



Derwent Edge Route Guide

Note: When writing this step-by-step guide, I have 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 so you can be certain you are always following the correct path.

1. Make your way to the start of the hike, which is located just outside the Derwent Visitors Centre (co-ordinates: 53.400724137043106, -1.7418694593138204). Once there, walk to the right of the visitor centre (see red arrow on figure 1) and you will see the walkway (marked by the blue dotted line on figure 1) heading into the forest; follow this walkway. Follow the path until you cross a small stone bridge, after which you should be able to see the imposing sight of the Derwent Dam (see figure 2) straight in front of you. Depending on the time of year and how much rain there has been, you may be lucky enough to see the reservoir overflowing (see figure 3).

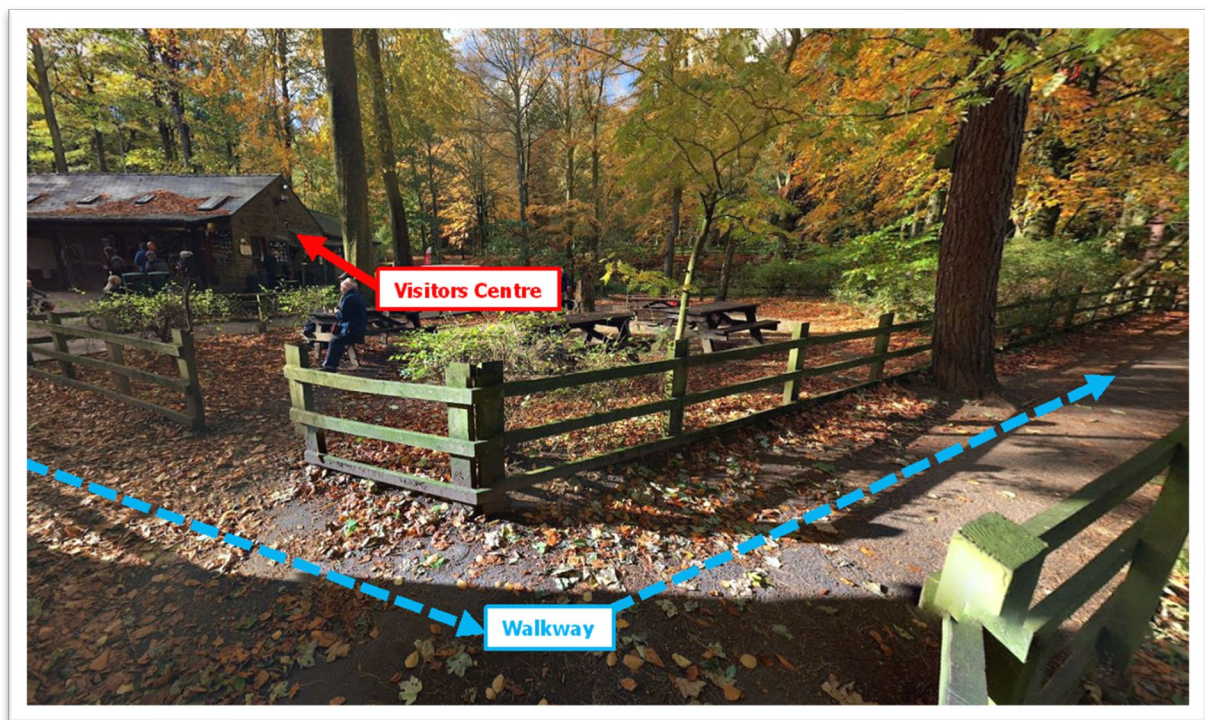


Figure 1 – Path Through Forrest Past Visitors Centre



Figure 2 – Derwent Dam



Figure 3 – Derwent Dam Overflowing

2. The path will start to bend quickly to the right but once you see the dam, head straight towards its large right-hand side tower, following the blue line figure 4. Once you reach the foot of the tower there is a gently sloped set of steps that will lead you up past the large tower, the steps will level out as you cross a path that leads to the tower, here you



will continue upward on the next set of steeper steps that lead through a wooded area. At the top of these stairs you will reach a path, turn left here and continue to walk along it until you reach a wooden gate which you need to go through (you get a stunning view of the reservoir on your left as you head along this path, including a view of the dam from the other side). Once through the gate, continue along this path until you can see a stone wall that forms part of a bridge. Instead of walking over the bridge, head to the right side of it and start following the path heading uphill through the forest, as shown by the blue line on figure 5.

