Turton Tower to Jumbles via Last Drop & Hall I' the Wood

This is a 5.75 mile walk (6.1 mile option) starting from Turton Tower car park (free) and passing a number of local points of interest; Last Drop Village, Hall I'th Wood and Jumbles reservoir. The walk passes through stretches of urban area while hardly touching roads and then along both mainly sound and rather narrow paths, though some are prone to a bit of mud. As there is about 370 ft between the lowest and highest points, there are also good views. Following the outward route benefits from careful navigation though the return path is easier.

The walk can be started from a number of places, in fact there are car parks at each of those points of interest. There are café's at Last Drop Village, Jumbles (P&D car Park) and Turton Tower (limited hours). Starting at Turton Tower makes the Hall I' the Wood the halfway point. For the addition of 0.4 mile, the Jumbles visitor centre can be included in the walk and possibly a starting location (P&D car park)
At the rear of this booklet are some notes on the points of interest.

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: SD731151 Turton Towers is a grade 1 listed building originally (middle ages) a two storey pele tower, extended in 16th century. It has a reasonable café, abelit limited opening hours. Go right (N) from the car park, cross the railway over a castellated bridge and continue on to a T-junction.

2: SD728152 Turn left on a tarmac road and across a cattle grid. The formal route is from point 3 below. But if particularly wet conditions, an alternative is to continue on the road to meet a gate turning left in from of it to follow the wall down to a gate on the right (see point 4 below).

3: SD728152 Head about 30 deg to the left across the field. There is a small footpath post in the middle of the field and further on there is a wooden electricity pole just before a bridge leading to a kissing gate. (You may meet a wall and have to decide whether the bridge/gate is left or right.0

4: SD727149 Go through the gate and follow a narrow, probably overgrown, path that weaves along the edge of the golf course. As the path finally meets the golf course green, look for a kissing gate on the left. (there is a footpath across the golf course but this route avoids golf balls!)

5: SD727147 Go through the gate and immediately turn right along a narrow path that winds through trees roughly parallel to the fence. After about 160 yds bear right to find a gate.

6: SD726146 Go through the gate and continue on the narrow (overgrown?) path until it reaches a track coming from the golf course. Turn left and go past a metal gate to turn right and pass another metal gate leading onto the golf course car park. Continue ahead past the 18th hole to find a style on the right.

7: SD725143 Cross the style and follow the clear path across the field to another style. You are now at the rear and left of the Last Drop Village. Follow the obvious path to come out on the driveway of the village.

8:. **SD722138** Go down the drive and turn right along the road (Gledhill Way). After 160 yds on the other side of the road and a few feet ***beyond*** Boonfields there is a footpath between high hedges.

9: SD721138 Go down the fairly steep path, crossing a couple of roads (Elms Rd, Ramwells Brow) to reach and continue a short distance along a road (Blair St). This meets a main road (Darwen Rd.).

10: SD720135 At the main road, turn left and cross over to go down the street 70 yds away (Hough Lane). Go downhill for about ¼ mile looking for a footpath sign on the left hand side of the road just before Eagley School House. Walk along this cobbled road/track beside some old cottages to reach a barrier beyond the houses.

11: SD721131 Pass the barrier and follow the narrow path as it curves and goes downhill slightly to meet another path after 130 yds. Turn left and follow this path to a bridge. Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead up some steps. From this point care is needed to follow the correct path.

12: SD723129 Between the first and second sets of steps there is a good path to the left, this can be followed. But a few feet higher is a narrow path past a tree to reach a narrow path on the left of small pond. Continue past the pond to follow the path through woods until it merges with the first path coming up from the left.

13: SD722128 Continue ahead on the better path and shortly pass a grassy area on the right. Go past this and soon meet a junction and take the left branch going downhill and away from the fence. Follow the path downhill, beside a steep drop to the river. This section can be narrow and muddy – take care.

14: SD724127 At the bottom there is a path of stones to help pass the muddy section and head on to reach an embankment beside the river. Follow the embankment to the right for a bit less than ½ mile as it passes some steep downward steps and a bridge on the left then curves right uphill to a gate.

