

SUGGESTED START: Rishton Road, alongside Mercer Park, Clayton-le-Moors

DISTANCE: 8 km / 5 miles

TIME: 2.5 hours (plus sight-seeing and wildlife watching)

TERRAIN: Farmland, canal towpath and some pavement.


DIFFICULTY: Moderate

OS MAP REFERENCE: It is advisable to use OS Explorer Map 287 with this guide.


 1, 6, 15

 On-street parking on Rishton Road

 Forts Arms, The Hyndburn, Canal View Café
(please note Canal View Café may be closed during winter)

 Co-op near Mercer Park

 Forts Arms, The Hyndburn

 Canal View Café *(please note Canal View Café may be closed during winter)*

 **WILDLIFE:** The fields adjacent to Hyndburn Brook are the ideal environment to spot wildlife such as herons. In sunny weather, keep an eye out for dragonflies and damselflies alongside the canal. Kingfishers are regularly spotted at waterside locations along the route if you are patient and quiet enough! Dunkenhalgh and Oakenshaw weirs have been modified by Ribble Rivers Trust to improve access upstream for salmon and trout.

 **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Starting in Clayton-le-Moors, the route leads through farmland adjacent to Hyndburn Brook before joining the Leeds Liverpool Canal. Following the canal north for a section, the walk route then returns to farmland and woodland on the journey back into Clayton-le-Moors. Expect varied scenery, ranging from suburban Rishton, to rural fields, to canalside views. The terrain is mixed: the sections of canal towpath are hard surfaced and even, enabling good mobility, however some sections of the farmland can be wet and muddy, therefore wellies or boots are recommended for this walk. Livestock are present in some of the fields on this route, so please keep dogs on a lead. If cattle get too close or become excitable, let the dog off the lead.

LOOK OUT FOR:


1. The remains of a building from the Bristol Aeroplane Company can be viewed from the path. This building was one part of a large Bristol factory which made Hercules engines. The nearby industrial estate was once home to both Bristol Aeroplanes and General Electric Company. The Bristol Aeroplane Company eventually became what we know today as BAE Systems.

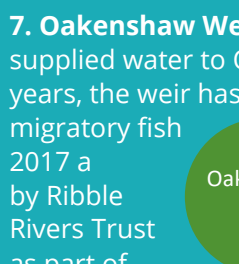
2. Dunkenhalgh Weir - a pool and traverse fish passage was constructed in 2019 by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of the Ribble Life Together project. This can be viewed with a short detour from the footpath.

3. There were several **mine shafts** on the Dunkenhalgh Estate which were part of Dunkenhalgh Park Colliery. The cap of one of these shafts is still visible today. The site was abandoned in 1883.

4. Madder Mill Wood - Madder (*Rubia tinctorum*), is a plant from which red dye can be extracted. It was used in the calico printing process. Before calico, wool was an important textile and the plant also was used in the dyeing of wool.

5. Mid-point of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. The marker indicates the halfway point of the waterway's 127 mile route. The Leeds Liverpool Canal is the longest canal in Britain built as a single waterway. Completed in 1816, it took 46 years to build.

 **6. Rishton Colliery**, located at the end of Walmsley Street, opened in 1884. By the 1930s, 230 colliers were employed. Operations ceased at the site in 1941. The Coal Board demolished several of the buildings in 1960 in order to install two new pumps to pump water to Dean Reservoir.

 **7. Oakenshaw Weir** - Constructed in 1844, the weir supplied water to Oakenshaw Printworks. For over 150 years, the weir has restricted access upstream for migratory fish such as salmon and trout. In 2017 a bypass channel was completed by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of Ribble Life Together to provide an alternative route upstream.



Dunkenhalgh Weir



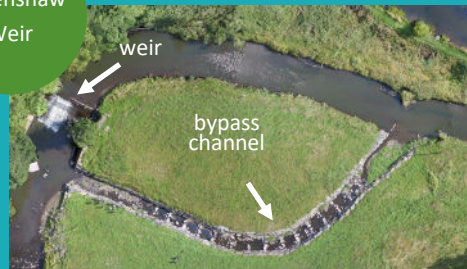
Mine cap



Leeds Liverpool Canal



Rishton Colliery



Oakenshaw Weir

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Follow us:



River Walks Hyndburn Brook

This route celebrates industrial East Lancashire and the relationships between farming, industry, canals and rivers. The walk follows the old packhorse route from Clayton-le-Moors to the Dunkenhalgh Estate, before joining the Leeds Liverpool Canal at its mid-point on the edge of Church. It then joins Hyndburn Brook near Oakenshaw and climbs back up into Clayton-le-Moors.

