

Withnell & Heapey Moors

This 5.5 mile walk is a mixture of managed paths and open moor walking. Limited risks of muddy paths but on the moorland the paths are fully exposed to weather conditions.

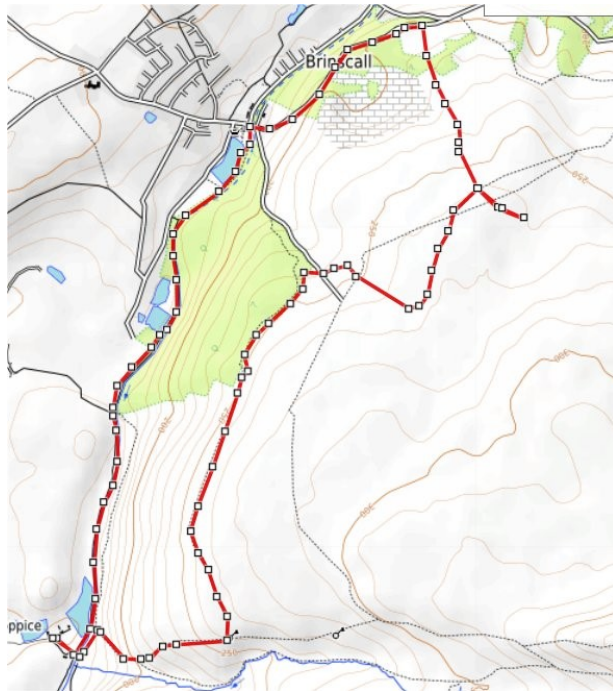
The route takes in a number of the (many) ancient ruined farms on the moors. There is sometimes sheep on parts of the moors so watch out for requests to keep dogs on leads.

The first part of the route follows the Goyt from White Coppice to Brinscall along a well-managed path.

A gentle climb takes you onto the moor for a roughly level traverse of the moor to visit ruins and then descent steeply back to White Coppice.

Parking is close to the White Coppice cricket ground. The cricket ground parking is available on non cricket days and there is a lot of parking spaces on the rather rough approach road.

There are no toilets or refreshments on the walk though sometimes the cricket ground offers refreshments and there is Tea Room and a Pub in Brinscall.



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

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1: SD 619191 The first part of the route is to walk to Brinscall. There are many possible footpaths in that direction but for simplicity this description uses the well managed footpath beside the Goyt. Walk through the cricket ground parking area and passed the club house to a collection of gates.



2: SD 620190 Go through the first gate and immediately turn left through another gate onto the managed path with the Goyt on the right. Maps do not show a footpath all the way along the Goyt but there is a well-managed path all the way to Brinscall 1.6 miles(2.6Km) away. After 1.3 miles you reach a bridge and the Goyt disappears under it.



3: SD 625210 Cross the road (Not the bridge) and continue on the path which starts on wood and mesh planks then an dirt path. Shortly after a second length of wood & mesh planking there is a signboard explaining the Goyt.



4: SD 628213 The signpost explains that the Goyt was a little stream converted to transport water 3.5 miles from Roddlesworth to Rivington reservoirs. The stretch near here is hidden to protect against pollution from a quarry, railway and sewage farm (all now non existent). Continue through the playground to the arched opening onto a road.

5: SD 628214 A signpost explains about the creation of this footpath in 2010. From this point the route climbs steadily up to the moor so perhaps a good location for a pause. Continue by turning right and walking up the road (Butterworth Brow). Follow this road for 0.6 miles (1Km) to find a track on the right just beyond a white house set back from the road.



6: SD 636218 At the junction, turn right up the track. Shortly, at the driveways to two houses, the tarmac changes to a dirt track and steadily ascends onto the moor with the track reducing to a moorland path. Continue on this track for about 0.6 mile (~1Km). Jubilee tower becomes visible on the left. Continue to encounter a pair of ancient gate posts.



7: SD 640210 These are the entrance to Botany Bay Farm ruins a few feet further on and is as far as this path extends. This is about halfway around the route so useful ruins for a refreshment stop with a good view towards the Jubilee tower. Continue by retracing your steps down the path looking for a small path to the left after 258 yds (230m).



8: SD 639211 It's important to find this path. Turn left and follow the path for 235yds (210m) and watch for the path bearing left to some gate posts.





9: SD 637210 Continue through the gate posts to find a broken gate in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile(400m). Duck under this to the ruins a few feet further.



10: SD 636206 These are the ruins of Solomon's Temple, another ruined farmhouse. The source of the name is not known. Continue by heading on the same line from the gate to the ruins (west) and towards a wire fence. At the fence, follow it to the right downhill until it meets a track after 240yds (220m).



11: SD 633207 At the track, a little left on the other side, is a stile. Cross this, go immediately left a short distance and then go right with the wall on your left. Follow the wall to the second collapsed section (at a vague crossing path) and turn left through the wall. In 124yds(110m), beyond some gorse, there is a stile onto a road. (There are a number possible routes from the first to second stiles)



12: SD 631207 Cross the road to a nearly opposite stile and go over this into a field. The obvious path goes to the right heading to a Ladder stile. DO NOT go over the ladder stile. Instead follow the wall with it on the right. Maps show the footpath bearing away from the wall after a time but it doesn't happen. Follow the path for 660yds(600m) and as it bears a bit left it meets an obvious crossing path.

13: SD 628202 Cross over this path to a section of collapsed wall and continue in roughly the same direction on a fairly clear, gently ascending path. This shortly meets a small stream. (Note: The formal footpath goes up to the left and then comes back down on another path. But it is access land and this cuts the corner.)



14: SD 628202 The stream is “Sourmilk Brook”. (See the last page for the reason for the name.) Continue on this moorland path for ¾ mile (1.2Km) enjoying the views to the right. In due course meet a clear crossing path at some ruins. These are the ruins of the Coppice Stile House.



15: SD 627191 Turn right through the wall and descend steeply bearing left at the bottom to shortly find the gate complex leading into White Coppice cricket field and your starting point.



**** End of the Walk ****

See the Next page for some information on some of the ruins.

Walk Designed by: Rod Sledge.

Documented by: Eric Crichton

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Some Information on Notable Locations

The farms on the moors were taken over by the Liverpool Corporation in the period 1902-1905, and destroyed in the water catchment area to remove animal contamination.



SD 641210 Botany Bay

This was a large farmhouse also used as a summer house and shooting lodge. Owned by the Ashmore family c.1920s. Obviously ruins now. With a single old beech tree nearby that is the only tree in sight.



SD 636206 Solomon's Temple

Another set of ruins of a farmhouse in a location with a great view. Not clear where the name came from.



SD 636206 Coppice Stile House

Another ruin at a key location on the path to Great Hill peak.



SD 627200 Sourmilk Brook

This is a small stream whose name comes from its greyish, foaming sour milk appearance when in flood.