

Introducing
**Manchester's
Countryside**

The Harridge Round Walk



Higher Swineshaw Reservoir

⑨ Views over to Buckton Castle hill, with its ancient ring fort on top, the working quarry next to it and Carrbrook Heritage Village open out below. In the distance, Hartshead Pike and other local landmarks also appear.

⑩ Spectacular views across Manchester and Cheshire open out as the track rounds the hillside and rejoins the Pennine Bridleway and rough track. Turn right to follow it back down towards Carrbrook and the car park.



Duck Island

For further visitor information on Tameside Countryside telephone: **0161 330 9613**

This walk forms part of a series of walks and trails developed by Manchester's Countryside.

For more information on Manchester's Countryside, including downloads of the walks, visit www.manchesterscountryside.com
Telephone: 01942 825677;
email: info@manchesterscountryside.com

Carrbrook – Walkerwood –
Brushes – Swineshaw –
Carrbrook



The Harridge Round Walk

Distance:

5 miles/8km.

Starting point:

Castle Clough Car Park, at the top of Buckton Vale Road, Carrbrook, Stalybridge. Grid ref. SD 988010.

How to get there:

By car – From Stalybridge take the Huddersfield Road (B6175), follow this through Millbrook until you reach a mini roundabout at "The Carrbrook" pub. Take a right turn here into Buckton Vale Road and follow this into Carrbrook Village, carrying straight on over another mini roundabout. Castle Clough car park will then be on your left hand side at the end of the row of terrace houses, opposite the bowling green.

By bus – Regular buses from Manchester, Ashton under Lyne, Stalybridge and Hyde.

Greater Manchester

Public Transport Information

0161 228 7811 www.gmpte.com

Walk summary:

A strenuous walk around Harridge Pike, following the side of the Tame Valley and then up the Brushes Valley before crossing open moorland on a good track to descend back into Carrbrook village. A walk for a fine day with superb views throughout.

The Walk

① Start at the car park at Carrbrook which has 2 useful interpretation signs explaining the heritage of the village. Walk up Long Row, opposite the car park. At the top of the terrace of houses turn right passing Duck Island.

② Cross the road and follow it left behind the new houses. After 100 metres turn right at the rough road up the hill, following the Pennine Bridleway sign.



Walkerwood Reservoir

③ As you gain height along the Bridleway good views open out over much of Stalybridge, Mossley, Ashton and Greater Manchester. It's worthwhile on a clear day to explore the views and try to identify distant landmarks such as Beetham Tower, Manchester and Jodrell Bank.

④ The track levels out passing some interesting old stone houses and farms dating from around the 18th century when weaving and subsistence farming was done here as a way of life. Where the road turns steeply downhill to the right, take the bridleway ahead following the Pennine Bridleway sign.

⑤ The path circles the contours of the hillside, with excellent views over Walkerwood Reservoir and the lower Brushes Valley, before dropping down to join the tarmac reservoir service road.

⑥ Go left through the gate up the reservoir service road. As you continue up the road, mature oak wood, fields and birch wood provide a wealth of habitats for bird and insect life. As height is gained and the views open out, there are the remains of an old concrete searchlight post. Planes stacking up to use Manchester Airport are clearly seen from here because of the height (nearly 1000ft). Looking back, there are also good views down the valley.

⑦ When you reach the top reservoir, Higher Swineshaw, turn left and continue through a stile, following the track up onto open moorland. Gaining height, look back to enjoy the spectacular views over Derbyshire and the Pennine moorland.

⑧ There are a number of old shooting posts or butts to be seen here and Grouse are regularly seen, with their low whirring flight and cries sounding like 'go back, go back' when they are disturbed. The peak of Harridge Pike can be seen to the left and for those with the time, can be reached through rough grass to the stone cairn or stone circle on the summit at 395 metres (1295ft). Harridge is a shortening of Hare Ridge and mountain hares, which turn white in winter have been seen in this area.