Distance: 8 km / 5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

To find all the River Walk routes, visit: www.ribbonetrust.org.uk

This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project.

- 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

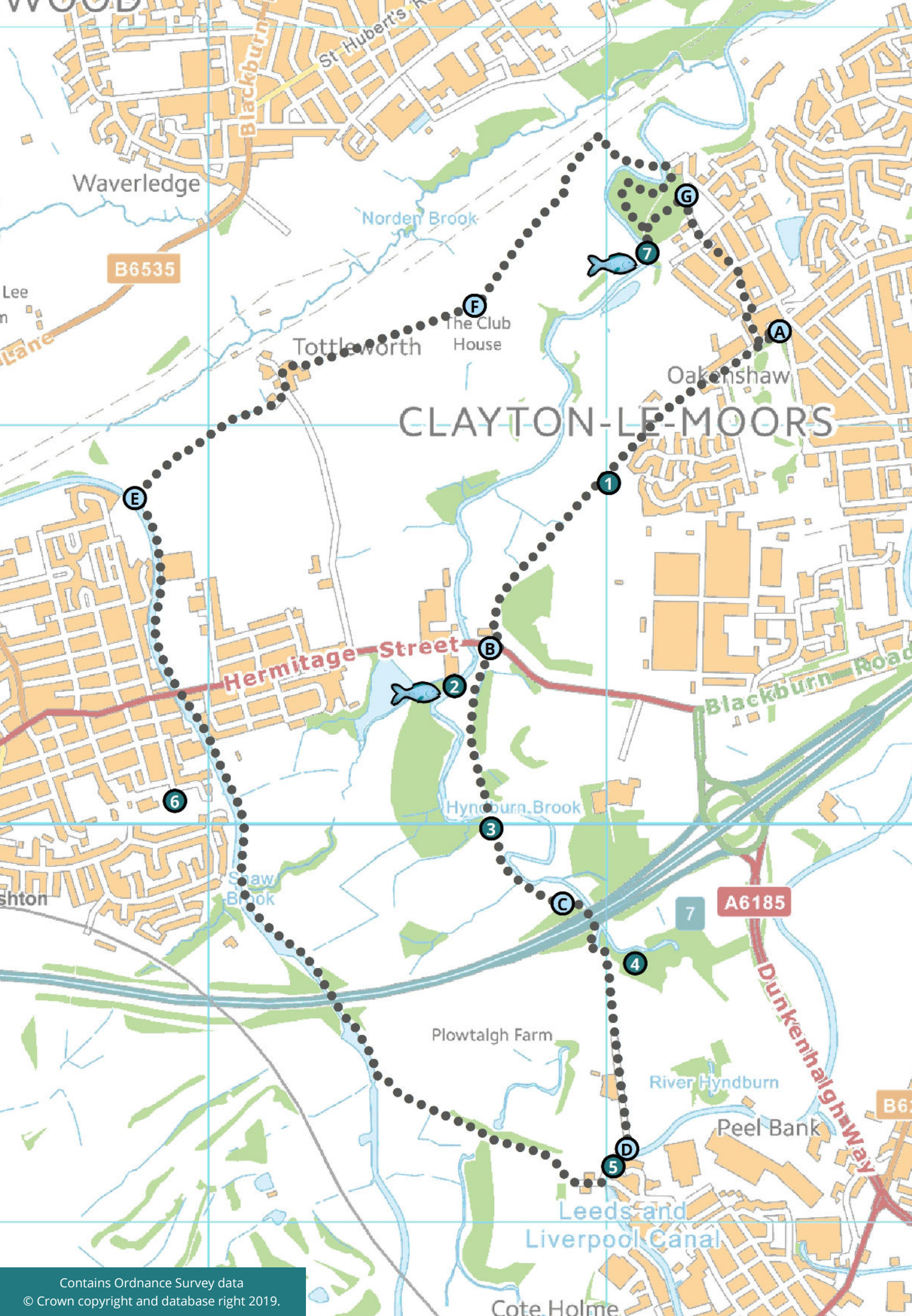
Enjoy safely

- Clayton Fields Trail
- Ladybird Trail
- Ribble Rivers Trust River Walks: Calder and Brun

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 the future.

Thank you!
To National Lottery Players for funding the project and Great Harwood History Society and Prospects Foundation for support in developing and trialling the route. Photography: G. Britland, E. Bateman and H. Smith.



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 & Dunkenhall 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 Dunkenhall 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)

Dunkenhall 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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Every effort has been made to provide accurate information in this guide. Ribble Rivers Trust cannot take responsibility for any errors. No recommendation is given by inclusion or omission of any establishment.