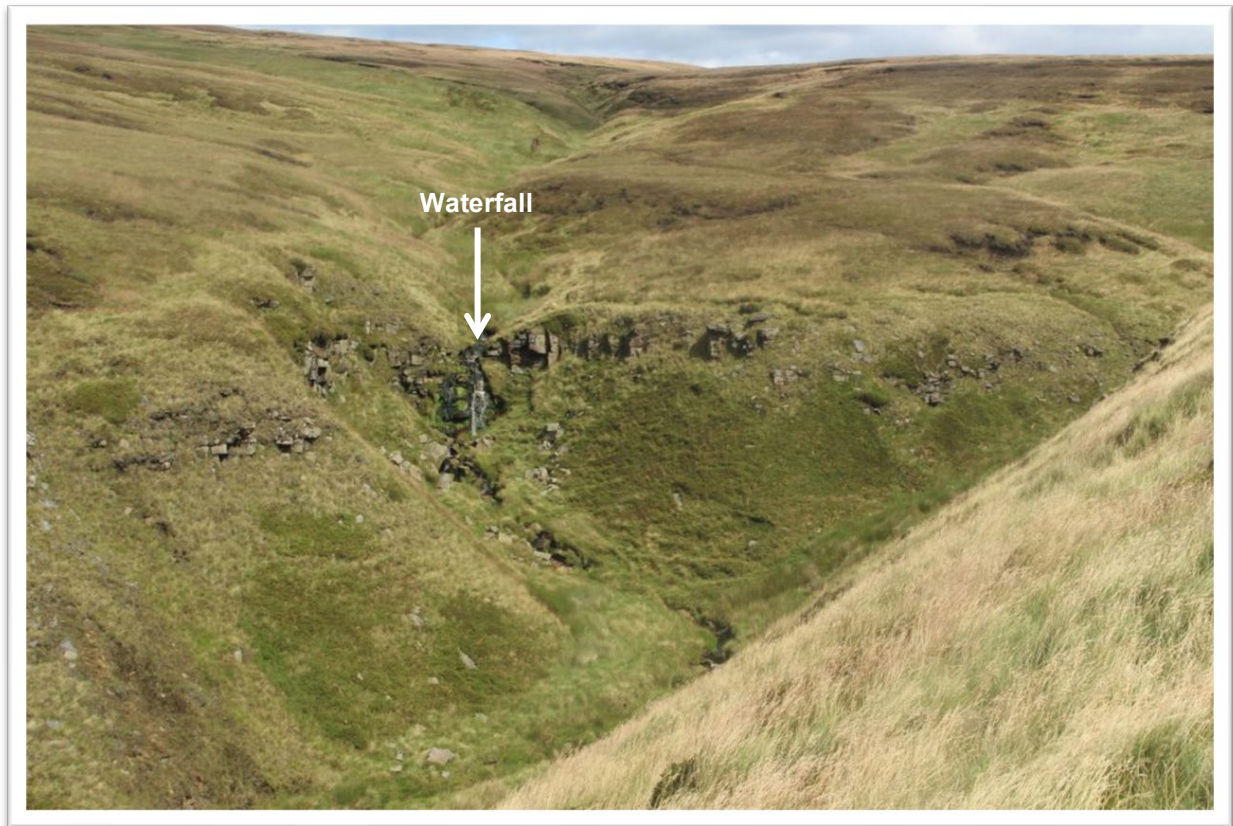


Figure 10 – Waterfall near Crooked Clough Valley

7. From the point where you can see the waterfall, follow the path for around 15 minutes until you reach a Y junction. One path will lead to your left, and one will continue ahead of you bearing right; make sure you take the path to the left (see figure 11, the thin red line is the hiking route). Follow this path for around 6 minutes, until you reach a crossroads which you may recognise from the very start of the hike (see figure 12). Turn right and you are back on the Pennine Way. Follow the path until you reach the gate and the start/end point of the hike.