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Figure 4 – Path Past the Derwent Dam



Figure 5 – Path Beside the Derwent Dam & Uphill Through the Forrest



3. Walk along the path for approximately 150m meters, until you reach a wooden gate that you should pass through. There is a lovely stream on your left running parallel to the path you are taking, you will most likely also encounter a fallen tree which you can have some fun navigating, as well as an unusually carved stone with a hole in the middle (see figure 6). Continue past the stone heading upwards on the path until it takes a sharp turn to the right (see "first right turn" on figure 7). Continue to follow the path in this new direction until you reach a junction where you should turn left (see "first left turn" on the figure 7). Follow this path until you reach the top of the hill and see a fence in front of you, turn right here (see "second right turn" on figure 7), after around 20 meters there will be a locked gate with a stile (see figure 8), turn left here (the "second left turn" on figure 7) and head over the stile.



Figure 6 – Carved Stone with a Hole in the Middle

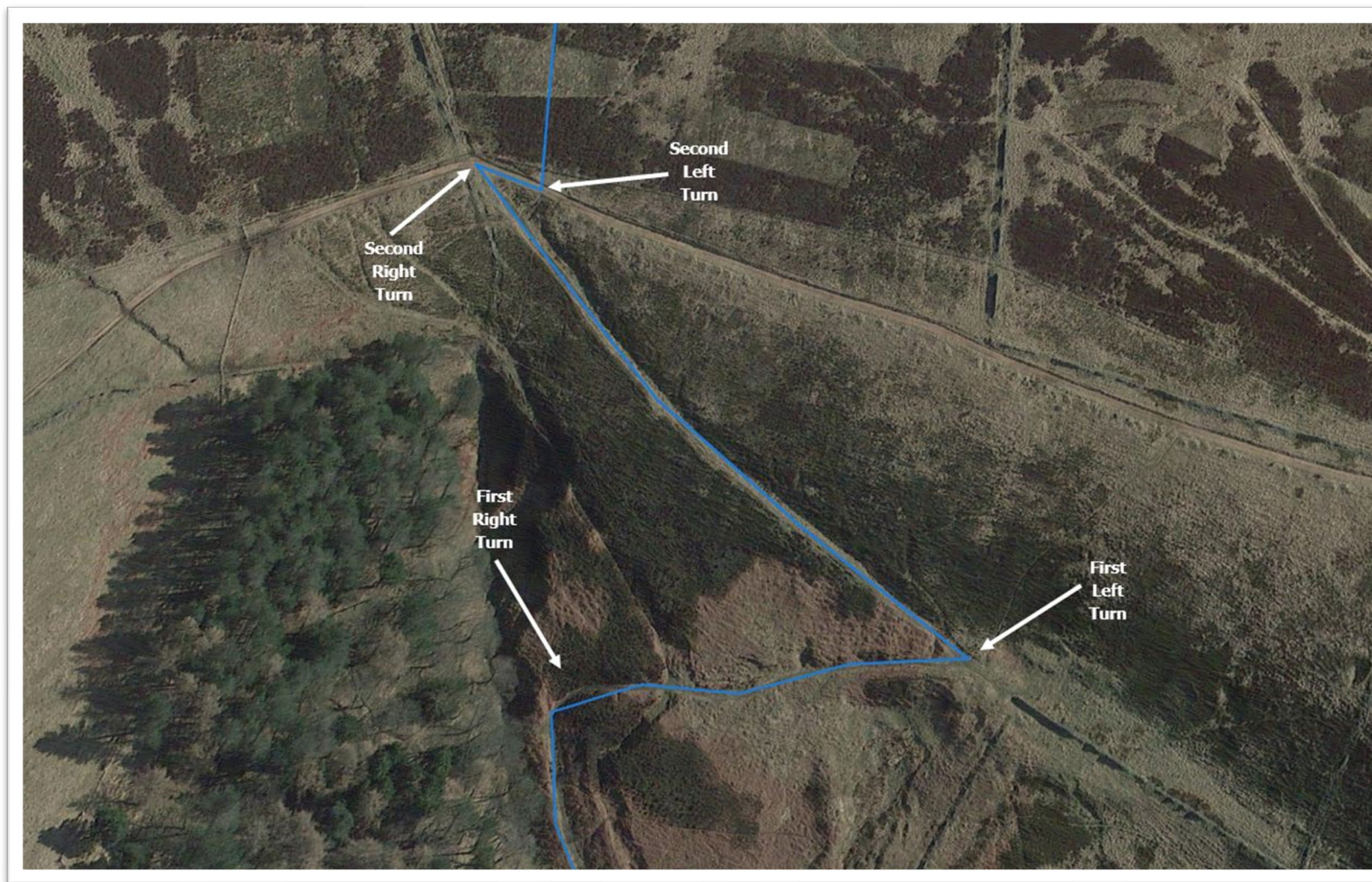


Figure 6 – Path From Ravine to Moorland



Figure 7 – Locked Gate with Stile



4. Once you are over the stile, head straight through the normally shin-high moorland vegetation following the path. Eventually the vegetation will give way to grass, note that the path here is well trodden and is obvious in most conditions. You will be walking on this path from the stile for approximately 110 meters, which at average walking pace will take you around 1 minute and 30 seconds. You will eventually reach a T-junction where you should turn left (see figure 8), this path will head in a northerly direction (the reservoir is located to the west) for around 600m (which will take around 7 minutes at an average walking pace), and then it starts to head in a north-easterly direction for around 650m (which will again take around 7 minutes).

