

Lancashire Walks



Haslingden Grane

There is a tendency to regard the countryside as a place of peace and quiet where one can escape from the pressures of urban living. Yet it was not so long ago when the rural scene was one of work and industry and a very busy place. The deserted landscape of the Grane Valley close to Haslingden is a good example – this area once supported 1,000 people – farming, handloom weaving and quarrying. Now it is the realm of sheep and curlew, and of course walkers.

Start: Visitors Centre Car park: Clough Head. **(Pic 1)** From junction 5 M65 take the A6177 towards Haslingden. After 5k 3m turn left onto the visitors' centre car park.

Distance: 9½ Km or 5½ miles

Time: 2½ - 3½ hours

Terrain: An easy to moderate walk made more demanding after wet weather when paths become very muddy.

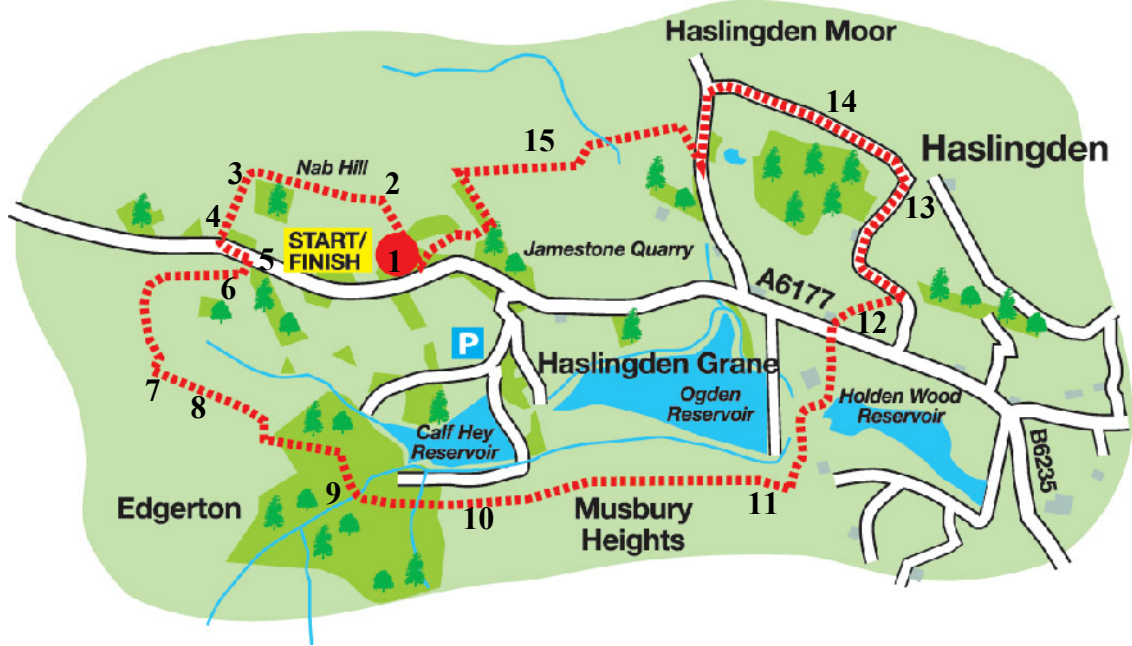
Map: OS Explorer 287 West Pennine Moors

1. Car Park to Leys End (6 Km or 4 miles: 1½ - 2 hours)

Take the path that starts to the left of the visitors centre. After passing through a strip of woodland it begins to ascend the pasture beyond. Keep ahead at a kissing gate **(Pic 2)** onto the steeper fellside to reach the Rossendale Way. (RW) This long distance path provides a convenient reference for the greater part of the route. Turn left onto the RW. Though well used and obvious this is not what would be called a manicured path. Wet weather reduces parts of it to a boggy quagmire. Follow it as best you can past a conifer plantation. 10 minutes or 600m after joining it, the RW turns left, crosses a wooden stile **(Pic 3)** and drops down to Grane Road. (A6177) Following the direction of the signpost you will arrive at the road in a little under 300m. **(Pic 4)** Cross the road and turn left. **(Pic 5)** In a short distance pick up the way again to turn right into pastures. **(Pic 6)** After 150m follow the RW as it turns right. In 300m the RW turns left towards Calf Hey Reservoir. Entering an area of marsh grass the track is not always easy to discern, but frequent waymark posts will assist you as the RW reaches the first of many ruined buildings. **(Pic 7)** Passing an information board close to a ruined gable **(Pic 8)** the RW drops towards a gully close to another ruin. Across the gully the RW follows the edge of woodland before entering the plantation by way of a stile. Keep on the RW as you go through this stretch of mixed woodland. Over a footbridge bear right. **(Pic 9)** Once clear of the woods you will find yourself on the steep sided slopes below Musbury Heights. **(Pic 10)** Views open out down the valley. Keep ahead passing Calf Hey Reservoir and walking above Ogden Reservoir. 1.6k/1 mile from the woods fork left off the RW close by a small stream. Along a narrow path drop steeply towards the south east corner of Ogden Reservoir. **(Pic 11)** The natural line appears to cross the dam end of the reservoir but there is no public access there. Keep ahead on the path then turn left through a wooden gate and drop to a stile. Passing the end of Holden Wood Reservoir on your right follow the path as it skirts around a large utility building on its right side, to lead you up to Grane Road. Leys End is along the track opposite. **(Pic 12)**

2. Leys End to Clough Head car park (3½Km or 2 miles: 1-1½ hours)

Keep ahead through Leys End farmyard and its noisy dogs. The footpath beyond crosses a stile and then diagonally traverses pasture to reach a junction of tracks. **(Pic 13)** Turn left taking the metalled lane as it bends right leading up to Cloud Hill Farm. Beyond the farm keep ahead on a footpath as it crosses two large pastures to reach once again the Rossendale Way. Turn left. **(Pic 14)** In 800m 12mins the Way turns sharply left. Follow it downhill to the edge of a quarry, before it turns right and then edges around the large Jamestone Quarry with its numerous warnings. The quarry is an impressive and active operation. **(Pic 15)** In another 15 minutes reach a footpath junction. Turn left and walk down along a recently laid path to a metal kissing gate. Keep ahead with an enclosed plantation on the right to reach another metal gate on the right. Go through this to arrive back at the car park in a few more minutes.



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



Pic 10



Pic 11



Pic 12



Pic 13



Pic 14



Pic 15



Pic 16