

Warpers Trail



WITTON
WEAVERS
WAY

Walk
No. 4



8.5 miles (Easy with a few, 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: Batridge Barn Car Park, off Greens Arms Road, off A666 (GR 721 172)

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

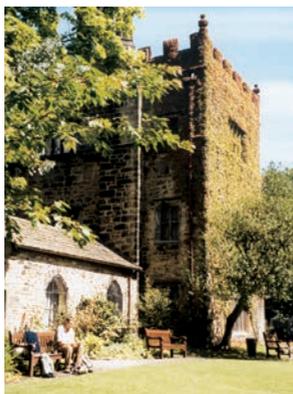


BLACKBURN

To Bolton

25-26

At the far end of the car park, with your back towards the reservoir, observe two small gullies. Take the path towards the right-hand gully and climb the path to the stile seen on the right (just before a tiny reservoir). Follow the path up the hillside. Cross the road, go through the gate and continue up the path. Turn right at Greens Arms Road then left along a track at the bend in the road. You pass Clough House Farm on your left and eventually go through a kissing gate next to a large gate.



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

road bridge was restored and re-erected by Turton Local History Society.

Turton Tower originated in the 15th century as a Pele Tower and was then converted into a Tudor Hall and later as a Victorian country house, set in nine acres of gardens. It now houses many fine treasures with regular exhibitions, events and a tearoom. For opening hours (01204) 852203.

After the Tower you will reach 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 excellent information centre 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. If you are lucky you will glimpse birds including the Grey Wagtail, Dipper or Kingfisher.



2. Jumbles Reservoir and Sailing Club

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.* You then pass an old waterwheel on your left, just before **Turton Tower**¹. *The wheel, originally from Black Rock Corn Mill near the TurtonBottoms*

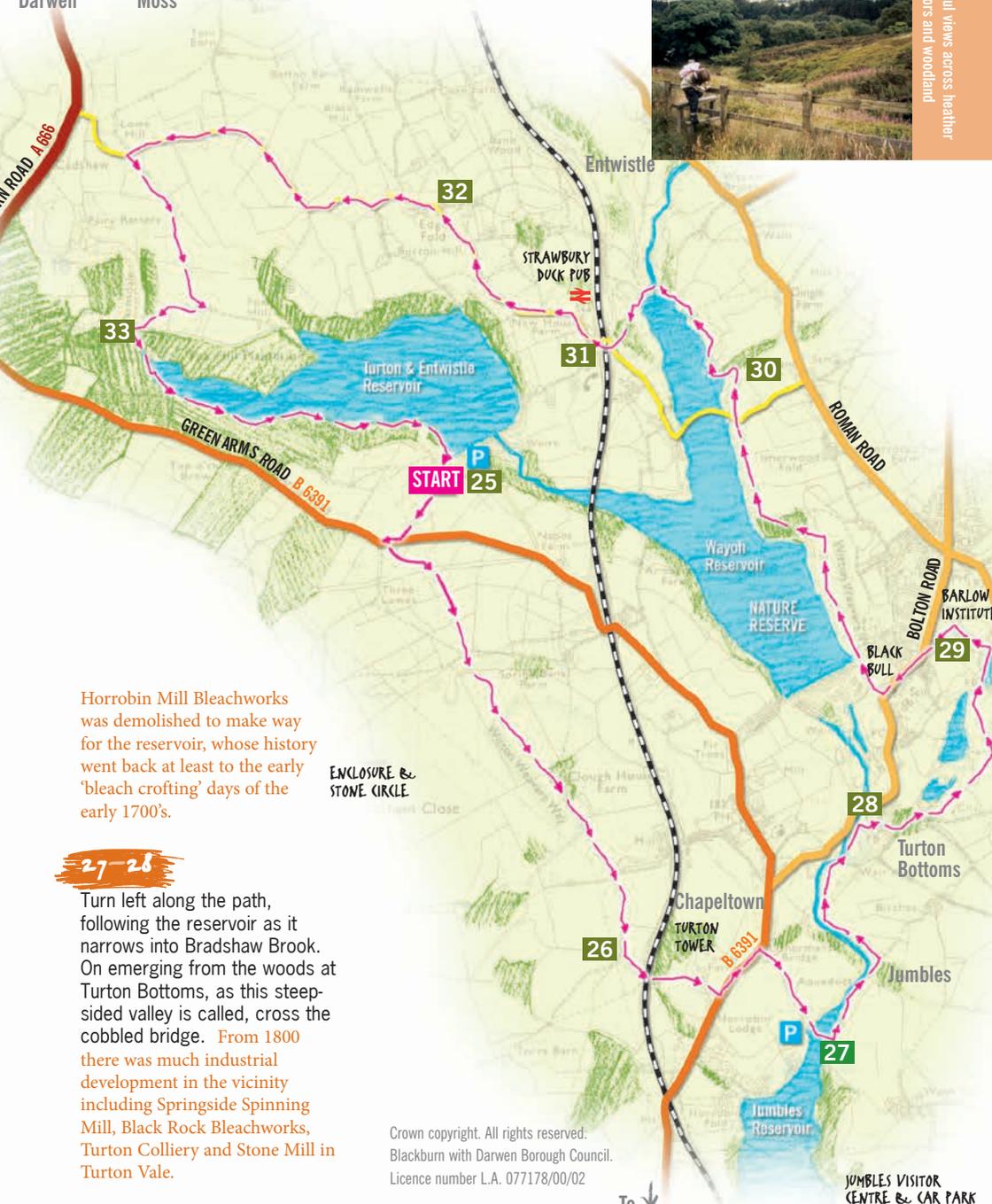
short steep ascents)

To ↑
Darwin

Cranberry
Moss



Wonderful views across heather-clad moors and woodland



Horrobin Mill Bleachworks was demolished to make way for the reservoir, whose history went back at least to the early 'bleach crofting' days of the early 1700's.

