Instructions to correspond numbers on the map:

1. The walk starts outside Balderstone Library. With the library on your left, follow the path around and turn left past the playground on your right, across the park to the corner of Weep Avenue and down to Balderstone Road. Cross the road, turn right and follow the road up the hill, for about 10 minutes, until the Strand shops where you turn left into Ruskin Road (Opposite the shops).

2. Continue up the hill, across Hill Park along the way.

3. Continue between the farm buildings and through a small gate into a field on the left. Through the gate head upwards, heading slightly right and up to the Hayton War Memorial on top of Tandle Hill.

4. Follow the public footpath sign past the right hand side of the garage and continue alongside the fishing lodges, over the motorway and through a little wood and out onto Thornham New Road.

5. Cross the road and follow the track opposite for about 50m. Look out for the white barrier where the track turns left, turn right here down a short grassy path to a stile into the field. Turn left over the stile and follow along the field edge, over 4 stiles, up to the house at the field corner. After the stile follow the pasture path for 50m until it meets Thornham Lane.

6. Turn left over Thornham Lane and continue along this road, over the A267 (M) motorway, and round until you come to the Tandle Hill Tavern pub. Turn right and up the track immediately before the pub.

7. Continue between the farm buildings and through a small gate into a field on the left. Through the gate head upwards, heading slightly right and up to the Hayton War Memorial on top of Tandle Hill.

8. After the Memorial, take the path on the right (from the direction you came in) down a steep slope and a set of steps. At the bottom of the steps turn right and follow this path until it meets a rough tarman track. Turn right and follow this down, through the woods to the pinch gap at the bottom and onto the road. (To explore the beech woods turn left at the steps.)

9. Turn right and follow the road, marked the Oldham way, past the farm buildings and through a farm gate across the road, ignore the turning on the left, turn and follow the track round and underneath the motorway bridge.

10. Turn over the bridge and back along the path towards the woods. Immediately after the short path between the ponds, cross over the three bar stile on the left into the corner of the field. Turn right over the stile, head upwards and across the field towards the opposite hedge. Follow the hedge along and over the stile in the left hand corner of the field.

11. Veer to the left, across the field to the far left hand corner and over the stile near the farm buildings. Follow the path past the garages into Stake Hill Lane. Turn right along the road which eventually narrows and passes a row of cottages and over the motorway. After the bridge continue down the road to the junction at Thornham Lane.

12. Turn right and follow the road up past the school. Turn left onto the narrow footpath alongside the house where you joined Thornham Lane earlier on. Retrace your steps back to Thornham New Road (map point 4). Over the road take the right hand footpath along the woodland edge, over the footbridge and onto the road by the fishing lodges (Map point 3). Turn right opposite the forge along the path behind the houses. Turn right where it meets Cripple Gate Lane (Map point 2), over the bridge and back down Ruskin Road to the Library.
Be safe, plan ahead and follow signs.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under close control, consider other people.

For this walk we recommend wearing stout shoes or boots and taking waterproofs, some food, a drink and a first aid kit.

The Royton War Memorial, (Map point 8) situated at the highest point of Tandle Hill, commemorates the men of Royton who lost their lives in the First World War. It was unveiled in 1921 and originally included a bronze figure of an angel, which was unfortunately stolen after the Second World War.

The fishing lakes (Map point 4) were once used to feed the huge Samuel Barlow’s Bleach works which stood at Stakehill where the industrial estate is today. This was in operation between the mid-1800s and 1930s. Many of the footpaths used today where created by the people from Slattocks and further a-field travelling to work there.

Thornham Lane (Map point 6) was an old packhorse route, thought to be the first route in the area connecting Lancashire to Yorkshire. The Tandle Hill Tavern (Map point 7), an important hostelry along the route, is a good place to stop for lunch at the weekends. Many more trans-Pennine routes where to come, culminating in England’s highest motorway, the M62, which opened in 1971.

Pennine Edget Forest

Countryside CODE

For more information on the Pennine Edge Forest, please contact Rochdale MBC Strategic Planning:

01706 924234

Pennine Edge Forest, Rochdale Council, PO Box 32, Telegraph House, Baillie Street, Rochdale, OL16 1JH

PEF@rochdale.gov.uk

Tandle Hill Country Park is 110 acres of beech woods and open spaces. Tandle Hill itself is nearly 728ft (222m) high and gives excellent panoramic views over to Manchester and the Pennine Hills (Map point 8). The Park was opened in 1919, a gift from Mr Norris Bradbury Esq. J.P to celebrate peace after the First World War, to be used for “people’s enjoyment and freedom forever”. It became a Country Park in 1971. The Royton War Memorial sits at the highest point. During October, the beech woods are one of the best places to find fungi in the region.

Tandle Hill means ‘Fire Hill’ and was the venue for many fiery political meetings connected with the Peterloo Massacre at St Peters Field, Manchester in 1819. The beech wood was planted to prevent it being suitable for other political meetings.

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