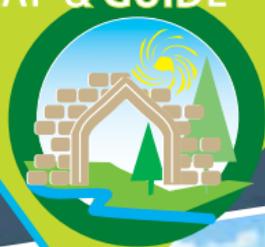


www.westpenninemooors.com

WEST PENNINE MOORS

South Tockholes
Heritage Trail
MAP & GUIDE



South Tockholes

One in a series of village
based Heritage Trails within
the West Pennine Moors

Heritage Trail



South Tockholes Heritage Trail

This trail explores the fascinating industrial and agricultural history of the southern part of the village of Tockholes. The village is situated right on the very edge of the beautiful West Pennine Moors, two miles to the west of Darwen. The historical content of this walk is courtesy of Tockholes Time Team.

Start: This walk begins and ends at the Victoria Hotel, Tockholes GR 661228

Public Transport: Bus Service No. 223 Blackburn-Tockholes-Belmont and No. 38 Darwen-Tockholes

For timetables contact:

The Travel Line 0870 608 2 608 or
www.traveline.org.uk

Parking: There is no public car park but if you use the Victoria Hotel car park please patronise the pub.

Walk information

- ▶ Allow two hours for this 3 mile/5km walk
- ▶ 70% of the route is along farm tracks
- ▶ 30% of walk follows footpaths over farmland so sturdy footwear is advisable particularly after rain
- ▶ Along the route there are 3 stiles and 1 kissing gate



Useful Contacts

The Rock Inn (01254) 702733

Roddlesworth café (01254) 708568 or 704502
and information centre

The Royal Arms (01254) 705373

The Victoria Hotel (01254) 701622

Blackburn Visitor Centre (general information)
01254 53277; email:

countryside@blackburn.gov.uk or visit
www.blackburn.gov.uk

Countryside Services (information and events)
01254 691239; email:

countryside@blackburn.gov.uk or visit:
www.blackburn.gov.uk

Great House information centre
(West Pennine Moors information)
01204 691549

Closed Monday/Tuesday

Opening Hours: 10.30-4.30 Wednesday-Sunday

L.C.C. Countryside Service 01772 534709
www.westpenninemoores.com

The Country Code

- ▶ Be safe – plan ahead & follow any signs
- ▶ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ▶ Protect plants & animals & take your litter home
- ▶ Keep dogs under close control
- ▶ Consider other people



Directly opposite the start point of the Victoria Hotel is **1. Nook Cottage:** A local mystery!

It has a cellar with blocked off windows, but it was probably built as a handloom weaver's cottage with a windowed cellar 'loomshop'.

The surrounding land has subsequently been raised, perhaps to enable the road to bridge, rather than ford, the nearby stream.

Turn into Old School Lane to find the narrow stone gateway immediately on your left. However, just before passing through it take a short detour down the lane.

On your left you will find the **2. Conservative Club:** It has a red brick façade, fashionable in the Victorian era when Lord Cranborne opened it in 1892.

Retrace your steps to the stone gateway and once through it follow the wall.

The Lake District and the Isle of Man are sometimes visible, as are the towers at Blackpool and Houghton. One mile away is Abbey Village, a 'model village' built circa 1846 around a mill on land belonging to Whalley Abbey. The mill closed as recently as 1971.

Go through the small gate and down onto a track, on your right you will pass **3. Quarryman's Farm:** A pub in Victorian times, but it is also said to have been an inn before that, serving the old main road through the Parish. Many farms brewed their own beer and put travellers up for the night. There are old quarries nearby.



Carry on until Rose cottage and

4. Higher Hill cottages: The first pair of cottages was probably purpose-built as handloom weavers' cottages; the others are earlier 18th century farm cottages, although no doubt they too had their handlooms.

Turn right down the lane that leads you to

5. Higher Hill Farm: The farmhouse is 17th century and Grade II listed. Note the original mullioned windows and a complete 'garderobe' or lofty loo – an early form of indoor toilet easily seen from the outside!

Just before the Higher Hill Farm turn left following the footpath across a small field, then through the kissing gate ahead.

Roddlesworth valley can be seen from here, with its name originating from the Saxon Hrodwulf's worth or property. It is only about four miles long but wooded throughout and is the largest area of mainly deciduous woodland in Lancashire.

Turn immediately right to follow the path downhill. Keeping left of the ditch, aim for the old metal kissing gate that leads into Roddlesworth woods at the bottom of the hill. Through the gate, follow the path down to a track; turn left up the track and left again at the fork, signed 'To the Information centre'.

On your right note **6. Higher Roddlesworth reservoir:** Constructed by Liverpool Corporation around 1850, it is the last in the chain of three picturesque reservoirs stretching down the valley as far as Abbey Village. The whole system supplies Liverpool with drinking water.



