

and the USA for support in developing and trialling the route.  
 The project and to Burnley Borough Council, NCS The Challenge  
 To Tesco Bags of Help and Heritage Lottery Fund for funding  
 Thank you!

This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project. Scan the QR code to find out more or visit [www.ribblelifetogether.org](http://www.ribblelifetogether.org). Download the Ribble Life app, to accompany this route on Android and iPhone.

- Follow the Countryside Code: consider wildlife and other users
  - Carry spare food and drinks
  - Take a charged mobile phone, first aid kit, map and compass
  - Wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for forecast conditions
- Enjoy safely**
- Burnley Way
  - Forest of Burnley: Wayside Arts Trail; Brun Valley Forest Park
  - Battle of the Brun Treasure Trail
  - Ribble Catchment Geotrail: Sheddin
- Nearby trails**
- Ribble Life Together is working to create a healthier river system by 2020 for people and wildlife. The project celebrates the heritage of the rivers, improving access and using the river to inspire and educate. Through practical environmental action, based on science, we aim to leave a positive legacy for future generations.



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# River Walks Calder and Brun



This route offers a rich mix of the cultural and natural heritage of the rivers that have shaped Burnley. Contrasting between the urban rivers at the heart of the town and the rural streams where they begin, fantastic views look over the Calder Valley to the majestic Pendle Hill.

**Distance: 12.4 km / 7.7 miles**  
**Difficulty: Moderate**

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
 Beginning by the cobbled urban River Calder, the Straight Mile takes the route high above the Calder Valley, then heads to Towneley Park. The River Calder leads the route upstream through the park before, nearing the park's edge, ascending through Wet Marl Wood and across to a young River Brun and the villages of Hurstwood and Worsthorne. From Worsthorne, it leads across to Swinden Water, which guides downstream into Burnley. At Thompson Park, the canal returns to the route's start.

**SUGGESTED START:** Centenary Way BB11 2EQ (SD 843 323).  
*(Opposite side of the dual carriage way to the bus station.)*

**DISTANCE:** 12.4 km / 7.7 miles

**TIME:** 3hrs 30mins (plus sightseeing)

**TERRAIN:** Largely good, with small sections of moderate incline and some un-pathed/un-surfaced sections. Footpaths and woodland tracks can be wet under foot.

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**OS MAP:** It is advisable to use OL21 with this guide.

- The route begins across the road from Burnley's Bus Station.
- Centenary Way long stay at the start of the route. Alternative starting points: Riverside car park in Towneley Park, BB11 3RQ (SD 858 313); Netherwood Road - by the mill pond, BB10 2TP (SD 858 334).
- Tesco Superstore, the riverside car park in Towneley Park; on Brownside Road in Worsthorne and at The Boathouse by the play area in Thompson Park.
- Tesco Superstore at start and end of route. Chip shops: Belfields on Parliament Street in Burnley and The Village Chippy in Worsthorne.
- Bay Horse Inn or Crooked Billet, both in Worsthorne.
- Costa Coffee at Tesco store; Rotunda Café at Towneley Park; No11 Tea Room in Worsthorne; Thompson Park Boathouse (weekends only Apr-Sept. 11am-4pm).

**THE RIVERS:** The **River Calder** (thought to translate from Celtic as 'violent stream') begins on the moors above Cliviger, not far from the source of the Yorkshire River Calder. From here, it travels through the wooded Cliviger Gorge and Towneley Park before entering Burnley. This tributary of the River Ribble continues through Padiham and Whalley before meeting the main river.

The River Calder is met in the centre of Burnley by the **River Brun**, which gives Burnley its name 'Brun-lea'. The River Brun's source is on Worsthorne Moor. At the confluence, both rivers flow over a weir before meeting. Each weir has a fish pass, installed by Ribble Rivers Trust, to allow fish to access spawning grounds upstream of the weirs. **Thursden Brook** (also known as the valley of the goblins) becomes the **River Don**, which feeds into the River Brun close to where **Swinden Water** joins.

**WILDLIFE:** Burnley and the riverside paths that this route takes through its parks are fantastic places to see dippers, wagtails and kingfishers.

The higher reaches offer spawning grounds to salmonid fish, including our native brown trout. Eels have also been found in the area. Otters have been sighted in the centre of town, indicating strong fish populations.

Look out for butterbur leaves in the summer. Historically, butter was wrapped in these and lowered into the river to keep it cool.



**Dipper**

**LOOK OUT FOR:**  
 1. Built over 200 years ago, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal is raised 60ft above the Calder Valley on the **Straight Mile** or **Burnley Embankment**.



