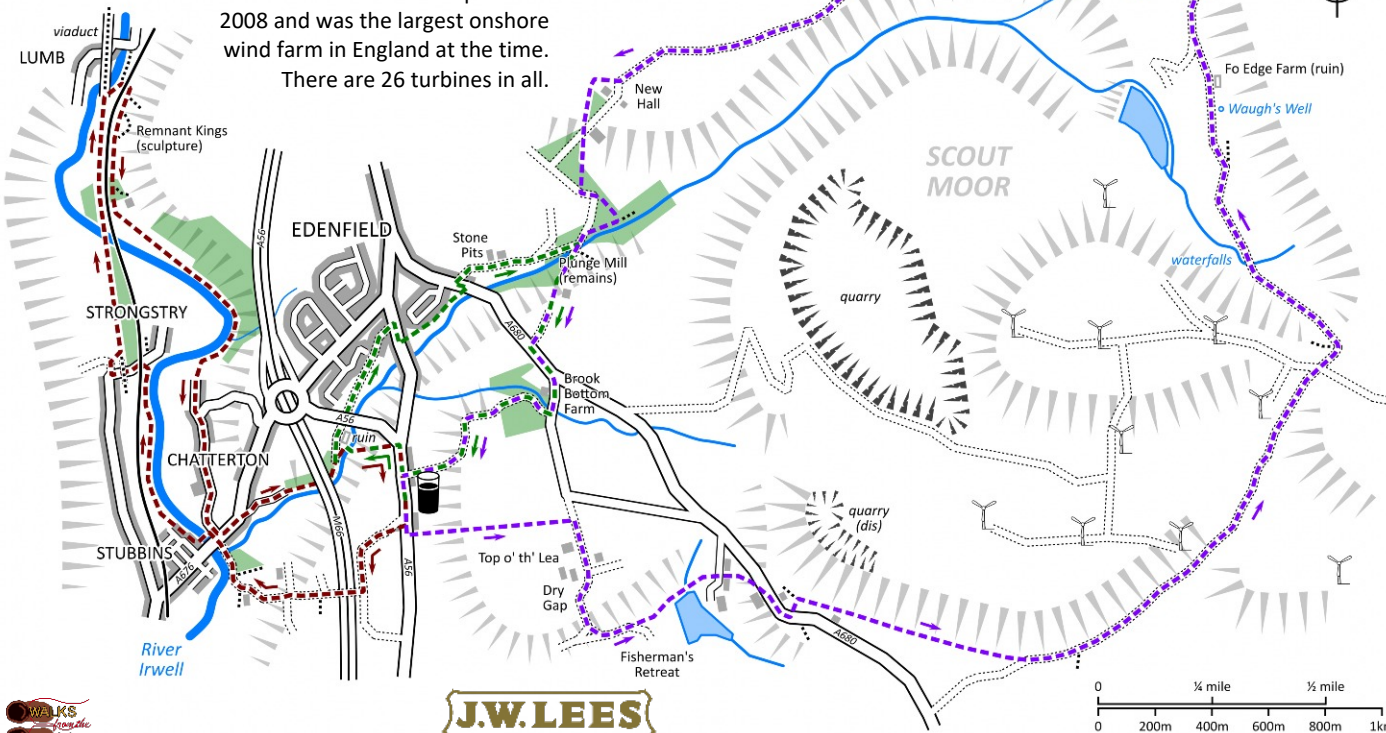




Scout Moor wind farm opened in 2008 and was the largest onshore wind farm in England at the time. There are 26 turbines in all.



Remnant Kings by Ian Randall is an artwork commissioned for the Irwell Sculpture Trail. The trail runs for 33 miles from Bacup to Salford Quays and was claimed to be the the largest public art scheme in England.



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Plunge Mill has an impressive weir-cum-waterfall and the remains of the mill, including the silted millpond and the pit for the large water-wheel, are still evident. The Dearden Brook is still known as 'the Plunge' locally.



THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM THE



DUCKWORTH ARMS



PUB AND KITCHEN

Dearden Clough (2¼ miles: fairly easy)

A streamside walk with industrial heritage, waterfalls and good views over the Irwell valley.

River Irwell and Chatterton

3½ miles: fairly easy

Down to the Irwell and beside the East Lancashire Railway for a fairly level walk full of interest.

