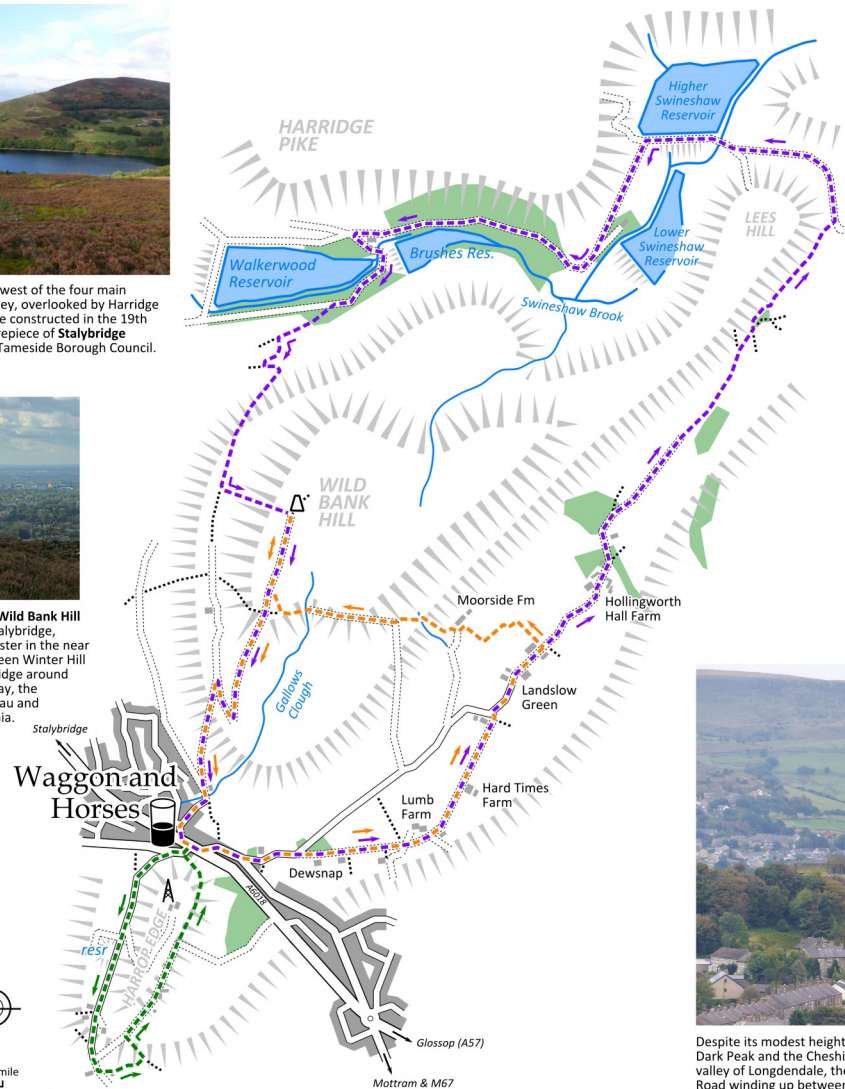




**Walkerwood Reservoir** is the lowest of the four main reservoirs in the Swineshaw valley, overlooked by Harridge Pike (395m). The reservoirs were constructed in the 19th century and now form the centrepiece of **Stalybridge Country Park**, administered by Tameside Borough Council.



The views north and west from **Wild Bank Hill** are extensive and encompass Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester in the near distance. Further afield can be seen Winter Hill to the north, the mid-Cheshire ridge around Beeston Castle and, on a clear day, the Clwydian Hills around Moel Famau and even the mountains of Snowdonia.



**Red Grouse** (*Lagopus lagopus*) are frequently seen and heard on the higher heather-clad slopes of Wild Bank Hill (399m).



These splendid wooden gates, featuring carved scenes from *Aesop's Fables*, are at **Landslow Green**.