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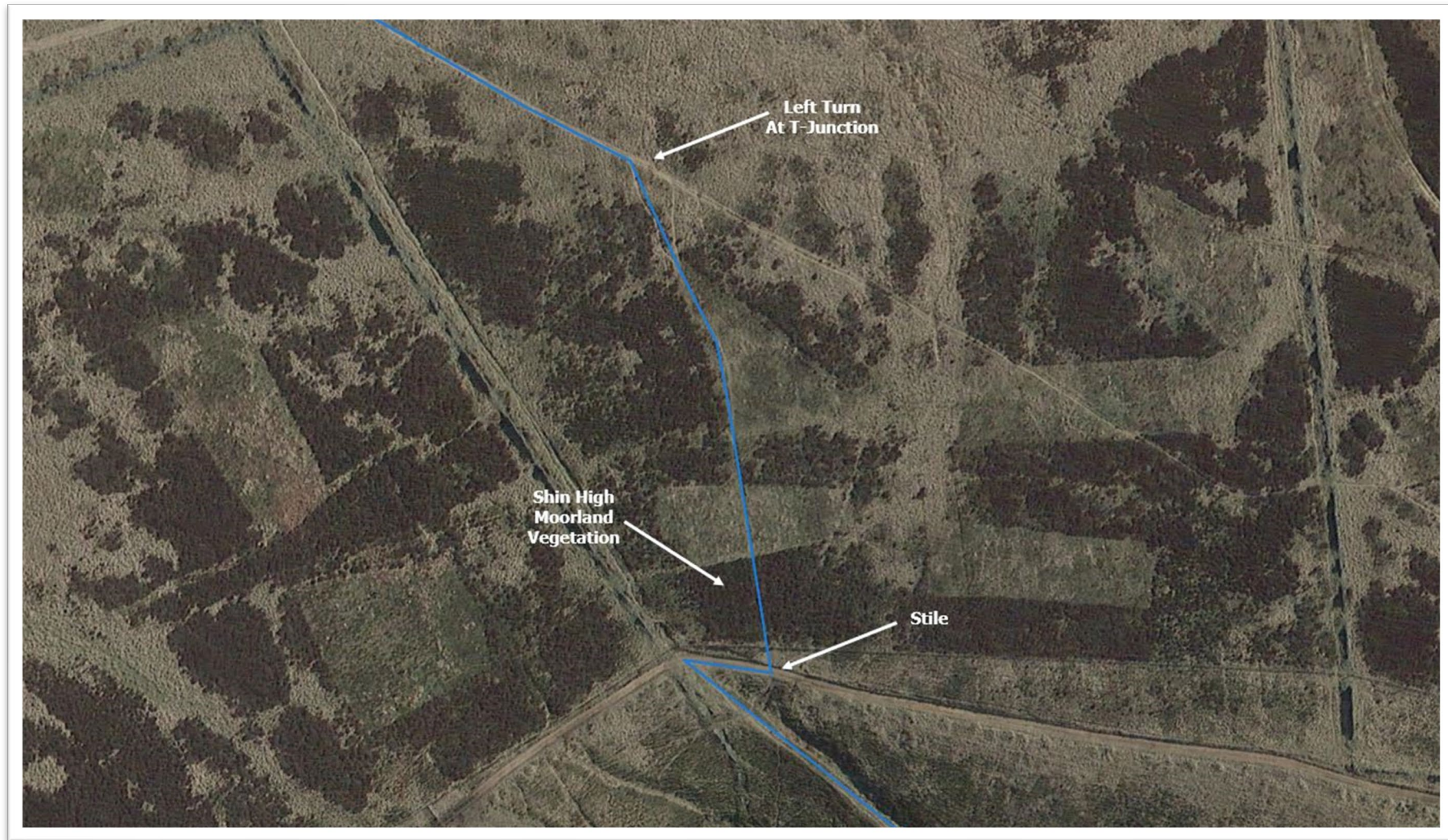


Figure 8 – Left Turn at T-Junction



5. By now you should be able to see a small hill in the distance and you may even be able to make out the toposcope and cairn (a pile of stones) on its top (see figure 9). This hill is Lost Lad, and it is a sub-peak of Back Tor, a rocky outcrop which you should be able to see to the right of Lost Lad. The map in figure 10 shows the route you should take through the moorland from when you head over the stile until you reach Back Tor, and then slightly beyond; as always, I recommend taking a map and compass or OS maps on your phone and using this guide as a last resort. If you are ever unsure where the path is or feel like you are getting lost, just head to the highest hill in the area to the north (remembering that the reservoir where you started the hike is west) and you will end up at Lost Lad, just look for the cairn and toposcope. From the stile to Lost Lad, the walk should take around 30 minutes. As a check, you should be able to see the view shown in figure 11 on your right-hand side, on the way to Lost Lad (which will be in front of you).



