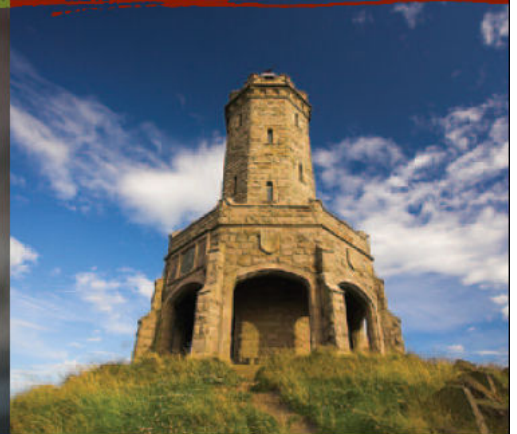


# Tacklers Trail



WITTON  
WEAVERS  
WAY

Walk  
No. 3



**BLACKBURN**  
with  
**DARWEN**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



WEST PENNINE MOORS

9.5 miles / 15km

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





# TACKLERS TRAIL 9.5 miles / 15km (mod)

**The Tacklers 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, BB3 0LA. GR 678230

**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 Centre<sup>1</sup>, 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 a kissing gate, at the corner of Earnsdale Reservoir.

1. Sunnyhurst Wood Visitor Centre



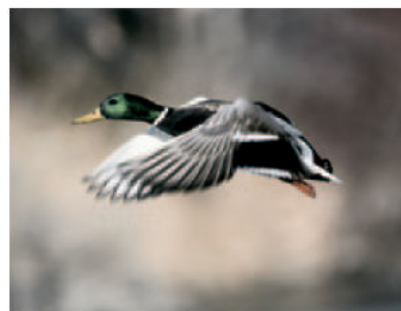
**17-18**

Go straight ahead 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.



2. Roddlesworth Upper Reservoir

Follow the path down and round to your left. A path joins on the right and you keep straight on until a path crossroad, where you turn right, down to the edge of Roddlesworth Upper Reservoir<sup>2</sup>. Take the path on your left following the fence then an old wall to cross the bridge over Rocky Brook, the local name of the River Roddlesworth.



3. Spot the birdlife amidst Reservoir country

Mallard and Goldeneye ducks can be seen on the reservoirs, with the occasional Great crested grebe or Tufted duck in winter<sup>3</sup>. The coniferous plantations have rowan, oak and birch saplings along their edges to provide varied wildlife habitats.

**18-19**

Follow the path keeping the brook immediately on your left. Down and then up the steps following the brook to the iron gate at the stone bridge. Go through the gate and turn left on to Halliwell Fold Bridge<sup>4</sup>. Continue up the track with the brook now on your right.

This junction of lanes was once a busy road linking Abbey Village, Tockholes and Hollinshead Hall with many dwellings. Halliwell Fold Farm, now a ruin, once supplied chain



erate with a couple of short steep inclines & some rough moo

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4. Halliwell Fold Bridge, Roddlesworth



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

Spring flowers to look out for include bluebells, Lesser celandine and Wood sorrel. On the banks of the brook you will find patches of Golden saxifrage. The woodland and wetland habitats support a wealth of wildlife. This is a great area for birdwatching, you may be lucky and see Grey wagtails or even a Kingfisher by the brook.

The track climbs steadily as it leaves the brook and continues up the hill known as Slipper Lowe. As the path levels off there is a road off to your left which leads to Slipper Lowe car park and picnic site. This alternative start point is on the Tockholes Road with access to Blackburn and Bolton. Continue ahead through the gate.

## 19-20

Follow the track down the hill and go straight through the ruins of Hollinshead Hall. Then follow the path through the gateway, with the fence and field to your right. On the skyline, notice the masts of Winter Hill and further over to your right, Great Hill.

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 Shorrocks 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 wellhouse<sup>5</sup> (Wishing Well or Holy Well) still stands. Five springs of water meet here and they have legendary healing properties for eyes.

