

The first half of the Trail is relatively level and can be done separately to the second half which is hilly

Both variations start and finish at the village stocks in Highergate Road but please avoid parking your car on the double bend.

The stocks date from 1722 and are close to the original centre of the village called Towngate.

Huncoat Bank and the War Memorial

Cross the road to the inside of the bend and turn right to go round the front of the houses called Bank Terrace. At the iron railings turn left up a curving grassy slope into the recreation ground and climb the slope to the War Memorial erected in 1922. From here there is a panoramic view of the surrounding area which includes Hameldon Scouts, Darwen Tower, the Forest of Bowland, the Ribble Valley and Pendle Hill.

The Village Centre

From the memorial bear left and walk down the slope towards the nearest buildings where a track forms giving access into Burnley Lane.

If doing only the hill section of the trail turn right and follow the road for ½ mile to Mill Hill CP.

Otherwise turn left and cross over before the road end to reach the Peace Garden on the corner with Lowergate. Here, set in the wall is the Barroclough Date stone of 1768. Cross Lowergate and take time to view the cluster of historic homesteads around Hill House. Then head back towards the stocks and turn right at the end of Pipers Row to pass between Higher Hill House and the electricity sub-station.

Spout House Woodland

Keep straight ahead along the walled path leading into the fields. On the left is an open view over

Spout House Woodland and Within Grove. At the end ignore the stile to the right, keep left and go down the fence side towards the woodland. Cross the field bottom and go over a small stream issuing from the wood and bear right to the stiles.

Within Grove playing fields

Keep straight ahead and over another stile into the playing fields. Turn right along the edge of the first football field and go down the slope in the right hand corner of the field. Turn right along a cycle track which leads between two new housing estates on the site of the old Huncoat brickworks and Perseverance Mill. Turn left by the signal box and go over the level crossing.

Clough Brook (deep wooded clough)

Once over the railway turn right through a gateway into the old pit top nature reserve. Huncoat Colliery was founded in 1885 and closed in 1968. Go straight ahead on the main path into young woodland to reach 3 flights of steps winding down into the bottom of the clough and go across the footbridge.

Nearer Holker House (RSPCA Sanctuary)

Go up the slope opposite and over a stile near to the RSPCA Sanctuary. Turn right across some fields to the motorway footbridge.

Go over the footbridge (constructed in 1983) and keep right alongside the motorway fence. At a ruined wall turn left down to the canal.

The Leeds Liverpool Canal (opened in 1801)

Cross Clough Bank Bridge and turn right or go under the bridge to walk eastwards along the canal towpath for ¾ mile. Go under Altham Lane bridge (known locally as the Rabbit Run) and carry on along the canal towpath for another mile. The next bridge is Shuttleworth Hall bridge (119).

Go under the old bridge and also the new one walking on the towpath for a further short stretch.

Shuttleworth House (small hall and farm)

Leave the canal at Higher Shuttleworth bridge. Turn left and cross over the bridge to go back along the lane past Shuttleworth House. At the T junction in the farm yard turn left to the end of the lane and go over the stile into the fields. Head diagonally to the canal and right of the pylon towards the motorway flyover. On reaching the canal again turn right under the motorway underpass and follow a fenced track up to the right beside the railway. The E.L.R. through Huncoat opened in 1848.

Castle Clough Wood (deep wooded gorge)

Turn left over the railway line at crossing point. Turn left in the field and enter woodland. Turn right and follow the marker posts along a high level path above the gorge. Ignore stiles into fields on the right and stay in the woodland until emerging onto a tarmac road.

If doing only the flat section of the trail turn right along this road and its ½ mile back to the stocks.

Mill Hill (old lodge, car park and picnic spot)

Otherwise cross over the road go through the car park bearing right to pass some picnic benches. At far end of the picnic site take the path down to a stream and across the footbridge. Turn right through the woodland alongside the stream to reach a gate by another footbridge. Turn left here, through a gate and up a little bank with gorse bushes. Keep near to the gully on the left and aim for the nearest farm buildings that come into sight. Keep to the right outside the wall of the barnyard to avoid chained up dogs and reach a stile onto the main Burnley road.

Hameldon Woods

Cross Burnley Road into the woods opposite. The trails in this woodland were opened in 2003 and form part of the Forest of Burnley. Turn left at the first junction and follow the main trail climbing steadily to the top of the woodland.

Herst (rough pasture)

Go over the stile and follow the faint path straight ahead to gain a rutted track running across the slope. Turn right and follow this track which shortly curves left and climbs back towards the hill. At a junction with another track just before reaching a pond strike up the grassy slope to your right to find a rising path leading to the top of a gully. Exit the gully past piles of stones.

Hameldon Scouts (disused stone workings)

At the top of the hill a cairn on a little mound comes into sight. Before reaching this turn right along an old narrow track-bed which aims initially for the distant farm but gradually curves left to the head of a small gorge.

