

Seventy nine**WILMSLOW – STYAL - HANDSWORTH.**

A lovely walk along the Bollin Valley includes the option of visiting Quarry Bank Mill, one of the premier National Trust sites. There are many good picnic spots en route.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here there are frequent trains that stop at Wilmslow. *Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.*

Alight at Wilmslow Station. Go down the short approach road and walk ahead along Station Road.

Cross the main road and go along Swan Street by the right of The Bollin Fee (*The Rectory and The Bollin Fee both sell real ales and food*).

Turn next right down Church Street towards St Bartholomew's Church. *This is a lovely old red sandstone church. Open Wednesday 09.30-11.00 and 12.00-15.00, Friday 10.30-11.30, Saturday 12.00-15.00 and for Sunday services. www.wilmslowparish.org.uk.*

Pass the church and cross the bridge over the Bollin. Take the second path left through an arch (*into The Henry Boddington Playing Fields*).

Go through the gate at the end of the hedge and turn right.

Follow along the river valley. *This attractive area is known as 'The Carrs'.*

Cross a bridge and go right along the other side of the river.

Continue past one bridge on the right to a brick arched bridge. Go right across this.

Then turn left besides the conveniences and head towards a little wooden bridge.

Cross this and turn left to pass a National Trust sign. Go over Heron's Pool Bridge *which is followed by a small quarry on the right*. Carry straight on *but off the left of your route is the mill pond and dam*.

You will come into the Mill Yard of Quarry Bank Mill. *There are toilets and a cafe here. The mill is 18th century – built for Samuel Greg's cotton spinning business, but also with nonconformist social aims of a better environment for the workers. There are working spinning and weaving machines, steam engines and the great water wheel. Open most days of year 11.00 to 16.00 or 17.00 (Mar to Oct). Admission is from £5 up to £14.20 according to which parts of site are visited.*

Pass through the Mill Yard *and on the left is the Greg family house and garden.*

Continue up the Mill Road *towards the apprentice house*. Where it levels off take the path left signed to Styal Village.

Pass through a field, cross a lane and a short way ahead is village and the remains of the old stone cross. *Left is the Norcliff chapel (Unitarian) and ahead is the model village, school and shop built for the mill workers. Please respect the private signs as it's still a lived in village!*

Turn right past the stump of the cross and fork right between the old wooden fencing. *You come to the small Methodist Chapel.*

Turn left passing some thatched cottages and when you reach the tarmac Altrincham Road turn right.

Pass the Ship Inn *which is a nice old pub selling real ales and food – but what type of ship could sail up the Bollin and the Dean????*

At the main road (Hollin Lane) turn right. Then cross the road to go left onto Station Road (*opposite the war memorial*).

Styal Station is on your left. *Check the timetable - You could catch a train back to Manchester from here - there are few, but on Sunday every two hours.*

Keep ahead by Styal golf Club. The road then bends sharp right but carry straight on to the left of the sheltered housing. (Sagars Road).

Fork right at a single house called Spurs Lodge and then keep going. *More mundane now, eventually there are houses on both sides.*

You come out at Wilmslow Road. Cross to go along Station Road almost opposite. *Ahead of you is the Railway Inn – Robinson's real ales.*

Handforth station is on the right. Go down onto the near platform for a train back to Manchester Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM LENGTH, EASY.

MUSEUMS, COUNTRYSIDE, RIVER, PUBS,
CAFE, FOOD, ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category two

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 118
Street Atlas Greater Manchester

Philip's Street Atlas Cheshire. Philip's