

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.

THE OS EXPLORER MAP 287 (WEST PENNINE MOORS) PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THIS AREA.

The Rosins was built in the late 17th to early 18th century, originally named the Duke of Wellington. It was here that live music was played in the evenings by a group of fiddlers and the resin used to oil their bows was known as 'rosin', hence the Duke of Wellington became the Old Rosins. To this day an original violin, which has been lovingly restored, can be seen as a feature in the 'Rosins' restaurant.



The printing costs of this leaflet have been made possible by the generosity of The Lloyd Trust and West Pennine Moors.

Thanks also to the members of the East Rural Network Footpath Sub committee, members of Waterside Residents Group especially Geoff Cooper and to Michael Counter from the Ramblers.

WALKS IN AND AROUND HODDLESDEN, WATERSIDE, YATE & PICKUP BANK, BLACKSNAPE AND ECCLESHILL

A COLLECTION OF FOUR WALKS THROUGH
THE EAST RURAL AREA OF DARWEN



Produced by the East Rural Network with support from
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Contents

1/ A walk to Pickup Bank

A circular walk commencing at the Ranken Arms Hoddlesden

Walking Distance :- 2 miles (approx 1 ½ hrs)

2/ A walk to Scotland

A circular walk commencing at Hoddlesden's Millenium Green

Walking Distance :- 1 ½ miles (approx 1 hr)

3/ A walk round Eccleshill Parish

A circular walk commencing at the Old Co-op in Waterside

Walking Distance :- 4 miles (approx 2hrs)

4/ A walk over Hoddlesden Moss

A circular walk commencing at Hoddlesden's Millenium Green

Walking Distance :- 4 miles (approx 2 ½ hrs)

The maps shown are for pictorial reference only and not to scale.

Always wear suitable footwear and tell someone where you are going before setting off on your walk



The area of East Rural is made up of the villages of Hoddlesden, Pickup Bank, Waterside, Eccleshill, and Blacksnape. This beautiful part of Blackburn with Darwen is an unspoilt scenic part of East Lancashire parts of which date back to the 12th century and Roman Times. Many of the features are a legacy of the industrial revolution these include railways, drift mining, quarrying, and cotton mills. The footpath network was established to link the hamlets, folds and villages to the places where people worked.