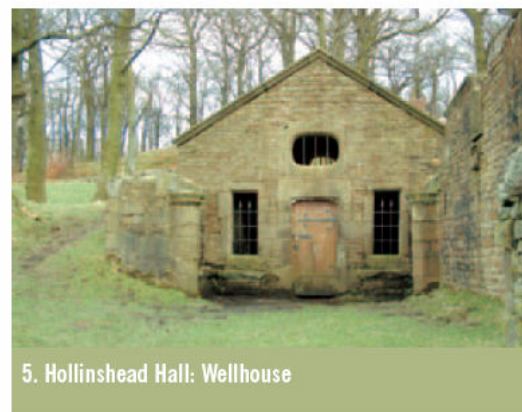
On joining Tockholes Road go straight across into the field and follow the obvious bridleway round to your right. Go through gate (next to road bend) and turn left onto the green lane. The car park, a short distance down the road, is another possible starting point.

## 20-21

After 200 yards turn left up obvious 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 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.



5. Hollinshead Hall: Wellhouse

## 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



to honour Sir Robert Peel, a local townsman, who founded our police force. His Christian name, Robert, gave rise to our present “Bobbies”.

## 22-23

Follow the track down then uphill to your left. At the top of the bend, turn sharp left back towards a solitary tree then right up the hill, to find a stile in the wall. Go over the stile and 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 into the conifer plantation and follow the path diagonally through the trees to your left. Climb another stile onto open ground following a ditch on your left. The next stile takes you onto a path over rough ground, following a fence on your right. A modern white house, known locally as Lord's Hall, will appear ahead and you eventually emerge onto its drive.

## 23-24

Turn right down the drive and take the path on the left just before the gateway. Continue up along the fence. Darwen Tower<sup>6</sup> will come into view then follow the main path round to the left, then take the right fork and continue across to 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.

## 24-16

With your back to the tower, facing the triangulation point, follow the wide path on your right. Continue straight on at the path junction and follow the track downhill. Turn left at the

Sunnyhurst Pub then first right through the Lychgate<sup>7</sup> into the wood and then the right-hand fork downhill. 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.



7. Sunnyhurst Lychgate and Cyclists

## USEFUL INFORMATION

**Sunnyhurst Wood Visitor Centre**  
(01254) 701545 or 55423

**Olde England Kiosk** (01254) 701530

**Sunnyhurst Pub** (01254) 873035

6. Darwen Tower





# THE WEST PENNINE MOORS

# EXPLORE! DISCOVER! ENJOY!

- Explore 90 square miles of unspoilt moorland, numerous reservoirs and beautiful woodland
- Discover hidden valleys and explore some of the many historic villages
- Enjoy getting close to nature – see Curlews, Peregrines and Brown hares
- Wander the long distance walk, the Witton Weavers Way – the full 32 miles, or one of the shorter circular walks
- Large areas of the West Pennine Moors are designated 'Open Access'



see Ordnance Survey map Explorer series No. 287 West Pennine Moors.

**For more information contact  
The Great House Barn 01204 691549 or  
visit [www.westpenninemoores.com](http://www.westpenninemoores.com)**

## 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](http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk))



### FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are travelling to the start of the walk using public transport, please contact

**Travel Line on:**

Tel: 0871 200 2233.

Web: [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**National Rail Enquiries**

Tel: 08457 484950.

For information on local attractions, events, places of interest and accommodation, please contact **Blackburn Visitor Centre**.

Tel: 01254 688040.

Email: [visit@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:visit@blackburn.gov.uk)

Web: [www.visitblackburn.co.uk](http://www.visitblackburn.co.uk)

Alternatively visit the **Blackburn with Darwen website** at:

[www.blackburn.gov.uk/parks](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/parks)

**Blackburn with Darwen Countryside Services Office.** Tel: 01254 55423

for countryside information and events or  
email: [countryside@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@blackburn.gov.uk)



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*Photos: Mike Tattersall, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Simon Booth.*