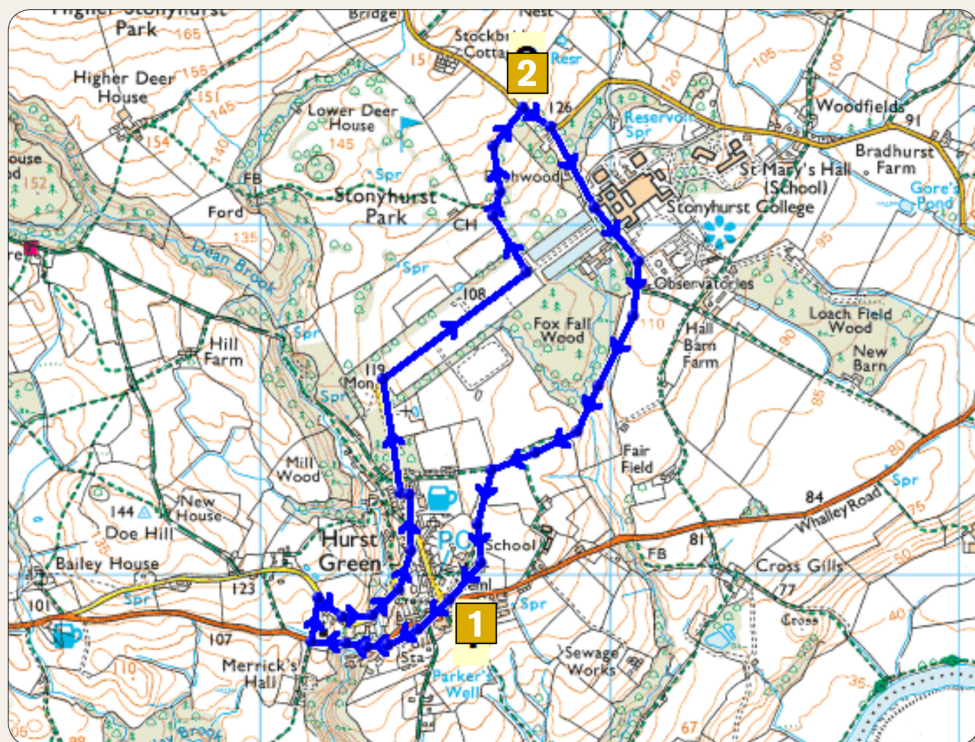


Hurst Green & Stonyhurst

Close by Hurst Green the River Ribble is joined by the Hodder and the Calder on a great bend of the river. The area has a literary association with 'Lord of the Rings' author J.R.R. Tolkien. His son attended nearby Stonyhurst College and the landscape provided the inspiration for the Shire, home of hobbit heroes Bilbo and Frodo Baggins.



START: Hurst Green - opposite the war memorial. BB7 9QB

WALK DISTANCE: 2½ miles (4km)

WALK TIME: 1½-2 hours

MAP: OS Explorer 287 The West Pennine Moors

DIRECTIONS TO THE START OF THE WALK BY CAR

From the hotel turn right out of the car park onto Northcote Road. Follow to Old Langho and turn left passing the Black Bull public house. Take the next left turn and follow until arriving at a T junction. Turn right over the bridge and proceed until the first right turn (Gallows Lane). Follow to a T junction then turn right to head to Hurst Green.



Points of Interest at Hurst Green

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THE MEMORIAL AT ST JOHN'S

In the quiet churchyard of St. John the Evangelist, there is a obelisk memorial dedicated to Ikutaro Sugi, a 'Japanese Subject' who died in October 1905 at the age of 30 but what was his story?

Local enquiries yielded no results. However there was a significant piece of information on the memorial. It revealed he was an 'assistant commissioner in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs' (CIMC). A web search led to Bristol University where a team was investigating the vast archive of the CIMC, a branch of the Imperial Chinese government mainly staffed by foreign personnel. At its head was the remarkable Ulsterman Sir Robert Hart who directed the work of the service as inspector-general for a period of 44 years (1864-1908).

Through Professor Bickers and Dr Weipin Tsai at we were able to ascertain that Ikutaro had been recruited into the service as a translator and teacher in 1898 working in Peking (Beijing) arriving in England in late 1900. It appears he suffered with ill health during his last years. By June 1905 he was receiving treatment for TB in Southport. From here, on 18th October 1905, he wrote one of his last letters. In it he states he had no hope of getting better and he would "go back to Stonyhurst while I can still travel".

Less than two weeks later he died at Fairfield House, close by the college. His funeral took place on Thursday 2nd November, 1905. As Professor Bickers noted "This is a sad little story" but some solace may be derived from the fact that Sugi's resting place is in one of the loveliest corners of England.



WALK DIRECTIONS:

1 Facing the Shireburn Arms turn right on Longridge Road and follow it as it dips through a wooded dell and climbs up to the church of St John the Evangelist. Pass through the lych gate and keep to the left of the building to locate Sugi's memorial. Leave via a gateway situated at the rear of the churchyard. Turn left and then right on a lane quickly reaching a junction.

Turn right onto the Deane which dips down to pass some cottages before climbing up to Avenue Road opposite the Bayley Arms. Turn left, passing the village hall and the superb alms house and into the grounds of Stonyhurst College. Little here prepares you for the magnificence when you reach the right turn taking you on to college drive.

Established by the Jesuits during the turbulent period following the Reformation the college moved onto this site at the close of the 18th century, establishing itself as a leading catholic independent school. Over the centuries it has accumulated many

important treasures and collection including an early edition of Shakespeare. Keep on the drive for a short distance but be aware that this is a through road so there will be light traffic. When you reach the ornamental ponds turn left to follow the lane past the golf club and onto the junction with Stockbridge Lane. Turn right.

2 This part of the walk will give you a close up view of Stonyhurst. As you reach the first bend in the lane turn right through the entrance onto a public footpath that takes you past the front of the college.

Beyond the drive on your left is the chapel and just after this, on the right, is a footpath that will take you back to the village. With playing fields on the left the path descends gently to the corner of Fox Hall Wood.

Here bear right and after crossing two fields take a footpath on the left leading to The Warren a residential lane leading to Avenue Road opposite the War Memorial.

