

Thirty four STALYBRIDGE – MOSSLEY via WALKERWOOD RESERVOIR.

A countryside walk with fine views and ample opportunities for refreshment at either end.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Stalybridge Station.

Leave the front entrance of the station and walk down to Market Street. Turn right under the Railway Bridge and continue along Market Street until you come to the façade of the once very impressive town hall.

Ignore the small continuation of Market Street, instead turn right to the War Memorial and Victoria Bridge. Cross the River Tame and go up Trinity Street. Pass the large stone church (*Holy Trinity & Christ*) and you will come onto Armentieres Square and the canal side.

Cross the canal and go up the left side of The Millpond. At the main road turn left along Acres Lane past Tesco to Mottram Road. Cross Mottram Road, go a short way to the right then turn left up Stocks Lane.

There are some impressive houses along here.

At the bend in Stocks Lane go left onto the footpath in the small wooded area. Cross the streambed and on your right you will see a set of steps uphill. Ascend these and take the path straight ahead to pass by the right hand side of the pylons. *From here there are panoramic views of Ashton and Manchester.*

Continue up to the road and turn left along it. Go downhill past the farm.

Where you meet another road go right to Walkerwood Reservoir. Cross the dam and continue along the track. *A splendid Pennine view.*

Go right when you come to the tarmac road to go through Sun Green. At Lower Hyde Green Farm bear to the right. The road goes steeply uphill.

It curves to the left and then points toward quarries ahead. Keep going ahead. *Fine views and delightful stone cottages along here.*

The road descends to new housing built on the site of a factory.

Turn left, following the bridleway signs, across a circle and then between a lake and Cowbury Green.

Continue on this minor road (*Castle Lane – Buckton castle is a mound up by the quarry on your right*), onto the B6175 Huddersfield Road.

Just along this turn left along Micklehurst Road to cross the valley. Just after the bridge over the river, Mill Street goes up steeply on the right. Take it to the top. *Notice the large houses high up ahead.*

Opposite you will see Mossley Station to take the train back. To the left there is a coffee shop or to the right is The Britannia public house. *Open evenings – real ale and in CAMRA national guide. Notice the fine buildings in this hill town.*

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM LENGTH, MODERATE, SOME SHORT
STEEP STRETCHES.
OPEN COUNTRYSIDE, FINE VIEWS, PUBS,
CAFES.

RAIL FARE – category one

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109