

Tacklers Trail

WITTON
WEAVERS
WAY

Walk
No. 3



9.5 miles

(A walk with a couple of short steep slopes and some rough moorland path(s))



TACKLERS TRAIL 9.5 miles (moderate w

The Warpers Trail forms part of the long distance Witton Weavers Way.

This walk combines woodlands, moorland and spectacular views to make this trail well worth the effort!

You are strongly advised to use these walk details in conjunction with OS Explorer map No. 287, West Pennine Moors. Stout boots are recommended, as parts of this walk can become muddy in wet weather.

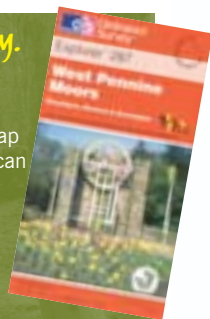
START: Sunnyhurst Wood Visitor Centre, a short walk down from Earnsdale Road, Darwen

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: 1 mile from Darwen town centre, alight at Hollins Grove Street

PARKING: On Earnsdale Road, off A666. 1 mile from junction 4 M65

ALTERNATIVE PARKING AND START POINTS (SEE OS MAP FOR EXACT LOCATIONS):

- Slipper Lowe car park - 1km from Roddlesworth GR 664203
- Car park off Belmont Road, A675 - 2km from Roddlesworth GR 665191
- Sunnyhurst car park - at top of Earnsdale Road GR 679225



Sunnyhurst Wood was acquired by public subscription in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.

The Visitor Centre¹, in the former gamekeeper's cottage offers exhibitions, activities and information.

The charming Olde England Kiosk (refreshments available) was built in 1911 to commemorate the coronation of King George V

16-17

From the Visitor Centre walk up into the wood, following Sunnyhurst brook, past the stone bridges, and on past the bandstand. Continue up the valley, emerging from the wood by an iron gate, at the corner of Earnsdale Reservoir.

17-18

Turn right up the track eventually emerging onto Tockholes Road, built by Eccles Shorrock in the 1840s to link the village with Darwen. Eccles Shorrock is best known today for the 300 foot Venetian campanile chimney of India Mill, Darwen. Turn left and after 100 yards take the footpath on the right down into the wood. As the Roddlesworth Upper Reservoir² comes into view, follow the path round to the left.



2. Roddlesworth Upper Reservoir



3. Spot the birdlife amidst Reservoir country

In about 100 yards a footpath crosses the track, turn right here and left at the reservoir. Follow the path round by a fence then a wall to cross the bridge over Rocky Brook, the local name of the River Roddlesworth.

18-19

Continue alongside the brook keeping to the lower path at a fork. Go through the iron gate and cross the stone bridge, known as Halliwell Fold Bridge⁴. Continue up the track with the brook now on your right.

Mallard and goldeneye ducks can be seen on the reservoirs, with the occasional great crested grebe or tufted duck in winter³. The coniferous plantations have rowan, oak and birch saplings along their edges to provide varied wildlife habitats.

This junction of lanes was once a busy road linking Abbey Village, Tockholes and Hollinshead Hall with many dwellings. The ruins of Halliwell Fold Farm once supplied chain horses to help



With a couple of short steep inclines & some rough w

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4. Halliwell Fold Bridge,
Roddlesworth



pull the heavy loads of coal up the steep gradient to Tockholes from Withnell railway station to fuel the local mill.

Wild flowers to look out for include bluebells⁵ and lesser celandine in spring, wood sorrel, pignut, golden saxifrage and clumps of wood rush, the blue devil's bit scabious, wood sage and red campion. Birds to spot include grey wagtail and chaffinch.

The track climbs steadily as it leaves the brook, eventually levelling off at a clearing. Go straight on here through a gate. The road to the left here is known as Slipper Lowe and leads to the main road that passes through Tockholes from Blackburn to Bolton. At the end of Slipper Lowe is a picnic site, a convenient place for parking and an alternative start point.



5. Bluebells

2

Cadshaw
Valley

19-20

Continue ahead, following the track down the hill alongside the wall. Great Hill is prominent to the right. Go straight through the ruins of Hollinshead Hall, climbing the track to the left of the wooden fence.

Hollinshead Hall was the manor house of Tockholes and what remains are the ruins of the 18th century hall, stables and farm buildings. There has been a hall on the site since the 14th century. The last owner was Eccles Shorrock who allowed the buildings to fall into disrepair. The site was demolished in 1911 by Liverpool Corporation who needed the stone to build a wall to keep sheep out of the newly planted woods around the reservoir.

The wellhouse⁶ (Wishing Well or Holy Well) still stands. Five springs of water meet here and they have legendary healing properties for eyes.