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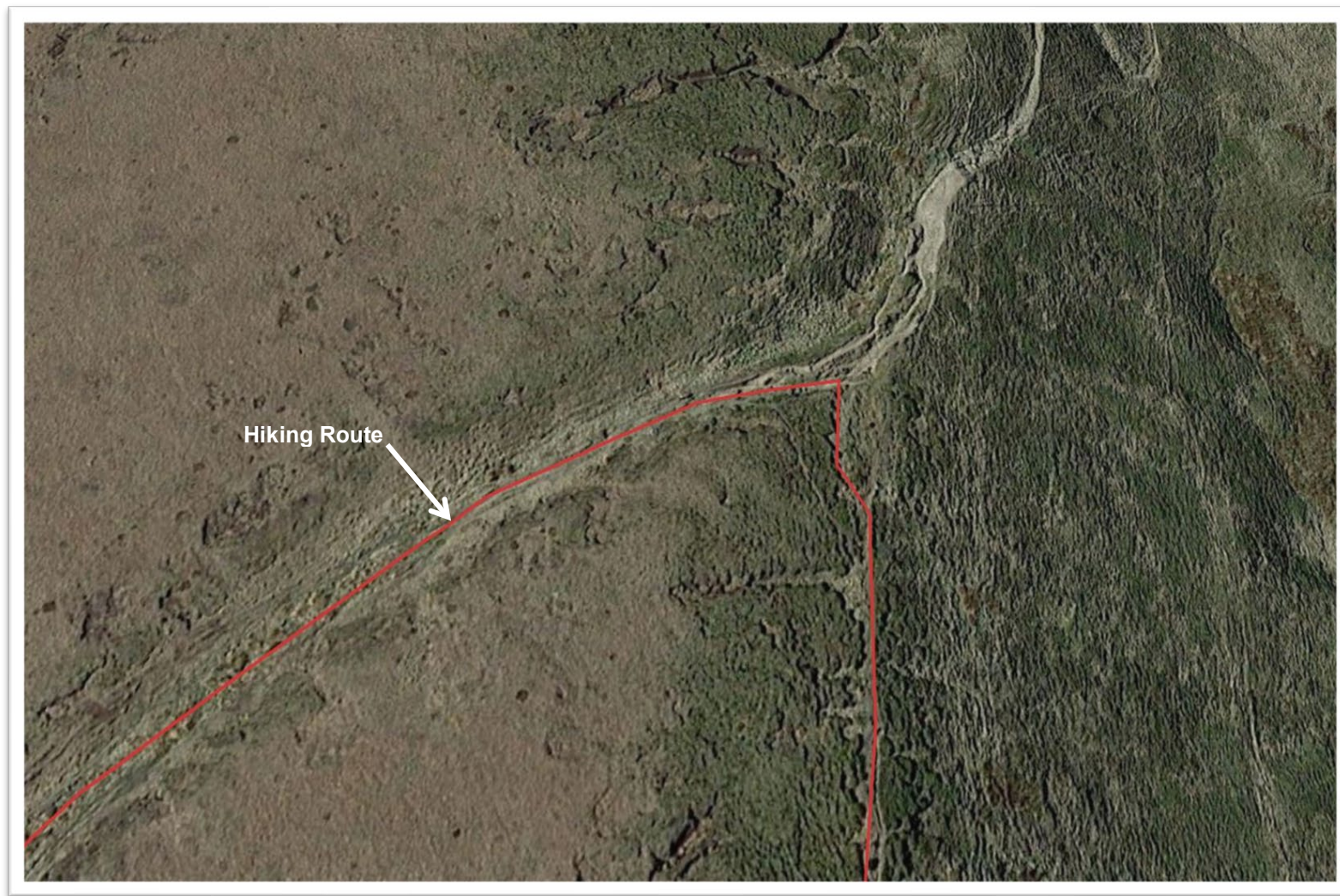


