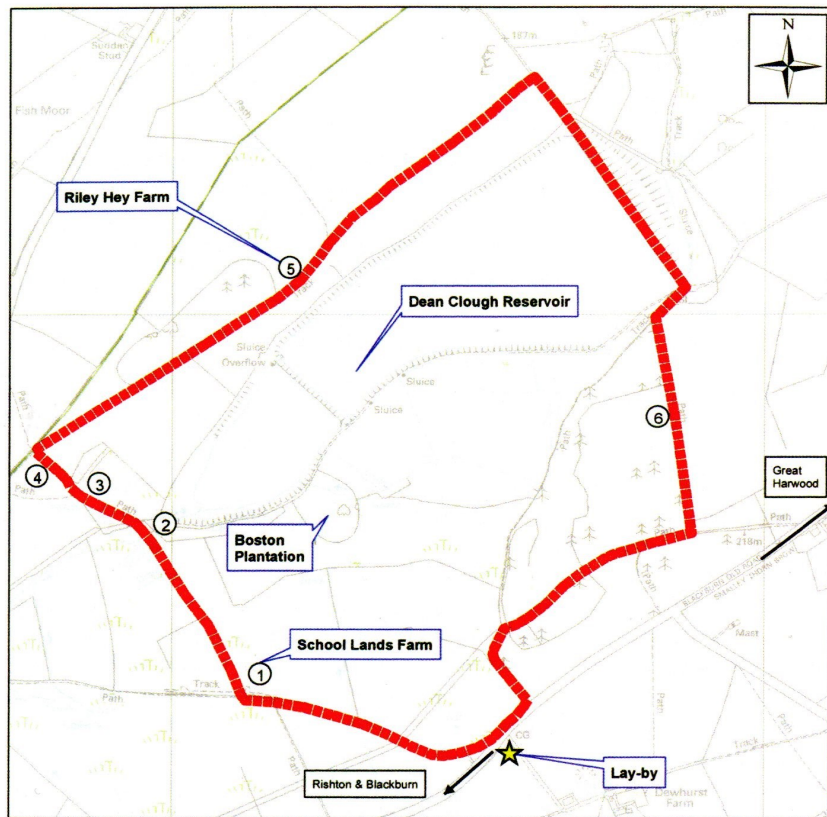


Deans Clough

Time: 1.15hr

Start point: Blackburn Old Rd

Suitability: ♡ ♡ ☹



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

Key

--- Dean Clough Route

★ Start Point

Points of Interest

1. School Lands Farm
2. Dean's Clough reservoir
3. Further Riley Hey Farm
4. Bowley Hill
5. Riley Hey farm
6. Plantation

- This walk starts at the lay-by on Blackburn Old Road, which if you were to be coming up Clinkham Road, you would turn left and then it is just on the left, past the end of the woodland plantation. Here a sign on the north side of the road says 'Public Footpath York Road ½ mile.'

- Go through the kissing gate and follow the old grassy track which veers to the right onto a well defined farm track. Continue to the gate which has a stile on its right. Over the stile follow the track until you reach another gate, with a kissing gate beside. (1)



Entrance to School Lands

- Continue straight on with the grassy bank on the left, until you notice a culvert off to your right leading down the hill. The grassy path is to the right of this culvert (which eventually is fenced in) and following this down stop for a while to admire your first view of Dean Clough reservoirs with Pendle Hill in the distance on your right.
- At the bottom of the hill, our path bears left up to a kissing gate. (2) Through the gate, our route bears left following the edge of the field up to a line of hawthorn trees. (3) Continue up the hill and make for the stile on the skyline where you will be at the western extremity of Great Harwood (4)
- Before you reach the stile, turn right, follow the farm path towards the wood and then gradually descend down a smooth track to a wooden gate. Go through the kissing gate on the right and continue straight ahead. (5)



Dean Clough Reservoir and Bowley Hill

- The path is now the old farm track following a stone wall on your right for 500 yards. Go through the stile

by the gate and bear right following the wall down to a wicket gate. You now cross the end of the reservoir where good views can be had to the left and right

- At the far end of the reservoir turn right to a wooden stile by the wall side. Go through a second stile ahead and ignoring the stile immediately on your right follow a path that winds its way up the side of the plantation to an old track. (6)
- Follow the track to the right, ignore a path turning up to your left and continue under the coniferous trees until you reach a fence and gate. Now take the path to the left which reaches Blackburn Old Road in 200 yards. The start is now 50 yards along the road to the right.

Points of Interest

1. School Lands Farm- *Just before this there are two stone gate posts which once marked the entrance to School Lands Farm. The surrounding land has reverted to a very rough pasture for sheep. The presence of the Common Rush indicates poor drainage. Before you turn right, you see a pile of stones ahead these are the remains of the old farm. The track you are on led to School Lands Farm, now a ruin. Alexander Nowell sold the land known as a 'moiety of the Great Rough' to the Parish Church of St. Bartholomew in 1770. The revenue was divided between the church, the school and the poor. This land still belongs to the church. The rest of the Upper Dean Valley is owned by the Water Board.*
2. Dean Clough Reservoir - *Where the two walls meet a stile in the wall takes you into the reservoir area where a few moments rest can be had to watch the wildfowl there. During the spring and summer you are likely to see a pair of Great Crested Grebe and a family of Little Grebes. Look also for Coot and Moorhen near the reeds. In winter Tufted Duck or Golden-eye may be seen here. Water Horsetail is plentiful in this portion of the reservoir.*
3. Further Riley Hey Farm- *This was the position of Further Riley Hey Farm.*
4. Bowley Hill -*If you look down from here a wonderful view is had of the reservoirs with the 'Knoll' of Bowley Hill on the far right.*
5. Riley Hey Farm - *Soon you will reach a pile of stones which mark the remains of Riley Hey Farm. You may find among the rubble bricks from the old brickworks at Cliffe Quarry. Some are marked with the name.*
6. Plantation - *The trees, Larch and Spruce, were planted some fifty years ago by the former Water Board.*