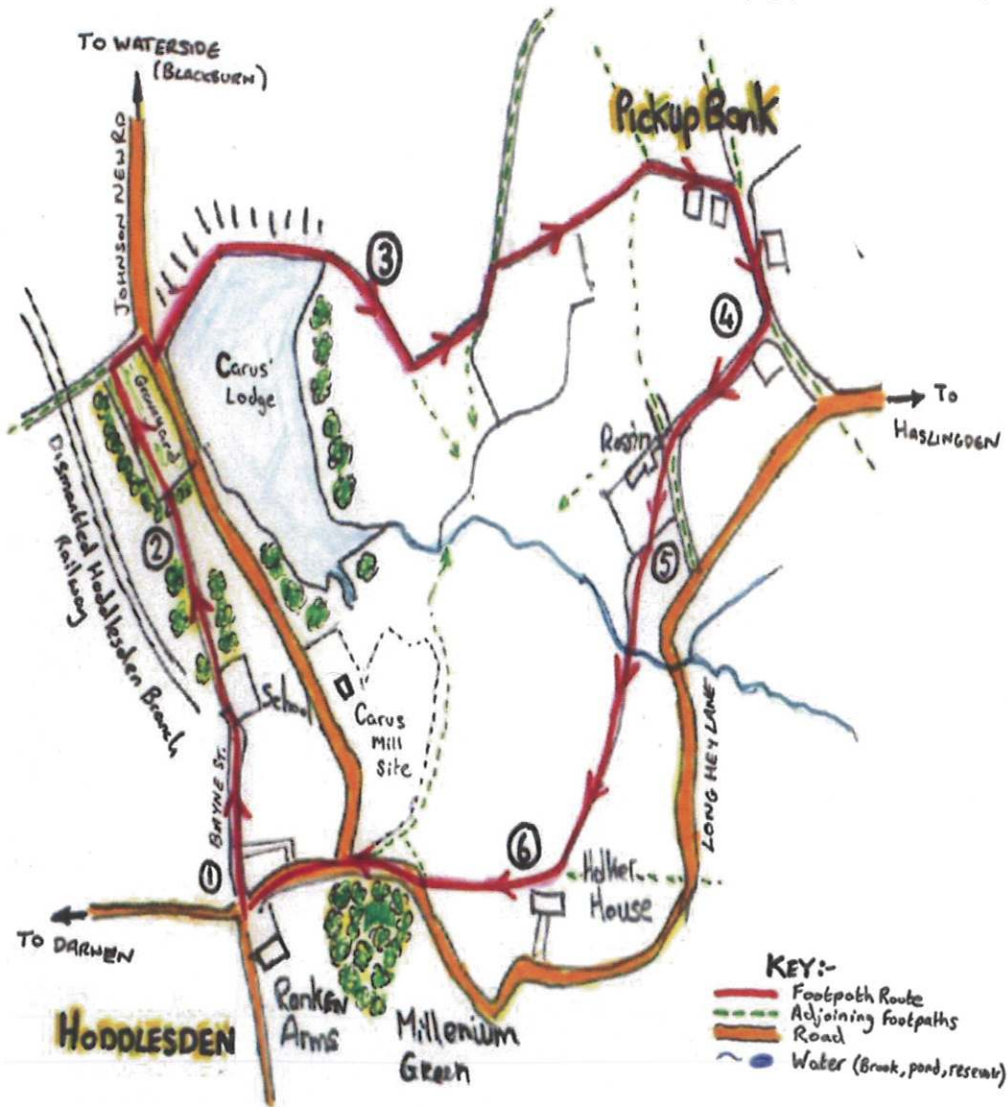


This booklet of walks has been produced to introduce the East Rural area with a delightful combination of history both ancient and modern combined with the rugged and contrasting countryside.



A walk to Pickup Bank

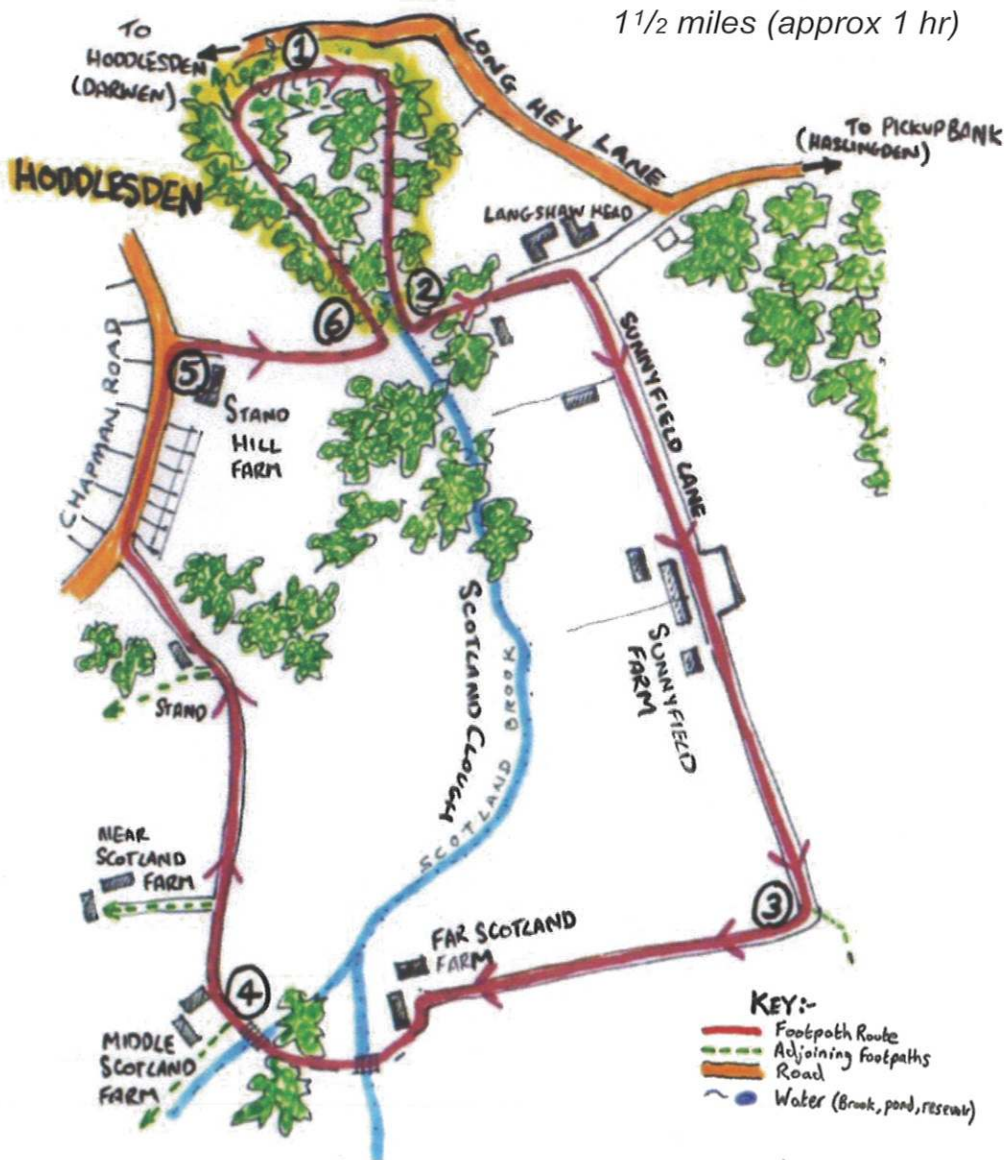
2 miles (approx 1 1/2 hrs)



