



Hapsford Hall is a Grade II listed former farmhouse, built in brick in the late 18th or early 19th century.



The spectacular 360° view from Helsby Hill extends to Liverpool, the Clwydian mountains of Wales, the Pennines and the Peak District. A trig point (141m) and a late Bronze Age hillfort crown the summit.



This impressive tunnel was built to convey a horse-drawn tramway out of Helsby Quarry. Red sandstone was hauled to Ince Pier and across the Mersey to Liverpool where it was used in the construction of many important buildings.



Commside Farmhouse was built in the mid-17th century.



Alvanley Hall, built in red Cheshire sandstone, dates back to the 17th century and is a Grade II* listed building, the second-highest designation.

HYDES
ESTD 1863

THE HORNSMILL AT HELSBY
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OPEN: Mon to Thurs: 11.30am–11pm
Fri & Sat: 11.30am–12am, Sunday: midday–11pm
FOOD SERVED: Mon to Sat: 11.30am–9.30pm
Sunday: 11.30–9pm

TWO COUNTRY WALKS FROM

The
Hornsmill
at Helsby
PUB & DINING



Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford

3½ or 4¼ miles: Fairly easy

Explore two interesting villages full of historic buildings.

Helsby Hill

6 miles: Moderate

Experience superb views, intriguing industrial relics and a pleasant return through rolling Cheshire countryside.

Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford

3½ or 4¼ miles: Easy

Allow 2 hours. Much of the walk is on surfaced roads, but short sections may be overgrown in summer or wet in winter. An optional "there and back" diversion explores Dunham-on-the-Hill village.

1 From the front entrance, turn left and walk down the A56 towards Helsby. **2** Cross the Hornsmill Brook then turn right into Primrose Lane, signposted to Alvanley and Manley. **3** After 300 yards turn right into Towers Lane (signposted "Helsby Golf Club"). **4** Follow the road for ¼ mile to the golf club entrance and a further ¼ mile beyond, to a T-junction. Turn right into Peck Mill Lane. **5** At the end of the lane, go through a pedestrian gate to the right of the main gate and pass to the right of the property ahead of you to a wooden gate. **6** Keep to the right of the next field to a sometimes rather overgrown footbridge. **7** Beyond the stream, keep on in the same direction, looking out for a gate in the hedge on your right. **8** Go through this hedge, and follow the two right-hand sides of the next field to reach a field gate in the far left-hand corner. **9** Follow the attractive track beyond to reach the A56 next to Wood Farm. To explore the intriguing village of Dunham-on-the-Hill, with its old farmhouses and cottages and rock-cut roads, optionally turn left along the main road for quarter of a mile, and then bear left along the main street (Village Road) to Dunham Hall and beyond, returning the same way when you have had your fill. **10** Beyond Wood Farm on the A56, continue away from the village for a further quarter-mile, then turn left into Hapsford Lane. **11** Follow this quiet winding lane for a little over half a mile, crossing the railway along the way. **12** On reaching the A5117, cross carefully, walk across the grass and join the main street in Hapsford (Moor Lane), passing Hapsford Hall on your right. **13** At the end of the metalled road, just beyond the entrance to Moor Court, pass a gate onto a track and follow it to a pumping station, where you bear right then left. **14** At a further gate (beyond which are several large boulders), turn right through a metal kissing gate onto a footpath. **15** Follow this hedged path until it opens out, then walk up through the woodland ahead of you. **16** Once out of the wood, bear right and follow an attractive grassy path through trees and scrub, with glimpses to open fields away to your left. **17** At a wooded corner the official right of way keeps on ahead of you, dropping through the trees to a hand gate overlooking the sewage works, and then turns right along a track to reach the road (Cash Lane); a better-used if unofficial alternative bears right before the trees along the top of a grassy ride, to reach the road via a stile on the left. Whichever route you choose, follow Cash Lane to the right to return to Moor Lane in Hapsford village. **18** Turn left and pass Hapsford Hall again, turning left before the main road to pass an ornate brick barn converted into dwelling accommodation (like Hapsford Hall, a Grade II Listed Building). **19** Leave the village along the metalled footway of the A5117 and follow it until it crosses the railway again, continuing beyond for a short distance back to the Hornsmill.

Helsby Hill

6 miles: Moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. Several steep climbs; beware sheer cliffs if venturing off the path on Helsby Hill. Some paths may be overgrown or muddy depending on the season. Some road walking at the start and end.

