



Holcombe Village



Tilted Vase

RAMSBOTTOM, SUMMERSEAT AND HOLCOMBE

Manchester's Countryside

There's another side to Manchester



RAMSBOTTOM - HOLCOMBE VILLAGE -
SUMMERSEAT - RAMSBOTTOM

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At the junction take the right hand lane, bearing right past Woodhey Farm and then sharp left at the end of the high stone wall. The path quickly drops down into Woodhey Wood to follow along the left hand side of Holcombe Brook. At the end of the wood turn right to cross a bridge onto Robin Road.

Robin Road, now a Conservation Area, was a small mill community with the mill located opposite the row of cottages.

Continue until you reach the main road where you turn left.

⑤

Before reaching the railway viaduct at Summerseat, take the last left at the end of Hamer Terrace. Go straight ahead and up a narrow footpath. It soon bears right and becomes a stone-setted footpath which climbs steeply.

Looking back you will see the mill community of Brooksbottom. The original mill was built in 1787. The remaining building, which is now apartments, dates from 1876. In 1967 the mill employed 400 people but closed in 1978.

Follow the path up the hill and over the top of the railway tunnel. As the path descends alongside the railway cutting it ceases to be surfaced.

Across the railway is the site of Nuttall Old Hall, the seat of the De Notoghs from 1377. The Old Hall was built in 1429, was much altered by the Grant Brothers in the early 19th Century and demolished in the 1980's to make way for part of the housing estate.

⑥

On meeting a track, turn right and follow it through woodland alongside the River Irwell.

This is the site of Nuttall Mill and village, of which only one cottage survives. There were originally 100!

Follow the track across the river. Continue ahead along Nuttall Road and just before Nuttall Hall Cottages turn left into Nuttall Park. Cross the car park towards the children's play area.

The car park is the site of Nuttall Hall, built in 1817 by the Grant Brothers, later occupied by a Colonel Porritt and demolished shortly after the Second World War.

Continue along the footpath through the park bearing off to the right past the tennis courts and the raised stone bandstand base. Pass through the subway under the railway. Continue past Holme Mill to cross the River Irwell. Follow the road right into Railway Street and continue onwards. Ramsbottom Railway Station is soon reached.

This walk forms part of a series of walks and trails developed by Manchester's Countryside. For more information on Manchester's Countryside, including downloads of the walks visit:

www.manchesterscountryside.com
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This walk has been produced by Bury Council.



RAMSBOTTOM - HOLCOMBE VILLAGE - SUMMERSEAT - RAMSBOTTOM

DISTANCE:

5.5 miles/9km

STARTING POINT:

Ramsbottom Station

We recommend that you use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 287, West Pennine Moors

TIME:

Allow around 3 hours

HOW TO GET THERE:

By East Lancashire Steam Railway - Bolton Street Station, Bury to Ramsbottom Station. Trains run weekends and Bank Holidays all year round and Wed-Sun from May to Sept. Tel 0161 764 7790 or www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk

By Car - to Ramsbottom to junction 1 on M66. At the traffic lights turn right onto A56 towards Ramsbottom. Continue to next traffic lights and turn left towards Ramsbottom town centre along Bury New Road. After level crossing turn left along Railway Street. Parking on left next to the East Lancashire Railway or turn right for town centre car parking.

By Bus - 472/474 to Ramsbottom from Bury Interchange, Bury Town Centre

GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

0871 200 2233 www.tfgm.com

PLACES TO EAT

There are cafes and pubs in Ramsbottom town centre at the start and end of the walk. Food is also served at the historic Shoulder of Mutton Inn in Holcombe Village and the Hare and Hounds pub.

WALK SUMMARY

In some ways a historic trail around Ramsbottom; this circular walk reveals the rich character and close relationship between landscape and community. This walk can be combined with a trip on the restored East Lancashire Steam Railway.

THE WALK

①

Leaving Ramsbottom Railway Station, turn right into Railway Street and left up Bridge Street.

Most of Ramsbottom Town Centre was built in the 1840s by local factory owners, the Grant Brothers, immortalised as the Cheeryble Brothers in Charles Dickens' 'Nicholas Nickleby'. The Grant Arms Hotel in Market Place was home to the Grants from 1806 and the clock on the front bears their initials.

②

At the traffic lights cross straight over, pass Market Place and the 'tilted vase', part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail, and walk up Carr Street to the Rose and Crown pub. Go straight up the steep stone setted road for a few metres. Turn sharp left along a public footpath next to the block-paved entrance to 'the Manor'. Follow its garden boundary until you reach Grant's Wood. Climb the stile and walk diagonally left across the lower part of the wood and through the remains of another stile leading out of the wood. Turn right and fork left steeply up the meadow. Cross the broken wall and follow the path along the hillside and then up to the right. Near the top of the field turn left and down the steps to Rake Fold. Just beyond the cottages walk up hill past Emmanuel Parish Church and along Chapel Lane, to Holcombe Village.

Holcombe is an ancient settlement which developed on an important packhorse route. The Shoulder of Mutton Inn (built in 1751) and Higher House just opposite on Moor were the only Inns in Ramsbottom until 1800 showing the importance of Holcombe at that time.

Cross the main Helmshore Road, turn left and to avoid narrow pavements by the Shoulder of Mutton, turn right after a few metres and immediately sharp left in front of Higher House along a short setted road leading into Cross Lane. Walk along Cross Lane (Note Plant Farm on the left, bearing a 1739 datestone) and on along the stone-setted Holcombe Old Road.



MAP NOT TO SCALE

Holcombe Old Road, part of the original Bury to Haslingden coach road, is now an attractive bridleway.

③

Continue to the tarmac road which leads to Darul Uloom College on your right.

The college was built as a private residence in 1846 and later became a sanatorium. Note also the gatehouse to Hey House, the finest historic building in the area (built as a hunting lodge in 1616), unfortunately not visible from the public highway.

Carry on down the setted road passing Dawes Bank. A few yards beyond three white houses on the right, cross the tarmac lane and follow the track behind the Hare and Hounds pub and up to the traffic lights.

④

Cross the main road into Longsight Road and then take the first left into Pot Green. Alternatively, to avoid a flight of steps, cross the road, turn left then right down Woodhey Road.

Pot Green was once a small hamlet dating from the 17th and 18th Centuries and is now a Conservation Area. Numbers 13 to 21 were built as a workhouse.

Turn left on to the footpath alongside No 21 Pot Green, quickly descending into the wooded valley of Holcombe Brook (where the remains of a mill can be seen). After crossing the brook go up the flight of steps, bear right across the grassed area and then right again into Woodhey Road.