

Burrs Country Park- Irwell Sculpture Trail

A 5.5 mile walk based on the Burrs Country Park and taking in the whole Irwell Sculpture Trail. Mostly good surfaces but in wet weather some stretches are prone to large puddles, short muddy stretches and one long stretch with ankle deep mud. So good weather or good boots/wellies are best! (To be fair, the walk was done during a very wet winter period, summer would greatly enhance it.)

Apart from a couple of places, navigation is generally straightforward.

Pleasant riverside walk, some gentle slopes up to views to Peel Tower, Scout Moor and Pennines. Especially good views when hills are snow covered.

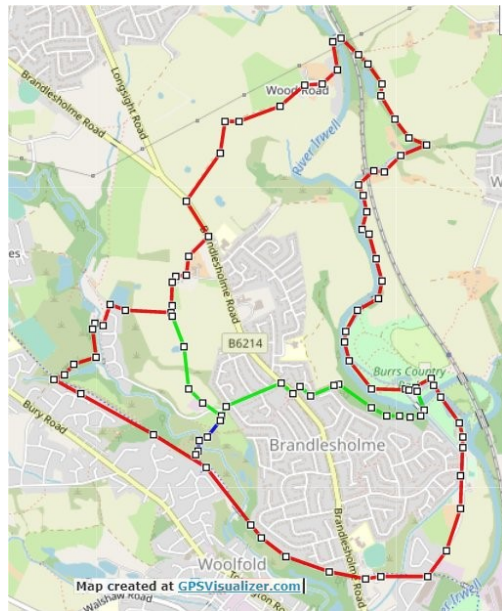
There is a sizeable Lamppost café with good cakes and normally food (owner holiday at time of writing) and also Brown Cow pub.

The East Lancashire Heritage Railway (opened 1856) has a stop at the park accessible from Bury, so can be used to access the park.

There are two car parks at Burrs Country park. As described the walk starts from the second one beside a tall chimney and ends by passing through the other car park. If you start from the first car park, then begin the description at **POINT 19** and at the end return to the start of the description.

The outward stretch of the walk (**Points 1-4/5**) can be replaced by the outward stretch of the Burrs Short Walk.

Start Point SD799127 BL8 1DA



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 799127 Starting at the car park beside the chimney you may want to take time to look at the Shuttle Sculpture and the Humanscale Mousetrap. Then find the ramp in the car park leading up to the aqueduct which feeds the Manchester, Bury and Bolton Canal. Turn right to shortly find a green bridge.



2: SD 798126 Just beyond the bridge is the Stone Cycle Sculpture. Just beyond that the path splits. It doesn't matter which path you take. The left goes along beside the Irwell but after a short distance you are led back onto the right hand path beside the Mill Goit (which fed the mills). Continue along this reasonable path to reach the substantial weir (in 1/3rd mile, 540m), passing a small waterfall on the way.



3: SD 797131 Carry on past the weir to follow the river. The path narrows and after a short steep set of steps is the stretch that can be rather muddy. After more than 1/3rd mile (630m) a tunnel under the East Lancashire Railway is reached. Pass under the tunnel and look for the path bearing left.



4: SD 797137 This path takes you around the springside farm and shortly re-joins the road beside a pair of seats. Continue through the stone gate pillars, and look for the sculpture of a stag. Then in a pond a couple of islands with sculptures of geese and children on a log. Shortly there is a bend with a footpath to the left.

5: SD 799138 Go left through the kissing gate. This stretch may be a bit muddy. After another kissing gate, look right for a view to Peel Tower. Continue to ascend a few steps and soon find a combination of kissing gates and wooden bridge.



6: SD 796142 Pass through these and IMMEDIATELY start looking for a path to the left (70yds/63m) heading to the railway. (If you should miss this you can continue in the same direction, go left under the railway and return along the road beside the railway to the bridge at **Point 8**.)



7: SD 796143 Bear left through the kissing gate and downhill over slatted footpath. This reaches the railway which is crossed and continues downhill to reach a road near a blue fenced bridge.



8: SD 795143 Cross the bridge and follow the road left as it bears right and later left while passing some houses and the Higher Wood Road Farm. Beyond the houses the road becomes unsurfaced. Follow this as it gently ascends a good distance. As it levels off is a view of Peel Tower.





9: SD 790139 Peel Tower is to the right and shortly after the bend in the path, to the left is a view of Scout Moor with its wind farm. Continue along this track (lots of deep puddles after rain) until it reaches the B6315 in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (400m). Cross to the pavement and turn left along the road. There is a better view of Scout moor from here. Continue on the road for 200yds (180m) to find a footpath/track to the right just before some houses.



10: SD 789134 Go down the track to find a T junction just after a decayed 16th century barn on Moss farm.



11: SD 788132 Turn right at the junction and follow the track bearing left around Brandlesholme Old Hall which has been modernised. Shortly the path turns hard right.



12: SD 787130 Straight ahead is an **alternative** shorter route back. It crosses fields to reach Garside Hey Road and an easy return to the Park. Otherwise continue on the road to pass Square Field Fishing Lodge (with café) and look for a path to the left after new houses. (Ignore the path beside Kirklees Reserve.)

13: SD 783129 Follow this path parallel to the road which leads down to a green fenced bridge. Cross the bridge and bear left passing a seat. There are a number of paths all leading to a disused railway track. The lowest path can be muddy. There is a gentle less muddy path bearing right after .120yds(108m)



14: SD 783129 Follow one of the tracks (which merge again) and after about 270yds(240m) they meet the disused railway path.



15: SD 782127 This tarmac path is followed for just over a mile. However about halfway along is another *alternative* return.



16: SD 788123 Just left in this picture is a rough earth path leading the 50 or so feet drop into the valley and up to Garside Hey Road and a return as in the previous alternative.

Otherwise continue along the disused railway to meet and cross the Woolfold Viaduct built with Lottery funds. Look for the figures after the bridge.





17: SD 791120 These are three figures Reg Harris, Ralph Rooney and David Swithenbank, cut from sheet steel. Continue along the track to reach a main road B6214.



18: SD 796117 Cross the road and go down the street opposite. After a short distance as the road bears right there is a cycle track on the left. Follow the track downhill to meet Woodhill Road at a factory. Turn left and follow the road just over 1/3rd mile(550m) to find the entrance to the first Burrs car park.



19: SD 801123 Cross and enter this car park and walk through it and out the far end to follow a cobbled path leading to and over the flagstones of Higher Woodhill Mill (see sign). Cross and take the path beside the sign. Shortly pass between a couple of ponds to reach a bridge over the Irwell.



20: SD 800126 Cross the bridge and bear left. Shortly bear right along the end of the Activity centre. Straight ahead is the Brown Cow Pub (served the mill workers). Turn left around the cottages.

21: SD 799126 The buildings are the activity centre and also the Lamppost Café.

Straight ahead is the starting car park.

End of Walk.

Walk found by Phil & Isa Child based on a description by John and Anne Nuttall 2018.

Author Eric Crichton
28-02-2020



Shuttle Sculpture



Brown Cow Pub



