

WALK 3

A short walk from Spuley Lane

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This walk was on our Thursday evening walks programme in 2012 and is very suitable for a pleasant summer evening.

Starting point: Spuley Lane, at the end of Hedge Row, Bollington. SJ945782

Map: OS Explorer 268 – Wilmslow, Macclesfield & Conglton

Length: 4.3 miles

Grade: Easy

Walk in a southerly direction i.e. away from Pott Shrigley, then go left at fork into Oakenbank Lane (follow Gritstone Trail signposts). Where the road turns left, carry straight on along the footpath, following the Gritstone Trail signpost. After a stile over a stone wall, turn left and go uphill through the field. (Note: at this point the Gritstone Trail goes right through a gate.)

Go though the gate at the top of the field and turn right onto the bridle track, Oakenbank Lane. At the end of the track, take the left fork into Smithy Lane, then continue onwards and upwards into Jumper Lane. Follow the sign 'Restricted Byway' uphill and, at the top of Jumper Lane, you will be rewarded with some magnificent views across the Cheshire Plain. Turn right on reaching the end of this lane, but pause for a while, sit on the bench provided and admire the views back to White Nancy at Bollington, The Nab, Alderley Edge and, in the far distance, the hills of North Wales.



The view from Jumper Lane towards White Nancy



Follow the 'Restricted Byway' sign to reach Blaze Hill. Go left then almost immediately right, with Billingie Head Farm on your right. Go through the gate and take the right fork, which gradually descends. Just after the brown house and a sign on the left to Bower Clough and Spuley Lane, take the stile on the right marked to Harrop Fold.

Go through a field to a wooden gate opposite, cross a stream then go over another stile into a field. Descend and cross a stream (via wooden boards) over a stile then uphill, over another stile and, after crossing the stile on the left, reach Harrop Fold Farm. Note that the footpath goes through the sheep pen. After a short distance, take the steps over a wall then go immediately left over a ladder stile in the direction of the signpost to Further Harrop.

Pass holiday cottages on the left. Go left at a waymark post, then, shortly afterwards, pass Mellow Brook cottage on the left. Follow the public footpath sign to Bollington and Pott Shrigley (going right) down a track. Cross the stile then bear right through an avenue of small trees. At the end, cross the stile and go left. Go down a track, then cross a stile to enter Harrop Wood. On the right-hand side you will notice a selection of wooden 'instruments' which you could pause and try out.

Cross a stone step-stile (with “Buttercup 8” disc) and carry on through the wood. Note the ‘Woodpecker’ carving, which you pass on your left.

Keeping the stream on your right-hand side, cross over a smaller stream via stone steps and then go steeply uphill towards buildings on the right-hand side. Go through the gate into the lane adjacent to the cottages – this is Hedge Row, which you follow for approximately a mile back to the start point on Spuley Lane.