




# HERITAGE trail 2

## GREENBOOTH FROM ROOLEY MOOR



**KEY:**  
 - - - Heritage Trail 2 (Greenbooth)  
 🚶 Walking Distance

Access all Heritage Trail information through this QR Code



[www.RMNF.org.uk](http://www.RMNF.org.uk)

Produced by Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum CIO

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# Greenbooth & Naden Reservoirs

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**Commonly known as Greenbooth, there is actually a network of four reservoirs here, arranged in a line stretching up the valley. The lowest is Greenbooth, followed by Lower Naden, Middle Naden, and lastly Upper Naden to the far north. More recently the three Naden reservoirs have been combined into two.**

The Naden reservoirs were initially created by the Heywood Water Company in 1846, and Greenbooth was completed in 1961 at a cost of over £2m. The dam on the south side of Greenbooth is 117 feet high and 1,000 feet long. Today, Greenbooth Reservoir carries 700,000,000 gallons of water and measures 40m high and 300m long.

Naden and Greenbooth were both upland communities that were flooded to make way for the new reservoirs. Greenbooth was at one time home to a woollen mill where many of the villagers worked, and a coalpit that supplied coal to the mills and cottages. Local farms would have provided the majority of the food for the villagers. In the 1950s Greenbooth (once known as Green Booth and Green Booth Woods) was home to approximately 80 cottages, a sweet shop, a Co-Op store and a school. The village did not contain a pub or a church, and children had to walk over 2 miles to the nearest Sunday School.

The woollen mill (built during the 1840s on the site of a former corn mill) produced woollen flannel primarily, and was owned by James Butterworth. James was almost certainly responsible for the creation of the entire village, which consisted of two rows of terraced houses and some larger cottages for the managers. James's daughter married Mr R.H.Hutchinson, and their two sons later managed the mill. They went bankrupt in 1911, the mill closed, and people began to move away from the village. The small village school closed in 1930. Electricity was, apparently, never installed to the village.

If you walk down to the lower dam of Greenbooth you will see the only remaining visible reminder of Greenbooth village on the dam wall – a plaque that reads, *"This tablet commemorates the village of Greenbooth, the site of which is submerged beneath the waters of this reservoir"*

Many tales surround the old village of Greenbooth including that the skeletons of villagers remain under the water, that the old houses remain standing and are inhabited by giant pike, and that a figure of a lady can regularly be seen in the mist around the ruins of Naden Dean and Naden Head Farms which are now submerged.



# The Heritage Trail Description

**Recommended Start Point:** We recommend you start the walk from Catley Lane Head village on Rooley Moor Road, OL12 6BN. OS Grid Reference SD 872 158. There is ample roadside parking in and around the village, but please park with consideration for the local residents. There is also a regular bus service from Rochdale and Bury to Daniel Fold, from where it is only a short walk uphill to the village.

**Distance:** 2.9 miles (4.7 kilometres)

**Walk Overview:** Uncover the past and find out more about the rich history of the area on this moderate circular walk. It is important that you wear appropriate footwear and warm waterproof clothing as some sections of the walk can be muddy and the weather can change very quickly. In poor weather the route can be encased in cloud. We suggest you take some food and a drink with you as well.

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead at all times. You may encounter some farm animals and farm traffic on your route.

There are litterbins at the top and bottom of the village – please put any rubbish in there (including from your dogs).

The last page of this booklet gives you some other ideas of places to visit in the area, and we recommend you take a look at the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum website ([www.rmnf.org.uk](http://www.rmnf.org.uk)) for more information about the routes and about the tremendously varied history of the area.

# THE ROUTE

## Catley Lane Head (A) to Fernhill (B)

Starting at the cattle grid in Catley Lane Head, turn down the hill (with the Cotton Famine Road behind you) and walk down the road through the village, passing the end of Smallshaw Road on your left (where the corner shop used to be) and down past the site of the former Methodist Chapel on your right. You will have also passed the site of what used to be the Black Dog pub (now further down the road) and the tearooms at the Doldrums.

After leaving the village, continue downhill until you see Fairview Cottages on your left (the site of John Bright's first talk on temperance).

