

PWY25 Swinsty Reservoir

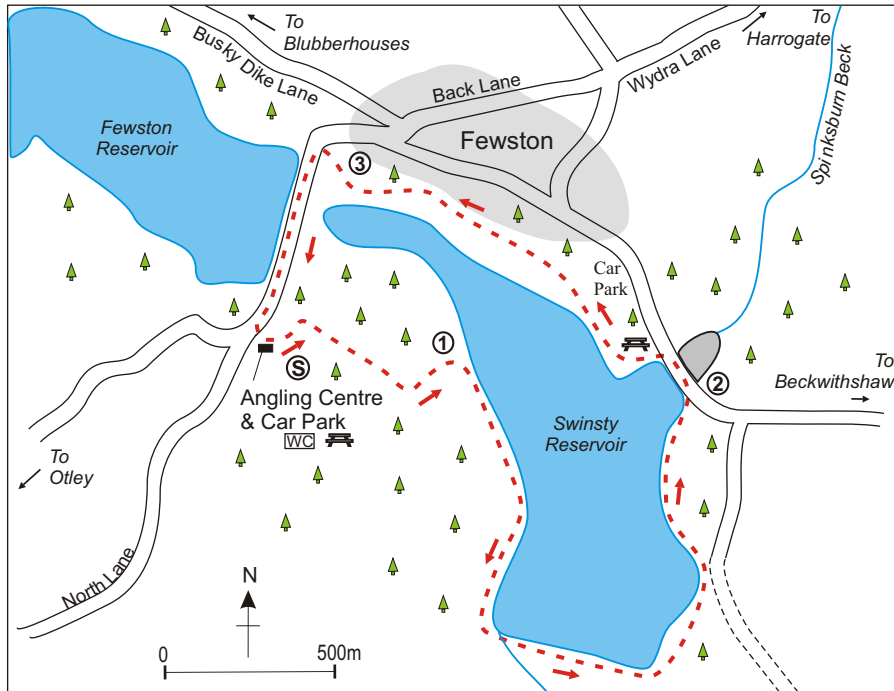


Outline Information

Distance: 3.25 miles (5km)
Time: 1 hour 45 minutes
Grade: Easy
Map: OS Explorer 297
Grid Ref: 186537

This is a great walk along forestry paths and well made tracks. The route goes around the reservoir and gives wonderful views across the water and surrounding countryside.

Swinsty reservoir is one of a chain of reservoirs in the Washburn Valley which supply water to Leeds. The reservoir was built in 1876 and holds approximately four million cubic meters of water. The reservoir is popular with fisherman as it is stocked with rainbow trout. Some of the land surrounding the reservoir has been set aside as a nature reserve so look out a variety of water birds while you are on your walk.



Getting there

Park in Swinsty Moor Fishing Office car park on North Lane. There are picnic tables and toilets here.

S. Go to the left hand corner of the car park (close to the fishing office) and take the left hand footpath, not the public bridleway into the woods. Follow the path as it bears to the right away from the car park. Stay on this main path ignoring turnings to the left and right.

1. After a while you will come to a fork in the road. Take the left hand fork downhill and pass round the side of a wooden gate. In a few minutes you will see the reservoir ahead. Turn right onto the track so that you have the reservoir on your left and Swinsty Hall on your right.

Turn left and cross the reservoir dam (Swinsty Embankment). Once you have crossed the dam you will see a house (Swinsty Cottage) on your right. Go straight ahead over a small bridge and follow the road straight on.

Turn left off the road onto the path that runs alongside the reservoir. After a while the grassy path opens out with views over the reservoir to your left.

2. Follow the path up to the gate, turn left on to the road and cross over the bridge. Immediately after the bridge turn left through a wooden gate back onto the reservoir path.

There are picnic tables here if you fancy stopping for lunch.

3. Follow this gravel path along the edge of the reservoir and eventually it will take you up a steep hill and to the road. If the hill looks too steep for you there is an easier zig zag path on the right.

Cross over the road, turn left onto the pavement and go over the dam between Swinsty and Fewston Reservoirs. At the end of the dam cross back over the road onto the left hand pavement and head up the hill back to the car park.

Enjoyed this walk? Then why not try [PWY18 Jervaulx Abbey](#) or [PWY26 East Marton Canal](#)?