Scout Moor (6¼ miles: fairly strenuous)

A hearty upland walk with close encounters with wind turbines, waterfalls and wide views.

Dearden Clough (2¼ miles: fairly easy)

Allow 1–½ hours. Two stiles and minor ascents and descents; some paths are stony in places, or may be muddy after rain.

1 From the front door of the Duckworth Arms, cross the main road carefully and turn right. **2** Just before the junction, go down steps on the left by a bench and footpath sign to a stile. **3** In the field beyond, head down the slope towards derelict Edenwood Mill. **4** Cross the stile and footbridge over the stream at the bottom and bear left in front of the ruined mill. **5** Emerge between two boulders and turn right, passing to the left of the mill buildings and chimney. **6** Pass under the A56 bridge and continue along the track, which passes between houses to reach Bury Road. **7** Cross and turn right. **8** After 70m, turn left into a driveway by a house with a 'Dearden Clough' sign. **9** Follow the footpath beyond, with runs between houses on the left and the stream on your right. At one point, a low brick wall to the right conceals a waterfall-cum-weir. **10** Shortly afterwards, pass a couple of houses on your left and continue past a gate to the A680 Rochdale Road. **11** Cross and turn left past commercial buildings then turn right into stone-setted Plunge Road. **12** Pass a row of cottages (Stone Pits) and a house called The Mount beyond (the former mill-owner's house). **13** Follow the driveway beyond a gate then, when it swings left towards Plunge Farm, continue on the track straight ahead, which descends past the remains of Plunge Mill on your right by a gate (divert right to explore the mill remains and another waterfall/weir). **14** Continue past the silted-up millpond until you reach the stream. Turn right here over the footbridge. This is Michael Wife Lane, named after a farmer's wife who was fined in 1618 for not maintaining the road and placed in the stocks for her misdemeanours. **15** Follow the track uphill out of the valley, ignoring a footpath up steps on the left. **16** The track swings left and narrows to a rocky path before meeting the end of a driveway at a house. **17** Continue along the driveway with views over the Irwell valley to the Peel Monument until you meet the A680. **18** Cross with care and turn left. **19** After 100m or so, turn right into Bury Old Road. **20** Drop down to pass Brook Bottom Farm, then turn right immediately beyond the buildings into a rough track. **21** This track runs above a stream to start with, then bears left between fields with more views of the Irwell valley. **22** After further left- and right-hand bends you reach the A56. Turn left to return to the Duckworth Arms.

River Irwell and Chatterton

3½ miles: fairly easy

Allow 2 hours. Mostly level. May be muddy in places.

1 Cross the main road in front of the Duckworth Arms with care, and turn left. **2** Before the first house on the right, cross a driveway then turn right down a footpath that shortly joins it (in practice it may be easier just to walk down the driveway). **3** Walk down towards the M66 and bear left parallel to it. **4** After 100 metres or so, turn right