1. The walk starts outside the Ranken Arms in the centre of the village of Hoddlesden and continues along past the large millstone on the cobbled area. Cross the road and walk down Bayne Street, heading towards St Paul's Primary School. To your right is Hoddlesden Village store and post office.
2. Pass the school and continue down the broad track and enter the old churchyard of St Paul's Church. Walk directly across and leave on the opposite side. Once on to the lane turn right and walk down to the road. Cross the road and onto the footpath that runs along the embankment of the old mill lodge.
3. At the end of the embankment, climb the stile and then follow the footpath by the wall, as far as the gate. Once through the gate, turn a sharp left and keep close to the wall side. A stile in the top left hand corner of the field is then negotiated and after only 50 yards, climb the stile on your right and the route now continues uphill. After passing through a couple of gates, a tumbledown walled track is reached and this leads onto the lane passing through Scholes Fold at Pickup Bank.
4. Walk onto the lane and after the second cottage; turn right into the lane heading down towards The Rosins, passing Higher Scholes Fold and Lane End Farm.
5. The car park of the Rosins public house is diagonally crossed, moving toward the steps and down into the field. Heading in the direction of the large house, the route continues to drop downhill and crosses the stream by a flagstone bridge. Keeping the old wall to your left, head in the direction of the wall and house across the field.
6. Once at the wall climb the stile and walk onto the driveway for Holker Barn. Walk along the drive and take the footpath beside the iron gates to finally reach the road. Now turn right along the road, passing the Millennium Green, on towards Hoddlesden Village and the Ranken Arms where you can enjoy a drink and a bite to eat.

A walk to Scotland

1 1/2 miles (approx 1 hr)



1. Starting at the Millennium Green (once the site of Joseph Place's pipe works) in a clockwise direction on a well maintained track with 'pottery faces' watching you as you pass them! Continue through the wooded pathway until you reach a stile (just before the wooden bridge).
2. Once over the stile go immediately over a second stile to your left and continue up the hill (you are now walking on an the old walled packhorse trail known as 'Limersgate' evidence of this ancient route (one of the oldest in Darwen) and believed to be a Saxon road. When you reach Langshaw Head cottage, turn right along Sunnyfield Lane. Continue along the lane past Sunnyfield Farm until the lane turns sharply to the right.
3. Walk along the lane to Far Scotland Farm, bear to the left of the farm house, through the yard and over a stile. Continue down the track over the 'Railway Sleeper' bridge, walk up the slight incline and bear right (keeping the fence to your left). Continue through the field to Middle Scotland Farm across a narrow bridge over the brook.
4. Turn right at the farm and follow the lane passing Near Scotland farm to your left, continue through the remains of a gateway until you reach Chapman Road. Follow the road to the right until you reach Stand Hill Farm on your right.
5. Turn right along the farm track and over the stile on the left, follow the footpath down through the field. From this position you will notice again the remains of the 'Limersgate' Saxon road, sadly this has fallen into a state of disrepair and it is easier to walk the footpath along the top edge of the field. Continue down until you reach the stile at the Millennium Green.
6. Cross the stile and keep to you left, continue along the wooded track and down the steps to be greeted once again by the happy clay Hoddlesden faces.