**Straight Mile**

2. A series of **riffles** offer a chance to see dippers and salmonid fish, like brown trout. The first salmon fry found in Burnley since before the Industrial Revolution was caught in 2015 downstream of here.



**Brown trout**

**Salmon**

3. Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) created a rock ramp on **Wet Marl Wood Weir** to make it easier for wildlife to migrate upstream. **Towneley Hall** can be visited from here.

4. **Salterford Bridge** was a crossing over the River Brun on the salt route. Missing stones in the wall afford glimpses of the river.



**Weirs on the River Brun below Rowley Lake**

5. A series of **weirs** lead up to Rowley Lake. Where the River Don meets the River Brun 150 m further on, a RRT weir modification eases the migration of fish to the River Don. Here, you can also see the pipe that extracted water to feed the mill pond a short way down Netherwood Road.

6. The bridge that you will pass on your left was put in as part of the **Urban Rivers Enhancement Scheme (URES)**.

7. A further weir modification, to ease the movement of wildlife upstream, can be seen before you reach Thompson Park. A different type of pass was needed to help fish get over the surface of the **'Burnley Weir'**, just downstream of Thompson Park on the River Brun. The weir was built around 1292 to give power to grind corn in the 'King's Mill'.



**Rope walk**

8. This section of the Straight Mile takes you past a series of ceramics on the **'Rope Walk'**.

The map sections circled below show how the course of the River Brun has been altered.

1947



**Ribble Rivers Trust projects** (see points on map)  
**URES:** Under the Urban River Enhancement Scheme (URES), from 2011 to 2015, RRT carried out a series of large-scale improvements to re-naturalise Burnley's rivers for wildlife and improve people's access to them. Information boards can be found by many of the projects.

**Tesco Bags of Help:** The project working on a weir at Wet Marl Wood, just upstream of Towneley Park, gives migratory fish access to a further 4.2 km of the River Calder.

◆ Site of the weir at Wet Marl Wood



**Before:** The weir formed a barrier to fish migration.



**After:** Modified to be more natural for wildlife.

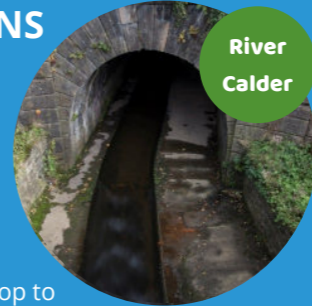
**Please note that the weir itself is on private land and so cannot be accessed from this route.**

\* A slight detour, for those without dogs, takes you through Thompson Park. Another previous RRT scheme can be seen here. Steps placed over the weir improve habitat connectivity for migratory fish. The pipe, here, feeds water into the boating lake. Take a left at the fingerpost to keep by the river and through a metal gate. At the information board, take a left over the bridge. Head uphill with the boating lake on your right. Before the exit on to Ormerod Road, take a left through a metal gate to re-join the route on the canal towpath.

! ROUTE DIRECTIONS

**A. The Straight Mile to Towneley**

Walking towards the superstore from Centenary Way car park, you'll come to a bridge over the River Calder. Before the bridge, climb the steps to point (1). Turn right at the top to follow the tow path, with the Straight Mile of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal on your left.



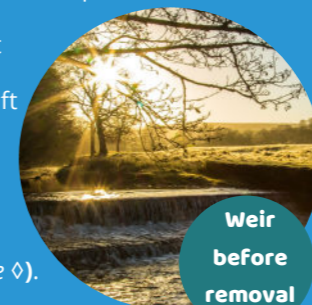
River Calder

Leave the tow path before an overhead road bridge. Take the left-fork to walk over the bridge. Head downhill along Parliament Street, using the crossing to the medical centre and continue to the end of the road. The crossing of Todmorden Road will take you directly to Towneley Park. Pass through the Old Gate House arch and turn left.

**B. The River Calder & Towneley**

On meeting the railings, take the path to your right and follow the River Calder upstream (2). Cross the first footbridge and remain on the riverside path. To your left, you will pass a wetland area which helps to filter water seeping into the river. Cross the small Unity College road bridge with the river now on your left before soon crossing back over at the next foot bridge. Remaining on the riverside path, you will pass Large Swale wetland area, which offers flood protection for the college. Cross Park Bridge Road to the riverside car park.

