

Four STALYBRIDGE – MATLEY LANE (Rising Moon).

This walk gives some very fine views of hills and open country. At the halfway point is The Rising Moon on Matley Lane. This is a pleasant roadside pub open from noon. It serves good hand pumped beers by Robinson's Brewery and has a range of cooked food and sandwiches on offer.

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 walk through the town.

('Q' – Hydes, 'White House' – Hydes plus guest beers.)

Continue along Market Street until you come to the façade of the once very impressive town hall.

(Who on earth was responsible for demolishing this fine building?).

Ignore the small continuation of Market Street, instead bear right to the War Memorial and Victoria Bridge.

(Note the smaller addition for the fallen of The Second World War).

Cross the River Tame and go up Trinity Street.

In succession on your left you will see:

the post office, Astley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library (well worth popping in if only to see the splendour of the computer room!), and then the impressive former Market Hall.

Past the large stone church you will come onto Armentieres Square and the canal side.

Cross the Huddersfield Canal and proceed by the left side of 'The Millpond'.

('The Millpond serves Lees hand pump beers and food).

Go to the traffic lights and cross over High Street.

Go up Hough Hill Road, which is slightly to your right.

Follow Hough Hill Road past the 'British Protection' and the school. It veers to the left by the side of a green after it crosses Astley Street.

Then keep going to the very top of Hough Hill Road where it becomes more like a track or bridleway.

Now you just follow this rough stone road with Cheetham Park wall on your left. (It's called 'Early Bank Road' further on).

The road moves away from the hillside and descends slightly to the left to pass some houses. At the end it comes out on Matley Lane and the 'Rising Moon' is on your left.

(Notice the various footpaths offering walking opportunities in the countryside. The one down the side of the pub offers an alternative way back to Stalybridge town.).

From the 'Rising Moon' retrace your steps on Early Bank Road to where it forks.

Take the left fork rising up along the hillside.

Where you come to some houses follow the track to the right of them (It's known as Range Road). Range Road meanders alongside the hill.

It has an S-bend at one farm area, then another opposite S bend where it is also briefly a narrow path past Lower Hough Hill farm.

Descend past some stone houses on your right and continue ahead, crossing over Oak Tree Crescent.

You will rejoin Hough Hill Road. Follow it left to descend back in to Stalybridge town centre once more.

CLASSIFICATION: MODERATE, MEDIUM LENGTH WALK,
 COUNTRYSIDE, FOOD & DRINK,
 RAIL FARE – category one

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109

Manchester A-Z