Figure 9 – Cairn & Toposcope on Top of Lost Lad

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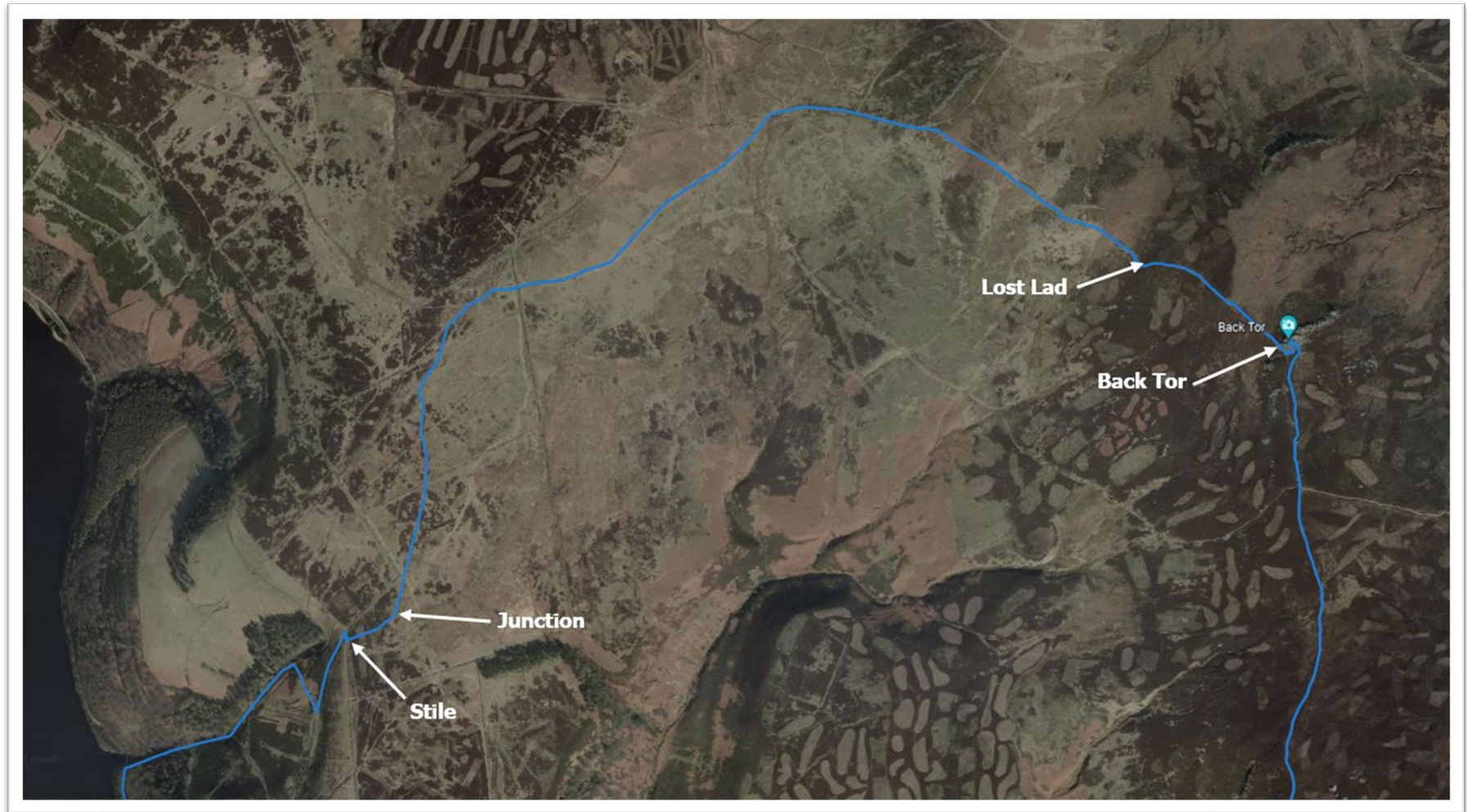


Figure 10 – Aerial Image of Route from Stile to Back Tor



Figure 11 – View to Your Right on the Path to Lost Lad



6. Once you arrive at Lost Lad (which sits 518m above sea level), stop and admire the amazing view, using the handy toposcope to help you locate notable landscape features. From here, continue along the path towards Back Tor, note that the cairn and toposcope should be on your left-hand side. The path will eventually turn from brick-sized rocks embedded in the ground to large, rectangular paving slabs, similar to the ones you find on the Pennine Way; these will lead you to Back Tor, which can be identified as the rocky outcrop with the white trig point at it's top (see figure 12).

