

Hoghton and Canal Walk

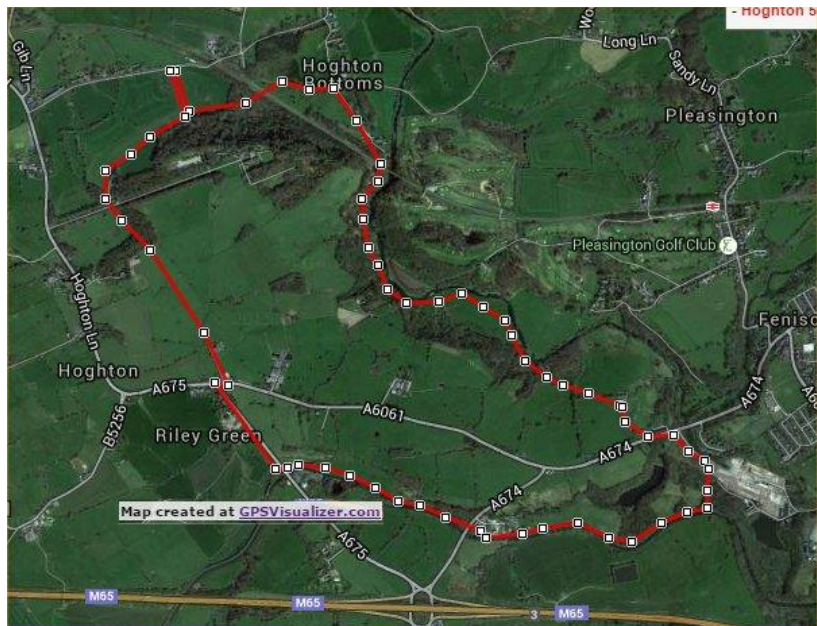
This is a 5 mile walk passing through the Hoghton Gorge and along Leeds & Liverpool canal. Much of the walk is on level ground with a few short sharp inclines between the flat bits!

There is a wide range of interests along the routes, the Gorge is famous, passing near the Hoghton Towers (of "Sir Loin" fame), industrial areas, and the canal and countryside. Lots of wild life to watch for.

Mainly on good paths, sometime narrow with occasional all year muddy patches.

The walk start here is on Chapel Lane that runs between Hoghton and Hoghton Bottoms just west (left) of the railway bridge. There is no particular parking space just a narrow pavement or a narrow grass edge. The walk can also start at other places such as the Royal Oak pub, car park near the Hoghton Tower or where the walk meets the A674.

At the end of the booklet are some notes on the areas your walk through.



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Always wear weather appropriate clothing and have a map and ability to use it.



1: SD619268 Cross the stile and walk uphill beside the fence to reach a wall (door in wall). Turn left on a vague path and follow the wall to find an unusual style. Cross this onto a wide path through trees leading to a cutting downhill. Even in summer this will be muddy and needs care.



2: SD623266 Carefully descend the gully to reach a railway crossing. Cross the railway onto a farm track and cross this to go through a kissing gate. Bear right to go through an opening and proceed downhill. Ignore the wooden stairway and continue down the grassy path. You reach a stile beside a circular brick structure.



3: SD625267 The function of this structure is unclear, perhaps a well. Cross the stile and continue down to a stile through a stone wall to a road (Viaduct Road). Turn right to pass between some old houses and their gardens. Can you find the old counting house? Watch for an Information board beside a path entrance.



4: SD628265 The information board explains how this is part of a valley buried by the retreat of the last ice age. Leave the road to continue on the path at the right. Pass under the railway viaduct into the Gorge itself. Notice the leat on the right hand side.

5: SD628263 You may have noticed the mill on the left hand side of the hamlet. As you walk along the gorge you will see the remains of a leat on your right. As you continue besides the river and small rapids you reach a weir that is also the start of the leat.



6: SD627262 From here the narrow path continues through quite high undergrowth over a bridge and some rather muddy parts to reach a kissing gate leading into a large field. Bear a bit left to head for the opening in a fence.



7: SD629258 Pass through the opening into another large field. Formally the path sticks with the river but you are aiming for the far right corner. In the corner of the field and the wood on the right is a kissing gate.



8: SD634256 The entrance to the gate is often quite muddy but usually easily got around. The path crosses a little stream and heads quite steeply up a short incline. It continues through the wood eventually reaching a gate.





9: SD635255 Go through the gate and bear left in the field. You are aiming for a style that is about 35deg. from the fence. It is not very visible at this distance, a little uphill (and often soggy). It is also possible to stay with the fence to reach a field gate into the next field and then right uphill.



10: SD636254 Cross the rather hidden style and walk on beside the fence. In 130 yds there is another kissing gate. Pass through and head at 45 deg. across the field. Find a kissing gate beside a metal gate leading onto the farm driveway.



11: SD638253 This is about halfway around the walk so may offer a chance for a pause. Continue right along the drive to the main road. At the road turn left and take any safe opportunity to cross over. You are looking for a metal fence and gate into a waste land area opposite a bus stop on the left.



12: SD640253 Enter the waste land area and aim for the far right corner. Here there is a path that leads fairly steeply up onto the canal towpath. Turn right on the towpath and follow it for just over a mile to bridge 91A. There are footpaths just before (boggy) and just after(viable) the bridge but the road is easier.

13: SD624251 Ascend to the road and turn right and go about ¼ mile along it to meet the main road A6061. Turn right a few yards and cross over beside the Royal Oak pub.



14: SD621255 Go along the driveway at the left of the pub. At the end of the driveway is a stile into a field. Continue in the same direction to reach another stile beside a metal gate. Continue across the next field to a stile and gate into a wood.



15: SD618260 It can be muddy but usually ok. Cross this stile and then another leading out of the wood. Follow the track downhill until it bears left. Continue straight on towards a number of gates in a fence.



16: SD617262 Go through the gate to reach and cross the driveway to Hoghton Tower. Continue on the track/driveway on the other side to walk beside a wall on your left until the end of the driveway and a gate/style.





17: SD617263 Cross the style and follow the wall as it goes around the estate. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you reach a gate/style.



18: SD620266 Turn left and head downhill to find the style you started from.

----- End of Walk-----

See overleaf for some notes on the areas you have walked through.

Eric Crichton 6-7-16

Hoghton Tower

A fortified manor house and ancestral home of the De Hoghton family since the 12th century.

But the house that you can see today is primarily a product of the mid-Tudor period. The house is built in an elongated figure-8, encompassing two inner courtyards entered through a fiercely castellated gatehouse.

The De Hoghtons came from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066 and were rewarded by the King for giving their support during the battle of Hastings.

Hoghton tower can still be recognised as a fortified hill top mansion standing 560 feet above sea level.

Alleged to be the place where James 1 knighted the meat, although the name comes from the much earlier "surloine" which arises from the French word 'surloynge'.



Hoghton Bottom Village.

The village lies in the civil parish of the Borough of Chorley. It is one of the earliest estate villages in the whole of Britain. Hoghton literally means a township at the bottom of a hill.

The Darwen flows through a gorge/ravine just outside the village and is worthy of caution due to mud, narrow path, and steep sides.

