



WALK REPORT

SIMONSTONE TO TOWNELEY HALL WALK

SIMONSTONE, RIBBLE VALLEY, LANCASHIRE
TO TOWNELEY HALL, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE

- DATE:** 17 May 2026 (Saturday)
- TIME:** Approximately 11:30 AM
- WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Overcast
- HABITAT TYPES:** Disused railway line, woodland corridors, hedgerows, open grassland, urban fringe habitat








ROUTE SUMMARY

Beginning in Simonstone, the walk followed the route of the former railway line towards Burnley. The railway path provided a pleasant traffic-free section through woodland and open countryside before reaching Padiham.

Beyond Padiham, the route continued via local roads and footways into Burnley, finishing at Towneley Hall and its surrounding parkland.

- WALK DURATION:** Approximately 2½ hours
- DISTANCE:** Approximately 6.6 miles
- DIFFICULTY:** Easy to moderate. Generally level, with the former railway line providing excellent walking conditions. Some road walking is required after Padiham.

BIRDS IDENTIFIED (8 SPECIES)

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. |  | Goldcrest
<i>Regulus regulus</i> | Heard and seen in woodland and scrub. |
| 2. |  | Eurasian Blue Tit
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | Common in trees and along the route. |
| 3. |  | Carrion Crow
<i>Corvus corone</i> | Frequently seen throughout. |
| 4. |  | European Robin
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | Regularly observed along the path. |
| 5. |  | Eurasian Jackdaw
<i>Corvus monedula</i> | Seen in fields and near buildings. |
| 6. |  | Eurasian Wren
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | Heard singing in hedges and scrub. |
| 7. |  | Rook
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | Seen in fields and flying overhead. |
| 8. |  | European Goldfinch
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | Seen feeding along hedgerows. |



Towneley Hall grounds, Burnley, Lancashire



UPLOADED PHOTOS

Yes



MERLIN BIRD ID SCREENSHOTS INCLUDED

Yes



NOTABLE SIGHTING

The Goldcrest was a particularly notable sighting on this walk – Britain's smallest bird and a delight to hear and see in the woodland habitat.



GENERAL WALK NOTES

The former railway line provided an excellent, traffic-free green corridor with mature trees, hedgerows and scrub, offering good habitat for a variety of woodland and farmland bird species.

Once past Padiham, the route continued via local roads and footways into Burnley, finishing at the beautiful Towneley Hall parkland.

Despite the overcast conditions, bird activity was steady throughout the walk, with several species heard singing along the railway path.



CHECKLIST SUMMARY

Total Species Identified: 8

Most Notable Species:
Goldcrest

Merlin Bird ID Records:
Included in report documentation

Website:
feathertrailuk.co.uk

