

3 *Padiham and Gawthorpe Hall*

Take a trip to Padiham in East Lancashire for this picturesque route, starting from historic Gawthorpe Hall.

START: Car park at Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham (GPS waypoint SD 805 339)

DISTANCE: 3.5 miles

DIFFICULTY: 🏃

HEIGHT GAIN: ▲▲

APPROX. TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes

PARKING: Available at the start of the route

ROUTE TERRAIN: Woodland tracks, woodland, hard track, riverside paths

FACILITIES: Toilets available at Gawthorpe Hall, plus café on certain days

SUITABILITY: Dogs permitted, but must be kept under control, not an accessible walk

OS MAPS: Landranger 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), Explorer OL21 (South Pennines)



A three and a half mile walk from Gawthorpe Hall, through woodland, alongside the River Calder and out into the countryside.

This is a very varied walk with fantastic scenic views and lots to see in terms of wildlife, so make sure you bring your camera!

As some of the paths through the woodland sections are steep and quite uneven, we can't class this as an accessible route option. Dogs are permitted – and there is only one stile along the way – but please make sure all pets are kept under control, especially around livestock at this time of year.

The town and civil parish of Padiham lies on the River Calder, close to Burnley and Pendle Hill. It was once a small rural village, and a township in the ancient parish of Whalley.

Padiham is first recorded as Padyngham, which

is a name of Anglo-Saxon origin, in around 1294. For hundreds of years it was a flourishing market town, until industrial expansion and redevelopment took place during the Industrial Revolution. Many of the historic buildings remaining in the centre of the town, including the town hall,

are now part of a conservation area.

By the 19th century, Padiham was a thriving industrial town, based on coal mining and weaving. Helm Mill on Factory Lane was the first mill to be built in the town, in 1807, and by 1906 the number of mills in the town had increased to 20. These days, the best preserved example is Victoria Mill, now apartments, on Igthenhill Street.

By the mid-19th century, there were many coal pits around the town, with 17 mine shafts at Grove Street Plantation, which is around half way through this walk. Tramways were built to carry the coal from the pits and they ran throughout the plantation. You can still see the remains of the winding gear today, where the new path meets Grove Lane.

Padiham's industrial growth was further boosted by the arrival of the railways. The rapid industrial development had also been largely due to Padiham's proximity to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, two miles to the

south, which strengthened trade links.

The last of the pits closed in the 1940s and in the early 1960s, opencast mining took place on the north side of the plantation. This involved the coal being extracted from above ground, instead of from below ground. A huge machine was used, which could dig many tons of coal each day, and once it was all extracted, the ground was reinstated and has become farmland.

There are several historic manor houses and noteworthy halls in the area, including the National Trust run Gawthorpe Hall with its attached working farm, which dates back to 1639 and is open to the public.

Close to the centre of the town is Padiham Memorial Park, which spans 12 acres and is split into two sites by the River Calder. It was designed by Thomas Mawson, a renowned landscape designer, and opened in 1921 in memory of those from the town who were lost in the First World War.



Gawthorpe Hall

The base for this walk is the historic Gawthorpe Hall, an Elizabethan gem in the heart of industrial Lancashire. The Hall was built between 1600 and 1605 and was the family seat of the Shuttleworth family for more than 300 years. The Hall

houses the North West's largest collection of portraits on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, as well as the Gawthorpe Textiles Collection, a wonderful collection of intricate needlework, embroidery and lace amassed by the last member of the family to live at the Hall, Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth.

Where to visit

Gawthorpe Hall Textiles Collection

Gawthorpe Hall, Burnley Road, Padiham, Burnley, BB12 8UA

As this walk starts and ends at Gawthorpe Hall, we'd definitely recommend exploring the grounds and gardens, as well as venturing inside to take a look at the stunning textiles collection. The collection is displayed across five galleries at the Hall and includes historic and contemporary lace, quilts, costume, samplers and embroidery from all over the world.

Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, the last member of the Shuttleworth family to live at the Hall, amassed the collection and she was renowned for her expert knowledge and needlework skills. She turned the ancestral home into a craft house to keep alive the textile skills that she feared were being lost, filling the house with her world class collection.



Now this collection is on display at Gawthorpe for all to see, as is an archive of Rachel's letters. Events at the Hall include 'exploration days', with a chance to study the textiles up close with the curator, plus 'an audience with...' workshops, where you can learn textile skills inspired by the collection, with help from a visiting expert.

The Gawthorpe Textiles Collection is a registered charity. Today, the staff and volunteers continue to work towards achieving Rachel's vision for the collection by providing learning opportunities, delivering events, displays and exhibitions so that more people can engage with, and be inspired by, the collection.