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Figure 12 – White Trig Point on Back Tor

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7. After clambering up the rock face and touching the trig (if that's your thing), head back to the path and continue along it in the same direction you were originally heading (so the trig point is on your left). This next section of the hike is pretty straightforward, just follow the stone-paved path for 2 miles along Derwent Edge (which will take around 40 minutes if you don't stop for photos), taking in the stunning rock formations such as the Salt Cellar (see figure 13), as well as many others in this area. About 1,000m from the Salt Cellar rock formation (about 12 minutes' walk), is another amazing formation called Coaches & Horses (see figure 14). A further 520m from here (6 minutes' walk) there is a junction of multiple paths with a sign indicating that a left turn will take you towards Moscar (see figure 15), whilst a right turn will take you back towards Derwent, you're going to heading back towards Derwent so turn right here (see figure 16).



Figure 13 – Salt Cellar Rock Formation

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Figure 14 – Coach & Horses Rock Formation



Figure 15 – Sign Showing Way to Derwent & Moscar



Figure 16 – Right Turn at Sign & Path Onwards



8. After the right turn, you will start to walk downhill, with the reservoir almost constantly in front of you, off in the distance. After about 150m (about a minute and a half walk at an average pace) there will be a cairn on the path (see figure 16), continue past this on the same path which will have started to veer slightly to the right, across the hillside, but still in a generally downwards direction. You may have noticed a stone wall (see figure 17) off in the distance on your left-hand side; the path you are on will eventually meet this wall and continue alongside it for a short distance before you will leave it (around 50m, or 35 seconds walking at a normal pace). After this distance, the path will split, with one section continuing forward alongside the wall, and the other veering off to the left through a gap in the wall towards a woodland; make sure you follow the path which goes through the gap in the wall.

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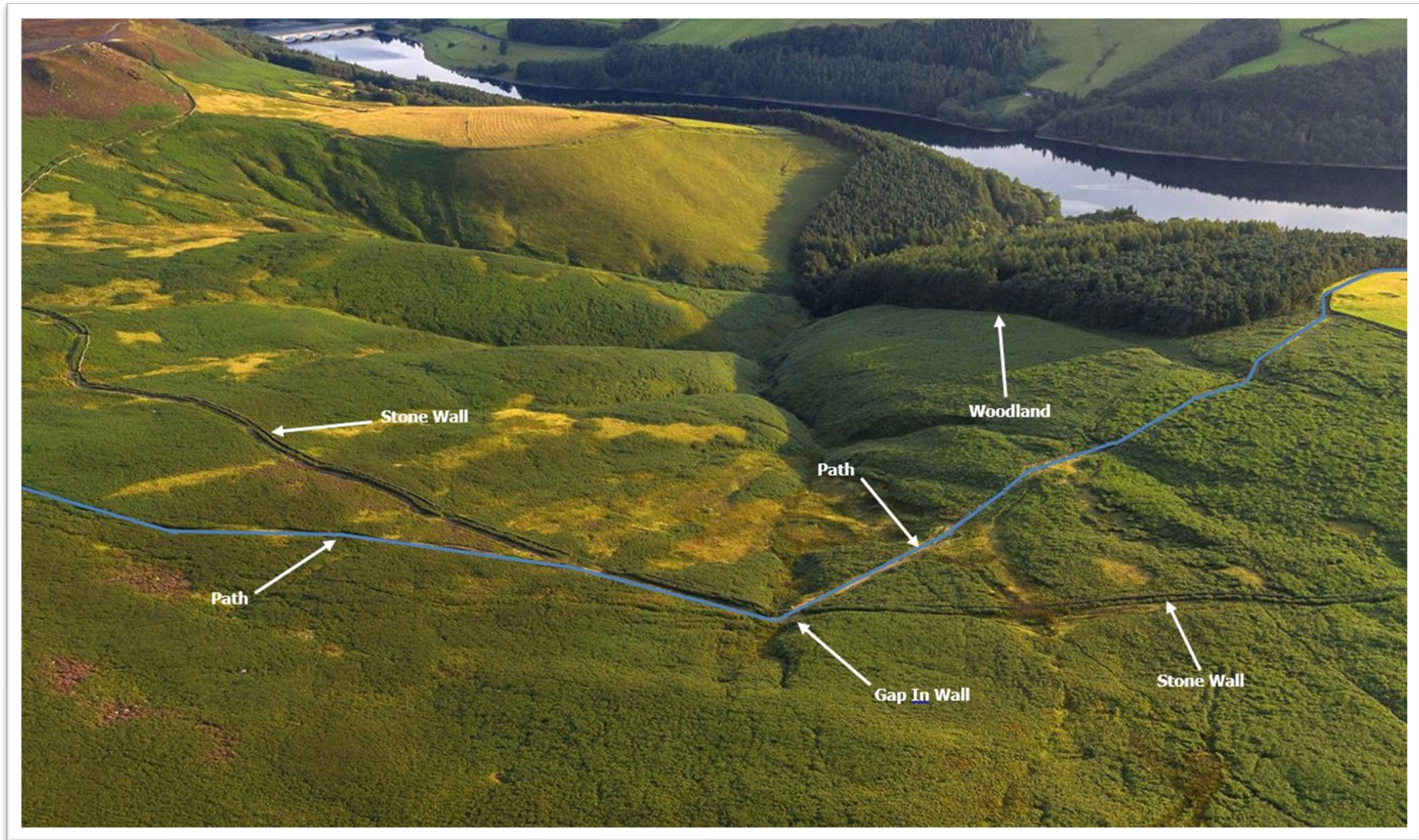


