



Duxbury Mill

Footwear

This trail has two sections in Duxbury woods. Strong footwear will be necessary. Start this trail at the south-western corner of the car park and descend on a narrow path through the woods towards the river Yarrow. On the left, and heavily overgrown, are the remains of an early cottage or bothy. It would have housed a servant or farm worker. At the bottom you join a path that follows the river.

It had always been one of the least populated townships in Lancashire, with the Yarrow forming part of the boundary. The southern boundary was provided by the Ellerbeck (Eller Brook on modern maps) and this separated Duxbury from Adlington and Coppull. This trail supplements the Duxbury Hall Trail by introducing the wider history of the township. The trail is 5 miles (8 kilometres) long and the distance covered is indicated in the route notes.

Records mentioning Duxbury start in Norman times, but its name and the name of its river, the Yarrow, go back much earlier. Yarrow is a Celtic name, meaning rough river, used to describe the upper reaches of a river. It was one of several glacial meltwater channels coming off what we now call the West Pennines. Duxbury was a township, but it had no central point of settlement. A survey in 1582 identified only 19 houses. In the 19th century the population peaked at 371 in 1841.

The Duxbury Township Trail

PARKING Take the A6 south out of Chorley and turn right onto Wigan Lane (A5106). Take first right, signed Duxbury Golf Course. Follow signs through to park on right just before the remaining hall buildings. This is the starting point of the trail.

There is an excellent bus service along Bolton Road (125) with stops near the North Lodge which would enable the walk to start and end there.

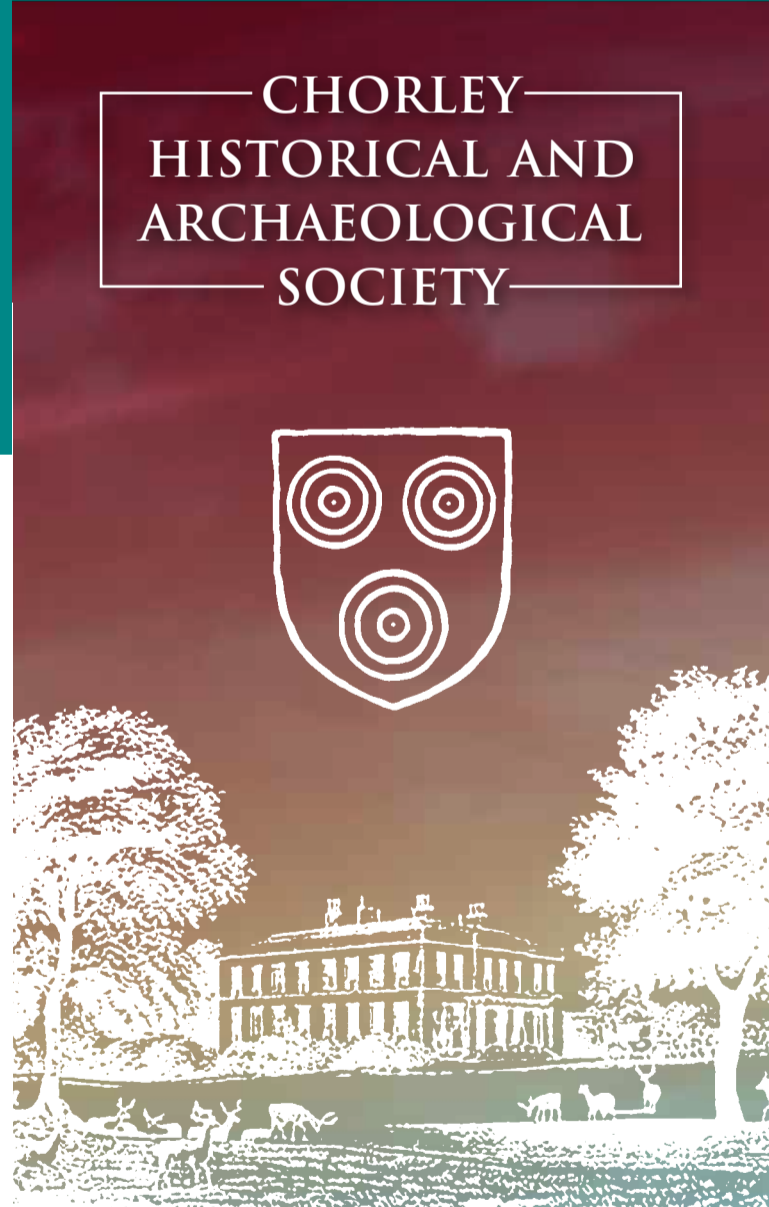
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For more information about Duxbury and Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society go to www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk



DUXBURY TOWNSHIP TRAIL

1 HYDRAULIC RAM

Turn right for a few metres and look across the river. There are the remains of a weir and a stone structure which seems to have been the site for a hydraulic ram, shown on a 1912 map. Such pumps were used to raise water to a higher level for farms and



country houses. The purpose and age of this pump is not known. It may have aimed to improve water supply for the Hall, although the river would have been polluted from industrial activities along Black Brook, its main tributary.

2 BATH

Retrace your steps to pass the path that you descended by. On your immediate left is an overgrown, and sometimes waterlogged, depression. This was the site of a bath on an early Ordnance Survey map. It was presumably fed by a stream (the hydraulic ram being on the opposite bank of the river) and must have had a lining to keep in the water.



3 BEAVIS MEMORIAL

Continue a few hundred metres along the path to reach the memorial to Beavis, the Standishes' dog who died in 1842. This statue is not the original one. Beavis warned the Standish family when there was a fire. (Not to be confused with the disastrous 1859 fire.) Follow the path along the river, climbing to the edge of the woods, above a footbridge over the river. (0.7 miles/1.1km) Continue

across the field and then turn left before the kissing gate up a grassy path to a stile. Continue over the stile to Grundy's Lane.

4 THE BURGH

Here you are entering the demesne of the old Duxbury Hall. Duxbury is an Old English name, derived probably from Deowuc's Burgh, meaning Deowuc's fortified farm. It has been suggested as being an Angle name. The site of the Burgh has been lost, but it may have been on the left.

5 FARNWORTH HOUSE

Continuing up Grundy's Lane you will pass on the left the drive to what was once known as Farnworth House, part of the Duxbury estate. It gave its name to a colliery which was later known as Duxbury Park Colliery. In 1881 the owner of Farnworth House Colliery was prosecuted for lack of ventilation.

6 DUXBURY PARK COLLIERY

Coal deposits were to be found across the Duxbury Estate. On the opposite side of Grundy Lane and behind the saw mills was the site of Duxbury Park Colliery. It closed in 1967. Colliery workings extended to the newer Duxbury Hall and undermined the foundations. On joining Wigan Road (1.24 miles/2kms) you may see further down the road to the right the partial remains of a railway bridge from the branch line that served Duxbury Park and Ellerbeck Collieries. Turn left along the Wigan Lane pavement, passing after 200metres, Londonderry Cottage. It is largely hidden by a privet hedge, but is over 450 years old. Across the road are two old brick barns at Pilkington's, formerly Waggon Farm.



7 SOUTH (WIGAN) LODGE

Continue along the pavement to South Lodge. The Duxbury Estate has two lodges. The South Lodge, in a classical style, could well be the work of Lewis Wyatt who remodelled the Hall for Frank Hall Standish. That would date this Lodge from 1828 or a little later. Joining Wigan Lane from the right is Rawlinson Lane.



8 RAWLINSON LANE AND STOCKS

The route of the main road from Bolton to Chorley before 1837 would have followed the line of Rawlinson Lane across what is now the golf course to cross the Yarrow at the old Yarrow Bridge. A map of Duxbury Park in 1912 shows that stocks still stood on the righthand side as Rawlinson Lane joined Wigan Lane, and at one time this was known as Stocks Lane. Cross Wigan Lane to walk down Martin's Avenue to join the post 1837 road. To the right is Skew Bridge which was built to cross the Lancaster Canal. Walk left up to the traffic lights at Fredericks. (2.3 miles/3.7kms). Take the lane on the right of Fredericks down to the canal.

9 THE LANCASTER CANAL

Sir Frank Standish was not a petitioner in favour of the Lancaster Canal, although he sold land to allow it to go through his estate. The canal, and the navvies, reached Adlington from Aspull in 1795 and the following two years saw it built through to Botany Bay and Knowley in Chorley. It is now part of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. Turn left and follow the tow path as it skirts Spring Wood.