Gawthorpe Hall is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 12pm to 5pm. The grounds are open daily between 8am and 7pm, with the tearoom open Wednesday to Sunday, from 11am to 5pm. Entry is £4 for adults, £3 for concessions, with no charge for accompanied children and National Trust members. The grounds and gardens are free to explore.

The walkers view



Hayley Merrick tries out this Padiham walk

This is a perfect walk to try out, whether you've got a morning to spare or the whole weekend to explore the area completely. I headed over to East Lancashire on a beautiful spring morning to test this route out and I really couldn't think of a better way to start the day.

The walk starts from Gawthorpe Hall – well, the car park at Gawthorpe Hall – and then takes you past the Hall, before heading down to the river. Either before you start the route, or when you've finished, it's definitely worth the taking time to explore the grounds around Gawthorpe Hall - and even venturing inside if you have time. The gardens are beautiful and really well maintained, plus there's a café around the corner if you fancy something to eat too.

The first half of this route mainly follows the river and takes you through woodland. Some sections are quite steep and the terrain can get a bit uneven, so just be aware of this. There were a number of fallen trees too and evidence of the river being a lot higher, no doubt due to the bad weather we had not that long ago! The woodland tracks are well-trodden too, so are easy to follow most of the way, but if you get stuck, just try to follow the course of the river and a quick glance ahead can usually get you back on the right track.

As you enter Hagg Wood, you'll reach the only tricky bit direction-wise along the route - in my opinion anyway - but all you need to do is follow the step-by-step and stick to the track around the wooden fence, and you'll be fine. Once you leave the wood, the paths are very well surfaced, mostly flat and the route is fairly straightforward, taking you over the river and then alongside it briefly once more.

A section of the Burnley Way takes you through the Grove Lane Plantation, which used to be the site of a number of coal mines; you can even see echoes of the area's past as you make your way through the woodland. Now though, the plantation is quiet and peaceful, with lots to see in terms of wildlife so make sure you keep your eyes peeled!

The route soon joins the river again and takes you on towards Padiham town centre, veering off before reaching the road. This is the perfect place to take a bit of a detour if you feel like exploring the town, just head straight on and then right instead of turning left over the bridge.

The last section takes you back alongside the river and through woodland again, before ending back again at Gawthorpe Hall, where there's bound to be time for a drink and something to eat at the café!

While you are there!

Trail of Words

During the Grove Lane Plantation section of this walk, you will come across a series of wooden sculptures, which are part of the Trail of Words project. It's a collaboration between writer Jackie Kay – who wrote the poetry, with the help of local school children and writers group Pennine Ink – and sculptor Phil Bews, who carved the handrails.



Wildlife watch

This is a great time of year to have a go at doing this walk as there's fantastic scenery, lovely views of the river and there are stunning carpets of bluebells during the woodland sections. You can see butterflies all along this route, but especially when you're passing through the fields, just after leaving Hagg Wood but before you reach the bridge over the Calder. We saw small tortoiseshell, cabbage white and an abundance of orange tips. Also, make sure you look for grey squirrels along the way and on the ground, you'll see cowslip, ramsons and marsh marigold, as well as the hundreds of bluebells.

Grove Lane Plantation is a bit of a wildlife haven in itself, supporting a variety of birds and mammals, including great spotted and green woodpeckers, chaffinch, nuthatch, roe deer, weasel, stoat and hare. The ditches and other wet areas within the wood have proved to be ideal habitat for snipe and water vole, and on the ground, common flora includes bluebells, red campion and common bistort. The plantation is managed by the Forest of Burnley and is mostly mature mixed woodland, with beech, sycamore, ash and oak trees.



The River Calder

Gawthorpe Hall is set on the banks of the River Calder, a major tributary of the River Ribble, which is around 15 miles long. The river has been diverted twice in the past; it originally flowed close to the Hall and was diverted to run alongside Grove Lane Plantation, apparently because the residents of the Hall found the smell of the river offensive! The river was then restored back to its original course in the 1960s to alleviate flooding problems.



