

Gawthorpe Circular

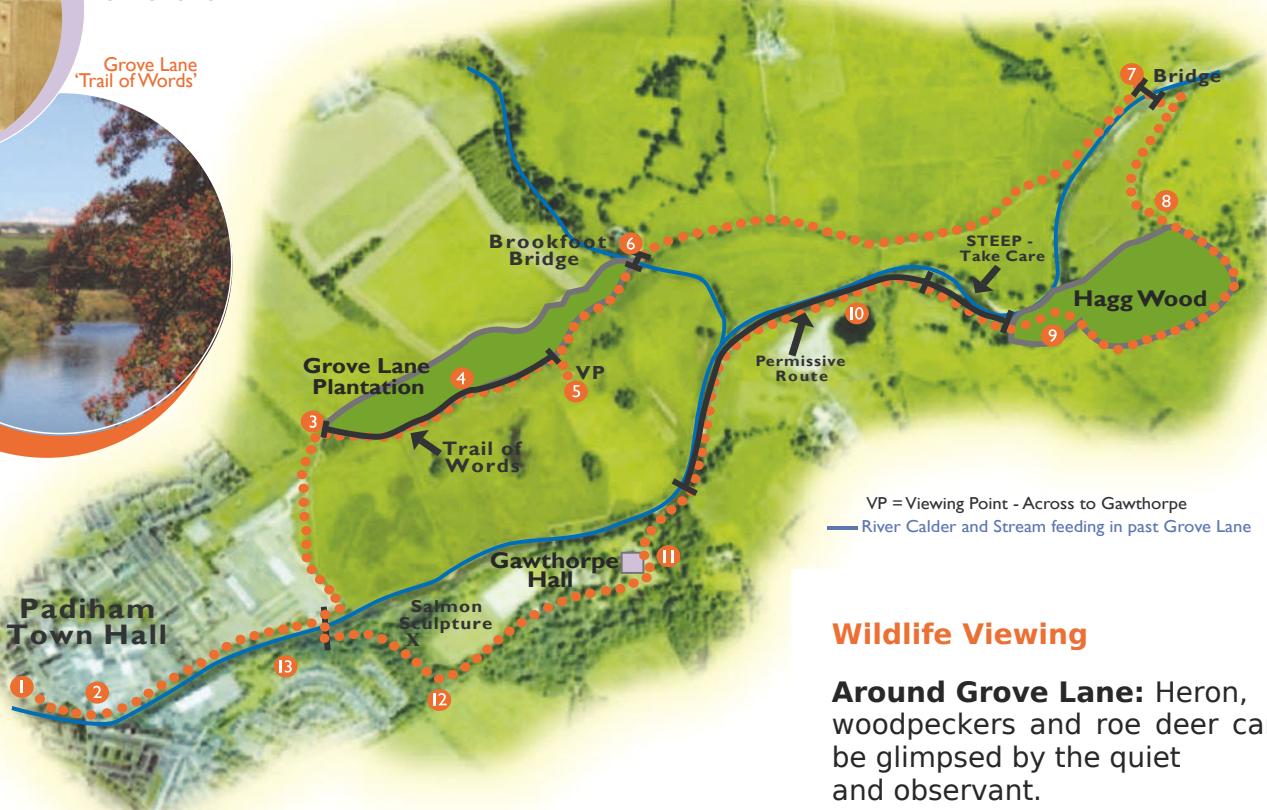
Time: 2 Hours Distance: 8 km (4 miles)

Map: OS 103



Gawthorpe Hall

This walk includes the odd hill climb and rough sections of path and can be muddy underfoot after rain, so we recommend stout footwear, appropriate clothing, waterproofs and a drink.



VP = Viewing Point - Across to Gawthorpe Lane
River Calder and Stream feeding in past Grove Lane

Padiham

The old English spelling of Padingham suggests the town existed well before the Norman Conquest. It is said to derive from an Anglo-Saxon Chieftain called Padda. His community settled beside the River Calder. In time Padda's ham became Padiham.

Hagg Wood

One of only 6 ancient semi natural woodlands left in the Burnley district, you will observe Silver Birch, Rowan and Sessile Oak trees typical of the acid soils of the sandstone Pennine valley's. All in contrast to the Ash, Hazel, Alder and Willow of the more fertile, lime-rich wet valley bottoms such as at Grove Lane.

'Trail of Words' at Grove Lane

The hand rails are carved with the words of local writers and children to form the trail of words.

Gawthorpe Hall

Home to the Shuttleworth family the hall was built between 1600 and 1605 and was restored in the mid 1800's by leading architect of the day Sir Charles Barry – famed for his design of the Houses of Parliament. The Hall was given to the National Trust in 1970 and is now managed by the Lancashire Museums Service. Inside - the Halls opulent interior, displays both Jacobean and Victorian furniture, as well as many notable paintings on loan from the National Portrait Gallery.