Figure 17 – Path Towards Reservoir Crossing Stone Wall



9. Continue to follow the path heading towards the woodland, as you approach it you will notice a stone wall in front of the woodland and another wall perpendicular to it (i.e. making a right angle with it) which almost come together to form a corner (see figure 18), here there is a path which runs between the walls, running alongside the woodland (which will be on your left) but never entering it.

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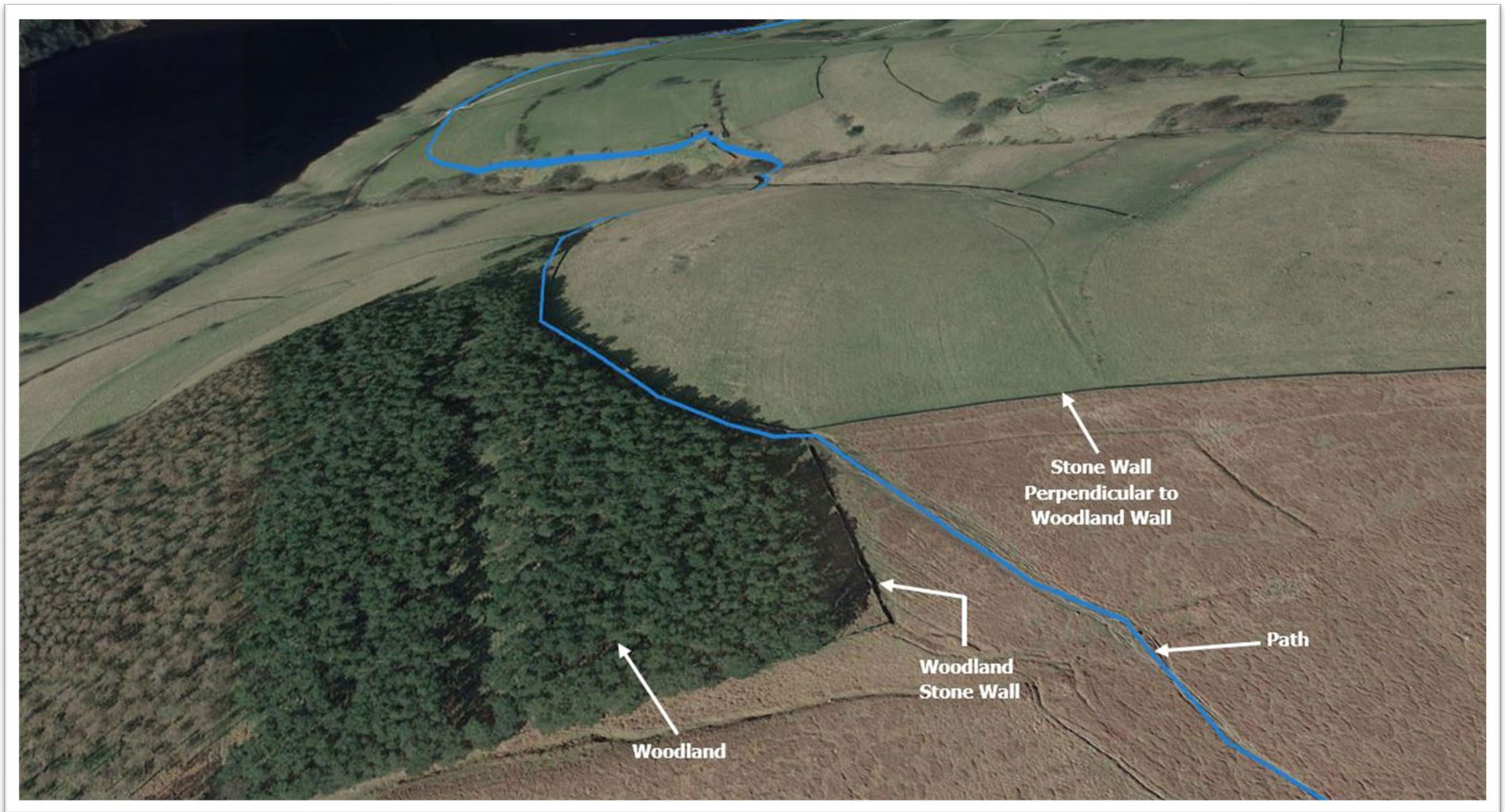