Turn right directly opposite Fairview, down the tarmacked lane (Fern Hill Lane) marked as a footpath and signposted towards Fern Hill B&B. Follow this single-track lane as it bends to the left and then to the right and past the turn off to the B&B on your left. After the garage on your right, go between the two houses – Owd House is on your right – it was built in 1691. Notice the interesting porch of this Grade II listed building. The hamlet you are now in is called Fern Hill and contains two listed buildings. The top floor of one of the buildings in the hamlet was the location of a busy Wesleyan Sunday School.

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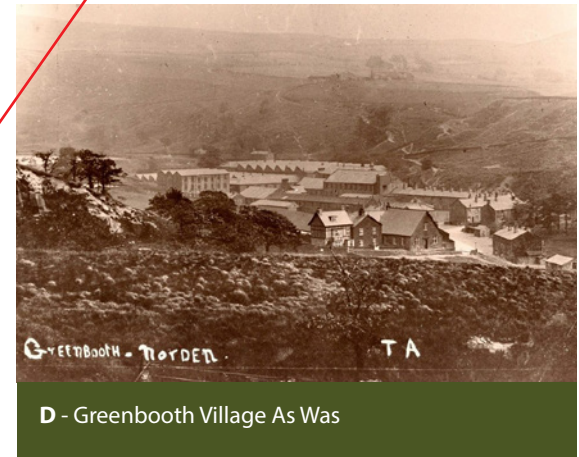
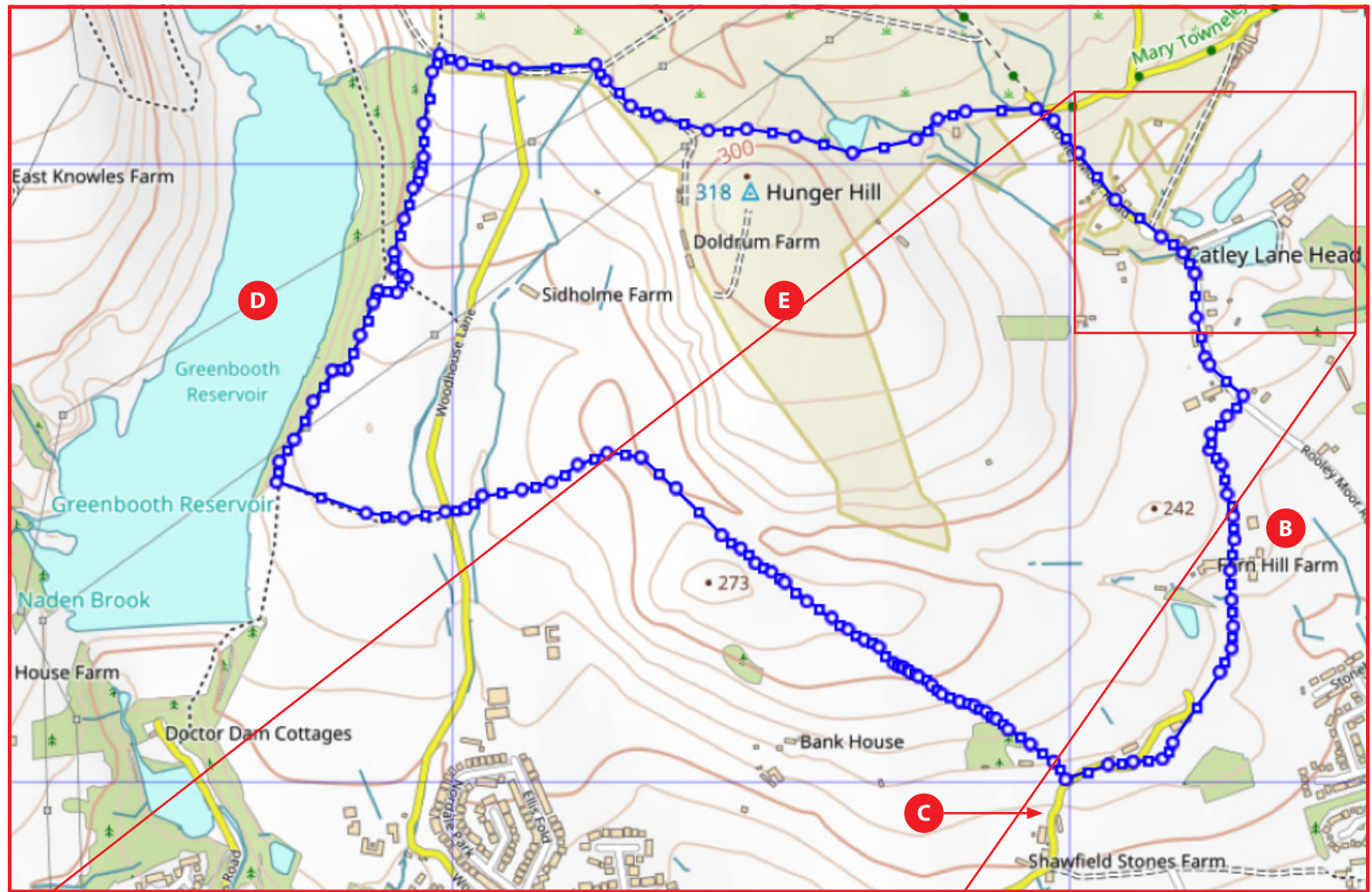
A - Catley Lane Head – ROUTE START