and cross the motorway bridge, passing the entry to Fairlawns on your right. **5** Continue down the drive until it swings right, at which point take the track that continues ahead, between hedges. **6** This track swings right and passes through a farm-gate down to a kissing gate near the River Irwell. **7** Ignoring a path off to the right, follow the track out to the A676 Bolton Road North. **8** Cross the main road with care and turn left over the footbridge next to the road bridge. **9** Take a paved footpath on the right that winds through gardens between the houses on the left and the river on the right. Keep to the path (right) at the end of Meadway then bear right into a fenced path at the bottom of a riverside field. **10** Proceed alongside the river for about 500 metres to a kissing gate by a house and walk out to the lane in Strongstry. **11** Turn left under the bridge carrying the East Lancashire Railway, then continue past houses and under a second railway bridge. **12** Turn right up a lane then bear right onto the rail trail. **13** Turn left and follow the trail for half a mile or so, crossing the Irwell about halfway along. **14** Just before the trail crosses the Lumb Viaduct, take a path on the right that leads off the trail down to the East Lancs Railway. **15** If time permits, you can continue ahead and cross the river via the Grade-II-listed Lumb Bridge to explore the village, but our route passes under the railway via the bridge on your right (just before a pipe bridge over the Irwell) and bears right up to a gate in fields. **16** Follow the wall beside the East Lancs Railway, passing through a kissing gate. Above you on the bank to the left is *Remnant Kings* by Ian Randall, commissioned as part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail. **17** Continuing alongside the East Lancs Railway, go through a kissing gate into a small wooded area. **18** Ignoring a path off to the left up the bank, go through another kissing gate at the end of the wood and skirt the gardens of a house on the left. **19** Follow the path as it leaves the railway and crosses a stream via a footbridge, then leads through low-lying fields between fences. **20** On reaching the River Irwell, follow the riverside path along a wooded bank; at the end of the wood on the left is a small waterfall, in a quarry just off the path. **21** Exit the wood and follow the river to a gate into a track by the end of the Chatterton playing field. **22** Bear left to a gap next to a gate, then follow the road beyond. A plaque above a cottage door on the left recalls the Chatterton Fight, a power-loom riot of 1826 in which six people were shot by soldiers. **23** Continue straight ahead at a road junction by St Philip's Church, then walk out between the houses of the village and past an industrial building at the end, continuing until you emerge on the A676 by the Irwell bridge you crossed earlier. **24** This time, cross the road carefully and turn left by the site of Croft End Mill, away from the river, crossing the exit from Croft End Place. **25** Turn right into a residential road called Rosebank and follow it round to the left. **26** The road reduces to a track by the last of the houses then passes under the motorway above a stream. **27** The track climbs slightly towards a ruined mill; before the buildings, turn right onto a path between two boulders and walk down to the right of the ruins. **28** Turn right over a footbridge and a stile into a field. **29** Walk up the slope ahead to a stile at the top, beyond which steps lead up to the A56. **30** Turn right to return to the Duckworth Arms.

Scout Moor (6¼ miles: fairly strenuous)

Allow 3–4 hours. May be bleak in winter, with paths that are occasionally rocky and boggy. Sheep likely.

1 From the front of the Duckworth Arms, turn left along the A56. **2** Just beyond a row of terraced houses on the left, turn left into a driveway and then join a footpath beyond a squeeze stile in the right-hand corner. **3** Follow the path between fence (left) and wall (right) up to Bury Old Road, crossing a short boardwalk halfway up. **4** Turn right along the old road past Top o' th' Lea Farm and Dry Gap Farm, both on the right. **5** Beyond the latter the track swings right then left and starts to descend into a valley. Turn left at a triangular junction. **6** When the road swings right into the Fisherman's Retreat, follow the path straight ahead, which leads above a small reservoir to the right, crossing a stream then heading up to a residential road. **7** Cross straight over onto a path to the left of a row of houses opposite and follow it uphill through trees to emerge onto the A680. **8** Turn right between houses then, on a bend, cross carefully and go over a ladder-stile and across a garden to a kissing gate. **9** Turn right and follow the path between a disused quarry and the rear of another property. **10** Join a track that comes up from the right and continue gradually uphill towards the Scout Moor wind farm, ignoring a path over a ladder-stile on the right. **11** Continue below a turbine (left) and follow the track to the left of a clough (Grain Brook) above a small waterfall. **12** Near the brow of the hill cross a wind-farm service track and continue on a rough path opposite to a pair of gateposts. **13** Follow a broken wall left, with another stream valley on your right. **14** The path drops to cross the stream above a series of small cascades and continues on the other side of the valley. Scout Moor High Level Reservoir comes into view and the path starts to descend (ignore a rough path to the right of the broken wall up Fo Edge). **15** Descend to Waugh's Well and continue past the ruins of Fo Edge Farm. **16** A track down to the reservoir joins from the left; carry straight on. **17** At a junction of tracks, take the obvious left-hand track that bears left and runs above the valley on your left. **18** Pass a gate and cattle grid as the track starts to descend more steeply. **19** Eventually the track reaches the buildings of New Hall; bear right along a fence to a kissing gate. **20** Turn left down the side of a coniferous woodland and follow the fence down to another kissing gate onto a farm track by a barn. **21** Cross straight over and follow the path down the side of the wood to a gate. **22** After a short fenced section within the wood you reach another track; turn left, downhill. **23** At a right-hand bend, turn left up steps to a stile. **24** Beyond the stile, pass a bench and follow the left-hand side of the open woodland down to a stream. **25** Turn right and follow the stream, crossing a couple of boardwalks to a wooden kissing gate just above a weir. **26** Continue over a small footbridge and bear left to another footbridge across the main stream.

Now jump to step **15** of the **Dearden Clough** walk for directions back to the Duckworth Arms.