

# Two faces of Rivington

Part of **Bolton's** Countryside

Horwich > Lever Park >  
Rivington > Dean Wood >  
Lever Park > Horwich



**Walk 3**

# Two faces of Rivington

## Distance

3 miles/5km or 7.5 miles/12km

## Starting point

Lever Park Avenue/Old Will's Lane junction, Horwich BL6 7RU - map reference 636126 on Ordnance Survey Explorer map 287 West Pennine Moors.

## How to get there

**By Car** - to The Crown at Horwich, at the junction of the A673 and B6226 between Bolton and Chorley, and turn right (signposted Rivington) along Lever Park Avenue. Drive past Old Will's Lane on the right and continue for about 200 yards to the car park on the left and walk back to the junction. Or continue along the road for 1 mile to park at Great House Barn on the left and start the walk here.

**By Bus** - Monday – Sunday bus 575 to the start of Lever Park Avenue from Bolton Town Centre.

## Greater Manchester Public Transport Information

0871 200 2233 [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)

## Walk Summary

The very popular walking area of Lever Park was laid out by the 1st Lord Leverhulme. The southern loop of this walk, of about 3 miles, offers easy walking along wooded tracks and paths in the park, while the northern loop, about 3.5 miles in length, takes you over rougher country on the fringe of moorland outside the park, with views as far as the Clwydian Hills in North Wales if you are lucky. To combine the two loops into a figure-of-8 would produce a walk of 6.5 miles or, if you start and finish in Horwich, that would add an extra mile. And, if you went to look at the gardens which surrounded Lord Leverhulme's bungalow, that would add more to the distance. The route includes narrow, strong river paths and ground that can be boggy. Robust footwear is recommended.

# The Walk

①

Turn up Old Will's Lane, the asphalt drive, to keep to the right of Rivington and Blackrod School. Follow the drive round to the left behind the school and, at the junction of tracks by the electricity sub-station, take the left-most track along by the metal railings so as not to climb any higher.

You pass Higher Derbyshire's farm on the right and another house on the left, and, at the junction just after that house, keep straight on. At the next junction of drives, with a large beech tree on the left and a stepped path on the right, take the drive which bears left. When you reach the next junction of drives, the asphalt-surfaced one leads to Rivington Hall to the right and to Great House Barn to the left. You turn left down to Great House Barn Information Centre and café, from where some of you may be starting the walk.

②

From the Barn, to walk the northern loop, you go along the footpath by the road leading away from Horwich and towards Rivington village (that's to the right if you've followed the footpath route from Horwich and to the left if you're coming from the car park behind the Barn). The path takes you over a footbridge across a stream and along to Rivington village green. Walk across the green by the stocks, over the road and through the kissing-gate. Follow the path by the right-hand hedge ahead and across the field. Upper Rivington Reservoir comes into view on the left and then you descend a flight of stone steps with a stream bubbling down beside them. The path takes you along by another stream, through a kissing-gate and out onto a drive. Turn right along this drive through an avenue of trees.

③

The drive climbs and then forks, with the righthand fork leading to Dean Wood House, so you take the left fork to continue uphill past a gate to Dean Wood Cottage and over a stile. Beyond the stile, turn right along by the fence round Dean Wood. The path curves along the edge of the wood in its deep valley, goes

