

Route Description: Darwen Tower and Cartridge Hill from Tockholes

1. Good car parking at Roddlesworth Information Centre at Tockholes (SD66502 21450). Take the bridleway by the weavers cottages following the well crafted cobbled stone road fit for any horse-drawn wagon. Cross the pasture to reach the woodland noting the carved stone marker posts. As the bridleway emerges from the woodland, it swings left and doubles-back.
2. Over the bridge, then cross the stile (SD67324 20995) on the R & climb the short steep track to reach a good track, then keep ascending to reach the moorland plateau. Take the good path, turn L then follow the stone markers to reach Jubilee Tower (SD67871 21575).
3. Leave the Tower descending gently on a good path (Witton Weavers Way) heading S. There's a junction of paths, ignore the path to the R and continue along the WWW overlooking Darwen soon to reach a 2nd junction and marker post (SD68144 20991).
4. Turn R leaving the WWW heading uphill onto the moorland, keep on the straight path passing two vertical stone markers at the highest ground. Continue to the gate (SD67660 20543), maintain the same line and follow the good stony track crossing the moorland. Cross the dip and continue heading for the gate seen on the skyline where the track swings to the right.
5. Through the gate (SD67082 20346), turn immediately L up the grassy path alongside the wire fence ascending to the summit of Cartridge Hill. The fence turns L by a small stone ruin just 50m from the summit (SD67126 19902), the summit is marked by a small pile of stones.
6. To avoid the steeper ground to the S, we follow the fenceline East to 2 stiles (SD67350 19921). Now turn R and follow the fenceline descending the fell to a stile (SD67241 19659) about 200m before the plantation. Turn R contouring around the wire fences beneath Cartridge Hill heading for the nearest corner of Thorney Bank Plantation, there is an easy crossing of the fences (SD66896 19723) to reach the small reservoir above the road. Descend to the roadside gate (SD66588 19684).
7. Cross the road and follow the permissive path to Hollinshead Hall, its a fascinating ruin & worth investigating.
8. Continue along the bridleway, heading to the R climbing the slope & passing another gated entrance on the Witton Weavers Way. Follow the stony track on the long descent to the bridge over the River Roddlesworth.
9. Dont cross the bridge, but head to the R leaving the river, continue up the slope (ignore the steps on the R). Turn R at the junction by the solitary gatepost, then follow the bridleway & path back to the car park.