15: SD725123 Go through the gate and turn right up the cobbled road for about 250 yds to meet a road. Turn right, cross over, and carry on past the junction to find, after about 220 yds, a United Reform Church building on the left. Just beyond this a footpath goes off to the left

16: SD721122 Turn down the path and follow it between trees and above the river (Eagley Brook). It heads downhill and soon after bearing left it reaches a (private) gate on stone posts.

17: SD723118 Turn right down the enclosed path and across a narrow bridge. You can go up some mud paths on the left, but safest to follow a tall fence on your right leading to a cobbled street after about 40 yds. Turn left and go uphill along this street to find Hall I'th Wood.

18: SD724116 The Hall is a rare Tudor Wooden Framed house, now a museum, and part of it was home to Samuel Crompton who invented the spinning mule around 1779, radically increasing output of fine cotton thread. This is the halfway point and possible place for a break.

19: SD724116 Having looked at the Hall, turn around and pass the barrier onto a path to walk with a fence on the left, passing another barrier and through an enclosed path that reaches a large playing field.

20: SD725118 The formal path goes straight ahead and turns right at the trees opposite to reach and then turn left along the fence. In practice you need to end up at the far diagonal corner beyond a rugby pitch. Look for the narrow path at the corner of the field.

21: SD728119 Take this rather hidden path which follows parallel to the railway on your right for more than ½ mile including crossing a minor road. Ignore paths to the left. Eventually a road beside a bridge is reached. *TAKE GREAT* Care here, there is no pavement.

22: SD729129 You need to get across the road and under the bridge**.** There is a lot of traffic from the blind bend to the right. **J**ust past a bus stop, turn left onto a minor road (Shady Lane). After about 290 yds bear right along Grange Rd. Here there is a choice of paths.

----optional route-----

The 5.75 mile route continues straight ahead. Jump to **POINT** ??? for that choice.

23: SD732134/SD732135/SD733138 There are a number of paths to the leading to the right of the reservoir. **F**ollow any to reach a bridge at the base of the Jumbles dam. Cross the bridge and take either of the paths leading uphill and bearing left to reach the Jumbles car park (and toilets.). The visitor centre and café is a little further.

24: SD736140 There are picnic tables opposite the café. I you started at Last Drop this is roughly halfway and suits a break. To continue, carry on in the same direction and follow the lakeside path. After ½ mile you reach a bridge.

25: SD737149 Cross the bridge, to find some steps uphill. Follow this path which reaches a more level path and after more than ¼ mile reaches a road (B6391). Turn left along the road.

26: SD731151 in 330yds the driveway to Turton Towers is on the opposite side of the road. Follow it back to the car park.

---- End of the Extended Route -------

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---- Continue with the 5.7 mile route ---

27: SD730131 Having turned into Grange Road, continue on this road for about ¾ mile ignoring any paths left or right and after some buildings passing to the left of the reservoir. In due course it reaches some buildings.

28: SD733141 The is a passed through these buildings. Just as you pass these buildings look for a wide gate and pedestrian gate on the left.

29: SD733141 Go through the gate and follow the wide path gently uphill through another gate onto a level stretch to find a style on the left near the railway.

30: SD733141 Go to the right and bear left down a slope to meet a gate onto a road.(B6391). Good view on the way up. Continue (right) along the road for ¼ mile to reach the entrance to Turton Tower drive and then up to the car park.

-------- The End ----------

Eric Crichton
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See the next page for some information on the points of interest.

Last Drop Village

The 'last drop' could refer to several things, among them execution by hanging, or 'ducking'. It is a collection of old farmhouses and farm buildings which were restored in the 1960s into a pub, restaurant, bistro, craft shops, hotel and conference centre.
Now a tourist attraction and also a popular spa.

Hall i'th Wood

An early 16th-century manor house now a Grade I listed building and museum. The original building is timber framed and has a stone flagged roof; there were later additions to the house, built from stone, in 1591 and 1648.
The house was given over to multiple occupation including Samuel Crompton in the 18th century, where he designed and built the first spinning mule.

Turton Towers

From a start as a simple stone Pele tower around 1420 as a defensive fortress. Changes of owner and enhancements ended in it being owned now by Darwen as offices and a museum.