10 A PIT BROW LASS

After passing under the railway bridge, turn left at the next canal bridge. There were houses here called Tinklers Barracks. (3.1 miles/5kms). Mrs. Polly Holden lived there and would walk to Duxbury Hall Colliery to work as a Pit Brow Lass. She kept a diary of her work and life. (Extracts on www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk)

11 RAILWAY

Follow Hogg's Lane to go under the spectacular Black Brook railway viaduct. The line was completed in 1843, although from 1841 passengers could travel to Rawlinson Lane from Bolton, decanting to coaches to travel on through Duxbury and Chorley to Preston.

12 SPA

Continuing along the lane, Spring Wood is now over to the left. One of its springs was found to have medicinal properties. In 1847 a Saline Bath was built by John Wilkinson. Ladies and Gentry bathed and drank the waters. In the hot summer of 1850 10,000 people attended the spa in one day, many coming by train. The arrival of tourism!



13 HOGG'S LANE

The Bailiffs/ Land Agents of the Standish Estate lived at Yarrow Spring House/ Springwood Cottage on what is now known as Hogg's Lane. John Hogg succeeded John Rawes

as bailiff of the Duxbury estate. Both men had been born in Northumberland. John Hogg was succeeded by his son Joseph who had worked first as a woodman. The Hogs charged a toll to users of Hogg's lane. In 1891 Joseph Hogg with a group of his men, evicted William Standish, a claimant to the estate, from Duxbury Hall.



14 YARROW BRIDGE

Follow Hogg's Lane to the A6, Bolton Road. Opposite is a white boundary stone showing where Chorley begins and Duxbury ends. Turn left over Yarrow Bridge. The original bridge was to the west on the old

pre-1837 road. In 1869 a Mr. Mitchell attempted to walk 1000 miles in 1000 hours in a field behind Yarrow Bridge. Chorley Amateurs played cricket at Yarrow Bridge until 1905.

15 SMITHY AND YARROW BRIDGE INN

Continue along Bolton Road to the Smithy. Blacksmiths created many items from iron and later steel. However, this smithy on a turnpike road would have been particularly busy with shoeing horses. A further hundred metres brings us to the Yarrow Bridge Inn, (3.5 miles/5.7kms), once known as The Standish Arms. The original Inn was on the bank of the river near the weir before the line of the road was changed. It would have been an important coaching house. In 1813 during the Battle of Duxbury Hall it was a staging point for local constables. In 1859 it became the temporary home of the Standish family after the fire at Duxbury Hall. The Inn was where the Parish Council met for 44 years until its demise in 1934, despite it being illegal to meet in a public house.

16 DUXBURY WEIR AND MILL

Walk on to the traffic lights and cross over to walk on the right along Myles Standish Way. As you cross the River Yarrow again, the Mill Weir is on the right. A 730 metre mill race ran from the weir to the mill pond. As you walk further up Myles Standish Way you are walking over the remains of Duxbury Colliery. After passing the entrance to the new housing, cross over the road and shortly take the



signed footpath into the woods. Behind the modern pumping station on the left is the overgrown mill pond. Continue, ignoring the signed footpath to the right. The path narrows, but continue with an old low stone wall on your right to reach the ruined Duxbury Corn Mill. (4miles/6.5kms) Take care exploring



this ruin, which was originally four storeys high, but see where the mill race would have fed the mill wheel. The origins of Duxbury Mill are medieval and for most of its working life until closure in 1906 it belonged to the Duxbury Estate. However, its millstones will have turned corn to flour for many local farmers and landowners. The mill and its location inspired the local writer and poet John Wilson to write around 1900:

*Duxbury Mill most weatherworn
And picturesque of places,
Doth still thy pleasant banks adorn,
And with thine aid still grinds the corn.*

The mill was demolished after the First World War.

17 NORTH (CHORLEY) LODGE

From the Corn Mill, retrace your steps to Bolton road. Turn right for 30 metres and then right again to enter Duxbury Park by the North Lodge. (4.5 miles/7.3kms) Sadly, it is no longer inhabited, but it was built in the Greek Doric style, with fluted columns, and could pre-date 1828.



Notice the Standish coat of arms above the door.

The trail draws to an end by following the path, and later the road, through the beautiful park and back to the car park.

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