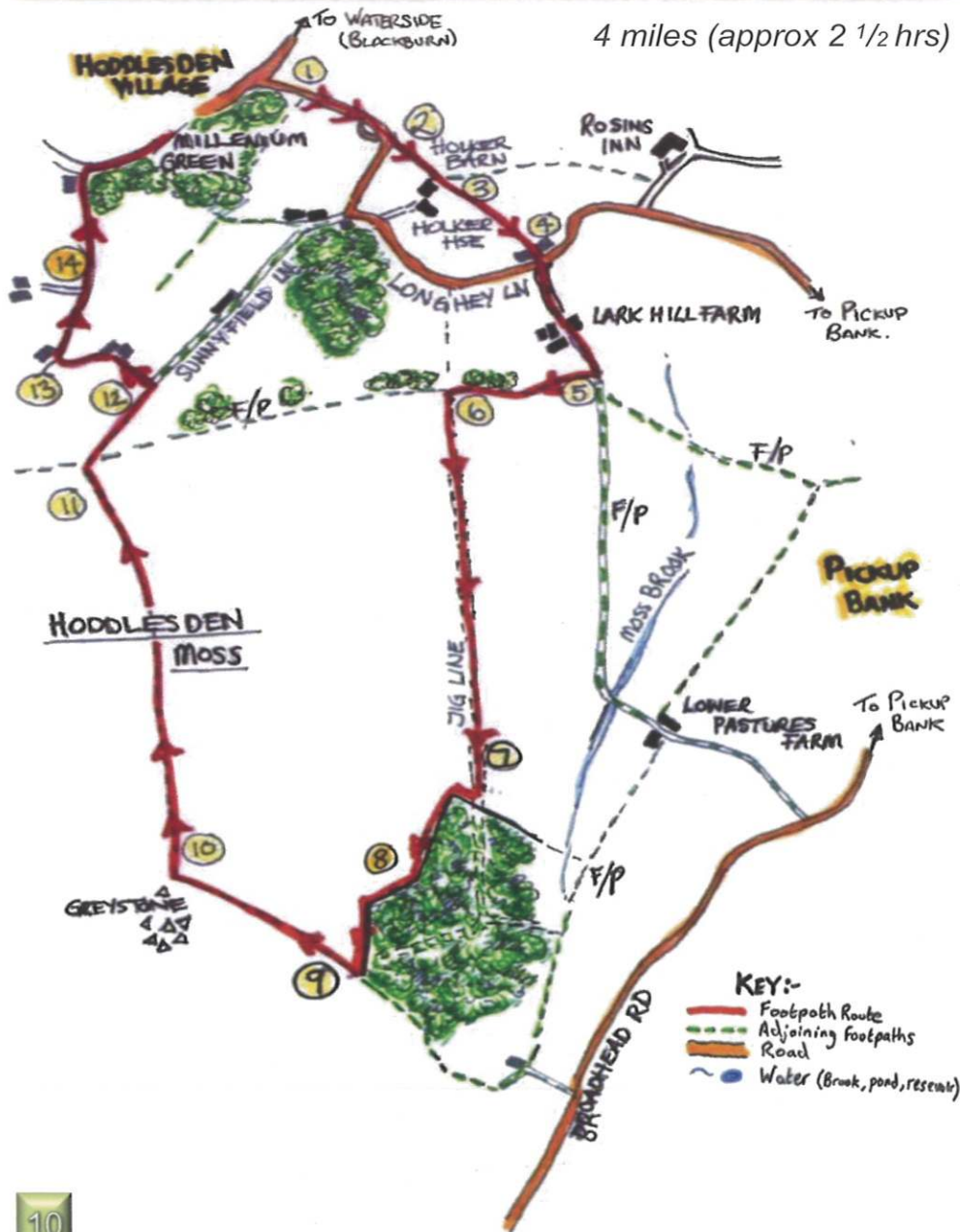
A walk round Eccleshill Parish

4 miles (approx 2 hrs)