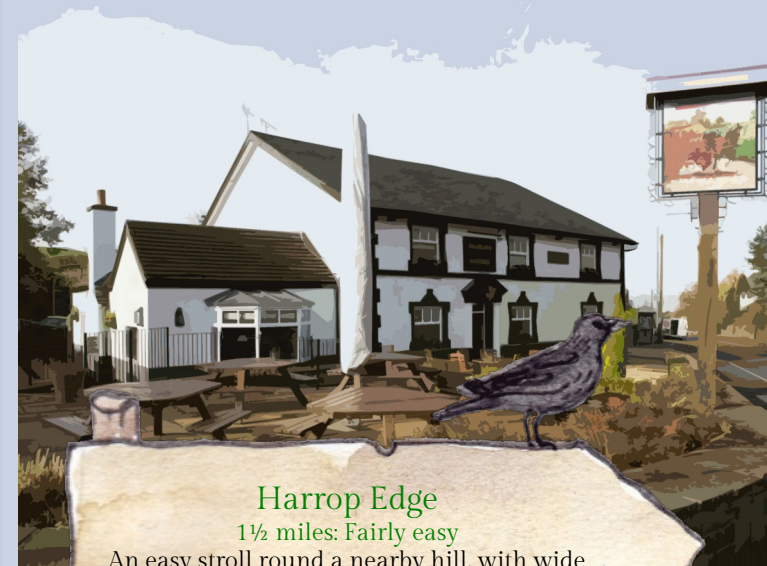


Despite its modest height, **Harrop Edge** offers fine views to the south into the Dark Peak and the Cheshire hills. From east to west the view includes the deep valley of Longendale, the massifs of Bleaklow and Kinder Scout (with the Snake Road winding up between them), the nearer hills of Cown Edge and Werneth Low, and in the foreground the hilltop church of **St Michael and All Angels, Mottram**.

three circular walks from the

# WAGGON & HORSES

Matley, nr Stalybridge



## Harrop Edge

1½ miles: Fairly easy

An easy stroll round a nearby hill, with wide views over Manchester and the Dark Peak.

## Wild Bank Hill

3¼ miles: Moderate

A taste of heather moorland as you climb to the local trig-point, with wide views over Manchester.

## Swineshaw Reservoirs & Wild Bank Hill

6½ miles: Strenuous

A longer walk featuring a scenic valley and a stiff climb to a fine moorland viewpoint.

The Waggon and Horses  
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website [www.waggonhorses.com](http://www.waggonhorses.com)  
email [joe@waggonhorses.com](mailto:joe@waggonhorses.com)

bar open  
Mon—Sat 12 noon—12pm  
Sun 12 noon—11pm  
  
food served  
Mon—Sat 12 noon—9pm  
Sun 12 noon—8pm

## Harrop Edge

1½ miles: Fairly easy

*Allow 1–1½ hours. No major climbs; the outward leg is along a quiet no-through road. Field paths may be muddy after rain.*

**1** From the front door, turn right and right again into Matley Lane. **2** Take the first left, Harrop Edge Road. **3** Follow the road for two-thirds of a mile, climbing to pass a covered service reservoir on your right halfway along, and then descending between Winterbottom Farm on the right and Quarrieside on the left. **4** At the end of the road, ignore a turning on the left, continuing ahead to Cheetham Fold Farm. **5** At a no-entry sign, take a footpath on the left signposted “Edge Lane 200 yards”, which passes to the left of a stable. **6** Walk along the top of a couple of fields until you reach a walled green lane (Edge Lane). **7** Turn left and walk up to a metalled road. **8** Turn right through the gate and follow the lane to Paddock Farm. **9** Beyond the farm, follow the stony track ahead. **10** When the track turns abruptly right, squeeze through a gap ahead of you and follow the wall straight on, passing below a farmhouse, to a field gate in the far corner. **11** Beyond the gate continue downhill, to the right of a pylon (ignoring a vague track that swings left across the field). **12** Cross a stile in the bottom right-hand corner of the field. **13** Follow a descending path beyond, which swings left away from a belt of woodland to a stile on Matley Road opposite the Waggon and Horses.

## Wild Bank Hill

3¼ miles: Moderate

*Allow 2–2½ hours. One moderate climb, and a moorland stream crossing that may be boggy. Although the way is easy to follow, the walk crosses open moorland and appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn. Avoid in bad weather.*

**1** Cross the main road in front of the pub and turn right. **2** Turn immediately left into Hobson Moor Road. **3** At the next junction, turn left up the no-through road. **4** At the next junction, bear right into Dewsnap Lane. **5** Pass Dewsnap Farm on your right. **6** Continue straight on past further houses and pass the entrance to Lumb Farm on your left, keeping straight ahead and ignoring paths and tracks off to either side. **7** After passing Hard Times Farm, the track swings left round a house to a narrow lane. **8** Turn right and walk down to the end of the road. **9** Beyond a gate marked “Private Road”, continue along the track between converted farm buildings. *(If following the Swineshaw Reservoirs & Wild Bank Hill walk, skip to step 10.)* **10** Just after the next farm, turn left over a stone step stile at Peak & Northern Footpath Society sign no. 198 (“Stalybridge via Shaw Moor”). **11** The path leads between fence and wall and then up the side of a field to the top corner, where it turns left to a stile. **12** Turn left along the bottom of the next field, then turn right in the bottom corner and walk up towards Moorside Farm. **13** At the top of the field, turn left through a gate in front of the farmhouse. **14** Cross the drive

