

Introducing Manchester's Countryside

Moorland Waters



⑦ Having passed the plantation, continue along this track with the reservoirs running parallel on your left until you reach a large gate. Walk through this gate until the track takes a 90° turn to the left. At this point cross over the stile on your right and follow the path in front of you. Continue with care along this route as it gradually steepens and climbs a hill which heads to the left. Enjoy the views over the reservoirs before the path eventually descends to a dip in the valley.

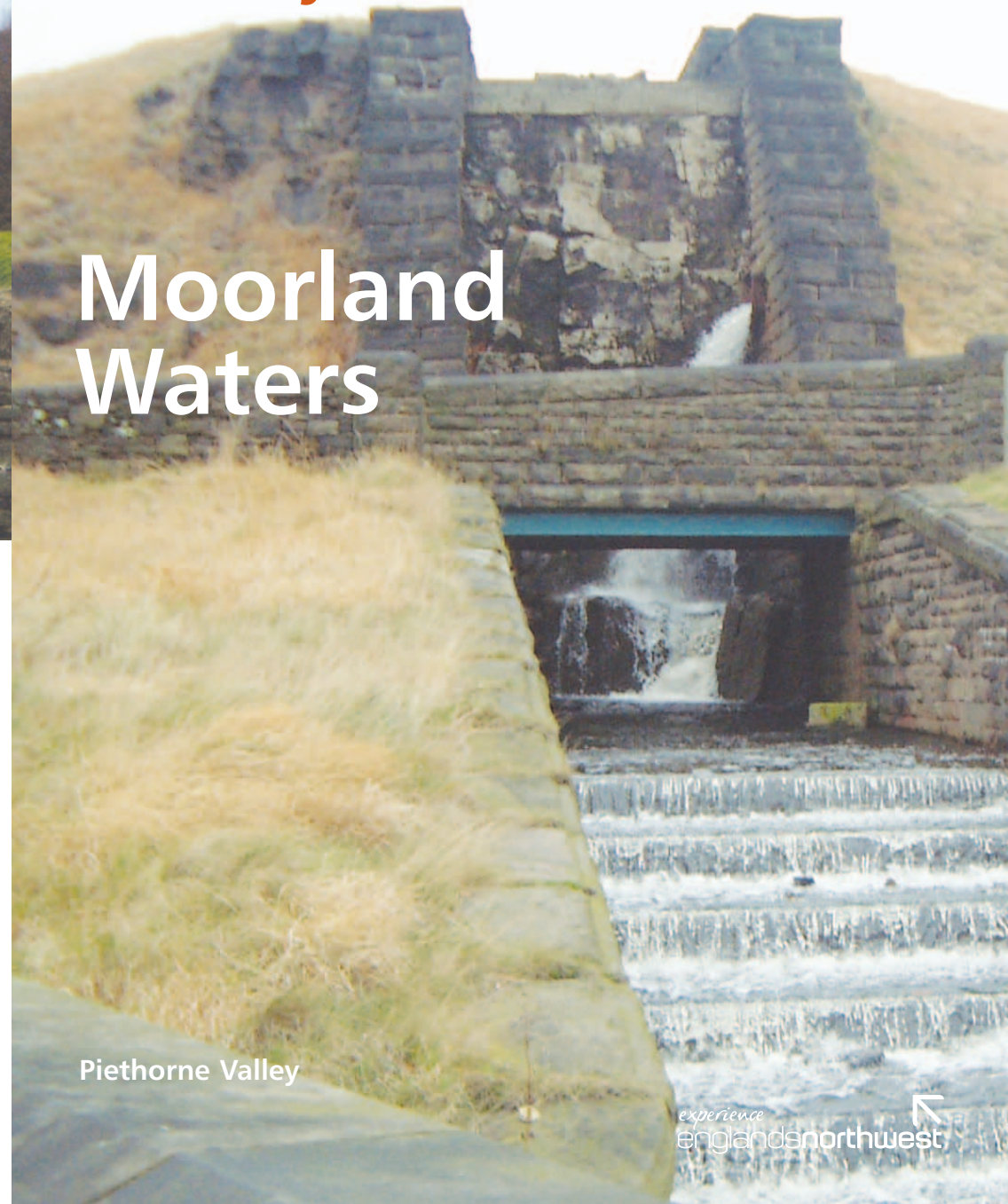
⑧ From here you should now proceed up the hill in front of you, the reservoirs will now be in the distance to your left. Take care to climb this hill as it becomes quite steep. As you reach the top you will approach farm land. Follow the path to the

