



# 15 LANCASHIRE WINTER HILL

▶ Distance: 5½ miles/8.5km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



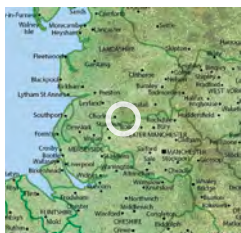
SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 58

The transmitter-topped summit of Winter Hill.



PHOTO: NICK HALLISSEY

## PLAN YOUR WALK



### ROUTE

**Start/parking** Low House car park, Rivington ('Pigeon Tower car park' or 'Belmont Road car park' on Google Maps), grid ref SD637148

**Is it for me?** Much of the walk is over exposed moorland which can be boggy. Navigation mostly clear, but finding path off summit can be tricky

**Stiles** None

### PLANNING

**Nearest town** Horwich

**Refreshments**

Nearest in Rivington

**Public toilets** None

**Public transport** None

**Maps** OS Explorer 287, Landranger 109



CHOSEN BY...

**NICK HALLISSEY**

Winter Hill is a broad moorland topped by a complex of distinctive transmitter masts. Its prominence gives it vast views across north Manchester, the West Pennine Moors and the Irish Sea; you might even see Snowdonia on a good day! This route soaks up the best views, as well as climbing the distinctive little peak of Rivington Pike and exploring the fascinating ruins of Rivington Terraced Gardens, originally built for soap magnate Lord Lever.

### 1 Start

Emerging from Low House car park, turn L. Track splits in

two; take L fork, climbing steadily for under ½ mile. Track becomes uneven but eventually reaches the Pigeon Tower, part of Rivington Terraced Gardens.

### 2 ½ mile/0.75km

Turn sharp L, almost back on yourself, and follow a second track (Belmont Road) leading NE away from tower. Follow for 2km, passing edge of a plantation, to eventually reach road at Moor Bottom.

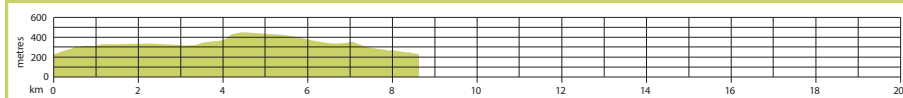
### 3 2 miles/3.15km

Turn R and follow road for 200 yards to reach Blackburn with Darwen road sign. Here turn R through a kissing gate. Climb steadily beside a tumbledown wall, with Winter Hill summit (marked by

transmitter masts) in view ahead. Path eventually climbs more steeply. Towards top of steep slope, a gentler path veers L, leading to summit ridge and first of the transmitter masts.



## GRADIENT PROFILE



15 LANCASHIRE  
WINTER HILL▶ OS Explorer map 287 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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DATE WALKED  
  
  
TIME TAKEN  
YOUR RATING  
  
  
  
  
**4 2½ miles/4.1km**

Turn L, passing L of mast. Stay R on fence and join road leading through antenna complex. Detour L after third mast to trig point at highest point of Winter Hill. Return to road, turn L. Follow road, which soon bends sharply R and passes largest transmitter, R.

**5 3 miles/4.9km**

Just after big transmitter, locate path heading diagonally R off road, going between two outer anchor struts of mast. Cross causeway towards outer strut. Path becomes more obvious, leading towards edge of plateau. Descending flank of

hill, path becomes wider (boggy in places). Rivington Pike now appears ahead and below, along with excellent views. Descend to cross stream.

**6 4 miles/6.5km**

Continue ahead to reach crossing track. Cross this, climb slightly, passing through kissing gate. At next track, turn L and follow track which winds uphill to summit of Rivington Pike, marked by tower.

**7 4½ miles/7km**

Descend flight of steps east of tower. At bottom, do not follow main track but branch L on grassy path leading down to

trees. Go through kissing gate, cross broad track to reach another kissing gate. Go through and turn R, entering Rivington Terraced Gardens. Explore these at your leisure, but eventually return to lowest main track to pass beneath impressive Seven Arch Bridge. Continue on track downhill to return to car park. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

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