

Route 6 Rivington

6km  45 mins

Located on the western edge of the West Pennine Moors, Rivington Country Park is a beautiful area with woods, reservoirs and open countryside. It is very popular with all types of outdoor enthusiasts and was the venue for the cycling and mountain-biking events in the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Arriving by Train: The nearest station is Blackrod. From the station turn left and follow the B5238 under the Motorway and to the western edge of Horwich. Rivington Country Park is signposted from here.

Arriving by Car: Approach from Chorley via the A6 then A673 (signposted to Horwich). The turning to Rivington Country Park is signposted on the left as you approach Horwich. Follow signs to the free car-park at Great House Barn (car-park closes at 5pm - alternative later car-parking can be found at Rivington Hall Barn 600m away).

Toilets: Beside the Information Centre next to Great House Barn.

Refreshments: There are cafés at Great House Barn and in Rivington.

Start & Finish Point: Great House Barn, Rivington Lane, Rivington

The Route

(Stone tracks, mud after rain, one climb(mtb rec'd))

Leave the car-park on the track heading towards the reservoir and then immediately left down a slope which then cuts back up to the right after crossing a brook.

There are a variety of tracks which weave through the trees but you should keep to the main one which basically runs parallel to the reservoir, keeping the fields to your left. After 1km you will arrive at the ruins of Liverpool Castle. It is worth the short detour to explore, otherwise skirt around keeping it on your right. Then turn down the main track (on your left) leading away from the Castle towards another car-park on Rivington Lane opposite the school. At the road turn right, taking care to cross, and ride along the road for the short section to pass the school. (The pavement here is wide enough for children to use). Turn left up the tarmac drive immediately past the school (by school bus-stop). Follow up the short climb until you reach the back of the school. Then bear left to pass through the first gate onto a wide track through the woods. (You will still have the school fence on your left at first and there is a blue brideway symbol on the gatepost). Follow this track all the way to Rivington Hall Barn keeping at the same height – this means going straight on at the first track crossing and bearing slightly right at the second junction passing a small pond on your right.

You may want to stop to have a look at Rivington Hall Barn. Leave Rivington Hall Barn through the car park taking the story track (to the right of the main drive). This drops steadily down to Rivington Lane. Turn right onto the lane, careful of any cars, and follow the lane through the small village and down past the primary school.



Turn left down the drive just past the school leading through a small car-park. Carefully go through, keeping straight between the posts (ignoring the track to the left) and along the track through the woods until you reach the car-park you started at. There is an optional extra loop that you can follow, north of Rivington Village. This is indicated on the map below. It does involve two steady rough climbs and descents.

Places of Interest

- Liverpool Castle – this is a replica built by Lord Leverhulme in 1912-1925 on the site of the original castle built during the Civil War. An information board on the site provides more details.
- Rivington Hall Barn – a listed building with a genuine Anglo Saxon design. The interior features original wooden beams. Now used as a venue for various functions and events.
- The remains of the once famous ornate "Chinese Gardens" in the former estate owned by Lord Leverhulme, just over one hundred years ago.
- Rivington Pike – the stone structure commemorates a historic early warning beacon and is the pinnacle of one of the most famous fell races in the calendar.

What Else Can The Children Do

Explore the woods, visit the gift shop, open fields for ball games.