B - Fern Hill Hamlet with listed buildings



E - Hunger Hill Farm



D - Greenbooth Village As Was

# THE ROUTE continued

## Fernhill (B) to Shawfield (C)

Immediately after passing through the two houses notice a break in the low wall to your left and walk through the narrow gap near the telegraph pole. Follow the flagged path that takes you straight down into the field and back up the other side. After coming back up the other side, pass over a wooden stile and follow the path with the wall / fence on your right. Cross the lane and go through the wooden gate, following the path straight across the field to the left of the conifers and corrugated fence. Go through the gate and follow the path to the right hand side of the small pond, keeping to the lower right hand side of the small hillock and through the next stone stile with wooden gate. You will see a farmyard and a row of conifers on your right (the other side of the fence). Keeping the fence and farmyard to your right, pass the dovecote and carry on alongside the farm track. Pass through a wooden gate and bear left downhill onto the track. The entrance to White Lees Farm will be behind you as you turn down the lane. You are now approaching the hamlet of Shawfield.



## Shawfield (C) to Greenbooth (D)

Keeping a stone wall to your right, in a very short distance the wall ends and you will see a footpath waymarker. Turn right here and follow the path, keeping to the right, up the hill. Keeping the wind turbine to your right, you will come to an old metal kissing gate. Pass through the gate and continue to follow the path to a narrow wooden pedestrian gate on the right. Go through that gate and turn left, walking along the top of the field keeping the valley on your right and staying along the top of the field. You will see Knowl Hill directly ahead of you. Go through the double gate in the dry stone wall and continue straight ahead to another wooden gate just after 2 large trees, where you will turn off to the left. Follow the path downhill, noticing the new housing development at Greenbooth ahead of you. Pass between two stone gateposts and head steeply downhill on the right side of the field. You will come to a wooden gate that takes you across wooden planks over Woodhouse Lane Brook. Cross the brook and come back up out from the dip, through the gate and down the narrow steps onto Woodhouse Lane.

Cross Woodhouse Lane and take the wooden gate onto the track directly opposite. Follow the track until you meet a metal pedestrian gate. Go through the gate and turn right along the footpath that follows the upper edge of Greenbooth Reservoir.

## Greenbooth (D) to Hunger Hill (E)

Continue uphill alongside the reservoir on the upper path, at one stage going up some steps, until you reach a cattle grid and gate. Turn right through the gate and across the top of the car park. Pass the top of Woodhouse Lane and the next cattle grid on your right, and notice Hunger Hill in front of you with a farmhouse on the right hand side of the hill and a radio mast on top of the hill. The track from the car park to Hunger Hill is tarmacked. Make your way along the road as if you were going to the farm on the hillside. Before you get to the farm entrance, which is a private residence, you will be at the base of the pylon on your right. On the opposite side from the pylon



there is a line of large rectangular stone blocks. This is the start of the footpath taking you around the base of Hunger Hill.



## Hunger Hill (E) to Catley Lane Head (A)

Follow the path clockwise around Hunger Hill keeping the hill on your right. After a short distance you will see a small pond on your left (Wham Dam). Watch out for herons feeding in the shallows.

Walk past the pond and you will see a cluster of farm buildings with corrugated roofs on your right. Walk past the farm buildings and out onto a stone flagged path that takes you to a steel gate. Go through the gap at the side of the gate and turn back down onto Rooley Moor Road and back down to the start of the trail. Look out for Hunger Hill Farm on your right as the road continues down. Notice the mullion windows picked out in lighter colours. These are typical of the 16th and 17th century cottages designed to let in as much light as possible for the weavers to work.

