

Ninety three**BROADBOTTOM – COOMBES ROCKS &
COWN EDGE**

It's time to put on the walking boots and pack the day sack. This walk starts off in gentle attractive countryside, then ascends steadily to the grandeur of Coombes rocks. The walk ends in Glossop where there are numerous opportunities for refreshment.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch a train heading to Glossop or 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 station and leave the platform.*

Walk across to and up the slope going right.

At the main road turn right. Notice the gatehouse to Harewood House (this must have a long carriage drive!) and the two interesting modern houses. The original house is behind. The goods shed is on your left. (now horse riding, bowling etc – imaginative reuse of a building).

Pass the Harewood Arms and take the first right (Mill Brow). Go under the viaduct. *Unusual construction - it includes coal staithes.*

Turn right down Well Row *(a nice terrace of cottages).*

At the bottom U turn left onto the path behind Well Row and descend toward the river. *There is a cottage garden and lovely view of the valley. At the bottom are the remains of Broad Mills.*

Cross the bridge over the river and go left under the gritstone cliff. Follow the path up to Warhurst Fold Farm. The path becomes a tarmac lane (Woodseats Lane) that keeps climbing gently. *You will be glad of this. There is attractive countryside all around. On the left you pass the Woodlands Tearoom & guesthouse.*

At the main road turn right. Cross the road to go next left along Coombs Lane. Proceed through Coombs works yard, keeping the works to your left. *Nice old Victorian Bleaching and Dye works (at a guess) with a row of workers cottages. Behind the works the road is of sets for a short stretch. Go over the stile next to the gate and go straight ahead.*

Follow the ruts through the field and cross a stile in the row of trees ahead. Go over another stile next to a single oak tree *(this is boggy ground).*

Cross another stile and go left to a gate. On the lane turn right and then immediately left over a stile below a bushy shrub. Walk towards a gate with a pond on your right.

Through the gate turn right and past the front of Far Coombes Farm. Diagonally across the circle in the yard you go up a step in the tiny wall. There is a stile on the right a few yards into the trees. Cross it and curve up the side of the hill.

At a wooden pylon with a tiny quarry opposite it, bear left up hill. Follow the grassy road taking the left fork to a gate and stile in a wall. Cross this stile and go right. *This is now a steep, rocky ascent to Coombes rocks. Take someone big and heavy to hold onto if it is breezy.*

As you come to the top curve left to go along the edge. *I reckon that at this point you can now see most of the civilised world.*

Walk above the rocks next to the conifer plantation. After the conifer plantation ends ignore one stile. Take the second stile on the right into this clear area. Follow the sunken track ahead of you to go to the other side of the ridge. *WOW! JUST LOOK AT THAT VIEW! You have arrived at Cown Edge – its rocks stretch to the right of you.*

Go left over the stile and follow the edge. After a short way the path starts to descend. *You've wasted all that time and energy getting up this high, and now you have to get back down to railway level!*

Cross Monks Road and take the footpath opposite. Cross a stile next to a gate and then fork left.

Walk along the left hand side of the plantation ahead of you.

Just keep going in this direction and the path starts to descend steeply. Halfway down go through a small gate on the left and turn right downhill. At the bottom go over a stile (*ask the dark brown horse blocking the way to move*) and a small concrete bridge.

Walk by the left of Hobroyd Farm and carry on down the road in front of The Pennine Care Centre.

A few yards on fork left to go straight down a series of wide paths taking you through some new housing.

Cross the main road (Turnlee Road) towards the garage and go along the footpath to the left of it.

Turn right across the bridge on Slatelands Road which then curves left uphill.

Turn right at the level junction with Pikes Lane/Hollin Cross Lane. *At the end of this is the Victorian gothic church of St James. On the left is the Crown Inn – a nice old pub, it is a regular Good Beer Guide entry selling good value Sam Smith's beers.*

Turn left along Victoria Street (the main road) and follow this down into Glossop centre (*some interesting architecture on the way*). Go over the crossroads and the station is on the left just ahead. *The Star Inn just beyond is also a regular national beer guide entry. Also there are a number of cafes in the town.*

Catch a train back to Manchester Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION: QUITE LONG, DIFFICULT.

COUNTRYSIDE, RIVER, VIEWS, PUBS, CAFES,
ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category one

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheets 109 & 110
Philip's Street Atlas Greater Manchester.

I find the OS map join a bit confusing. The entire route is in the street atlas but with less geographic detail. Paths seem to have changed a bit on the tops. Just follow the itinerary – it works!