

## ROUTE DIRECTIONS

### A. Mercer Park

Starting from the entrance to Mercer Park at the junction between Grange Street and Rishton Road, head down Rishton Road along the side of the park, passing the play area on your left. Taking care, cross Charles Street and at the end of Rishton Road use the public footpath along the farm track through the field.



Mercer Park

Carry on past the farm, through the kissing gate and follow the old packhorse trail along the left-hand side of the field. Continue along the track as it slopes downhill (where the path splits, take the right-hand fork downhill) with views across to Hyndburn Brook on the right-hand side. Passing the old stone trail markers, the path slopes more steeply before crossing the footbridge and continuing on to the building that was formerly the Petre Arms.

### B. Hyndburn Brook & Dunkenhalgh Weir

Go through the kissing gate and past the former Petre Arms to the A678. Take extreme care crossing the road and follow the footpath sign along the packhorse trail.



Hyndburn Brook

Go through the metal kissing gate. Keep to the packhorse trail along the left-hand side of the field, taking in Dunkenhalgh Weir on the right-hand side (not visible from the path, worth a detour). Continue along the obvious trail heading towards the M65 motorway viaduct to the south.

### C. Under the motorway

Go through the metal kissing gate and continue under the motorway bridge. Once through, bear right up the hill before turning left along the gravelled path. After a short stretch this path then turns right up the hill, eventually leading to St James Road. Continue along this track until you reach the Leeds Liverpool Canal through the gate at the top of the hill.

### D. Leeds Liverpool Canal

Turning right along the canal, pass the mid-point marker on the opposite bank before turning right at the bridge, down the hill past the farm buildings and through the cycle gate. Continue along the cycle way as it winds back up to the canal. Once at the canal, turn right and continue north, with the canal on your left. Go over the motorway and under bridge 108A, continue straight until just before bridge 108. Approximately 25 metres before bridge 108, look out for a wooden kissing gate on your right.



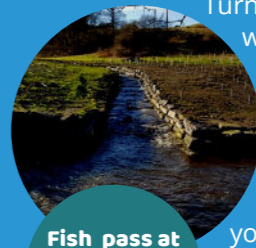
Leeds Liverpool Canal

### E. Canalside to Tottleworth

Once through the gate, head straight. Part-way across the field you can begin to follow the fence line of an allotment area, keep heading straight and begin to follow the wooden telegraph poles to a kissing gate. Once through the gate, continue to follow the telegraph poles until you reach a kissing gate in front of a row of houses. Pass along the front of the houses and turn left at the end onto Tottleworth Road, then right through Windy Bank Farm. Once through the farmyard, follow the farm track to its end at a field gate straight ahead.

### F. Back to the Brook

Go through the gate and head diagonally left (11 o'clock direction) towards the copse of trees with Pendle Hill in the background. Near the edge of the field, to the left of the copse you will see two gate posts. Head through the gate posts and along the path bearing right down the slope. Keep to the right of the fence and go over the stile at the bottom of the hill onto the track. Turn right onto the track which continues downhill, and over the brook.



Fish pass at Oakenshaw Weir

Turn right through the vehicle gate on the woodland trail. Taking the right fork (uphill), continue through the woods with views down to your right of Hyndburn Brook. On joining the main track, view Oakenshaw Weir from the bench at the viewpoint, along the track to your right. You then want to take the path directly behind you (the middle of three paths) to return back through the woods, then take the first turning up the hill to the right, joining a track heading right up to Oakenshaw Croft and Bates Street.

### G. Back to the Park

Walking past Oakenshaw Croft (on your right) take the snicket straight ahead (by the street light) through to Freshfield Avenue. Continue along the footpath to the left of the Freshfield Avenue sign between the houses, to Chapel Street. At the end of this street take the ginnel on the right through to Bayley Street before turning left back to Mercer Park.

### THE RIVERS:

Hyndburn Brook begins near Oswaldtwistle before joining the River Hyndburn between Church and Rishton. Hyndburn Brook then winds past Clayton-le-Moors before feeding into the River Calder near Altham. The Calder Catchment is characterised by mill towns such as Burnley, Nelson, Colne and Accrington, which were at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. Rivers were crucial for supplying water to the various industries and, as a result, became heavily modified with the construction of weirs, sluices and mill races. The industries have since declined and most mills have been demolished, but the in-river structures that have been left behind continue to damage the riverine ecology.



### Ribble Rivers Trust projects (see points on map)

**Dunkenhalgh Weir:** A 'pool and traverse' fish passage channel was installed in 2019 to reconnect river habitat and improve access upstream for species such as salmon and trout.

**Oakenshaw Weir:** The project at Oakenshaw was completed in 2017 and included a bypass channel around the weir and a new woodland plantation. The bypass channel provides an alternative route for migratory fish around the 4 metre high weir, allowing them to access the river above the weir.

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