On joining Tockholes Road turn right. After 500 yards take the green lane that carries straight on where the road bends sharply to the right. *(The car park to the right is another possible starting point)*

20-21

When the wall on your left ends, turn left up an unfenced track. You climb steadily, going over a stile by a gate, with the ruins of Higher Pasture Barn Farm on the right. As the track climbs sharply to the left, take the rough path that continues climbing straight ahead. At the crest of the hill you may wish to rest a while, on the bench

dedicated to Vic Ryan, former president of Blackburn Rambling Association who often led walks through this countryside.

Miners built most of the tracks over Darwen Moor and the plateau has the remains of many filled-in mine shafts, spoil heaps and even the bed of an old steam engine. There were no less than 21 pits with a further dozen or so scattered around the moor where poor grade coal was mined for over 300 years. In the 19th century the coal was used to



6. Hollinshead Hall: Haunted Wellhouse

fire the steam engines of the two village mills. From these pits originates the local folklore of "treacle mines". The treacle being the sticky tar often found in the coal seam when the coal is young and not yet solid.

21-22

Cross the wall and continue straight ahead along the track, keeping a low wall on your right. The track swings right then left and you will meet a stream on your right, which soon becomes a culvert. Continue down the valley and in approximately 1½ miles you will pass the ruined Top o' th' Brow farm on your right.

This is the Cadshaw Valley, in which up to 200 people lived and worked in the 19th century, before the land was taken over by Liverpool Corporation for water supply works. In the distance look out for Peel Tower on Holcombe Moor, standing at 128 feet high. The monument was erected in 1852 in honour Sir Robert Peel, a local townsman, at a total cost of £965.

23-24

Turn right down the drive and take the path on the left just before the gateway. Continue up along the fence. Darwen Tower⁷ will come into view then take the left fork of the path. Shortly afterwards, take the right fork and continue onto the tower.

The Jubilee Tower, to give its correct name, was built in 1897 by public subscription. It commemorated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and also celebrated the opening of Darwen Moor to the public after a long fight for access. From the top of the tower on clear days you can see as far as the Fylde coast, the Lake District and North Wales.

22-23

Follow the track and in a short while you will see a ruin and a solitary tree up on your left. Climb up the field to cross the stile next to the ruin. Carry straight on to climb a stile in a wall. Cross the field diagonally, keeping both walls equally distant. The India Mill chimney will appear in the distance. This is now your line. Darwen Tower will be seen to your left. Climb the stile at the top of the conifer plantation, and follow the footpath down, alongside the fence. Climb the stile and continue along the track over open ground. Climb the stile and follow the path over rough ground alongside the fence. A modern white house, known locally as Lord's hall, will appear ahead and you eventually emerge onto its drive.

24-16

Turn right at the tower's triangulation point, taking the wide track that goes over the rounded hill, in the direction of distant Pendle Hill. Go over the brow, through a gate and continue down the track taking a left fork along a wall. Turn left at the Sunnhurst Pub, with the Lychgate Hotel⁸ on your left, (a former 16th century farmhouse) offering quality accommodation.



8. Rambling over the Moors from the Lychgate Hotel

Take the first right through the Lychgate⁹ into the wood and then the right-hand fork. Continue down the hill turning right at the bandstand. Keep to the path on the right bank of the stream to return to the Visitor Centre.



9. Sunnhurst Lychgate and Cyclists



USEFUL INFORMATION

Blackburn Tourist Information Centre (01254) 53277 or www.tourism.blackburnworld.com

Travel Centre (01254) 681120

Sunnhurst Wood Visitor Centre (01254) 701545 or 55423

Olde England Kiosk (01254) 701530

The Lychgate Hotel (01254) 775632

Sunnhurst Pub (01254) 873035

THE COUNTRY CODE

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Keep to paths across farmland.
- Avoid damage to fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Leave no litter.
- Help to keep all water clean.

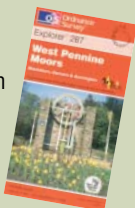


- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Go carefully on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.

NOTES FOR WALKERS

ESSENTIAL KIT

The OS Explorer No. 287 (West Pennine Moors) provides excellent aid and information on all areas covered in this guide. (Ordnance Survey *tel:* 08456 050505 / www.ordsvy.gov.uk)



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are travelling to the start of the walk using public transport, please contact **Blackburn Travel and Local Information Centre.** *Tel:* 01254 681120.

Blackburn Central Railway Station (Enquiries). *Tel:* 08457 484950.

For information on local attractions, events, places of interest and accommodation, please contact **Blackburn Tourist Information Centre.** *Tel:* 01254 53277. *Email:* askus@blackburn.gov.uk

Alternatively visit the **Blackburn with Darwen website** at: www.tourism.blackburnworld.com

Blackburn with Darwen Countryside Services Office. *Tel:* 01254 691239 for countryside information and events.



Please note that every effort has been taken to ensure details are correct at the time of printing. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, nor any consequence arising from use of the information.

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Photos: Mike Tattersall, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council