Take a trip to East Lancashire for this walk, starting from the historic Turton Tower.

**START:** Turton Tower, Chapeltown Road (GPS waypoint SD 730 152)

**DISTANCE:** 5 miles (8km)

**DIFFICULTY:** 🌟

**HEIGHT GAIN:** 🌟

**APPROX. TIME:** 2 hours 15 minutes

**PARKING:** Turton Tower off Chapeltown Road

**ROUTE TERRAIN:** Tarmac paths, fields, moorland

**FACILITIES:** Toilets and refreshments available at Turton Tower

**SUITABILITY:** Not suitable for those with prams, trampers or wheelchair users. Dogs permitted but must be kept under control around livestock

**OS MAPS:** Landranger 109 (Manchester), Explorer 287 (West Pennine Moors)
LANCASHIRE WALKS

A five-mile walk, taking in the countryside and moorland around Chapeltown, Turton Bottoms and Turton itself.

Due to the terrain covered, we can’t class this Turton Tower route as accessible. It is permitted but there are stiles along the way that may prove difficult for larger pets.

This route also takes you around Cheetham Close, with the option to explore the summit, however if the weather’s poor, make sure to take your map with you to the top as it’s easy to become disorientated.

Turton was a township over to the east of Lancashire, but its former area is now divided between two local authorities; North Turton, which falls within the borough of Blackburn with Darwen, and South Turton, which is part of the metropolitan borough of Bolton.

This walk begins at Turton Tower, near the village of Chapeltown in North Turton. The village consists mainly of 18th and 19th century terraced stone cottages and has medieval origins. In the centre there is a small public garden, which features the old village stocks and market cross.
Geocaching in Turton

David Turner’s been out geocaching again, this time he’s been exploring the area around Turton Tower and up on Cheetham Close.

Please remember to respect the environment when out geocaching and take care not to disturb any local wildlife. If you’re worried about the location of a cache and its vicinity to nesting birds or rare habitat, contact the cache’s owner via the geocaching website – www.geocaching.com

Cache 1 - WWWWT – Chapeltown (GC1M5NZ)
The first cache of the day was a nice easy one to start with. It’s placed just off the path at the start of the route and contained a few swaps and a logbook. This and caches three to six are all part of a series of caches that run the length of the Witton Weavers Way. There are quite literally hundreds of caches hidden along the 33-mile loop, which is more than enough to keep you going for a while!

Cache 2 - Cox Green Quarry (GC22FRN)
Take care if you’re hunting for this one with small children or a dog, as there’s a substantial drop down one side of the path into the quarry below. The approach was a bit muddy but the cache wasn’t too far off the path once I arrived at the location.

After hunting around in the wrong place, I eventually noticed this one poking out from its hiding place. There wasn’t much in terms of swappable items in this cache, just a few pennies and a pen.

Cache 3 - WWWTS – Trig (GC1M5PA)
This cache is a bit of a detour from the main walking route and is situated just off to the side of the trig point at the top of Cheetham Close. Despite the fine weather, the wind really whipped up the side of the hill on the ascent and the temperature dropped as I reached the top. I soon had the cache in hand and after quickly tagging the trig point I headed down out of the cold wind.

Cache 4 - WWWWT - Three Lowes (GC1M5NH)
There are a few caches on the top of Turton Heights before reaching the Witton Weavers Way footpath on the other side of Cheetham Close. I accidentally walked past the first one and didn’t manage to find the second - you might have more luck though.

After finding this cache and peering inside I thought someone had left a £5 note, but on closer inspection I saw that it had a picture of Winnie the Pooh on the front. It certainly fooled me for a second!

Cache 5 - WWWWT - Birds Nest (GC1M5NJ)
Quite a few footpaths lead up onto Cheetham Close and this cache was placed along one of them, just a few minutes off the main walk route. It’s quite a cheeky hiding place and I’ll bet more than a few people have walked straight past it without knowing it was there. The small glow in the dark skeleton looked less than impressed as I pulled him free from the container and set him up for a picture.