Figure 18 – Path Towards Reservoir Past Woodland



- 10.** Follow this path and you will eventually reach the end of the woodland, continue on until you reach a wooden gate (gate 1 on the next hover image). Go through the gate and continue to follow the path, there are no side paths, so this section of the hike is relatively straight forward. The path will continue to run alongside the stone wall until you reach another wooden gate (gate 2 on next hover image), which you should pass through. The path will start to turn left and then not far after this you will reach an old, abandoned farmhouse without buildings. The first building (stone building 1 on the next hover image) you pass will be on your right, you can go in here for shelter and rest. After passing this first building there will be another building on your left (stone building 2 on next hover image) and one in front of you (stone building 3 on next hover image), turn left at the stone building on your left and go through the gate, the reservoir should be in front of you in the distance; use the image in figure 19 to aid with navigation if needed.

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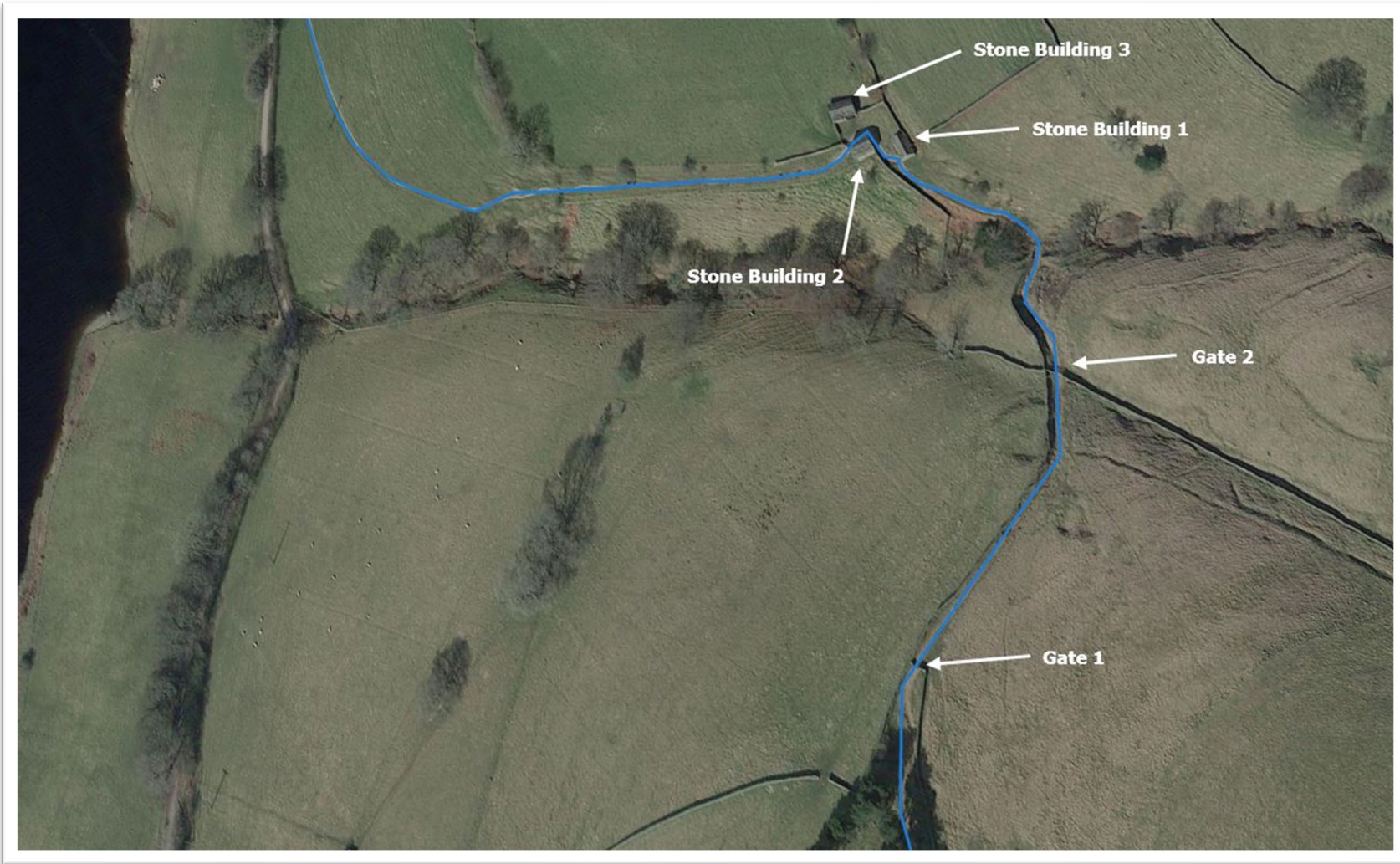


