

Fifty five. MARSDEN – OVER THE MOORS.

A circular walk for accomplished walkers. There are fine views and a stretch of the Pennine Way. It comes back to the station through the small town of Marsden. You can reward yourself at the ice cream/ tea room or the Riverhead Brewery tap next to the river!

Catch a train from Eccles towards Manchester Victoria and change there (or at Stalybridge) onto a Huddersfield stopping train. *Some very fine views on this ride!* Alight at Marsden Station.

At the top of the platform steps turn left over the bridge and then immediately cross the road to take the path opposite downwards.

At the road turn left then right to go across the bridge.
Then turn right and left onto the footpath between the church and the school.
At the main road go left and then right onto Old Mount Road.
After the cottages, turn right onto Throstle Nest.

Go left at the farm gate and then left up by the little stream on your left-hand side.

You join a farm road and follow it between the farmhouse and barn. Go left at the T-junction behind and through the stile gate. Follow the gully upwards. *This is a well-worn route!*

Go over the gate and with wall on your left trail onto a farm road. *See the reservoirs over to your left.*

You come to a point where two other roads join you from the left. Cross the road where they are all joined and take the little path over the moorland. It becomes a moorland road.

Follow it to where its embankment is breached by a stream. *You see Redbrook Reservoir with boats on your right.*

Drop down to the right and curve left to rejoin the embankment on the other side. Turn left along it a few yards then go right to follow the path to Wessenden. *There is a stone marked 'MH 720 yards'.*

Follow this track to the corner of Black Moss Reservoir. *Here you are on the Lancashire (right) and Yorkshire (left) border. On the right you might well hear shooting practice on the Diggle ranges. It is as well to be prepared for any possible Yorkshire incursions!*

Go left along side of Black Moss Reservoir and turn right to cross the causeway between it and Swellands Reservoir.

Cross the overflow and go left onto the stone flagged path. This descends gradually. Then zigzag down more steeply. Cross a small stream on your right.

You come to Marsden Moor Heritage Stone just before some tanks set in the ground. *Butterly Reservoir is over to right.*

Take the fork to the left of the tanks and descend very steeply to the bottom of the valley. Cross the bridge and go left to follow by the stream towards Blakeley Reservoir.

This path eventually rises to trail onto a reservoir service road that you follow ahead. Continue above Brownhill Reservoir on your left.

It joins a tarmac road – take the steps down to the left just beyond this point. At the bottom of the steps turn right along the lane. *The stream goes through some (fish?) tanks down on your left – I saw an otter resting there. This is Shirdey Lane. It passes between the large stone buildings of Crowther's 'Bank Bottom Mill' which closed only a few years ago.*

At the lane end there is a Marsden Equitable Industrial society shop on the right corner.

Go left down the road and right at the roundabout along Carrs Road.

About 100 or so yards along take the footpath left across the waste ground towards the New Inn. *Over to your left notice the 1909 Fire and Ambulance Station.*

Just beyond the inn turn left down into the town centre. *Marsden Mechanics Hall and Library is on your right, a little further on is the café and ice cream parlour. On the left is The Riverhead Brewery Tap. (Many real ales and food with a patio by the river!) This is a fine conversion of what appears to be a Co-operative building.*

Cross the river bridge, turn left and then curve right up towards the railway station. The Railway pub is on your left. *(Real ales and food.)* Go straight ahead to cross the canal and up the small ramp onto the nearest platform for a train to Manchester Victoria

CATEGORY: LONG. DIFFICULT - with steep rough paths.
COUNTRYSIDE, FINE VIEWS, RESERVOIRS,
MOORLAND, PUBS, ARCHITECTURE
RAIL FARE: category three.

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