Cache 6 - WWWWT - Billy Brook (GC1M5NQ)
My last cache of the day was another simple one and was hidden just to the side of the footpath. After walking on for a few minutes to check there was nobody coming towards me on the footpath ahead, I doubled back and searched the area for the cache. I’d soon found it and caught sight of some more ‘money’ as I opened it up. This time it was X Factor winner Matt Cardle who was looking up at me from the front of a faux £10 note. I should have taken the Winnie the Pooh fiver for half the price.
A five mile walk, starting from the historic Turton Tower and travelling through the countryside, over Turton Heights and alongside Cheetham Close. This is not an accessible route, due to the terrain covered and number of stiles along the way.

**Longworth Clough**
Another point of interest nearby is Longworth Clough, a nature reserve within the West Pennine Moors with a rich mosaic of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats. It was once part of Longworth Hall estate, which was located on Longworth Road, however it was demolished around the time Delph Reservoir was built. As well as a wealth of plant life, with species such as common spotted orchid, bog asphodel and yellow iris, a recent survey has found that the Clough also supports a variety of invertebrates and butterflies seen there include; small skipper, peacock, comma, gatekeeper, red admiral and large white.

**Wildlife watch**
Numerous woodland birds can be seen along this walk, with woodcock, tawny owl, tree pipit, long-tailed tit and wood warbler all breeding at the nearby nature reserve at Longworth Clough, plus dipper have also been seen feeding in Eagley Brook.

**The reservoirs**
Close to this route are a number of reservoirs that can be visited if you’re in the area. Jumbles can be found near the beginning of the route, Wayoh is just to the north and Delph Reservoir is to the east. Jumbles Reservoir lies within Jumbles Country Park and is located partly in Blackburn and partly in Greater Manchester. It was opened in 1971 by Queen Elizabeth II and is owned by United Utilities. It’s name is a variation on ‘dumble’ or ‘dumbles’, a slang term for a wood-lined stream in a steep sided ravine or valley.

**The Chetham Arms**
The Chetham Arms in Chapeltown is a dog friendly pub, which serves great home-cooked food with a fine selection of real ales. With a large car park and beer garden, the Chetham Arms is perfectly placed to start and end your walk.

www.chethamarms.co.uk 01204 853597

**Strawbury Duck**
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www.thestrawburyduck.co.uk - 01204 852013

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www.meadowcroftbarn.co.uk
www.meadowcroftfarm.co.uk 01204 853270

*While you are there!*
From the car park at Turton Tower, turn right along the track in front and cross over the railway line via the turreted bridge. Carry on to meet a gate in front of you and paths leading off to the left and right.

Go over the stile and through the farm, making your way behind the house. Pass over another stile and follow the fence line to another stile and a tarmac road. Leave the field via the stile and continue down the tarmac road to the houses at the bottom.

After arriving at the wall, turn left through the gate following the sign for the Rotary Way. Keep the wall on your right and follow the path down. When the path turns to the left and goes around a small mound, make your way up onto the mound to continue in the same direction as before.

Pass over another stile and continue along the Rotary Way to another farmhouse. Go left of the house and over a small stile. Carry on along the path, crossing numerous stiles along the way.

The path soon begins to ascend up onto the moors beyond. Pass by a small cairn and continue to follow the path straight over Turton Heights and down the other side. As the path begins to descend, look towards the large pylon in front. Go over the stile in the fence and make your way to the right and towards the pylon. Once there, head downhill towards the road. Find the stile in the fence at the corner of the field and emerge out onto the road.

Turn right along the road and continue for a short distance before following the path on the right of the road that leads between two stone pillars and is marked, ‘Clough House Farm’. Continue along this path - the Witton Weavers Way - all the way along and back to the junction of paths at the beginning of the walk.

After reaching the cattle grid beside the golf course turn left and retrace your steps back to Turton Tower.