

Eighty BROADBOTTOM-MARPLE via Etherow Country Park.

If you like all aspects of the countryside this is a splendid walk for you. It provides a succession of narrow wooded valleys, hills, streams, open roads, panoramic views, lakes, ponds and parkland.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch a train bound to Glossop/ Hadfield. *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 Broadbottom - *lovely name*. Leave the platform and ascend the steps (or slope) facing you.

Turn left at the top, and left again at the war memorial to go down Moss Lane. *You are instantly on a country walk with hills opposite!*

At the T junction at the bottom turn right to walk past Hodge Fold stone cottages.

Cross the bridge and follow the sign left to Bothams Hall for *a nice, open valley walk with a little stream by your left*.

You come close to the River Etherow on the left and then curve right round New Barn. *Bothams Hall is opposite*.

Just after this hamlet, go left through a gate following the sign to Back Wood. *This is a deep narrow wooded valley to climb up. At places there are outcrops of coal under foot and this is probably the cause of the slight haze in the stream.*

Where you come into the open step up into a field and go left up it with the fence to your left.

When you come to the farm track turn right. *There are now terrific views towards Derbyshire – Cown Edge etc.*

Cross the stile before the farm and head slightly left to the pylon and then the telegraph pole. Go over the stile onto the lane.

Go right then left immediately. There is a gate just ahead - go over the stile to the left of it.

Turn right uphill. *There are now views across Lancashire. The old lane is on your right, deeply worn into the hillside.*

Go through gap in wall and up to Werneth Road. Pass the car park - *a rural rubbish tip, with reserved spaces for whom?*

Go to the right of the *charmingly sited* radiotelephony masts.

Walk just past them (*when you have finished admiring them of course*).
U-turn sharply left to go to Compstall. *Now look around you – if you are taller than four feet six there is a 360 degree view. North Wales, Lancs, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffs and Cheshire appear before you.*

Continue through the hamlet of Beacom Houses and follow the tarmac lane beyond it.

Before the HT power lines cross the lane, go left over the stile and down the field.

At the gate turn left through stile to follow the path along the top edge of wooded valley and stream. You come into a bigger valley.

Just past a wooden shelter go right at the T junction and onto a tarmac track. *It goes through lovely woods.*

Just keep to this 'Valley Way'. Finally bend left round a single cottage and go ahead to the left of the mill pond.

You turn right along the track between the river and the mill pond but first see the river and impressive weir.

Follow the path between the river and pond, sign posted to Compstall and Visitor Centre, *and you are in the midst of a wonderful waterscape. It teems with fish and bird life. Eventually you see Compstall Mill (which brought all this about) to your left. Ahead is a boat club.*

Turn right round the lake towards the cafe. Pass to the left of the café and out onto the road.

Turn left towards the Post Office and left again at the main road.

Pass the entrance to Compstall Mill then over the bridge.

Cross the road towards The George (*Robinson's real ales*).

Go left and fork right immediately after a bungalow to go to Brabyns Park. *Open valley again.*

Cross the river bridge and pass the gate house into Brabyns Park.

Go straight ahead then follow this track through.

It joins a narrow tarmac road alongside the park.

Follow this through the car park and go along the path opposite.

You emerge at the main road. *To the left is Marple Bridge and The Midland (cask marque real ales, snacks and meals- if you think you deserve it!)*

Turn right uphill. Just after the lych gate fork right across the station car park to Marple station.

Enter the station and cross the footbridge to catch a train back to Manchester Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM LENGTH, MODERATE.

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

RAIL FARE: category one

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 109

Philip's Street Atlas Greater
Manchester.