

Lancashire Walks



Hameldon Hill

The more east you travel in Lancashire you will become aware of “the Lancashire Beyond” phenomenon. You reach what you think is the furthest point of the county only to be told there is another bit over the hill. Rossendale Valley is a case in point. Here is a different geography; akin more to West Yorkshire than the rest of Lancashire and part of an area known as the South Pennines. Wild moors cut by deep valleys provide a fascinating place to explore – especially on foot. This walk completes a circuit of Clowbridge Reservoir by way of Hameldon Hill.

Start: Limy Lane near Clowbridge Reservoir. From junction 9 M65 turn left onto A679 towards Burnley. At traffic lights turn right onto A646 to Halifax and then right at the next traffic lights onto A682 to Manchester. In a little over a mile the Waggoners will come into view. Limy Lane is a few hundred yards further on left.

Distance: 10 Km or 6miles

Time: 2½ - 3½ hours

Terrain: Though not difficult the route incorporates some serious moorland walking so that stout boots and waterproofs are a must, especially in winter.

Map: OL 21 South Pennines

1. Car Park to Hameldon Hill (3 Km or 2miles: 1 hour)

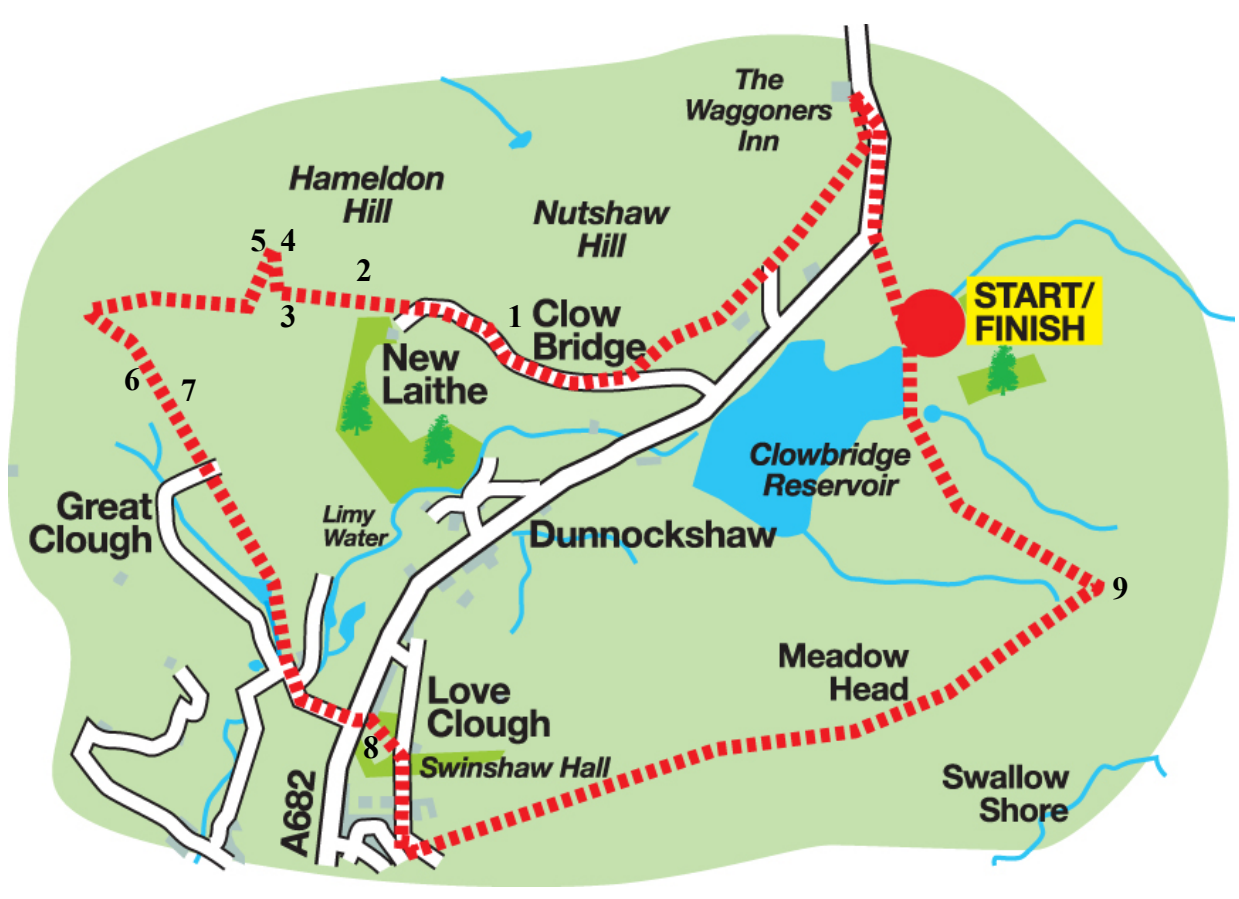
Return to Manchester Road and turn right towards Burnley. At 300m the Burnley Way crosses the road. Your way is left onto a track. After 300m the track crosses a stile and becomes a footpath. Passing through a pasture, the footpath enters a walled lane which leads down to a yard. Here the route doglegs first right, then left. A waymarked post indicates the way. Cross a stile to reach a grassy track going along the fellside. Continue straight. On reaching a tarmac lane turn right. This is a service road for the paraphernalia of masts on the hill top, **(Pic 1)** which soon comes into view. As the road bends to the left, continue straight through two boulders onto a stony track. This track is reunited with the road 300m ahead. **(Pic 2)** On reaching the edge of the summit plateau **(Pic 3)** turn right in front of the wall to reach the radar weather station. **(Pic 4)** The trig point **(Pic 5)** is to its left across a broken wall. The views are extensive.