Figure 11 – Left turn off Crooked Clough path

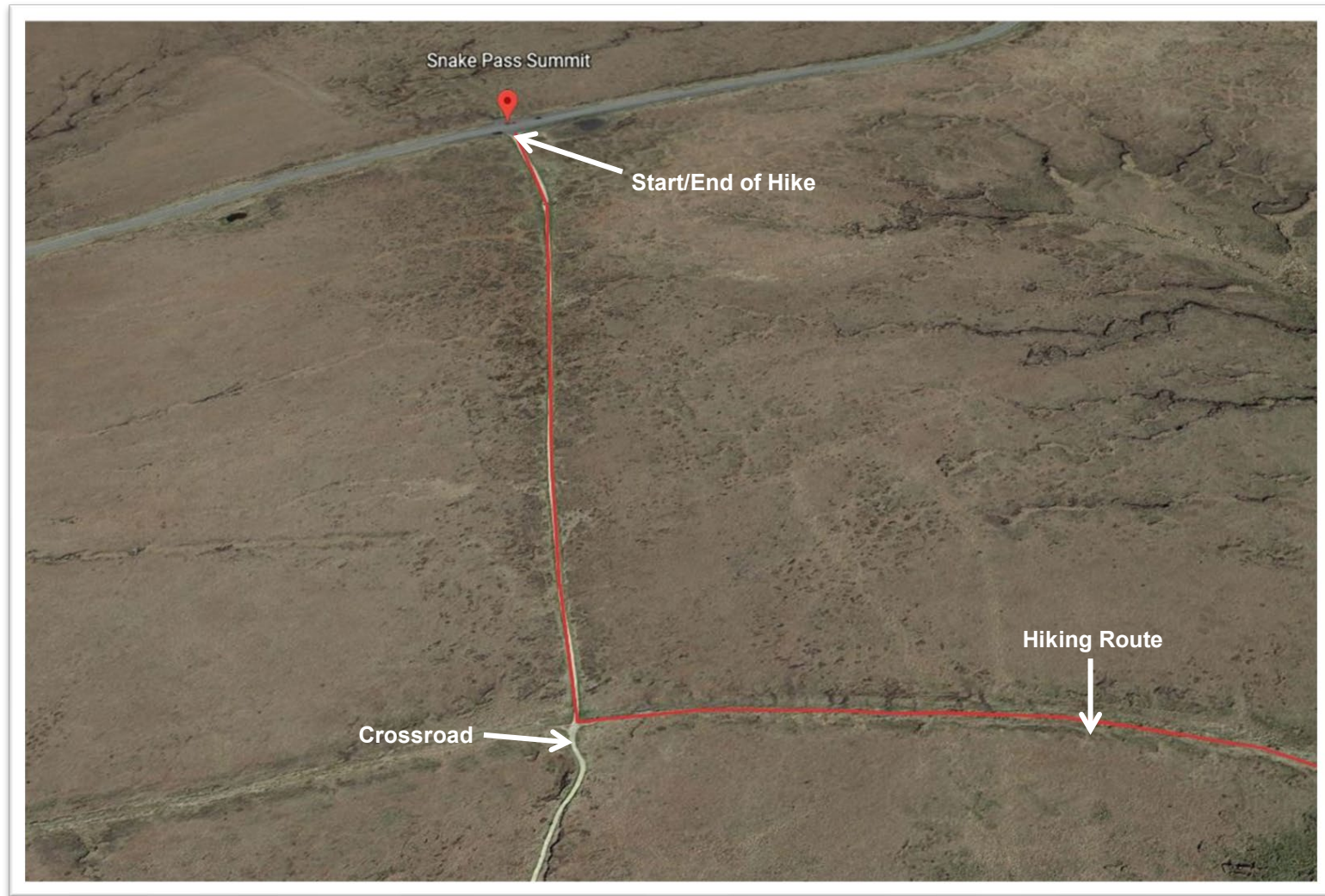


Figure 12 – Right turn at crossroad