back of the field and if you are lucky you might even get sight of some of the alpacas that graze it.

Rejoin the Pennine Bridleway at the end of this field, turning right towards the Rams Head. This brings you to the end of the route, and where better to end your walk and rest your feet than in the friendly local pub.

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



Piethorne Valley

Moorland Waters

Distance:
3 miles/5km.

Starting point:
Rams Head, Ripponden Road,
Denshaw OL3 5UN
OS Map Reference: SD978119



How to get there:

By car – From the M62 J22, take the A672 signposted Saddleworth. The Rams Head is situated approximately 2.5 miles on the right.

Parking – Rams Head Car Park.

By bus – Buses are available from both Oldham and Rochdale. 351 from Rochdale. Alight at Rochdale Road and walk up Ripponden Road where you will find the Rams Head on your left. 407 from Oldham. Alight at Rochdale Road, and walk up Ripponden Road where you will find the Rams Head on your left.

Greater Manchester Public Transport Information
0161 228 7811 www.gmpte.com

Walk summary:

The secluded Piethorne Valley is hidden from view and nestles in the folds of the high Pennine moors. Victorian reservoirs built to supply water to the surrounding area dominate the valley and provide a wonderful backdrop to this moorland walk. The valley holds many delights, with rolling hills, stunning scenery, picturesque waterways, and a wealth of history all waiting to be discovered.

The Walk

① Begin the walk from the path which runs at the back of the Rams Head Pub. This route is part of the Pennine Bridleway and will lead you towards the reservoirs in the Piethorne Valley below. As the path gradually dips, you will encounter magnificent views of open moorland with glimpses of Rochdale in the distance.

② Having reached the bottom of the valley, with the reservoirs on your left you will see a small building on your right, known as the Limehouse. Built at the same time as the reservoir, this was once used to store lime which was then added to the water in order to reduce its acidity. In recent years this was replaced with the use of chlorine.

Walk 8

③ Continue along this path for 150 yards, before taking the footpath to the left of the gate which will lead you to the Old House Ground Plantation, locally known as Bluebell Wood. This small woodland is a real gem, with beech, rowan and sycamore trees providing a habitat for wild animals sheltering off the high moorland. A carpet of bluebells are a magnificent sight here in the spring.

④ As you emerge from the woods, walk straight ahead, following the path as it rises and falls before bringing you to Binns Ruin. Once an inhabited farming community, here you will spot ruins dating back to the 13th century. On a good day this provides a great little spot to relax and enjoy a picnic. Marvel at the ruins and take in the magnificent views over the reservoirs and beyond.

From Binns Ruins take the path to your left after 50 yards. As the path gradually descends, you will see a path running to your left. Follow this route which will eventually lead you to a footpath in between Kitcliffe and Piethorne Reservoirs.

⑤ A small building sits on the banks of Piethorne Reservoir. This is the Valve House, and controls the flow of water from the reservoir to the water treatment works below the dam. Once treated the water is then supplied to the surrounding community.

⑥ Turn left as you come to the end of this path, with Piethorne Treatment works on your right. As you continue along this path you will pass Knowsley Plantation on the hill to your right. Named after Knowsley Farm, which is now in ruins, this plantation was thought to be planted to provide firewood and cover for game birds. A new plantation, planted in 1980 can now be seen alongside it.