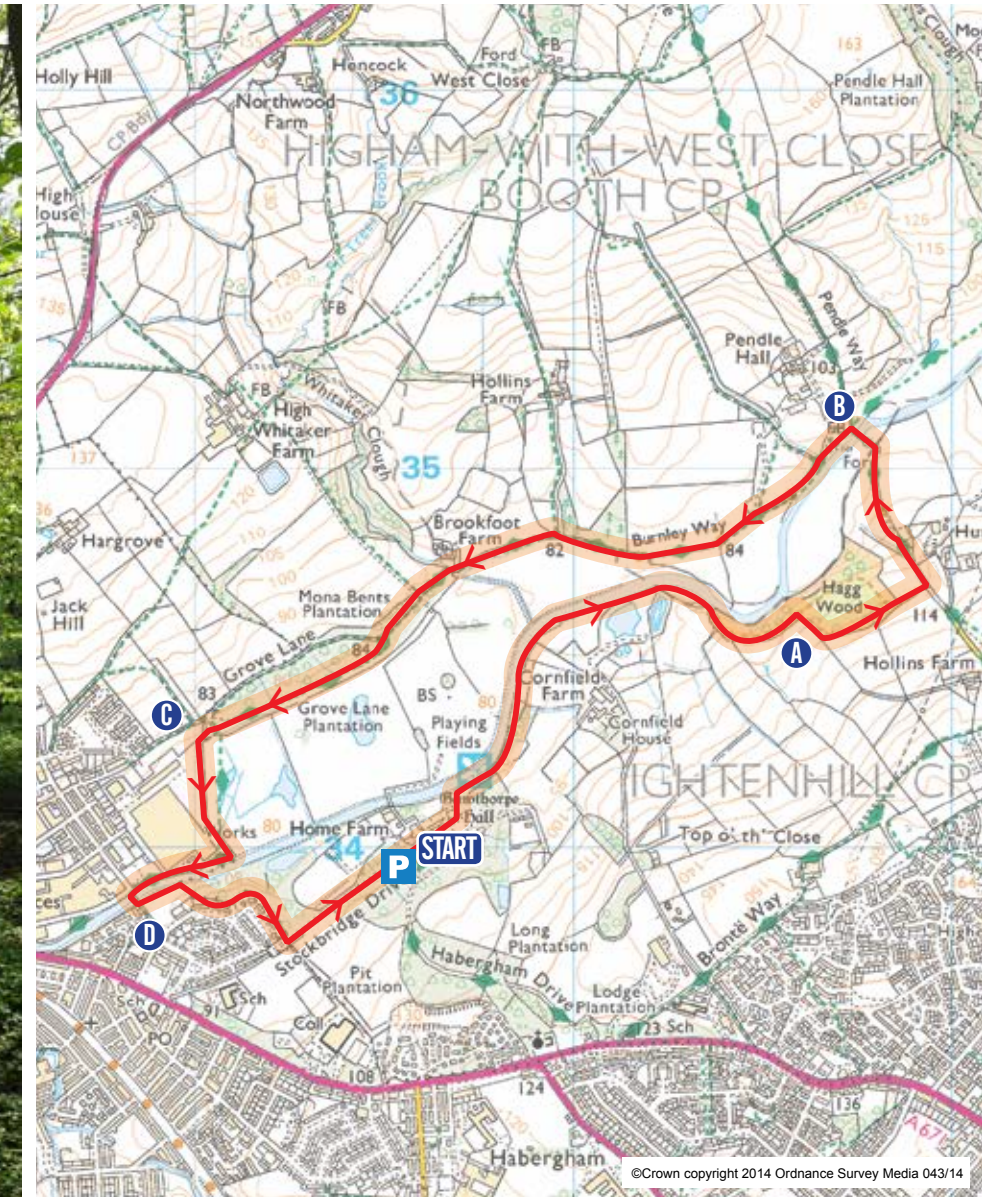
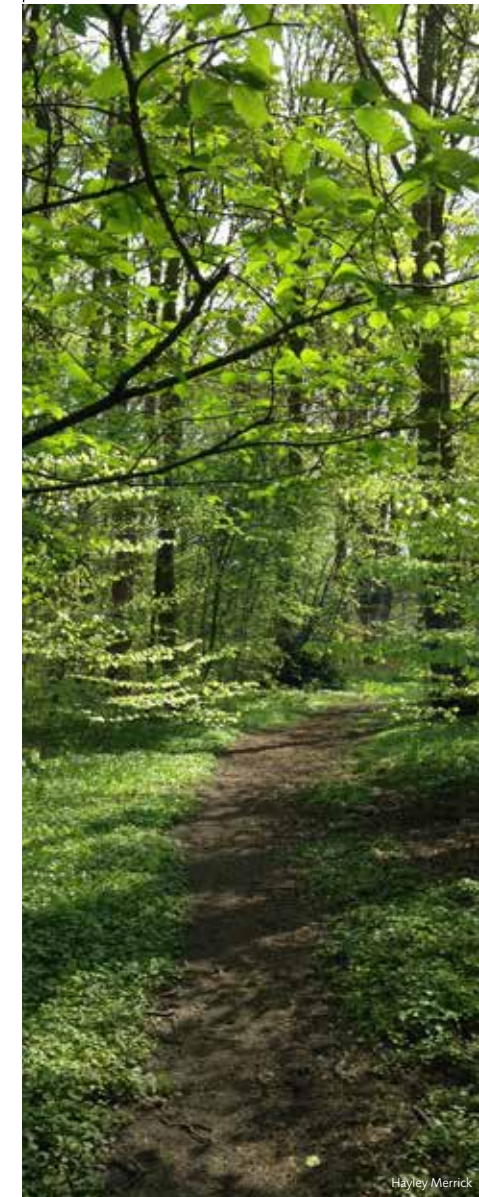
Cut out this page and take with you...