1 From the front entrance, turn left and walk down the A56 towards Helsby. **2** Ignore Primrose Lane on the right, keeping along the main road for a further ¼-mile to the next junction. **3** Turn right and follow Robin Hood Lane uphill for ¼ mile, crossing a disused railway before reaching a junction with The Rock. **4** Bear left along Robin Hood Lane, passing Newfield Terrace, Marlborough Drive and Windsor Drive on your left. **5** Just before the footway ends, turn right up Robin Hood Lane, also signposted to Helsby Quarry and Sandy Lane. **6** Bear right to a gate and then left through the short sandstone tunnel into Helsby Quarry. **7** Shortly after the tunnel, go up some steps on your right, and head straight on through an open area on the quarry floor to reach a fenced-off rock face. Bear left and follow the obvious path to the car park. **8** Exit to the road, turn left and then right into Hill Road South. **9** At the end of the road proceed past two gateways into woodland and continue on the obvious path uphill. **10** Keep left at the junction with the path to Harmer's Pond to emerge into open country before reaching the trig point on Helsby Hill. **11** Having admired the views and the impressive sandstone crags, bear right, directly away from the edge, to join a sandy descending path alongside a field. **12** At a T-junction of paths turn left past Harmer's Pond, and beyond the gate bear right along the lane. **13** Shortly, take a left turn into Harmer's Wood. At a fork after 100 yards or so bear right, heading downhill and passing to the left of a fenced and overgrown quarry to re-emerge on the lane at a layby with a picnic table (there are several paths within the wood; if in doubt, bear right and downhill and you are sure to emerge on the lane). **14** From the layby turn left and then leave the lane on the right through a metal gate with a Longster Trail waymark. **15** Pass two wooden kissing gates then follow the left-hand edge of the next field to a third. **16** Follow the obvious path beyond, bearing right at a further Longster Trail waymark to a road. **17** Turn left (downhill) and pass the delimit signs, then join a footpath through a kissing gate on the right just before a road junction. **18** Follow the field edge then turn right through a kissing gate and over a footbridge, then bear left and continue in a similar direction with the field edge now on your left. **19** On reaching a narrow lane, turn right (uphill). **20** Beyond a property on the right, turn right over a stile and follow a footpath along the hedge to a wooden footbridge. **21** Turn left along the field edge and then bear right to a kissing gate above some steps. **23** Follow the uphill path beyond, before crossing the field to another road. **24** Turn left then right through a metal kissing gate, still following the Longster Trail waymarks. **25** Pass discreetly in front of the thatched Commonsides Farmhouse and keep left of a horse-riding menage to a stile, then skirt a further paddock to a second. **26** Follow the fence to a projecting corner, then keep straight on across the field to a kissing gate. **27** In the next field aim just to the right of an isolated

tree and continue to a stile, with Alvanley Hall away to your left. **28** Cross a couple more fields to reach another road. **29** Cross over and turn left along the pavement, then turn right beyond a postbox into a farm drive; keep along the hedged track beyond a gate, bearing right as you reach open fields. **30** When the track bears right again, turn left and leave it to pass an electricity pylon. **31** Follow the field edge with views to your right, then bear right at the end of the field to a waymark and pass through a belt of trees. **32** Bear left and drop down a scrubby bank to a double stile and footbridge. **33** Climb the hill opposite to an obvious stile into a farm track; cross straight over and follow the fence to another stile and track. **34** This time turn right and follow the track as it skirts to the right of a farm. **35** Beyond an area of hard standing, bear right along the bottom of a wood, then pass between two posts and along a hedged path. **36** Cross a perpendicular track to a gate into a damp corner of a field. Aim slightly away from the right-hand field edge and at the far side of the field drop down to a concealed footbridge. **37** Bear right up the far bank to a stile by a barn and turn left and right through the farmyard. **38** Follow the farm drive out to the road. **39** *If the path opposite is under crops it may be prudent to follow the road left, turning right at a junction and rejoining the printed route beyond the golf course at step 42.* However, if all is well straight ahead, cross the field to the left of a pylon to a footbridge. **40** Cross the next field, keeping to the right of a clump of trees concealing the remains of a pond, then bear left to find an old bridge over the disused railway. **41** In the golf course beyond, pass a pond on your left then bear right, keeping to the right of a line of old trees, to reach the road near the club car park. Turn right. **42** Follow Towers Lane to its junction with Primrose Lane, where you turn left. **43** At the main road, cross carefully then turn left to return to the Hornsmill.

THE HORNSMILL AT HELSBY

Come and join us after your long walk for a relaxing pint and a bite to eat in a warm and friendly environment.

Welcome to the Hornsmill at Helsby, a new name and now a wonderful new look.

Following our impressive transformation you'll find the Hornsmill oozes with style, quality and character. Join us to enjoy a superb selection of freshly prepared food and a great range of your favourite drinks.



Text, mapping and photography
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