



1 *Turton Tower*

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)



David Turner

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. Dogs are 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.

Chapeltown retains many attractive listed buildings, including the Old School House on High Street, 18th century hostelry the Chetham Arms, several 17th century houses, as well as the grade I listed building and scheduled ancient monument, Turton Tower.

Turton Tower is a large manor house sitting on high ground in Chapeltown, 600 feet above sea level, and around four miles north of Bolton. It was built around 1420 as a two-storey stone pele tower, to function as a defensive fortress. Over time, the building was enlarged and it had evolved to become an impressive residence by the Tudor and early Stuart period.

Timber extensions were added to the tower in the 16th century by the Orrell family, transforming it into a lavish house. It appears that the family were then forced to sell the property for financial reasons, and it was bought by Humphrey Chetham (the Manchester merchant responsible for the creation of Chetham's Library and Chetham's School of Music), in 1628. The Orrell family did remain residents there though, renting the tower.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Greene, Frere and Horrocks families were all owners, and the building changed little during this time. The arrival of the Kay family in 1835 saw Turton Tower transformed into a romantic Gothic building. The family made dramatic changes to the building's appearance and built a 'mock Tudor' extension.

The Kay family left at the end of the 19th century and after several more tenants, the tower was purchased by Sir Lees Knowles, to be used as his hunting lodge and weekend retreat. On his death in 1929 his widow, Lady Nina Knowles, gave

the tower and grounds to Turton Urban District Council to use for the benefit of the public. Since then the tower has been used as council offices, and from 1974, as a museum and historic house. Turton Tower now belongs to Blackburn with Darwen council.

Witton Weavers Way

This walking route takes you along a section of the Witton Weavers Way trail. This long distance route is 32 miles in total and officially starts at Witton Country Park, however you can pick it up at many alternative points along the way, as we have here. It takes around two days to complete the whole route, but it can also be split into four shorter circular walks: the Beamers, Reelers, Tacklers and Wapers trails.

The name 'Witton Weavers Way' is a nod to the Lancashire cotton industry and the route passes by many of the stone built handloom weavers cottages. The individual circular sections of the walk are also named after jobs within the cotton industry.



Where to visit

Turton Tower

Chapeltown Road, Turton, Lancashire, BL7 0HG

Turton Tower is a distinctive country house and museum, located in the small village of Turton at the beginning of our route. It was built in the 15th century as a defensive fortress and was also used for many years as a hunting lodge and a second home, before it was given to the public in 1929.



Now, you can visit the historic house and explore 600 years of history, stroll around the wonderful grounds and gardens and have a look around the gift shop. Plus, there's the Victorian kitchen tea room, where you can relax with a light lunch and a slice of cake or just have cup of tea or coffee while the children enjoy the great outdoors in the brilliant woodland play area.

Turton Tower is open between 11am and 4pm Wednesday to Sunday, from 8th March until 26th October. Admission is priced at £6 for adults, £5 for concessions and it's free for under 16s.

For more information visit www.turrontower.co.uk

The walker's view

David Turner travels to Turton to try this route out



I last found myself around Turton Tower about 12 months ago while photographing our Jumbles Reservoir walk from issue 3, which ended with an ascent of Cheetham Close. This time, this particular walk would take me around the other side of Cheetham Close and over Turton Heights at the far end of the hill, before returning via the Witton Weavers Way.

The first part of the walk follows a section of the Rotary Way, a 50-mile loop that roughly encircles Bolton. The waymarkers for the trail provide an easy way to stay on track, before you pick up the markers for the Witton Weavers Way on the other side of the hill.

I took a few detours on my route in order to grab the numerous geocaches that are dotted around the area, the first of which was placed above the quarry beside the golf club. It's worth the short trip away from the main walk but take care around the edges, as there are some steep drops down to the bottom.



If you've got the time - and the legs - then the summit

of Cheetham Close is tantalisingly close as you make your way through the fields behind New Butterworth's Farm. The views from the top are expansive and on a clear day it's worth the effort. Apart from the stone walls and the trig point at the top, the summit is fairly featureless and it's easy to get disoriented in bad weather, so ensure you've got your maps at hand if you do venture up the side of the hill.

After crossing over at Turton Heights, the far side of the walk continues along the Witton Weavers Way and is fairly straightforward. The single path runs alongside various industrial relics of the past, before returning to the turreted railway bridge beside Turton Tower.

This is a great route for big vistas and on a clear day the views of Winter Hill and Holcombe Moor really make the walk worth it.



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!



1

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.



2

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.



3

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!



4



Turton geocache locations



5

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. ➤



6

While you are there!

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.

Meadowcroft Barn & Meadowcroft Farm

Two luxurious 5 Star Gold B&B's on The Witton Weavers Way. Spacious bedrooms and en-suites, stunning views and an award-winning breakfast

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



Strawbury Duck

...is an Inn for all seasons with cosy fires in winter and a welcoming beer garden in summer.

www.thestrawburyduck.co.uk - 01204 852013



The Chetham Arms

The Chetham Arms in Chapelton 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



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. Its name is a variation on 'dumble' or 'dumbles', a slang term for a wood-lined stream in a steep sided ravine or valley.



Cut out this page and take with you...

1 Turton Tower

CHAPELTOWN ROAD, TURTON, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE, BL7 0HG

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.



START: Turton Tower, off Chapelton Road (GPS waypoint SD 730 152)

DISTANCE: 5 miles (8km)

DIFFICULTY:  **HEIGHT GAIN:** 

APPROX. TIME: 2 hours 15 minutes

PARKING: Turton Tower off Chapelton 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)



1 Your walk, step-by-step

START 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.



Turn left over the cattle grid and follow the tarmac path over the fields and beside the golf course. Continue along the path as it passes through a gate and winds up the incline towards the house on top of the hill.



Follow the path to the left of the small pond, passing a brick enclosure with green doors. Carry on along the path, ignoring the few paths that branch off left and right. After arriving at a gate, pass through and go over the field towards the farmhouse and the caravans in the yard at the back.

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. **A**



Turn right along the next road and after a short distance turn right at the public footpath sign. Follow the enclosed pathway up to the farmhouse. Pass over three successive stiles at the farmhouse and into the fields at the back. Bear left slightly through the fields and make your way along the path and towards the red hills at the foot of Cheetham Close.



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.



After crossing the stile at the foot of Turton Heights, look to the right for a large green public footpath sign (No 287). Follow the direction of the arrow for Turton Heights by walking back towards the trees, this time on the other side of the fence.

The path soon begins to ascend up onto the moors beyond. **B**

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. **C**



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

Walk images provided by David Turner



1 Turton Tower