

## **Trip Report - Sunday 17th November 2019**

**Location** : Helmshore, near Rottenstall, East Lancashire

**Distance** : 8.75 miles

**Ascent** : 1169 feet

**Weather** : Overcast, wet at first, drier later.

**Squad** : Tony, Lynn, Ann, Jim, Colin, Mike W, Selina, Ali, Dave, Mike A.

**Mutts**: Riley.

A not too early departure and to an area just over an hour's drive was still not enough to encourage more than 10 BUMs to join us on Sunday ramble over the hills and moorland of East Lancashire. Lesley was all ready to join us but at the last minute had to go to her mum who needed a bit of help.

I'd decided to follow and then extend a trail from the [visitlancashire.com](http://visitlancashire.com) website called "Musbury Heights and Helmshore" which was described as a walk offering "Stunning scenery and fantastic views" and which was probably the case when the publication's author was there in June but not really for us in cold and damp November.

We started at Helmshore Mills Textile Museum which curiously was closed and in a fair bit of drizzle we made our way up the side of Tor Hill. I always seem to have trouble navigating at the start of my walks and this one was even more difficult after I fell over and my map and printed guide were splattered with mud - many thanks to Ann for using most of her paper tissues to clean the map !

After the part-ascent of Tor Hill the path joined the Rossendale Way complete with its easy to follow RW signposts. We contoured round open moorland and did have by now decent views across the fells. We had a coffee stop by a derelict farm building and hoped the rain would ease off a bit, the soggy ground proving a great test for Dave's new Warm and Dry boots.

The trail headed towards a number of reservoirs and up onto Musbury Heights with its old quarry buildings and tall chimney which Jim remarked looked like a stretched trig-point. The RW trail followed the southern side of Ogden reservoir and then entered lovely wooded area by the smaller Calf Hey reservoir. With stomachs starting to rumble we found a pleasant and nearly warm and dry spot for lunch squatting under some large conifer trees.

After lunch the rain eased off a bit and we walked through the ruins of Haslingden Grane. Over a hundred years ago it had a population of 1300 but with the shift of workers from farming to the textile mills and the building of the reservoirs it became completely deserted.

We left RW to join a path which eventually took us down the valley and across the Calf Hey reservoir dam wall and back once again onto the RW. The path back to the cars lay ahead

but not before United Utilities decided to re-route us down a very muddy path saved by a much nicer walk along the banks of Holden Wood reservoir.

After a look at an interesting road-side farm complete with an Alpaca, hens and geese we arrived back at the Museum car park. Saying our goodbyes to Dave and Ali we drove back to Bunbury and had our usual re-hydration session at the Dysart warmed by the fire and beers etc.

Tony