At the end of the car park, turn right over the bridge (see The Avenue stretch up to Towneley Hall). Turn left to follow the River Calder upstream. Pass a wooden footbridge. Cross here after the following detour: Continue 300 meters until the path bears right. Catch a glimpse of the modified weir in the distance (3 - see ◆).



Weir before removal

Retrace your steps to cross the wooden footbridge. Take the track through a kissing gate and uphill through Wet Marl Wood. Leave the wood into a field to gain a good view of Cliviger Gorge.

**C. Hurstwood & Worsthorne**

At the end of the left-hand wall, continue uphill in the same direction, to a dense line of trees. Here, the path leads right and through a pair of parallel wooden gates keeping the fence and wall close on your left. Continue up the road and head left over a stile beyond Laithe Farm's entrance on the right. Follow the fence uphill to a further stile. Cross Red Lees Road and the wooden stile directly opposite. Head straight across the field through a series of wooden kissing gates in Red Lees Wood.



Salterford Bridge

**Take care as you pass through the fourth gate, as it leads directly onto the road.**

Turn left to follow the road down to Salterford Bridge (4). Just after the bridge, cross the road and take a right over a wooden stile. Follow the wall, skirting around the trees on your right. Continue over a stone stile towards farm buildings, then along a fence line and through a small wooden gate. Bear left through the farmyard and a further wooden gate.

Follow the road past Hurstwood Cottage (*the Shedden Geotrail joins here*). Continue up to the T-junction with Hurstwood Road. On your right is Hurstwood Hall, built in 1579 by the Towneley family. Turn left to follow Hurstwood Road for 400 meters.

Cross the stone stile on the right and follow the wall on your right. Head through the metal gates, keeping the wall directly on your right. Cross the centre of the field, past the corner of a stone wall and towards the church (viewed above the tree-tops). Once through another kissing gate, you'll pass Wallstream Farm on the left. Cross the road to the church, turning left into Worsthorne. Follow the signpost to Burnley, along Brownside Road. Look out for a road sign for a school. At the building on the corner, marked 'North Parade', turn right onto Lennox Street. Walk down the gravel track, then bear left through the metal gates.

**D. Swinden Water & Brun Valley**

After 300 meters, where the track splits, bear right (*from here, you have a good view of Extwistle Hall*). Cross a small stream and pass Wood Hey Farm. Take a left off the track to a yellow arrow. Bear right across the field to another yellow arrow where the meadow meets a woodland. Take the wooden steps into the trees, down to Swinden Water. Cross the stepping stones and follow the obvious path over a wooden stile.

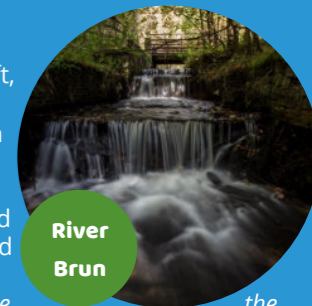


Extwistle Hall

Turn directly left to follow the stream down, keeping the sound of the river on your left. Enter Houghton Hagg Wood through a kissing gate. Continue until you leave at a further kissing gate.

Make your way to a wooden signpost. From here, the route leads back down towards the stream. At the bottom of the hill, take the right-hand path. On reaching the next way-marker, take the path to the left towards a kissing gate. Continue straight on, hugging the fence, and over a wooden footbridge. Continue up, then down, more steps.

Pass a wooden footbridge on your left, which would lead up to Rowley Lake (5). Here, the River Brun and Swinden Water join.



River Brun

Follow the sign to the town centre and Bank Hall (6). Leave Netherwood Road on a path through two boulders on the left. *As you pass a weir, this is where the Brun historically met Swinden Water (see the maps to the left).* On re-joining the road, take a left to continue downstream. As the road bears right, take the footpath left signed Thompson Park. Continue past the allotments and under Godley Bridge.

**E. Bank Hall & Thompson Park**

Continue until you reach Bank Hall Park (*previously Bank Hall Pit coal works. Looking up the hill to your right, you will see a monument to the pit.*) However, this route takes you left towards Thompson Park.

Continue, passing a bridge on the left which replaced one destroyed by the 2015 floods. The path follows the route of a ginny track from the pit. Pass the outflow from the canal. *As you pass under the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, a marker indicates the high-water level from 1881. (See \* for an added detour.)*

(7) Take the track on the right up to the canal towpath. At the top of the steps, turn right, passing under the bridge that carries Ormerod Road. Continue along the Straight Mile (8), with some excellent views over the rooftops of Burnley, until you meet the steps back down from the towpath to the carpark where the route began. Before you descend, catch another glimpse of Pendle Hill.

