

Sixty nine ENTWISTLE – RESERVOIR CIRCUIT.

Easy country walks don't come much better than this one. Starting at a remote railway halt in tranquil countryside there is a real ale pub serving food, and a reservoir surrounded by hills and woodland.

Catch the train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria. At Victoria catch a Blackburn/Clitheroe train. Make sure you inform the guard that you want the train to stop at Entwistle!

Alight at Entwistle. *When the train leaves notice how quiet the place is. The railway once had four tracks here and was very busy. There was a brick works above the railway, a textile mill down below and a big quarry on the hill opposite! It is worth looking at the brief history on the station notice board.*

Leave the station and head across past the phone box towards the Strawbury Duck Pub, then turn left along the lane that curves behind the pub. *The Strawbury Duck serves real ale and food. It was once called The Station Inn.*

Follow the lane ahead. *There are fine views to the left -Bull Hill, Affetside, and southern Pennines.*

Keep straight ahead dropping down past the Entwistle Camping barn.

As you reach the level of the reservoir go sharp right onto the reservoir road. Now follow this keeping the water on your left at all times. *The reservoir was built by Bolton waterworks and completed in 1884. The quiet woodland climbs up the hillsides around. There are larch (the deciduous conifer) and Scots pine (foliage right at the top only) with some other species mixed in.*

Where the main feeder stream comes in there is a bridge across. Don't cross this bridge but continue up the stream into its valley. *The narrow vale makes a nice contrast to the wide reservoir views.*

Cross the small footbridge about 150yards up the stream and turn left to come back alongside the small stepped falls to the reservoir. Continue ahead with the water on your left.

When you reach the road turn left across the top of the dam.

Cross the bridge over the reservoir overflow. *Notice the two remaining coats of arms with the Bolton elephant and castle motif (on the end pillars of the bridge).*

Now continue ahead to follow the lane over the hill back to the railway station.

At Entwistle railway station the Manchester train will approach from your left as you face the track.

Without standing too close to the platform edge give a clear hand signal to the driver that you wish the train to stop for you.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT. EASY – can be slightly muddy after wet weather.

COUNTRYSIDE, WOODLAND, VIEWS,
WATER, PICNIC SPOTS, PUB.

RAIL FARE: category two

MAPS: OS 1:50,000 sheet 109 Philip's Street Atlas Greater Manchester.

N.B. the return journey with the current timetable (2010) gives you generous time for a break in Manchester, but in the afternoon rush hour the connections are very convenient.