

A Walk in Hollins Vale

We suggest that you explore the Vale from either Church Meadows or The Hags. Please note that some of the public footpaths in the Vale are not clearly defined on the ground. Walkers are also requested not to disturb anglers and to keep dogs on a lead if livestock are present.

2. New Plantation

Only trees grown from locally collected seed were used in the creation of this extension to Hollins Plantation. They were planted in 1999 by volunteers from the BTCV and Hollins Conservation Group.

3. Hollins Brook

Formed by the joining of the Whittle and Brightley Brooks, this tributary of the Roch, has a pleasant and natural meandering form through the Vale. Unfortunately it has only a fair general quality rating mainly because there is less life in the Brook than you would expect given the relatively low levels of phosphate and nitrate pollution.

4. 'The Cut'

This old mill lodge supplied water to the Hollins Vale Works up until the recent closure of Borden's. Built at least 160 years ago, the Cut as it is known locally is a popular angling lodge and important wildlife site.

1. Hollins Plantation

Trees were planted some time between 1848 and 1893 on the slopes of this small tributary of the Hollins Brook. The large willows, many now dead or dying, pre-date the oaks that now characterise the plantation.

6. Coffin Site

These fields gaining their name from the aerial layout of the farm fields, prior to the building of the Church Meadows estate are of relatively low ecological interest having been improved for agriculture in the relatively recent past. They are also unusual in a Bury context in that the current field boundaries were laid out after the first edition of the OS map was issued in 1848.

5. Vale Scarp

The steepness of this south facing slope has deterred any attempts to agriculturally improve the sward. The result is a botanically rich, mosaic of dry acid grassland, neutral flushes and scrub.

7. Hedgerows

These hedgerows are typical of late 18th and 19th century hedgerows in that they are straight and primarily consisting of hawthorn. Local volunteers have also planted a new hedge along the Hags and laid the main north to south running hedgerow, a traditional management technique, in recent years.

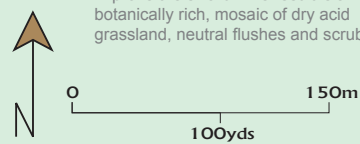
8. New Permissive Path

Funding from Living Spaces in 2005 has enabled Bury MBC and Viridor to create this new permissive path across their land from the Hags to the Vale enabling walkers to avoid the need to walk, through the Hollins Vale Works.

9. Haweswater Aqueduct

Built in the 1930's to provide water for Greater Manchester in conjunction with the older Thirlmere Aqueduct, the Haweswater Aqueduct crosses the site on route to Heaton Park Reservoir. Its route is indicated by the pipes crossing the Hollins Brook and the locked pedestrian gates in the hedgerows of the coffin site.

KEY		
LNR Boundary		Woodland
Footpath		Waterbodies
Permissive Path		Marsh
Fence		Hedgerows



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