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.

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.
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.

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

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.

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

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.