Figure 19 – Path Through Gates & Farm Buildings



- 11.** Follow the path until you reach a crossroad, there will be 2 paths in front of you, and then another path behind you, you want to take the left path (see figure 20) of the 2 in front of you. From here just follow the path as it bends and hugs the edge of the reservoir, you'll pass over a bridge and walk past houses and eventually you will end up back at the same dam that you passed at the very start of the hike (Derwent Dam). When you see the dam, the road will start to bend to your left and this path will take you back to the car park and the start point of the hike, near to the visitor centre.

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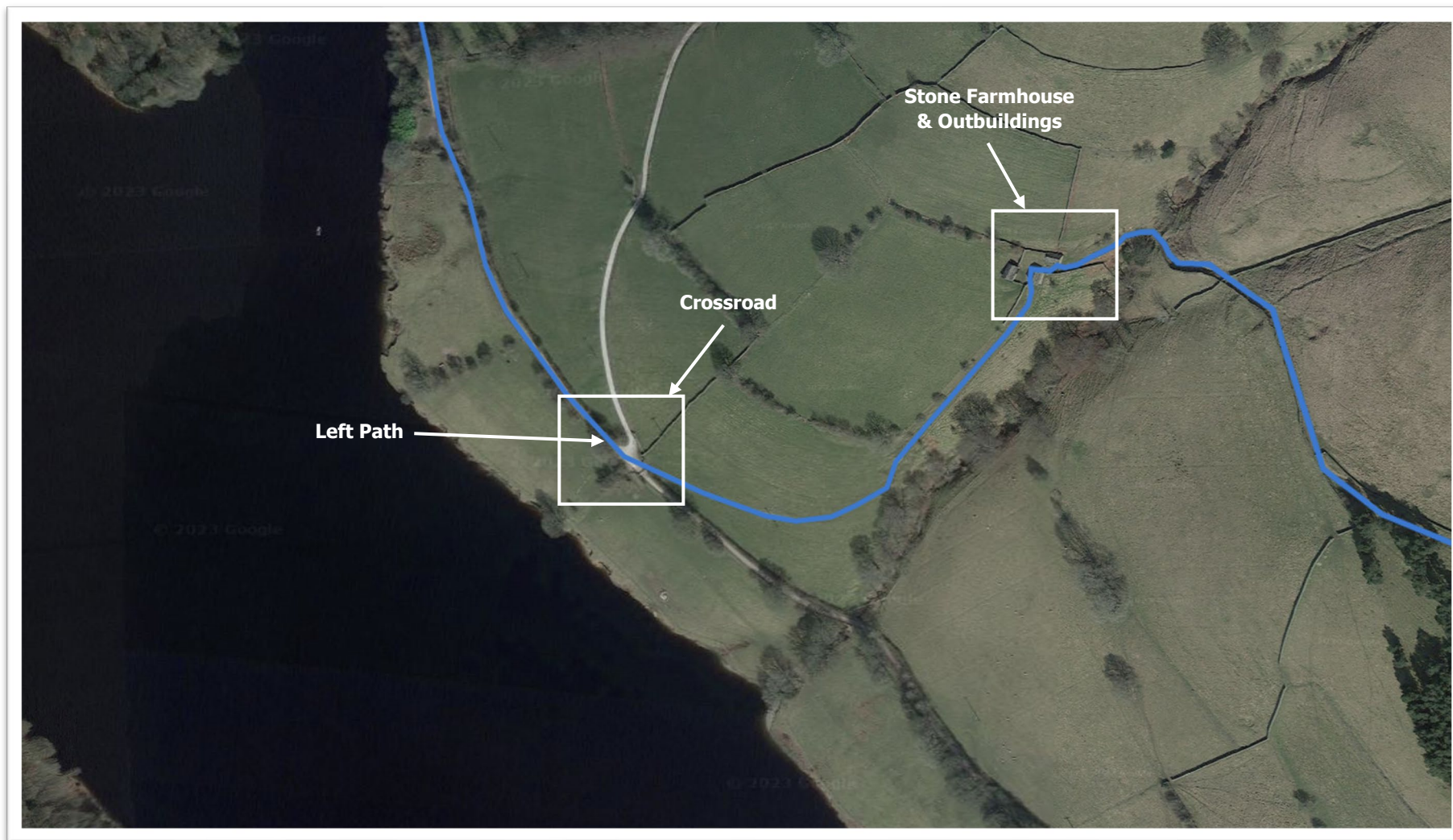


Figure 20 – Left Path at Crossroads