27-28

Turn left along the path, following the reservoir as it narrows into Bradshaw Brook. On emerging from the woods at Turton Bottoms, as this steep-sided valley is called, cross the cobbled bridge. From 1800 there was much industrial development in the vicinity including Springside Spinning Mill, Black Rock Bleachworks, Turton Colliery and Stone Mill in Turton Vale.

ENCLOSURE &
STONE CIRCLE

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To ↓
Bolton **P**

JUMBLES VISITOR
CENTRE & CAR PARK
i P

Continue along the road, after two gateposts where the cobbles end 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 kissing 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. Cross the footbridge and veer right to cross a second footbridge. Turn right along past the waterfall and follow the path by the stream. After climbing the hill, cross the track and walk 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 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 national Conservation areas and are set



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

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 grebes and winter visitors such as Whooper swans, tufted duck and pochard. Woodland birds including tits, goldcrest and finches also inhabit the areas around the reservoir.

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 woods, ignoring the stile on the right. You may notice the iron gantry which crosses the footpath. **This was part of the framework which carried a pulley system used to carry materials between Entwistle railway station and Know Mill Bleachworks.**

Climb the stile into an open 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 Strawberry Duck⁵.



5. The Strawberry Duck – good menu, good beer (also accommodation)

31-32

(Entwistle Station is the 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, a stile is climbed, the track levels off and the view opens up. The reservoir and Turton Heights can be seen on your left and, in the distance, the skyline of Bolton.

32-33

In approximately 3/4 of a mile you will pass a scattered group of trees on the right. A short wall appears on your left just before the track levels out. Climb the stile at the end of the wall 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 stand along on the 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, dropping down the field diagonally for a point between the conifers on the left and the deciduous trees on the right. A gully soon appears; drop down it keeping to the right, and climb the stile in the bottom corner of the field.

33-25

Turn left, cross the footbridge and turn left again. Follow the stream down to Turton and Entwistle reservoir⁶ and 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 Reservoir) 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.

As you approach the end of the reservoir take a path on your right, up some steps to return to the car park.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Blackburn Visitor Centre

(01254) 688040 or
www.visitblackburn.co.uk/visitor-centre
 or visit@blackburn.gov.uk

Turton Tower (01204) 852203

Jumbles Information Centre

(01204) 856999

Black Bull, Edgworth (01204) 852811

Strawbury Duck, Entwistle
 (01204) 852013



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

EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

ENTWISTLE



Entwistle circa 1903 - Photo courtesy of Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Society

ENTWISTLE STATION

Entwistle Station came into being on 1st August 1848 when Whittlestone Head Station was relocated from its site immediately south of the Sough Tunnel portal to the present site seven and three quarter miles from Blackburn.

The station remained somewhat of a country outpost until 1902 when major refurbishment took place during the quadrupling of the track between Entwistle and Waltons' Sidings. The station was totally rebuilt, the up platform was removed, the down platform became the up platform and a new line was built round the back forming a new platform for down trains. A new gantry mounted signal box was built spanning the two fast lines and a lattice footbridge was provided for passenger use.

The station catered for passengers, goods, parcels, livestock, horses and prize cattle vans. The goods yard was also served by an overhead pulley driven ropeway, which transported materials to and from the railway yard to Know Mill Bleachworks. The Bleach works was demolished when the reservoir was formed. A large wooden goods shed was erected, served by a five-ton crane. The station was vastly reduced in size in the 1960s following Beeching's recommendations. Wholesale demolition of the station infrastructure followed leaving a request stop, served by a single track and a small solitary platform shelter.

Today the station is an ideal gateway to the stunning West Pennine Moors and is only a 30 minute train journey from Manchester.

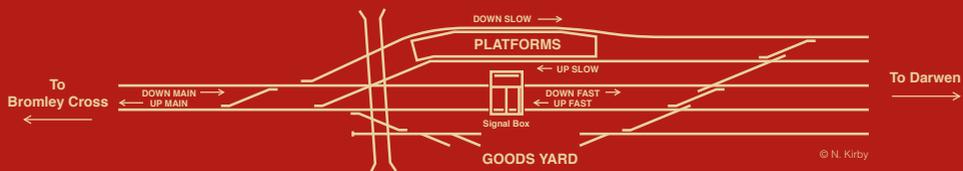


Entwistle 3rd July 1971 - Photo courtesy Dr John Sagar



Entwistle 17th August 2007 - Photo Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

ENTWISTLE STATION



© N. Kirby

Entwistle track diagram circa 1953

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 Map No. 287 (West Pennine Moors) provides excellent aid and information on all areas covered in this guide. (Ordnance Survey : Map shop, mobile apps and OS getamap enquiries telephone: 03454 56 04 20 or visit www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)



Further Information

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

Blackburn Visitor Centre.

Blackburn Market 25 Church Street,
Blackburn BB1 5AF
Tel: 01254 688040.

National Rail Enquiries. Tel: 08457 48 49 50
www.nationalrail.co.uk

Traveline. Tel: 0871 200 22 33
www.traveline.info

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

Tel: 01254 688040.

Email: visit@blackburn.gov.uk
www.visitblackburn.co.uk/visitor-centre
www.blackburn.gov.uk

Blackburn with Darwen Countryside Services Office. Tel: 01254 666966
countryside@blackburn.gov.uk
for countryside information and events.



**BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN**
BOROUGH COUNCIL



WEST PENNINE MOORS



MAKE THE CHANGE. MAKE THE CONNECTION



Community Rail Lancashire

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Tourism Development and Countryside Services.