

Walks from Holcombe

Walk D.- Irwell River and Moor Road

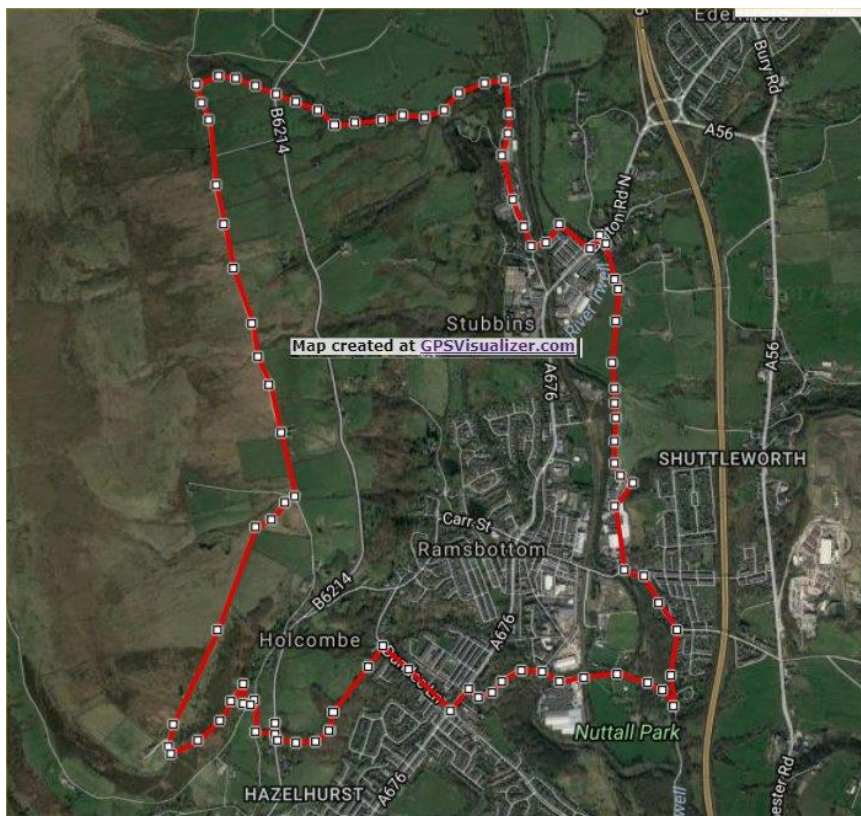
This is one of a set of walks starting from a car park in Holcombe near Ramsbottom. For an overview of the different walks, look at the end of this booklet. Some of the walks can be merged to make longer walks.

This particular 5.7 or 6.1 Mile walk drops down to walk along the Irwell river and then ascend (c.350ft) up through the Stubbins Estate to reach and return easily along the Moor Road and up (200ft) to Peel Monument (optionally skipped).

Good views over Scout Moor and Edenfield.

There is a shorter walk that uses the same outward route as here. If considering that as an optional return, please read that description as a different start point is beneficial.

The walk commences from the car park at SD781162 or BL8 4NN (which is a few yds south of the car park.) The car park has a 2m height barrier.



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 781162 The main description here follows the slightly longer route which minimises road walking. Alternately walk right along the B6214, then Chapel lane (at church), which becomes Rawsons Rd, then becomes Tanner St., turn down Carr St., cross the A676 onto bridge St. to find the bridge on “Peel Brow” and in a few yards Kenyon St. Then jump to **Point 7**



2: SD 781162 Otherwise go left out of the car park for a few yards to find a footpath. After 180 yds(160m) bears left (NE) with it. In about ¼ mile and after some fences, bendy planks and staying left at a Y junction, there is an opening in a fence. Go through and left a few yards uphill onto another path to turn right down to a cul de sac leading to Dundee Lane.



3: SD 785166 Turn right onto the lane and follow it down to the A676 at some traffic lights. Turning left and cross the road to find after 120 yds(110m) find a footpath heading downhill (SE).



4: SD 789164 Go down the managed path which comes out at some car parks. Cross the metal bridge past some industrial units and head left towards a ramp that leads under a (very low) railway bridge into a play area. Continue beside the river ignoring paths to the right, to find a narrow, bit overgrown path.

5: SD 795164 Go along the path which bends to the right and in 150 yds (135m) meets a lane.



6: SD 797163 Turn hard left up the lane and follow it to meet a road after 320 yds (290m). This is Burry New Rd. Turn left and follow it (again 320 yds/290m) downhill until shortly after it bears left (now Peel Brow) and approaches a bridge, look for Kenyon road on the other side leading into some industrial units.



7: SD 797163 (Alternative start joins here). Go along Kenyon Rd to the very end (270yds/240m). Tucked in the right hand corner is a footpath bearing right then left beside a tall metal fence. After 140yds (125m) and through a gate it reaches an open field (can be muddy exit.)



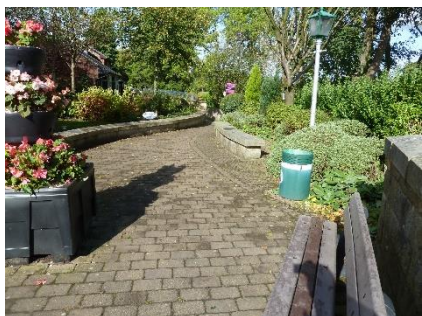
NOTE: this is from opposite direction

8: SD 797163 Head left to walk near the river and, over a distance of about ½ mile(800m), cross a plank over mud; then in the far river side corner of the field, cross a footbridge; stay close to the fence on the right and then, in a corner, find a wooden gate beside a metal farm gate, leading to a path.





