

Nº 4: Two Toms

Section I: Whalley to Newchurch-In-Pendle



Tom Stephenson

Distance: 8 miles

Allow: 4 to 5 hours

Level: Strenuous - there are some steep and moderate climbs across open moorland. Map reading skills may be required in misty conditions

Start: Whalley Vale Gardens (Public Transport - Bus services to East Lancashire towns. Train service on Blackburn-Clitheroe line)

Finish: Newchurch-in-Pendle bus stop and toilets (Public Transport - Clitheroe to Nelson bus - not Sundays)

Map: Explorers 287 West Pennine Moors and OL21 South Pennines

Please respect the Countryside Code and be aware how quickly the weather can change in the Pennines. Field path sections may be boggy after wet weather so walking boots are essential!

A linear walk from Whalley to Colne and the Pennine Way.

Celebrating two campaigners for access to the countryside - Tom Stephenson, the creator of the Pennine Way and Thomas A. Leonard, pioneer of cheap outdoor holidays for the working class.

The walk is in three sections. It can be completed as one long challenge walk or in shorter sections with public transport connections.

1 From the memorial garden walk to the mini-roundabout by the Swan Hotel. Turn left here following the pavement past the old village police station. From here you can look opposite down the terrace of Queen Street. The first street on the right branching off Queen Street is Princess Street, where Tom Stephenson lived with his parents and siblings.



2 Continue uphill out of the village. Turn left at the first signed footpath reached and wooden steps lead uphill. Follow the path straight ahead then turn left downhill. Approaching the fence and trees on the right at the bottom of the hill, turn sharp right before you reach a stream.

Follow a grassy path across a footbridge and walk under the A671 bypass. Climb steps and enter Spring Wood at a kissing gate. Turn right along the path to reach the car park/toilets.

3 At the car park entrance cross a stile by a gate on the left. Turn left immediately following the boundary of Whalley golf course. Keep to the left edge and BEWARE FLYING GOLF BALLS! Turn left across a stile and waymarked footbridge. Follow the path through the trees to cross another stile. Continue more steeply uphill heading for trees at the top of the field keeping the fence on the right. The route becomes even more steep at the top to reach a stile in the wall. Rest here awhile and enjoy the good view back towards Spring Wood, the Nab and Whalley Arches.

4 Cross the stile then immediately cross the stile in the fence on the right. Follow the near wall side then walk around the rear of Clerk Hill farm. After the buildings swing right to cross a stile next to a gate. Turn left along the drive to reach a lane. Turn left along the lane and follow it gradually uphill. After passing Bramley Farm it becomes a rougher farm track (a public bridleway) to Wiswell Moor Houses on the left. Continue straight ahead across the stile/gate by the farm where there is a Peak & Northern Footpaths Society signpost.

5 Keep to the track straight ahead signed for the 'Nick of Pendle'. The path becomes a rougher moorland track swinging away from the wall on the right. When it forks into two take the left waymarked fork and the tracks soon merge again. Pass another farm then a barn on the right to reach a field gate onto Clitheroe Road.

6 Cross the road and turn left uphill to the quarry then turn right along the path opposite the quarry parking area. Join the wide track following the ridge towards the spur of Apronfull Hill. Continue straight ahead over the top of the spur

and when the track splits into two with paths running parallel to each other, keep to the right hand track and look out for a path leaving this on the right hand side. Turn right along this path heading straight to a wall snaking uphill. Keep to the path skirting right around the low mound of Badger Wells Hill to reach a kissing gate in the wall.

7 Go through the kissing gate and turn left to follow the path running parallel with the wall. Go through the next kissing gate on the left. Follow the distinct path straight across the plateau of Spence Moor. The top of Pendle Hill can be seen over to the left and straight ahead the Pennines come into view as well as Blacko Tower, Foulridge Reservoir and the towns of East Lancashire.

8 Cross the ladder stile in the wall on the far side of the moor and continue downhill in the same direction along a boggy path (this path can be boggy even in summer). The path leads to a gate and stile at the next boundary. Turn left here following the waymarked path heading towards Fell Wood. The path crosses wall stiles in several fields to reach the corner of the conifer plantation. Follow the wall side keeping the trees on the left. Walk straight ahead to the far corner of the wood. The waymarked Pendle Way is joined at this point so follow the witch waymarkers, continuing straight ahead along the fence line across a few fields of rough pasture. The path then follows the line of a drain to reach a gateway and waymarker post on the left.

9 Turn right here away from the wall. It may be necessary to skirt around the boggy area after wet weather. Aim for a waymarker post in the middle of the field and then straight across to the far side of the field where a stile comes into view. Do not cross this but bear right downhill to a lower waymarked gate. Go through this, turn right down steps to reach the lane by the toilets in Newchurch village.