and climb a short flight of stone steps, continuing to a stile onto open moorland. **15** Follow the path to the right, passing a couple of waymark posts and keeping to the right of a shallow clough (stream valley). **16** As you approach a drystone wall, cross the stream via a wooden footbridge on your left (if this crossing is inaccessibly boggy you may need to skirt to the right of the head of the stream). **17** Above the footbridge head for a stile in the wall with a footpath fingerpost beyond it. **18** Walk up the right-hand side of the field beyond, following an obvious track. **19** The track descends to a gate then heads on through the heather, fording the headwaters of Gallows Clough. **20** Beyond a line of pylons a path through the heather to the right cuts the corner to the main path to the Wild Bank summit. **21** Bear right along the broad track up to the trig point. **22** Having admired the view from the top, turn and retrace your steps, this time ignoring the short cut (now on your left), continuing straight on to a crossroads of ways by a waymark post and a small cairn of stones. **23** Follow the wide descending track ahead of you, passing a pylon to your right. **24** Shortly before a second pylon, the track swings sharp right and descends to a gate above a junction. **25** Turn left and follow the descending track in the general direction of the masts on Harrop Edge. **26** Keep straight on when another track joins from the right. **27** At Gallows Clough Farm, bear right down a metalled road. **28** At the bottom, a short cobbled section swings left and emerges on the A6018 opposite the Waggon and Horses.

## Swineshaw Reservoirs & Wild Bank Hill

6½ miles: Strenuous

*Allow 3–4 hours. Although the way is easy to follow, the walk crosses open moorland in places and appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn. The direct climb to the trig point is steep and on a loose, uneven surface. Avoid in bad weather.*

Follow steps **1** to **9** of the [Wild Bank Hill](#) walk, above.

**10** At Peak and Northern Footpath Society sign no. 198, carry straight on (signposted “To Swineshaw and Arnfield Moor”). **11** Before the entrance to Hollingworth Hall Farm, take a track to the left, which curves round to the right to a gate marked “Footpath Only”. **12** Pass a further house on the left and barn on the right, climbing through woodland to open country. **13** After a gate, descend along the track passing coniferous woodland on the right. **14** At the beginning of the next small patch of woodland, leave the track on a footpath over a stile on your left (the Tameside Trail). **15** After the end of the wood the path leads between tumbledown walls and then along a series of walls below the slope of Lees Hill on your left, before descending to a stile and gate onto an obvious track below a line of pylons. **16** Turn left and follow the track to Higher Swineshaw Reservoir. **17** Beyond the dam, turn left and follow the metalled road (signposted “PENNINE BRIDLEWAY Brushes Valley 1½”). **18** Pass under the power lines and continue down the reservoir access road, which curves west (right) after Lower Swineshaw Reservoir and becomes more wooded.

**19** After a house on the left you reach a gate before a crossroads, where you turn sharp left onto a track that descends to pass below the dam of Brushes Reservoir. **20** Bear right over a stile beside a metal gate. **21** About 100 yards after a second, similar, gate, leave the track on a narrower path that heads off obliquely through the trees on your left. **22** The path emerges onto open moorland with views to Walkerwood Reservoir and Harridge Pike away to your right. **23** Follow the path to a junction, where you take a left turn up a slightly eroded path that climbs steeply before bearing right. **24** When you meet another path, turn left and follow it as it swings round to the right, still climbing. **25** The path passes several piles of stones and levels off again before reaching a metal gate in a fenceline. **26** Beyond the gate, turn immediately left and follow a steep, rough path that parallels the fence straight up the side of the hill. **27** Beyond a hand gate the path continues alongside the remains of a wall, until you suddenly reach the trig point at the summit. **28** Having admired the view, turn right and walk down a broad track to a crossroads of ways by a waymark post and a small cairn of stones.

Now follow steps **23** to **28** of the [Wild Bank Hill](#) walk, above, to return to the Waggon and Horses.

### WELCOME TO THE WAGGON & HORSES

The Waggon and Horses is situated on the top of what is locally called the cutting on the main Stalybridge to Glossop road. It is a friendly and comfortable family-run pub.

We pride ourselves on using locally sourced food freshly prepared by our team of chefs. The menu is an extensive traditional pub menu; running alongside that are specials and the locally renowned Sunday lunch menu.

The Waggon and Horses is a very family-friendly place to go: whether for a relaxing drink or a family gathering, everyone is catered for. It has three cask ales, a selection of lagers, ciders, soft drinks and an extensive wine list. The Waggon and Horses is open every day both lunchtimes and evenings.

We hope these carefully chosen circular walks will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return to the Waggon and Horses.



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