After 700m a track joins from the left, bear right and after approximately 120m you arrive at a path junction. Turn left uphill, signed 'Nature trail & Information centre'. Near the top follow the steps that lead off to the left. To your left is the site of **7. Garstang Hall:** The Garstangs (originally de Gerstaines) were recorded here from the 14th century and a branch of this family founded the town of Garstang on Wyre. The grand hall built in 1692 was demolished in the early 1900s, and its date stone was rescued and rebuilt over the vicarage garden doorway in the village - a puzzle for future historians!

On reaching Tockholes Road, directly ahead you will see **8. Garstang Terrace and the Royal Arms:** You can tell from their stonework that these were built around 1860 as mill workers' houses. The detached pair was converted into a pub by 1871.

Turn right to find the large car park. This was the site of **9. Hollinshead Mill:** The weaving mill was stone-built for Eccles Shorrock in 1859. He lived in Darwen, where the more famous of his mills India Mill with its magnificent campanile chimney can still be seen.

At its peak the mill had 333 steam-powered looms and employed 150 people. It was demolished in 1903 and the site is now the car park. A drained millpond is still visible, fenced off next to the café. Also beyond is Hollinshead Terrace, built to house mill workers.



Retrace your steps to go down the lane between the Royal Arms and Garstang Terrace. Follow the lane along to **10. Ryal Farm (1676):** It is grade II listed and is similar in plan to Higher Hill Farm (see 5). It has original mullioned windows with hoodmoulding plus some bricked up windows to avoid the 18th century window tax.

Go straight through the farmyard, through a farm gate to go down a track and through a further gate to enter a field. Follow the fenceline to your left to enter the field on your left via a small gate, follow the fence on the right towards a cluster of cottages.

On meeting the lane, turn right to pass by the cottages. You are now at the site of **11. Victoria Mill:** The Redmayne family, who lived at Fine Peter's (see 12) built the mill (1838-69) and it grew in size to match Hollinshead Mill (see 9). Pleasant View cottages, which are still standing, were part of the mill buildings.

Continue along the lane to meet Tockholes Road. Turn right to find **12. Fine Peter's Farm:** Note the unusual semi-circular porch with Tuscan doorcase. The buildings are grade II listed with a date stone '1757 PME' (Peter and Elizabeth Marsden).

Turn right immediately after the farm up a track called **13. Dean Lane:** This is an ancient packhorse route from Preston, with its port and market. It can still be traced all the way into Yorkshire via Todmorden. As you walk up the lane admire the valley to the right that is called Earnsdale (old Norse for 'valley of herons').



- ▶ Earnsdale reservoir was constructed circa 1850 for Darwen's water supply. Below the dam is Sunnyhurst Wood.
- ▶ The stream running off Darwen Moor into the reservoir is Stepback Brook, said to have been named when its deep valley caused Cromwell's troops to step back and go round on their march to attack Preston.
- ▶ Darwen Tower was built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and also to celebrate the freeing of the moor for public access.
- ▶ The scars on the moor are old quarry and coal workings.

After 500m a footpath forks off to your left. Follow it up the hill and on your left you will shortly pass the ruins of Moss Farm.

Follow the lane as it meanders for 700m, eventually passing Weasel Farm on your right. 20m after the farm climb the stile on your left leading into a field; aim straight ahead towards the Victoria Hotel.

On your left, as you once again join Tockholes Road, note the 18th century Golden Soney farm on your left.

If you have enjoyed this walk, why not try out one of the other Heritage Trails within the West Pennine Moors: Belthorn, Edgworth or the North Tockholes Heritage Trail. The latter can be combined with this trail to form an enjoyable five-mile circular walk.



Please note that every effort has been taken to ensure details are correct at the time of printing. The authors cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions nor any consequence arising from the information.

Explore! Discover! Enjoy! The West Pennine Moors

Explore 90 square miles of unspoilt moorlands, numerous reservoirs and beautiful woodlands

- ▶ 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 four shorter circular walks
- ▶ Large areas of the West Pennine Moors are designated 'Open Access'. See Ordnance Survey Explorer series Map No. 287 West Pennine Moors.



WEST PENNINE MOORS



Black

START **P**

Old School Lane 1 2



Tookholes R

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-  Farm
-  Parking
-  Public House
-  Cafe/Information
-  Toilet Facilities
-  Building
-  Heritage Trail
-  Footpaths
-  Woodlands



5 4

6
Higher
Roddlesworth
Reservoir

To
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Weasel Lane

Trash Lane

Dean Lane

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Fine
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12

11

13

Earnsdale
Reservoir

10

7

8

9



Hollinshead
Terrace

To
Belmont

