

Warpers Trail



WITTON
WEAVERS
WAY

Walk
No. 4



8.5 miles / 13.5 km

(easy, with a couple of
short steep ascents)

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

This walk combines history, both ancient and modern, water and wildlife, to produce a fascinating walk for everyone.

You are strongly advised to use these walk details in conjunction with OS Explorer Map No. 287 West Pennine Moors, on which the Witton Weavers Way is clearly marked.

Stout footwear and waterproofs are recommended.

START. Entwistle Reservoir Car Park, Bartridge Road, off Greens Arms Road (GR 722 172)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT. Alight at Entwistle Railway Station, on the Blackburn to Manchester line and start the walk at point 31.



25-26

From Entwistle Reservoir Car Park (facing the reservoir) turn left up Bartridge Road for 80 yards then take the path on your right. Immediately before the upper car park (Bartridge Barn) turn left up hill on the gravel path. Cross the car park road then up to cross Greens Arms Road. Through the trees then turn left on to lane, to walk over half a mile to pass Clough House Farm.

26-27

Continue along the track as it curves down to the left with a stream on your right to cross over the Blackburn to Bolton Railway line. *Note the decorated railway bridge built when the line was constructed in 1848. It is a legacy of James Kay, a textile entrepreneur and once owner who insisted on their style, to be in keeping with the rest of the estate. The track then leads to Turton Tower¹.*

Turton Tower has evolved over five centuries from a Tower House, built in the early 15th Century, to the lavish Tudor home of the Orrell family. Then down through the ages to become a Victorian house with



1. Turton Tower. Perfect stopping place with tea shop and picnic area

nine acres of gardens. Today there are displays of fine paintings and furniture in the Tower, also events and activities for all the family. The Victorian Kitchen Tea Room serves refreshments for walkers and visitors. For more details and opening hours please telephone 01204 852203.

From the Tower continue up to the B6391 Chapeltown Road. Turn left, then at the point where the road curves to the left take the footpath on the right that passes the wartime pillbox. The pillbox was strategically sited for use by the Home Guard in the Second World War to protect access to