3 Padiham and Gawthorpe Hall

OFF STOCKBRIDGE DRIVE, BURNLEY ROAD, PADIHAM, BURNLEY, BB12 8UA

A three and a half mile circular walk through woodland and beside the River Calder, starting from the historic Gawthorpe Hall and gardens.

Dogs permitted but must be kept under control.



START: Car park at Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham (GPS waypoint SD 805 339)

DISTANCE: 3.5 miles

DIFFICULTY:  **HEIGHT GAIN:** 

APPROX. TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes

PARKING: Available at the start of the route

ROUTE TERRAIN: Woodland tracks, woodland, hard track, riverside paths

FACILITIES: Penny Street Bridge at the beginning of the route

SUITABILITY: Toilets available at Gawthorpe Hall, plus café on certain days

OS MAPS: Landranger 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), Explorer OL21 (South Pennines)



3 Your walk, step-by-step

START From the car park at Gawthorpe Hall, follow the signs to the Hall and walk along the path, passing it on your left. Do not take the left hand path behind the hall, instead keep on along the path, turning left just before an old tree stump – you will see a well-trodden path in front of you. Follow this track alongside the river.



On reaching a stile, go over it and then keep left when you see the sign for Cornfield Farm, carrying on beside the river.



"Here you will see young saplings to your right and playing fields to your left"

Pass through a wooden gateway and keep on to walk by the river.

You will reach a small stream and then some rocks along the pathway, but just step over and continue on as the track veers to the left, closer to the river.

Climb the wooden steps, travel over a small stone gully and climb some more steps to rejoin the path again. Follow it as it continues to wind through the trees, again with the river still on your left hand side.

The track will soon take you downhill to a footbridge - cross over and follow the track as it heads left along the wooden fence. **A** Then, follow the track as it veers to the right, ignoring the track straight ahead. Follow this track, keeping the wire fence to your right.

"Take care here as there are some steep edges and exposed tree roots"



Go over another footbridge and continue on – the path will head right to take you along a gravel track beside a field. Go through the metal kissing gate to emerge onto a well-surfaced track. Turn left and go along this track, passing Hunters Oak Barn on your right hand side.

"This is a great place to spot wildlife – we saw several species of butterfly, including orange tip and small tortoiseshell, plus grey squirrels in the trees"

Go through the wooden gate by Hunters Oak Barn and travel straight on along the gravel path. At the end, go through another wooden gate before walking over the bridge spanning the River Calder. When you get to the other side, turn left **B** and go through another wooden gate to follow the track beside the river.



Keep left when a tarmac track joins from the right and carry on straight for some time. Eventually you will pass a road on your right, which leads to Hollins Farm, then Brookfoot Farm, which will also be on your right, before crossing over the brook.

Look for a sign for Grove Lane Plantation on your left as you walk. When you spot it, turn left – following the Burnley Way marker – then right to follow the track through woodland.

"Watch for the wooden sculptures here, which you may mistake for fences. They're actually part of the Trail of Words project"

Keep on, passing several wooden sculptures and an information board. You will also cross a footbridge. On reaching the end of the path and a second information board, head straight ahead to exit the wood via a wooden squeeze

stile. Turn left **C** to walk along the concrete path between fences – there will be a field to your left and a dog-training centre to your right.

The path will turn sharp right when you reach the river, but keep following it. The path will widen as you leave the fencing to your right. On reaching the road and the end of the path, turn left and cross the bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left **D** to join another riverside path.



This track will split off as you follow it, but just keep left where possible and keep the river to your left. After you cross a small brook, the path will split again and you will see some steps to your right. Head right, up the steps and uphill towards the houses. Follow the well-worn path left, keeping the houses to your right as you go. Head through the woodland for a short distance until you reach the road ahead of you.

Turn left to walk along the road – Stockdale Drive – which will take you back to the car park at Gawthorpe Hall and the beginning of the walk.

Walk images provided by Hayley Merrick



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