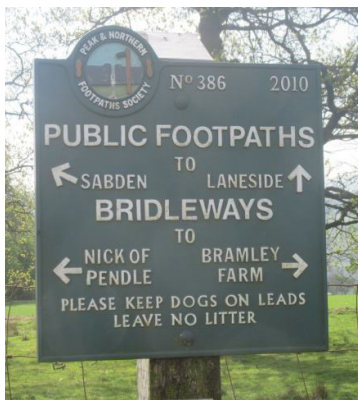
Walking with Radicals

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Tom Stephenson (1893-1987)
 Thomas Criddle Stephenson was born in Chorley, Lancashire. When Tom was a young boy his family moved to a terraced house in Princess Street, Whalley and he started work aged thirteen at a calico printing works in the village. He became a British journalist and worked for Attlee's post-war Labour government. He was a leading champion of national parks, long distance paths, the rights of walkers and the campaign for 'freedom to roam' our mountains and moorland. Tom fought long campaigns to secure access agreements across the grouse moors of the Peak District and the Forest of Bowland. He created the first

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'national trail' in Britain - the Pennine Way - and with T.A. Leonard helped form the Ramblers Association in 1935. Tom was honorary secretary of the Ramblers Association from 1948 to 1969.



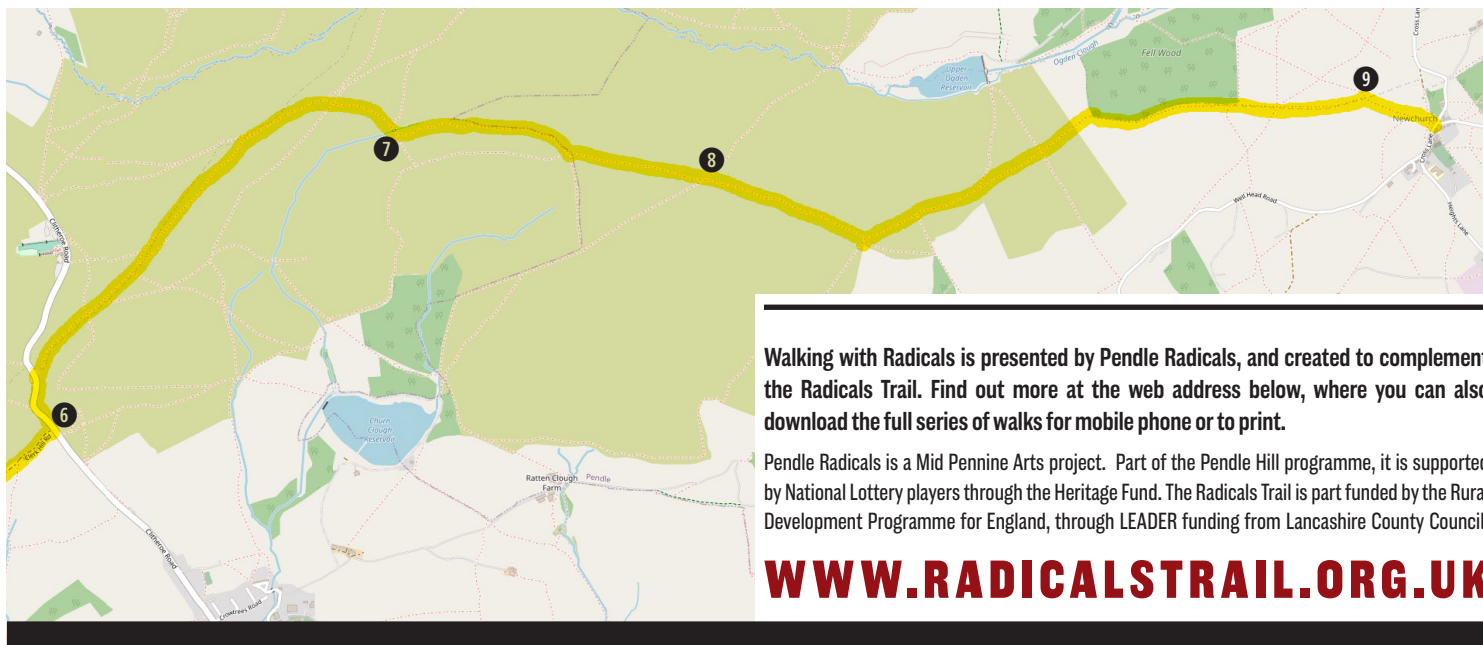
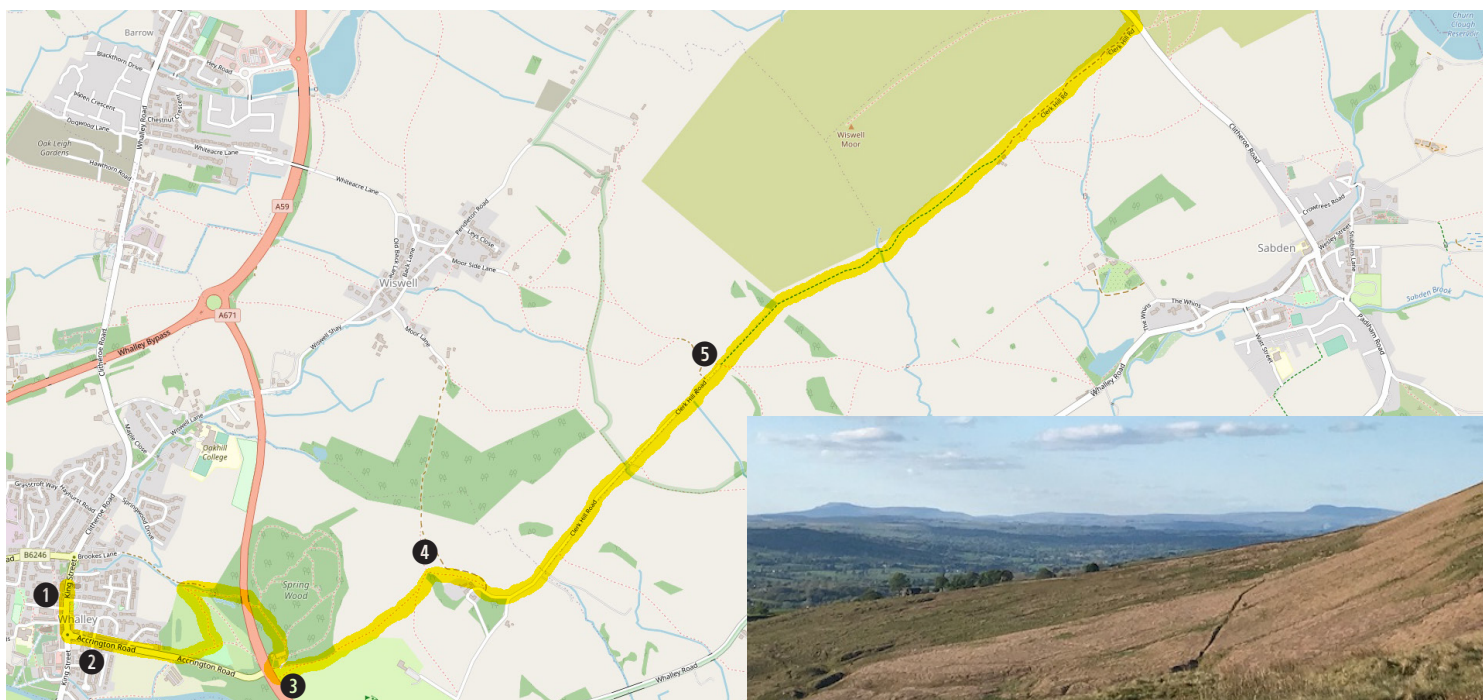
1 At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 Tom Stephenson, a lifelong pacifist, declared himself a conscientious objector at a local tribunal chaired by Father Pennington of Stonhurst College. He ignored his call up in 1917 and was arrested by Whalley's village policeman. He was fined and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour at Wormwood Scrubs.

