

Hoghton Gorge & Leeds and Liverpool Canal

Lancashire (LANC121)

Submitted by Barry Smith



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This walk takes you around the outside of Hoghton Towers Estate, and partly on it. Through one of the most impressive gorges in Lancashire, and over some beautiful countryside. By river and canal, woods and fields, it has something for everyone and every level of fitness. The wildlife is fantastic, particularly the birds. **DO NOT FORGET YOUR CAMERA.** There are three pubs on the walk, the Royal Oak, the Boars Head and The Boatyard.

You can start or finish at any one of them, they all provide excellent repast and comfort, and are open all year round, although not all are open every day!



• walk location



• walk features

REFRESHMENTS

Along the route 3 pubs can be found providing refreshments, toilets and parking (with permission).

TOILETS

See above.

PARKING

See above.

• walk info

LENGTH

5 to 11 km

DURATION

2 to 4 1/2 hours

DIFFICULTY

Gentle/Moderate

MAP

OS

• help craghappy

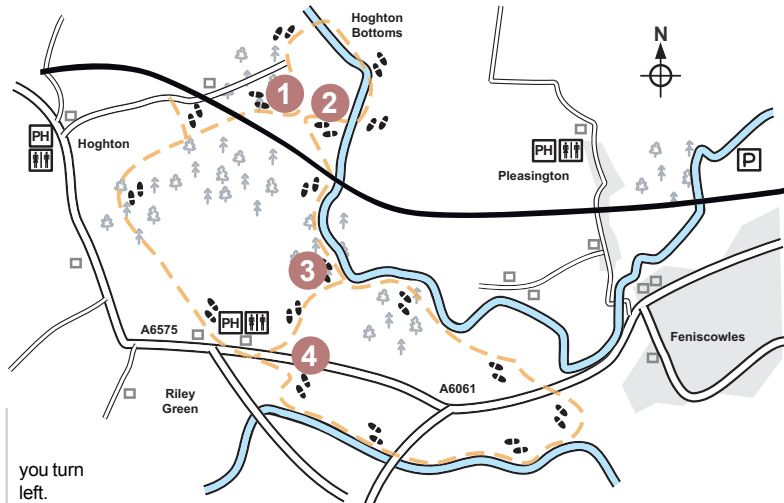
We need your help to make our walks even more informative. If you have any of your own photos of this walk, any additional information i.e. historical or any other comments please email us at submit@craghappy.com. Alternatively try the submissions section of www.craghappy.com.

My usual start point is at Grid 613266 at the Village Hall car park. However, if you go a little further down the road you will come to the Boars Head and its car park, ask permission to park if you are going to use the facilities and leave the car, while you do the walk. Alternatively, you could park in Chapel Lane (recommended) and continue along the lane until you pass all the cottages and take the footpath and sign on the right, walk by the fence/hedge up to the wall and turn left. Continue ahead with the footpath sign, under some dead and fallen trees, to the rail level crossing for pedestrians.

Cross over to the stile slightly on the right and go downhill by wall to stile and then through squeeze stile and gap onto road.

1 You now have a choice, for a shorter route turn right, (Go to 2)

For the full route turn left along Viaduct Road to junction with Valley Road and turn right to go through Hoghton Bottoms, go past all the houses and turn left at the last one to cross the foot bridge over the river. Once over the bridge, turn right with the signpost onto the track by the river, Follow the track to where it veers left uphill, but, go to the right to follow the river, head for the arched bridge, cross stile and go right over bridge. The lane past the farm is very muddy here and leads back to Viaduct Rd. opposite the squeeze stile that you negotiated earlier, and, here



you turn left.

2 Continue down the lane to pass a rather superior conversion of Higher Mill, and keeping straight on, you will find that you are walking on the filled in millrace (water for the mill wheel) that supplied the mill with power for whatever purpose. Here you are at the start to Hoghton Gorge. Continue ahead, cross the footbridge over the next ladder stile. Here you have another choice, for the longer route, go to (3).

Turn right onto the road and you come to the Royal Oak Pub at Riley Green (a Thwaites Pub!) and the junction with the A675. This is another starting point, but again, ask if you leave your car to do the walk. Go to 4.

3 Continue by the river heading for the woods some 500mtrs away, cross the stile and little narrow footbridge and follow the path

uphill through the woods. Find the stile hidden in the trees, cross it, follow fence/hedge for 100mtrs to stile in hedge, just before Hillock Farm, cross stile and follow fence to gate/stile and bear right onto lane to come out onto A674. Cross the site of a demolished mill heading for tall chimney, at the works lodge/barrier, turn right to climb track and come out on the Leeds/Liverpool Canal. If you are continuing, turn sharp right at the end of the fence where the British Waterways sign is, there is also a footpath sign on the very end of the fence post. When you get to the end of this path, with a detached house, turn left onto the A6061. You will see a footpath sign on the right where you come out from point (3) earlier in the text.

4 If you are not stopping at the pub, then turn

right immediately after it at the footpath sign, continue past the pub car park to gate/stile and when level with the farm, cross stile between two stone gateposts. Go straight-ahead, slightly uphill, heading for the tree and stile almost on the skyline. Continue straight-ahead to gate/stile and another gate/stile, then slightly downhill to the iron kissing-gate. Continue until you come to the stile that comes up from Chapel Lane. Turn left downhill to Chapel Lane, over stile, turn left to take you back to Pub or Village Hall car parks.

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