2. Hameldon Hill to Loveclough (2½ Km or 1½ miles: 45 mins)

Go back to the Burnley Way, and turn right along it across a cattle grid. Where the service road turns right carry straight on passing a mast enclosed by a metal fence. At 700m/11minutes pass through a wooden gate, next to a metal one. **This next section of the walk needs concentration.** Turning left with wall on left, descend through marsh grass to reach stone stile. Cross it and then bear to right to reach a furrowed track. Follow it down the fell. Soon it turns to the left. Your way is to cross the wall in front by a stone stile. **(Pic 6)** Ahead you will just about see the line of the path crossing boggy ground. Next you reach a broken wall with barbed wire fence, crossed by a wooden stile. **(Pic 7)** By the ruin of Heights Farm cross a stile to drop towards a small reservoir. Skirting the water on the left side, the lower path will bring you to a metal gate adjoined to a wooden stile. Follow the track down to a fairly new development and the Rossendale Way. Turn left and follow lane through Loveclough to Manchester Road.

3. Loveclough to Car park (4½ Km or 2½ miles)

Cross Manchester Road taking path directly opposite to the right of National School building. In a little under 200m reach Swinshaw Lane **(Pic 8)** and turn right. In 500m look for footpath sign on left (opposite a housing estate). Turn left and follow path beside a wooded gully. Beyond a wall on right ends, cross a wooden stile into a pasture, with wire fence on left and walk up to a metal gate. Cross stile with wall now on right. Clowbridge Reservoir comes into sight. A further 350m/5mins along you come to a junction of paths. Go through the metal gate and bear right. At the next wall keep to left (not ahead over stone stile) and go forward through a gap. The wall is now on your right. This section is a superb upland yomp. On reaching the point where two sets of pylons traverse the route, turn left onto a solid track. (A stone cross will be seen on the right.) **(Pic 9)** Follow track and descend to car park across the end of Clowbridge Reservoir



Map by Chris Wyatt at The Blackpool Gazette

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



Pic 8



Pic 9

