

To Hellifield And Back

The Ribble Valley Line, part of the former Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway system, runs from Blackburn in Lancashire to a junction with the former Midland route to Scotland, via the famous Settle and Carlisle line, at Hellifield in North Yorkshire. Passenger services between Blackburn and Hellifield were withdrawn in September 1962. In 1978 the platforms at Clitheroe were reinstated for the Lancashire DalesRail services. In 1986 Ribble Valley Rail was formed and ran highly successful charter trains which raised public awareness. With skilful lobbying and Local Authority support (especially from Lancashire County Council) RVR succeeded in persuading Regional Railways to



institute a summer Saturday Shopper service between Preston and Clitheroe. Its success resulted in the rebuilding or re-siting of the platforms at intermediate stations and the reintroduction of a daily (hourly) passenger service between Manchester Victoria and Clitheroe in May 1994.

The previous occasion when RVR was able to video the whole of the Ribble Valley Line from Blackburn to Hellifield was from an RVR-chartered DMU on Saturday 23rd April 1988.

Since then, much has changed - four rebuilt stations, an hourly Manchester Victoria - Clitheroe passenger service, massive lineside vegetation clearance, and no gas-holder at Clitheroe.

This video was shot on Sunday 17th July 2005 from the front cab of unit No. 156421 which formed 1M47 (10.00 Preston - Carlisle) and 1M51 (15.30 Carlisle - Preston) DalesRail services.

A Canon MV750i digital camcorder was used with Maxell DVM60SE tape and mounted on a Jessops T315 tripod. The longer waits at some stations and at signal DS12 have been pruned and the inclusion

“To Hellifield And Back” Blackburn - Hellifield - Blackburn cab-ride DVD

More copies of the return trip from Blackburn to Hellifield and back are now available.

Running time: 1 hour 30 minutes. Price: £10 (+ £1 p&p). £9 (+ £1 p&p) to RVR Members.

Cheque or Postal Order, made out to Ribble Valley Rail, with order to W.A. Briggs, 55 Bank Head Lane, Houghton, PRESTON, PR5 0AB, (quoting RVR membership number, if applicable). Please allow 28 days for delivery. They will also be available in the Tourist Information Centres at Clitheroe and Blackburn, and in the cafe at Hellifield station.



DalesRail to Carlisle, and Dales Rail Return

Originally produced for driver-training, the video footage was shot on Sunday 17th July 2005 from the front cab of unit No. 156421 which formed 1M47 (10.00 Preston - Carlisle) and 1M51 (15.30 Carlisle - Preston) DalesRail services.

Since that date, large sections of the Settle - Carlisle line have been upgraded so that many of the ESRs and TSRs seen in the DVDs have been removed and the Ais Gill summit board has been reinstated. (Extract from sleeve notes)

“DalesRail to Carlisle” and “DalesRail Return” Hellifield- Carlisle 2-DVD set Carlisle - Hellifield

Ribble Valley Rail, in co-operation with Northern Rail and Virgin Trains, has now produced a second cab-ride DVD, this time of the journey from **Hellifield to Carlisle and return**. This is a 2-DVD set “**DalesRail to Carlisle**” and “**DalesRail Return**” using the same format as “To Hellifield And Back”, except spread over 2 discs to maintain quality. It is a view from the “secondman’s” seat of a DalesRail unit, unadulterated by background music or voice-over. Selected lineside features are indicated by sub-titles.

Over the years, numerous cab-ride videos of the ride over the S&C have been produced, both professionally and otherwise, but, as far as we are aware, only in the northbound direction. Recorded on the same DalesRail journey as “To Hellifield And Back”, each disc lasts just under 2 hours and the set is good value at the price of £16 (+ £1 p&p). £15 (+ £1 p&p) to RVR Members.

Why not purchase all three DVDs for the unbeatable price of £25 (+ £1 p&p), (£23 + £1 p&p to RVR Members)?