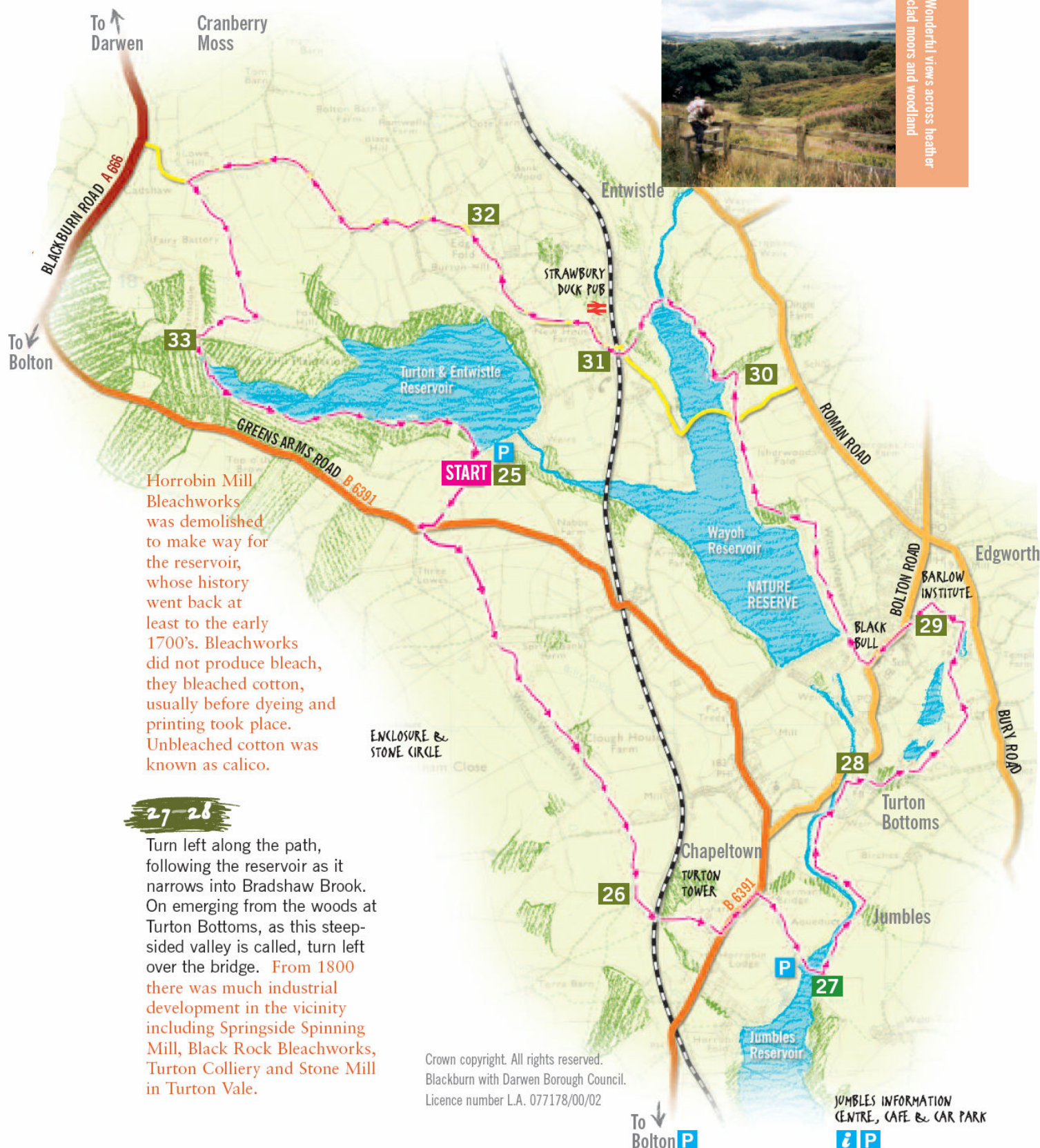
the largest reservoirs in the area and keep watch over Horrobin Mill, used for wartime storage.

Climb the stile down through the wood and cross the bridge over Jumbles Reservoir². At this point you are within Jumbles Country Park, and there is an information centre and cafe along side the reservoir. *The reservoir was built in 1971 as a compensation reservoir to ensure an adequate flow of water into Bradshaw Brook to keep the river system scoured downstream. Keep a lookout for birds here, especially Grey wagtail, Dipper and Kingfisher.*



2. Jumbles Reservoir and Sailing Club

in (easy with a few, short steep ascents)



WITTON WEAVERS WAY

4. The Black Bull at Edgworth on the West Pennine Moors



Continue up the cobbled lane to where the cobbles end, then take the track that forks down to the right. After crossing the Packhorse bridge with its associated ford alongside you emerge onto another cobbled road. This early bridge was replaced in 1796 by the road bridge when the road system was re-aligned on both sides of the brook.

28-29

Turn right down Birches Road and go straight ahead with Printers Court cottages on your right. Turn left at the end of the cottages. Houses now replace the bleaching and printing works of the Walker family, although the square stone chimney³ remains above, as does the lodge, given the local name of Old Russia Lodge. Turn right through the new houses and take the steps that go straight up the hill to the left out of Quarlton Vale. Join a track at the top of the steps and pass the chimney on the right. Go through a gate into an open field and continue along the path up the field. Below on the left, are lodges including Old Russia.



3. Old Russia Lodge Chimney – a remnant of the Industrial Revolution

Go through the gate to the left at the top of the field, and continue along the path, which is on the line of the old roman road (Manchester to Ribchester). Drop down through the fields to a wooden footbridge, cross over, turn right up to the waterfall and ornate stone bridge. Then left up through Barlow Park Woodland up to the Barlow Institute playground and on past the bowling green to reach the main Bolton Road.