Windy Harbour (farm buildings)

Cross the wall stile and stream near a small waterfall and turn right along the gorge edge keeping the farm to your left. Cross a wood stile and keep to the edge of the slope heading for the pylon at the far end. The path here is rather rough but has new way-markers and may consolidate in time. Climb over another stile near a sign "Keep Out, Quarry Workings" and turn left alongside the wall to reach a rough stony road.

The Kings Highway (ancient road)

Turn right down the stony road for 200 yards and just beyond a bend go through a gap in the wall on the left into the field. Keep left by the wall and at the next farm road (Miry Lane) turn left.

Go through the gate and then immediately right over a stone wall stile, then bear diagonally left across the field. After the next stone squeeze stile keep to the right by the fence side which eventually curves round left towards the next farm.

Slate Pits Farm (farm buildings)

Turn right down the farm lane keeping left at the main road to cross it by the underpass. This is the Accrington Easterly Bypass which opened in 1985. At far end of the underpass turn immediately right through a gate overlooking three small lodges. Keep close to the fence on the right as it dips down and then up again to a stile in the right-hand corner.

The Coppice

This open land is a country park bequeathed to the Borough of Accrington in 1909. Follow the fence alongside the main road straight on over the summit to the front of the hill. From here there is an aerial view of Huncoat. Turn left along the edge of the hill top and when nearing trees keep them on the right to pass the O.S. trig column and derelict shelter erected by Lady Macalpine in 1911. Aim for the monument on the end of the hill.

Peel Park

The monument is to the benefactor of the country park William Peel of Knowlmer. From this point there is an aerial view of Accrington. Turn left keeping above the tree line to follow the main path which gradually descends. At a major cross-paths turn down to the right through the trees. These were all planted in 1972/73. Keep straight on down the main track which gradually descends to the park entrance beyond the bowling green.

Hillock Bank (site of an old Farm)

Go through the gate, across the spare land used as a car park for the bowling green and then bear right along the rough road between allotment pens. When the road swings left keep straight on behind some houses past more pens along a passageway which comes out on Burnley Road near to the Whitaker Arms. The present pub buildings date from the time of the turnpike construction in 1838. Turn right up Burnley Road in front of the pub and cross over to the cemetery (opened in 1864).

Cemetery and Within Grove estate

Follow the footpath sign at the gap in the cemetery wall opposite to Hillock Vale Mill Shop. *If you have a dog do not let it foul the cemetery.* Cross the grass and veer right to walk down the driveway. Turn right at the bottom and then left through an iron gate leading to a ginnel through the houses. Turn right past the front of the shops and straight on at the crossroad along Oakhurst Avenue (between the Newsagents and the church). When the road bends right branch off; straight across the top of the playing fields keeping all houses to the right.

Spout House Woodland

After the children's play ground aim for the trees ahead and go over a stile into woodland. Turn right and follow the main track over a small bridge to the top of the woodland. Seek out the Baptist Union foundation stones set in the high garden wall just to the right of where you emerge into the lane before turning left to follow the signed footpath diversion around the back of Spout House Farm. Keep in the walled lane known as Cleggs Lane climbing behind the houses until you come back to the electricity sub-station on the corner.

Turn right and the Trail ends back at the stocks.

Introduction

Huncoat is a small village near Accrington nestling on an exposed shelf of the Pennines below the 1,340 feet high Great Hameldon.

The place name was recorded in the 11th Century Domesday Book when Lancashire was still largely covered by peat moss and woodland.

In medieval times Huncoat was a cross-roads for two packhorse trade routes and expanded in the 19th Century with the Industrial Revolution.

Between the two world wars the corridor alongside the railway line was heavily industrialised with collieries, coke works and brick yards.

However, in recent decades there has been a tendency towards rural regeneration and there are now many green open spaces and landscapes with striking panoramic views. Huncoat has become a delightful blend of fields, woodlands, residential development and hill scenery.

Starting Point

The village stocks in Highergate Road. National Grid Reference SD777304. Use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 287 “West Pennine Moors” in conjunction with this guide.

**Huncoat is 1 mile east of
Accrington on the A679 Burnley Road.
Turn into the village at the Griffins Head pub.**

Car Parking

Roadside only in the village.
The nearest public car park is at Mill Hill picnic site in Burnley Lane which is an ideal alternative starting point for walking The Trail.

Public Transport

There is a bus service from Accrington town centre and a railway station in the village.

**The Trail was devised by
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Huncoat Area Council**

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THE HUNCOAT TRAIL



OLD HALL FARM

A 9 mile circular walk
closely following the
parish boundaries of
the historic village of
Huncoat

*The walk can also be done in
two separate 5 mile sections*



*Just follow the distinctive
way-marker plates*

The Huncoat Trail