9: SD 794180 Go through the gate and turn left to go through another gate and in a short distance reach a road and a bridge. Cross the bridge (there is a pedestrian metal bridge on the other side of the road). At the end of the bridge a footpath is not very obvious, looks more like a house entrance.



10: SD 794181 Go along this fenced path for about 150yds (135m) with a “kink” about halfway. At the end of the houses turn left away from the river with a metal fence on the right and walk through the gardens of some houses to reach a tunnel under the railway.



11: SD 792181 Go through the tunnel onto a road and turn right along it. It leads through a quiet industrial area and you follow the road for over 1/3 rd mile (600m). Ignore a left branch to a Hall, stay to the right branch. Look for the road going under the railway.



12: SD 790187 Don't go under the bridge but continue directly ahead up the start of a driveway. Ignore the stile that shortly appears on the right. (goes to the same destination but not checked at this time). Instead continue round the house to go through a metal gate and on up a rough path beside a wall. After about 280yds (250m) reach the fenced entrance to the NT Stubbins estate.

13: SD 787186 Note that this is where "Walk C" turns left and follows tracks between the two main roads back to the start. For this (D) walk, continue through the gate and on up the track. Cross a footbridge; pass a bit more open area; cross to the other side of the stream. It may get muddier higher up. After 380yds (350m) there is a path to the right and a footpath sign.



14: SD 783186 .Here there are choices. To the right is a valid footpath but it ended in near impassable mud (Oct). 50m ahead on the left is a stile which is another valid footpath leading to near impassable (at any time?) stiles/bog. However continuing directly ahead is a clear and locally well used path through the Stubbins estate, starting at a bridge.



15: SD 783186 Cross the bridge and follow a fairly obvious and partly managed path up through the woods beside the river. In 290 yds(260m) some steps and a stile provide access to the B6214 road. Cross the busy road (bit of a blind curve) and look for a way onto another path into the woods on the other side.



16: SD 781187 While not immediately obvious, there is a path to the right of the wall and it can be accessed by a collapsing entrance or around the wall. The NT may be working on improving this path. (Oct17). Follow the path up 325 yds(295m) to reach and cross a ladder stile onto Moor Road to complete 470ft of ascent.





17: SD 778187 There are more choices here. Joining “Walk A” (anti-clockwise) just before Point 3, would lead to the right and to visit points of interest and then over the top of the moor to Peel Monument. For the moment this description will follow the “Walk B” route. Turn left and in 290yds(260m) you reach two old barns (Chatterton Close) at Point 11 on Walk B.



18: SD 779184 Continue to follow Moor Road for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.4Km) and just before it starts to descend significantly there is a farm track and a wide path on the right.



19: SD 782171 To ignore Peel Monument, continue on Moor Rd which in $\frac{1}{3}$ rd mile (550m) meets the B6214 and following that reaches the car Park in a 400 yds (360m). To visit the Monument, take the path (not farm road) on the right and simply follow this up to the Peel Monument. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile/800m and 170ft ascent).



20: SD 777164 Having visited the Monument, continue on the track from which you arrived i.e. turning right from the tower (SW). This is a good zig zag track that leads most of the way down with a final “zig” at some houses.

21: SD 780164 Turn hard right here and follow the path for 100yds (90m) to find a gate onto a footpath on the left.



22: SD 780162 Go through the gate and down the short path through another gate onto the B6214 just opposite the car park.



==== End of Walk ====

See the next page for some information on Peel Monument.

Eric Crichton
12-10-17



Peel Memorial (also known as Holcombe Tower). Built in 1852 this well known Bury landmark was erected in tribute to one of Bury's most famous sons, Sir Robert Peel; founder of the Police force and Prime Minister 1841-1846. It cost £1,000 and was opened September 1852, the day after the inauguration of the Baily's statue in Bury. The tower stands 128ft high 1100 ft up and offers stunning views over Manchester and North Wales. When a flag flies from the tower it is open to the public, it's interior staircase having been replaced after it collapsed.

Relationship between the Holcombe Walks.

There are 4 main largely North-South paths around Holcombe/Ramsbottom.

These can be combined in many ways to produce walks of about 4-8 miles, mostly with at least 350ft ascent, up to perhaps 800ft ascent.

Some of the public footpaths, mainly at the north end, can be non viable so do check through the relevant walk descriptions. The top of the Moor is mainly viable.

Walk A – Goes along Moor Rd and Returns over the Moor top.

Only this walk is readily reversible. The others would have a steep final ascent.

Walk B – Outwards along country paths between two main roads and then return via Moor Road. (Or combine with Walk A to return over top of moor.

Walk C – Outwards down to and along the Irwell river then return by the country paths between the main roads.

Walks D – Down and along the Irwell river then ascend to Moor Rd to return or combine with Walk A to return over the top of moor.

IMPORTANT The moor has a military firing range on it. Check if it is open via . 01204 512615 OR www.gov.uk/government/publications/holcombe-moor-firing-times