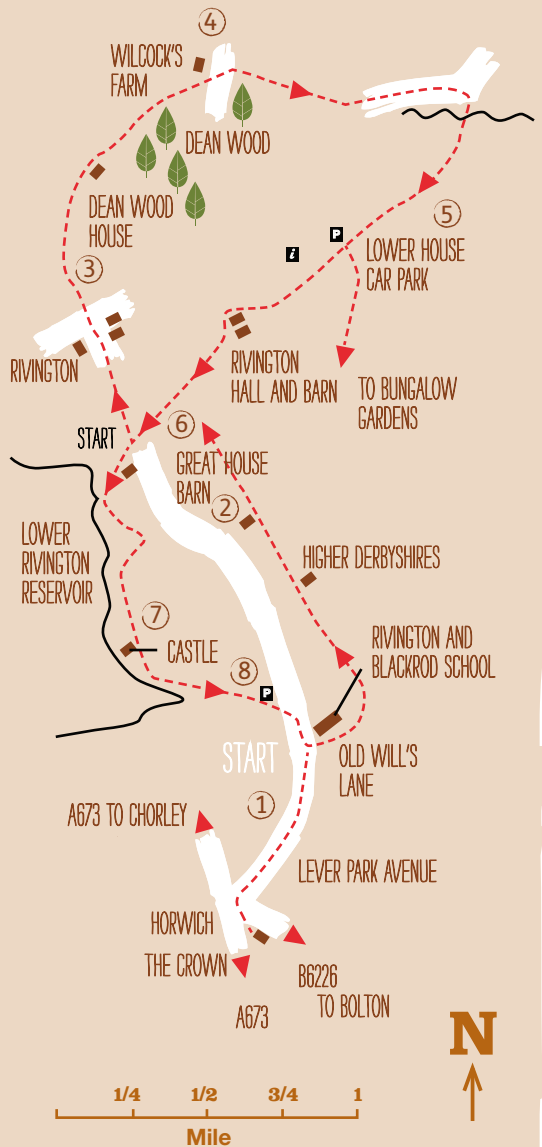
# Walk 3



through a gate, and then continues between fences on the very edge of the deep drop to the valley bottom.

④

From the wooded cleft, you emerge into a very different landscape when you reach the road by Wilcock's Farm, dated 1670. Turn left along the road and then climb the ladder-stile over the wall on the right before the farm. Climb the ladder-stile beyond the shed and cross the



bridge. Now, turn left to follow the gully and, after a few yards, climb the stile on the left. Turn right to keep by the right-hand fence. Over the next stile, keep by the gully and aim for Winter Hill mast. A bridge brings you to another stile and you remain on the waymarked path until you reach a ladderstile leading off to the left. Do not cross the stile, but turn right and follow the track down to the road.



Turn left up the road (be careful, it's a fast road and there is no pavement) and where the road turns sharp left, go through the kissing-gate on the right. Descend by the left-hand fence. Negotiate in succession stile, steps, stile, footbridge, stile, footbridge and stile to cross the clough. Now follow the left-hand fence to keep along the hillside. More stiles and footbridges guide your footsteps along by the fence and through a wood. When you reach the end of the fence, keep straight on to the right of the gully to reach the car park.

⑤

Go through the car park, keeping left, and out through the kissing gate straight ahead of you. (To see Lord Leverhulme's gardens, go up the second track on the left.) The path takes you to a footbridge and another kissinggate. Through that, turn sharp left for a few yards, to a bend of a track leading over a stream. Do not cross the stream, but turn right along the track beside it. The track, later between fences, follows the curves of the stream in its valley. Through the gate, take a right fork to the right of Rivington Hall Barn. Beyond the Barn, turn left to the front of the Hall and then right down the drive between the ponds and back to Great House Barn.

⑥

To return to Horwich (or to walk the southern loop), continue past Great House Barn, out at the back of the car park, and turn left along the path above Lower Rivington Reservoir. Follow the path as it snakes above the water's edge. When the walls of the replica of Liverpool Castle loom up ahead, bear left to keep to the landward side of the building. You can enter the courtyard via the gateway for fine views across the reservoir and back to Winter Hill.

⑦

After leaving the castle, go straight ahead and then right on the path which leads down to the railings and reservoir again. Follow them to the left and the path reaches a tree-lined drive and turns right, parallel to it. You keep on the path. At the next crossroads of paths, keep straight on to the car park (this is the one near Rivington and Blackrod School where some of you may have parked) and across the car park to the road. ⑧

Turn right along the road to return to Horwich. If you are not trying to reach Horwich at this stage, still turn right along the road, but then turn left up Old Will's Lane beyond the school entrance.