The Barlow Institute was dedicated to James and Alice Barlow who purchased 80 acres of land plus buildings in the Broadhead Valley to form Crowthorne, a branch of the National Children's Homes. Note the attractive sundial on the side of the building which is set to British summertime.

29-30

Turn left along Bolton Road to Brandwood Fold on the left. Brandwood Fold Farm was the birthplace of both James Barlow and his brother Thomas, physician to Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V. The Fold, a listed group of buildings, is typical of early Folds in the area.

Cross Bolton Road and continue down the hill to the Black Bull public house⁴. Take the footpath at the side of the pub to Wayoh Reservoir. As you approach the reservoir climb the path by the rails and steps and continue ahead. Keep to the path by the side of the reservoir and you will eventually reach Hob Lane.

Various sections of the reservoir have been designated conservation areas and are set aside as wildfowl refuges. Wayoh also has a variety of plants like Hemp-agrimony, Globe flower and Water avens.

30-31

Cross the lane, go through the gate following the reservoir edge and cross a footbridge over Broadhead Brook.

This upper part of the reservoir can boast sightings of 148 different species of bird, including Great crested grebe and winter visitors such as Whooper swans, Tufted duck and Pochard. In the woodland look for Goldcrest and Finches.

Shortly afterwards cross a second footbridge and take a narrow path that leaves the main track off to the right. Climb this path up through the wood to a stile, then into a field to reach Edge Lane. Turn right along this road and cross the railway. You may like to enjoy a drink at the walker's popular haunt, the Strawbury Duck⁵.



5. The Strawbury Duck – good beer (also accommodation)

31-32

(Entwistle Station is an alternative start for the walk)

Turn right up Edge Lane, passing New House Farm on the right. Eventually when the track forks three ways take the left fork. After passing farmhouses at Edge Fold continue up to stile. On your left is Turton and Entwistle Reservoir and Turton Heights.

32-33

In approximately 3/4 of a mile you will pass a group of trees on your right. Continue up the hill to find a stile on your left by a gate. Climb the stile and take the grassy track down the field. You pass between two gateposts, and then after dropping down the hill you reach a point where two stone gateposts are standing on your right.

On your right you are passing Yarnsdale and Fairy Battery, an outcrop of rock popular with climbers. The site was the secret meeting place of non-conformist worshippers in the 17th century. Opposite the outcrop on the other side of the stream is a quarry complex with extensive mine caverns, now filled in.

Follow the track down and when you reach two ruined parallel walls veer right, heading diagonally for the corner of the wood. Follow the gully down to the stile at the bottom and go over the stile.

33-25

Turn left, cross the footbridge and turn left again. Follow the stream down and continue along the path with Turton and Entwistle Reservoir now on your left. Continue along the banking. The name Entwistle is thought to come from 'twisla' meaning a tongue of land in the fork of a river - here the land between Cadshaw Brook (feeding Entwistle Reservoir⁶) and Broadhead Brook (feeding Wayoh reservoir). The Reservoir was completed in 1834 by the bleachers and mill owners along Bradshaw Brook, to ensure adequate water flow in the dry seasons to their industrial operations. Later it was used to supply the growing water needs of Bolton. Subsequently Wayoh and then Jumbles Reservoirs were built as the requirements escalated.

Continue to the end of the reservoir to Entwistle Reservoir car park.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Turton Tower (01204) 852203

Jumbles Information Centre & Cafe
(01204) 853360

Black Bull, Edgworth (01204) 852811

Strawbury Duck, Entwistle
(01204) 852013



6. Entwistle Reservoir: A centre for nature, history and leisure

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

NOTES FOR WALKERS

Essential Kit

The OS Explorer Map 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

Travel Line on: Tel: 0871 200 2233.

Web: 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

Web: www.visitblackburn.co.uk

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

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



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