

4.6 miles (7.4km) (Shorter route available: 3.1 miles (5km))



Old Glossop, Shire Hill and Swineshaw Reservoir

This wonderful walk takes you out of the lively heart of Glossop town centre, through the historic streets of Old Glossop, and within only a short distance offers wild, panoramic views of the surrounding moors and fields. The route then continues along quiet lanes before heading up to walk beside the waters of Swineshaw Reservoir, finally returning to the town centre via the leafy paths of Manor Park. The figure of 8 route allows the walk to be shortened to a 3.1 miles (5km) route if preferred, leaving out the Swineshaw Reservoir loop. Please note that the terrain is uneven in places and may be muddy after wet weather. Glossop has a wide range of cafés, shops and pubs for refreshments before or after the walk, as well as public toilets.

Start/Finish Point

Norfolk Square, Glossop, SK13 8BR; fond.lousy.crackled

A The walk begins from the heart of Glossop town centre, by the war memorial in the centre of Norfolk Square. Walk out of the square in an easterly direction on to High Street East, past the red telephone boxes and the Norfolk Arms pub on your left. Continue walking along High Street East for approx 650 metres, crossing over Norfolk Street and going straight on over the roundabout at Corn Street. Immediately before The Commercial Inn on your left, turn left onto Manor Park Road. Walk along this quiet road into Old Glossop, with the leafy Manor Park on your left.

B After approx 500 metres look out for a red telephone box and post box on the right, and take the public footpath on the right immediately before them. This path twists and turns between houses and very quickly emerges into wide open countryside with wonderful views of the surrounding hills.

Continue following the clear path through a wooden hand gate beside a wide metal gate. Approx 150 metres after the wide metal gate, the path bears right through a squeeze gap in an old stone wall and passes between two fences, with open views to all sides. After a further 150 metres, skirt around a hedge and continue walking straight on with the hedge on your left, at the edge of a playing field.

At the end of the playing field, walk under trees and head straight on through a quiet housing estate for approx 150 metres. At a T-junction of roads, take the left hand fork. At a further T-junction of roads, by a prominent postbox, take the left hand fork again.

After approx 50 metres turn left on to a public footpath and follow this clear path signposted to Doctor's Gate. After walking past the final houses and emerging into open countryside at Shire Hill, go straight on at a small crossroads of paths. There are beautiful woodlands to both sides. Where the path forks, take the left hand fork passing through a gap in a stone wall, ignoring the right hand fork into Shire Hill Wood.

Follow this clear path with beautiful views back towards Glossop on your left. At the edge of the woodland there is a well-positioned bench for a break if needed! Continue following the path downhill between two fences. Be aware that this section is rocky and may be muddy after wet weather, so take care.

The path winds down and eventually crosses a pretty wooden footbridge over Shelf Brook. After crossing the bridge, turn left on the bridleway (Shepley Street). Continue straight on when the bridleway becomes a metalled lane, passing industrial buildings on your right and keeping the brook on your left.

When you reach a T-junction at the very end of Shepley Street, you can choose to either turn left on Manor Park Road to retrace your steps back into Glossop and end the walk, or continue by turning right and walking uphill to complete the Swineshaw Reservoir loop.

C To continue the walk, turn right and walk up Church Street South until you reach the Bull's Head pub in front of you. Go straight on, taking Dunne Lane to the right of the pub.

At the top of Dunne Lane, turn left onto Blackshaw Road for a short distance and then take the first right onto Bute Street. Walk straight on along Bute Street for approx 200 metres. Where it bears left and becomes Kilmory Fold, go straight on along a short section of road. Where the road ends, take the footpath on the right. At a small T-junction of paths almost immediately afterwards, turn left.

Follow this pretty, tree-lined track (Blackshaw Clough) for approx 600 metres, passing a picturesque pond on your right. When you draw level with some workshops on your right, look out for a narrow footpath opposite on your left that crosses a stream and walks uphill through trees. Take care as the ground is uneven in places.

Keep to the path as it hugs the line of a stone wall on your right, walking to the far edge of a large field with open countryside views in all directions. Just over the wall is Swineshaw Reservoir, which has provided Glossop's drinking water since the mid 1800s. When you reach the end of the wall, turn left and follow the path straight on downhill towards woodland, now with a fence to your right.

Go through a wooden zig-zag stile to walk on the right hand side of Cat Wood (private), then through a further zig-zag stile to walk straight on downhill through a field with a stone wall to your right and a view of Glossop ahead. Go through a metal kissing gate to join a quiet lane between houses (Castle Hill). At the end of the lane, walk roughly straight on for a short distance and then retrace your steps downhill on Dunne Lane, on your right after approx 25 metres.

D When you emerge at the Bull's Head pub again, this time turn right on to Church Street, passing the parish church on your left. After 180 metres turn left into Church Close. This quiet lane takes you into the centre of Manor Park.

There are many paths through the park and you can choose whichever you prefer. A lovely route is to follow the road into the park and then turn right into the walled Formal Gardens. Turn left in the Formal Gardens and walk down beside the stream, through the Play Area, across another bridge, finally turning left on Corn Street.

Follow Corn Street until it emerges at a roundabout. Turn right at the roundabout and retrace your steps back along High Street East to return to Glossop town centre and the start of your walk.

VISIT PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE

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