4 The familiar ornate signs of the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society can be found throughout the Pendle and Bowland areas. The Society can trace its roots back to one of the very first footpath protection societies in the world, the Manchester Association for the Preservation of Ancient Public Footpaths formed in 1826. The inaugural meeting of the Peak and Northern was held at the YMCA building on Peter Street, Manchester in 1896.

6 In 1906, aged thirteen, Tom Stephenson climbed Pendle Hill for the first time from Whalley after just starting work in the village. The view of hills northwards inspired his vision for a long, green trail along the Pennines to the Scottish borders. As a journalist at the 'Daily Herald' he wrote an article about his proposed 'Pennine Way' as early as 1935. He campaigned for it for 30 years and it officially opened in 1965.

"Whatever the cost, it would be a worthy and enduring testimony - bringing health and pleasure beyond computation, for none could walk that Pennine Way without being improved in mind and body, inspired and invigorated and filled with the desire to explore every corner of this lovely island".

Tom Stephenson writing in the *Daily Herald*, 1935.



Walking with Radicals is presented by Pendle Radicals, and created to complement the Radicals Trail. Find out more at the web address below, where you can also download the full series of walks for mobile phone or to print.

Pendle Radicals is a Mid Pennine Arts project. Part of the Pendle Hill programme, it is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund. The Radicals Trail is part funded by the Rural Development Programme for England, through LEADER funding from Lancashire County Council.

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