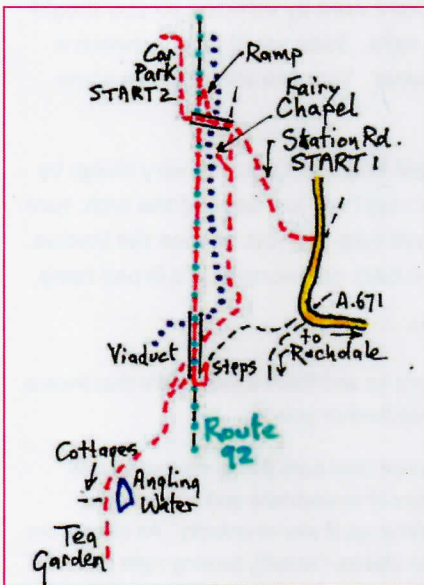


STROLL 1 FAIRY CHAPEL, VIADUCT, HEALEY DELL TEA ROOMS

START Station Road, Broadley

DISTANCE Medium BUS STOP Station Road, Broadley

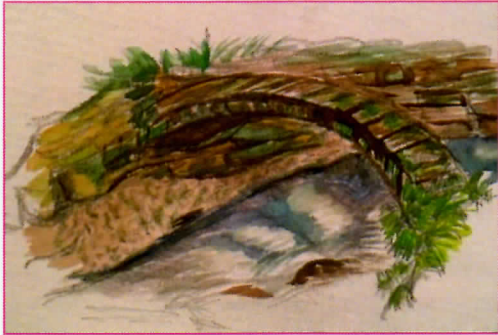
NATURE of WALK First half down, second up! Park on Station Road: the sign for the Fairy Chapel is on the bend at the bottom. If you go to the car park at Broadley Wood, you'll need to walk back about 250m.



Follow the sign pointing you down the steps onto a broad, sloping path. 50m. ahead is another sign, pointing you down the Fairy Chapel's steep and uneven steps. Towards the bottom they can be wet from spray, so descend with real care. There's no danger of falling into the river – it's well fenced. If you don't fancy the steps, well, you'll have missed a beautiful and evocative little detour, complete with a legend about fairy treachery (and human gullibility), but don't give up on the walk: there are other glories to come.

Back at the top of the steps, resume your gentler descent of the main path, which will bring you leafily down to river level, once you've negotiated the right turn – you may find the first way round the corner better than the second: helpful handrail. And now...which way to look! To your right the

noisy tumble of the river may grab your ears...while ahead of you looms the majesty of the viaduct, its seven astonishing arches 103 feet high. For



90 years from 1870 trains steamed across here, carrying stone initially – there are local flagstones in Trafalgar Square - then passengers.

Little Arch by Leanne Davidson. It spans the river just upstream of the viaduct's *slightly* bigger arches.

The path now turns upward, for Healey Dell Road. To get to the Tea Rooms, simply turn right and down. The road twists its way under a canopy of trees, but remember it's a road used by vehicles, so you should use the convention of walking on the right. Soon you'll pass between a row of cottages and an angling club water. Your tea and cake are some 200 pot-holed metres further on.

Having refreshed, return via Healey Dell Road, but you can vary things by crossing the viaduct itself. The access steps are just beyond the arch: turn right at the top. The old railway line will take you just beyond the Station Road bridge, where you'll need to turn back on yourself up a broad ramp.

There is an argument that it's better to start up and finish down. Here that means postponing your treat till the very end. Two further points:

1.You can drive to the Tea Rooms and Garden (and park there) via Healey Dell Road, but drive down cautiously, being wary of pedestrians and of oncoming vehicles...which might require a bit of backing up, if you're unlucky. An alternative route is via Shawclough Road (up the hill at Healey Corner), turning right opposite the Healey Hotel.

2.The steps off the south end of the viaduct can be treacherous in damp conditions: use that handrail, even if it's mucky! JF