Wildlife Viewing

Around Grove Lane: Heron, woodpeckers and roe deer can be glimpsed by the quiet and observant.

Around Hollins Farm: You may spot brown hares and wading birds such as the curlew, lapwing and oyster catcher in the open fields. As well as sand martins, dipper, kingfisher, grey wagtail and sand piper closer to the river.

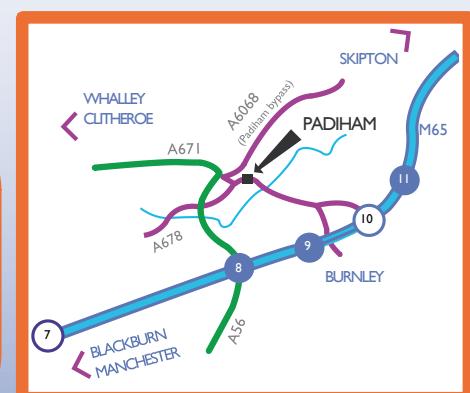
Meadows beyond Hagg Wood: At the right time of year the area between path and river is full of wild flowers – blue crane bills, white meadow sweet and greater purple willow herbs.

Free parking throughout Padiham town centre

After your walk why not explore the towns many shops or relax in one of its eateries.

Padiham - a town proud of its independent retailers.

For further walking routes in and around Padiham, visit -
www.visitpadiham.co.uk/walks



- 1** The walk starts at **Padiham Town Hall** in the centre of the town. Starting from the front steps, pass in front of the White Horse pub and then in to the centenary garden. The two sculptures you see here are the 'Waving Women' by John Haworth of Hebden Bridge.
- 2** Climb up to the main road, taking care whilst crossing. Cross the road on to Waddington Street, then bear right on to Lune Street past the supermarket. Follow the road for 400m, and at the footbridge continue straight on along the riverbank for 300m with the factory on your left. At the end of the factory fence line, take the sharp left turn and follow the path with the works on your left for about 500m before coming to a small car park by **Grove Lane plantation**.
- 3** Enter the wood through the squeeze stile and look for the Forest Of Burnley panel on the right. Follow the woodland path for 300m, crossing a small footbridge, before turning left 50m after the footbridge to climb a few steps. On your right you will see the **Heron sculpture** carved by Martin Heron in 2000.
- 4** About 20m past the heron, towards the track, turn right and follow the path through the wood for 100m until you reach a small sculpture set in stone. Past this, turn right on to the stone track. This was the track of an old coal ginny railway that brought coal from a pit across the valley to Padiham. As late as the 1960's, a huge machine called Marion worked the fields above the plantation to open cast coal. The area is now green once more and you will observe the rails carved with poems by local school children and writers.
- 5** Follow the track for 200m until you reach an open viewing area and glimpse **Gawthorpe Hall** on the far bank. Turn around here and retrace your steps for just a few metres and pick up the right turn a few metres ahead, that will take you up to the Grove Lane track. At the track turn right and walk along for about 300m until you reach Brookfoot Bridge.
- 6** About 200m beyond Brookfoot Bridge, up on your left you will see the newly planted woodland around Hollins Farm. Continue on the track for another 600m over a cattle grid until it takes a right fork to the river bridge.
- 7** Cross the bridge and follow the stone track through the gate. Close the gate and climb the stone track for 800m until you come to another gate at the top of the field. Please keep to the track and keep dogs on leads as this is a farmed field. Part way up is a memorial bench to aid your enjoyment of the view.
- 8** Through the bridle gate, continue up the tarmac path for about 100m before turning right by climbing the stile past the Woodland Trust sign. Follow the path for about 100m and you will be entering **Hagg Wood** – owned and managed by the woodland Trust. Follow the main path across the top of the wood for about 700m keeping the top fence in view on your left.
- 9** The path crosses a small gully by steps and a small bridge before rising again to leave the wood over a stile. Take care on the steep slope as you descend toward the river.
- 10** You are now on a permissive path courtesy of the landowner so please keep to the path and keep dogs on leads again. Follow the riverside path for about 1,500m until you come to another stile, this leads you into the grounds of **Gawthorpe Hall**.
- 11** Now owned by the National Trust. See the additional feature for details of this Elizabethan gem where the tea rooms, Great Barn and main Hall are well worth a visit. Follow the path up through the trees for about 50m before turning right onto the track that will take you past the Hall. Beyond the gate take the right hand track, that leads straight on to the main driveway for about 300m.
- 12** Take the sharp right immediately after you have passed the car park and sports field. After about 50m bear left and follow the path downhill until you come to Thomson Dagnall's Salmon sculpture. Walk past the sculpture heading down hill slightly, until you meet another path by the footbridge after about 100m.
- 13** Cross the bridge and take a left turn on to Waddington Street. After 100m turn left on to the river side path this passes under the road bridge and leads by steps to the town hall car park. **If the river is high do not pass under the bridge** but instead return by the supermarket and the waving Women as you started the walk.

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