- Starting at the Old Co-op in Waterside cross the road to Mean lane walking up past Shaws of Darwen on the right. Pass the splendid white office building built in 1927. Pass Higher Waterside farm on the left, one of the oldest buildings in the village.
- Cross over the old railway line to a stile on the right hand side. Go over the stile and over the next stile following the wall up to the old barn on top of the hill at Brocklehead Farm. As you climb look back towards the right hand side of Shaws where you will see a small bridge which the railway passed over on its route to the village of Hoddlesden. The area is the site of a Closes Colliery, remains of slag heaps can be seen in the fields.
- From the barn turn right and follow the path through Brocklehead farm to the far side of the yard to a stile in the right hand corner. Cross over the stile and walk across the field to the stepping stones over the wall past the caravan park.
- Once over the wall follow the fence line to the derelict barn at Harwood Fold. Turn right down the right hand side of the barn passing over a stile to follow the path down the field following the fence line. From here you get a wonderful view over the surrounding area.
- Cross over the stile in the fence. Follow the path to a stile on the side of the Hoddlesden branch line. Once over the stile look left and right to make out the raised banking of the old railway line.
- Follow the path down to Bent Farm. Go down past the side of the house onto the farm track which takes you to Johnson Road
- Cross the road down to road to Chapman Envelopes, now on the site of Grimshaw Mill. Follow the road down past the mill and up the lane to the back of the old paper mill, crossing the brook on the left. Walk over the cattle grid passing the old mill lodge on your right to where the road bends to the left, turn immediately to the right to the back of some trees, passed the left-hand side of the concrete bunker, follow the tree line towards a small pond and a stile hidden in the holly bushes
10. Cross over the stile through the trees, making your way across the field towards a stile in the fence. Head in the direction of the pylons in the distance. Over the stile is a clear view of Shooters Hill straight ahead in the distance. To the left on the hill is Bank Fold. Cross over the stile towards the stile in the fence line.
- Once over the stile cross a dyke and walk towards the next stile. This is ahead in the fence line. Go over the stile and cross over the ditch, bear right toward a stile over the brow of the hill in the fence line.
- Over the stile walk down the hill to Barnes Home Cottages. In the field there are two steel girders where the jig line past through to cross the brook on a bridge going up the hill under the road up to Shaws. Cross over the stile at Barnes Home Cottage. Walk over the two bridges. Continue up Victoria buildings towards the Old Co-op. Note the site of the old cotton mill owned by Adam Bullough on your left.

A walk over Hoddlesden Moss



1. Start the walk at the small car park at the main gate of the Millennium Green.
2. Heading away from the village, cross the road to a path on the right hand side of the gates to Holker Barn.
3. Follow the tarmac path to the back of Holker Barn bear left at the cattle grid to a stile in the right hand corner.
4. Go over the stile and up the field to a gap between Meadow Head cottages, to your left is Old Rosins Inn where they serve good food and drink. Cross over Long Hey Lane and up to Lark Hill Farm straight through the yard to a stile.
5. Over the stile to a gate turn right by a ditch and walk along the line of conifer trees to a stile in the fence line.
6. Climb the stile, turn left and follow the fence along the edge of the old jig line which brought coal and fireclay from the Hoddlesden pit to Joseph Place's pipe works now the site of the Millennium Green.
7. At the gate go up onto the jig line. Follow the jig line to the top of the slight slope here you will see the woods in the distance this is the sight of the old Hoddlesden pit.
8. Follow the jig line up to the trees and turn right following the fence line around the outside of the wood which was the site of the pit head now only an indentation in the land.
9. From the stile at the end of the fence turn right over to Grey Stone Hill, look over to the right to see Old Rosins Inn in the distance continue along the path to a fence line follow this fence line to a stile on the right.
10. Go over the stiles to a path to the left a good view of Hoddlesden in the distance. Care must be taken at this section as this is rough open moorland. The path goes down to a grouse shooting post, go past several shooting posts to the next stile.
11. Turn right over the stile and follow the hedge line to a gate in the far left corner.
12. Go over the stile by the gate down the track to the left past the small red post box to Far Scotland Farm, turn left past the house, then right down the side of the house. Over a stile to the left down a track over a wooden foot bridge, up the track to the fence following the fence to the right to a foot bridge.
13. Cross the bridge over the small brook to Middle Scotland Farm go up the side of the house to the farm lane, follow the lane past Near Scotland Farm to Chapman lane. Go down Chapman road to a lane down to Stand Hill Farm.
14. Go down the lane towards the farm and over a stile on the left and follow the path back to the Millennium Green and your starting point.