# About Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum CIO

Working together to protect and enhance our environment! We created the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum because we share a common purpose and objective to protect and enhance our neighbourhood and to make it an area that is vibrant, socially inclusive, and generally the greenest, safest place to live, work and enjoy. Forum members are individuals who either live, work or regularly pursue leisure activities (walking, horse riding, cycling, ornithology, fishing, etc) in the Rooley Moor area.

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum is a registered charity, Charity number 1165601

Contact us for more information at [www.RMNF.org.uk](http://www.RMNF.org.uk) and if you would like to support our aims, please join us or make a donation! Email: [info@rmnf.org.uk](mailto:info@rmnf.org.uk).

## Thanks to our Supporters

The work of the forum would not be possible without the fantastic support of the local community. We are truly fortunate to have a network of people who are interested in understanding and sharing the fascinating and varied heritage of our area.

We would also like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund who are supporting us with a Sharing Heritage grant to research and develop our website, area signage and heritage trails. The Ramblers Association have helped us to develop and present this trail, and we continue to work alongside Rochdale Council to develop our Neighbourhood Plan and promote this amazing area here on the outskirts of the Borough.

# Other Things in the Area

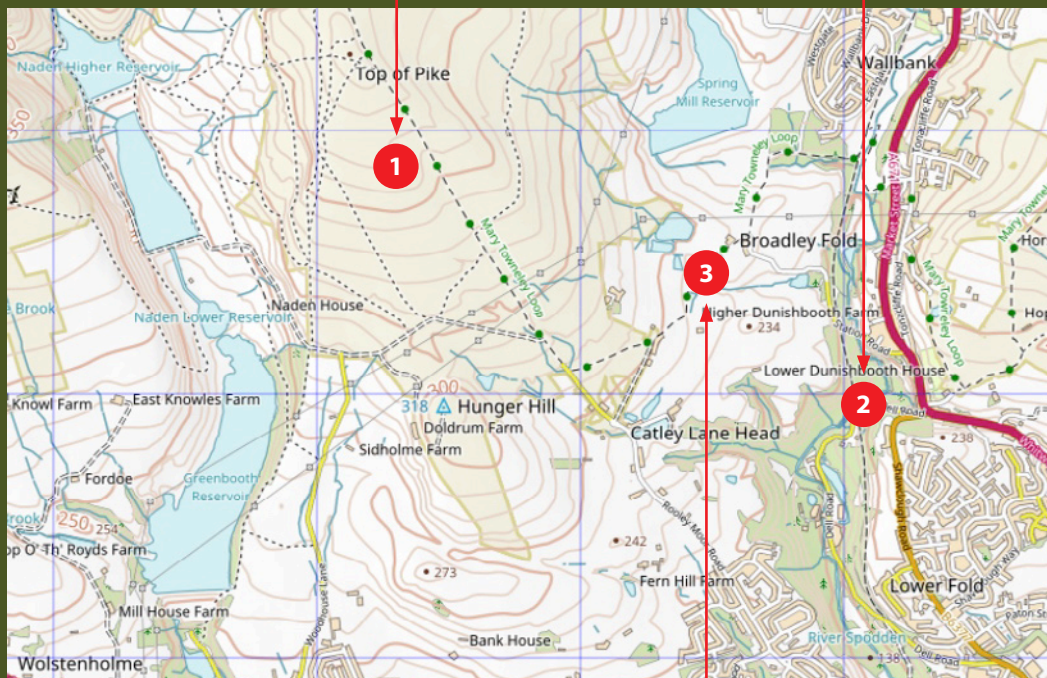
We really do hope you enjoyed your walk around Rooley Moor. The Neighbourhood Forum have been doing lots of other work in the area and we recommend you visit our website to find out more about other local history and alternative routes.

## 1. The Old Moorcock Inn

For many years the Old Moorcock Inn welcomed people traversing Rooley Moor along the cobbled cotton famine road.

## 2. Healey Dell

Formerly the site of a WW2 munitions factory. Here you can cross the old railway viaduct and take a walk through the nature reserve. There is also parking, tea rooms and heritage centre to visit.



## 3. Prickshaw & Broadley Fold

A former textile hamlet, designated a conservation area in 1987.



Please scan the QR code to find more information about the Rooley Moor area. You can also pick up a GPX of the route from our website. Pictures provided by Forum members. Leaflet produced by Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum in November 2018.