

Ninety**DISLEY – LYME PARK.**

This is a circular walk in the countryside with some very fine open views, and you can take tea in Lyme Park at the half way point. It's not a long walk, but avoids main roads and provides opportunity to visit the very grand old Lyme Hall.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch a Buxton train to Disley. *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 Disley Station. Go up the slope and turn right down the main road – *the painfully busy A6.*

You come to Fountain Square in the small village. *Notice that this small village has four real ale pubs in this tiny area. (The Dandy Cock and White Horse sell Robinson's beers, The Rams Head (cask marque real ales) sells food and there is the Mousetrap.*

Turn right between the cenotaph and the fountain.

Behind the Rams Head turn right onto Red Lane and immediately go left through the lichgate - *the Old School Rooms are to its left.*

Climb the winding road to St Mary's Church.

Go right then left past the church and out of the gate ahead of you - *an attractive old church surrounded by gravestones.*

At the junction turn left up the lane signed 'Gritstone Trail'.

Keep going ahead on this. *There are fine open views. The road gradually becomes rougher and sandy with the worn gritstone. To your right you can see the large folly in Lyme Park. Known as 'The Cage' it is in the form of a grand hunting lodge.*

Cross a stile and keep going ahead.

Next on your right there will be a fenced, small wooded area in a dip.

At the end of the fence turn right.

You cross immediately a tiny brook and then go through the gates ahead.

On the lane turn right - signed 'Gritstone Trail'.

Cross a brick bridge over a stream. *The road becomes rough.*

Go through the gate into Lyme Park and follow the rather bare open estate road *with the deer sanctuary and folly on the right. The estate covers 1300 acres and is open all year.*

The road passes the stable block off to the left and eventually drops down and curves to the left.

Go through the arched gateway and into the arch under the porch of the building. *Note the little spy holes in the porch.*

The chapel and tea rooms are through the door on the left.

You can have a look in the courtyard. *This is the largest and likely the grandest house in Cheshire. For 600 years it was the home of the Legh family and was then given to the National Trust.*

The door into the house is on the left of the courtyard. There are beautiful formal gardens through the arch opposite. From March to October the garden is open daily, and the house is open Fri to Tue inclusive. Admission is category three, (concessions) [Tel: 01663 762023](tel:01663762023) Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk. The house and garden appeared in the television series 'Pride and Prejudice' as the place where Mr Darcy met Elizabeth.

Leave the hall through the arched gateway. *Note the sentinel boxes providing room for servants to open the gates 'automatically'.*

Walk directly ahead along the level grassy avenue. *The estate timber yard is down on the left. Eventually there are splendid views of South Lancashire, North Wales and the Pennines. From here you can see Newton le Willows - another part of Lord Newton's lands.*

Just beyond the folly the route drops down. Turn right along the tarmac avenue that it joins.

There is a crossroads with a wooden toll hut. Turn right here *(if you pass a little lake on your right you've gone too far!)*

Leave the park through the gates and follow this lane ahead. *The lake is now to the left of you. The lane becomes something of a millionaires' row.*

Fork left downhill where you see the sign to St Mary's church on your right. *If you want refreshment in the village just stay on the road into the centre.*

Go off the road onto the path on its left and down steps to the station. Cross the station approach road and go onto the near platform for a train back to Manchester.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM MODERATE (one steep bit and some rough tracks).

COUNTRYSIDE, COUNTRY HOUSE,
VIEWS, WOODLAND, CAFES, PUBS.

RAIL FARE: category two

MAPS: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109 Philip's Street Atlas Cheshire

**This is a very good trip indeed but the connection times with the current (2010) timetable can be more than ample – I suggest a shop or a coffee in Manchester. If it doesn't suit you, consider buying a Peak Wayfarer to let you use the tram to Piccadilly. It will be a little dearer but more flexible.*