

Ninety seven**CLITHEROE TOWN & CASTLE.**

A lovely train ride through fine countryside takes you to this stone market town. With old fashioned shops, a lovely park, and the castle perched on a prominent rock, it is a very attractive place.

Catch the train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria. At Victoria catch a Clitheroe train. *After Bolton the train climbs steeply into the West Pennine Moors and passes way above (sorry) Wayoh reservoir.*

The views in Sough Tunnel are not that good really.

The train speeds up down (?) to Darwen. On the left is the Jubilee Tower above Sunnyhurst Woods. (See trip 44). Blackburn is quite industrial (some of it old fashioned). There is a new mosque on the right at Daisyfield Junction.

Next there is the lush green of the Ribble Valley. As you go over a large viaduct the remains of Whalley Abbey are below on the right.

Alight at Clitheroe Station.

Leave the platform, turn right and then go right under the line. *Here is the starting point of the 60km Clitheroe Long Distance Walk. Do that instead if you want!*

Cross the road and go towards the right. Then turn left up the street opposite the station building. *On your left is Maxwell's, a nice coffee house, and opposite is The Inn by the Station – real ales and food on sale.*

Walk up this road – *an old fashioned police station on the right* – and follow it as it curves right.

At the crossroads with Castle Road turn left, then fork left onto Church Street. *The very attractive library building is in the fork, with a stone chapel next to it. Walk up Church Street. This is a very attractive street of old buildings.*

You come to the parish church of St Mary. Enter the churchyard through the gates – *the garden is well maintained and the views are good. On entering the church look at the little chapel to your right. The galleries are supported by very slender cast iron columns. Website: www.stmaryclitheroe.com*

Leave the church yard and cross towards the St Mary Centre *where Clitheroe's annual beer festival is held.*

Turn left down the alley by the side of the St Mary's centre. *This is Paradise Street.*

Cross the road and turn right to walk all the way up Castle Street towards the castle. *Fine old buildings and unspoilt shop fronts catch the eye!*

On the left is The Swan & Royal Hotel - *note the plaque - and opposite is the Rose and Crown – both food and real ale.*

Cowman's Butcher is on the right as you approach the castle hill. *Cowman's is famed for the range and quality of the sausages – 67 types on the list today!*

Cross the road ahead and go through the gates into the castle grounds.

Take the first left turn up to the museum and castle.

The museum is to the left in the Steward's House. *It's a good one: geology, archaeology, natural history, local history and folklore (including of course The Pendle Witches), are all well displayed. It is open daily from 11.00 in summer and 12.00 in winter. Admission is category one (concessions) Website: www.lancashire.gov.uk*

The cafe and shop are attached to the Steward's House. There are special exhibitions from time to time through the right side of the cafe.

Facing the cafe go right and into the castle keep area (*admission free*). *Like the park it is open all day every day. From the curtain wall the views are impressive! Across from the cenotaph looms Pendle Hill.*

Come back down from the keep into the castle yard. Go through the arch on your right. You descend into the park – *the stage and amphitheatre is down below. It's a lovely park- recently restored.*

[OPTION: If the archway gates are closed go down the steps to the left of the museum – it is attractive and you end up at the same place.]

You pass between The Community Rose Garden and the bowling green below. *There is a part of the houses of parliament in the garden! The bowling green has a cafe.*

At the end of the wall descend the steps, cross a path and go down some more steps slightly to the left. Leave the park onto Woone Lane. *Either side of the gate are old fashioned conveniences.*

Across Moor Lane is The Emporium. *This is a nice wine bar, coffee shop and brasserie. The interior decoration is interesting and in the basement is a home furnishings shop.*

Turn left to walk along Moor Lane. *Here again are old fashioned shops with some unspoiled fronts, and two stone churches on the right.*

Bear left past the Castle Gates and go down Parson Lane.

Cross right towards The New Inn – *a splendidly traditional real ale pub – do take a look in.*

Continue down Parson Lane and turn right onto Station Road opposite the Dil Raj restaurant - *a good Indian Restaurant*

On the right of Station Road is the stone gatehouse of Clitheroe Market. *Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are market days.*

Cross the road at the market gateway then turn right. *However if you have some more shopping to do Booth's supermarket is on the left – a Lancashire supermarket group selling some good produce.*

The station is on your left further along Station Road.

Go past the station building *which is now an art gallery (admission free)* Turn left after the gallery onto the platform for a train back to Manchester.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT. EASY.
 COUNTRYSIDE, CASTLE, GALLERY,
 MUSEUM, VIEWS, CAFES, PUBS.

RAIL FARE: category three

Maps: OS 1:50 000 SHEET 103.
Philip's Street Atlas Lancashire

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.