

Darwen Moors

Distance: 10km **Height:** 400m

Suitable for: Mountain-bikers – Intermediate

Start / Finish Point: Sunnyhurst, Darwen

Parking: Sunnyhurst Woods has a small free car park

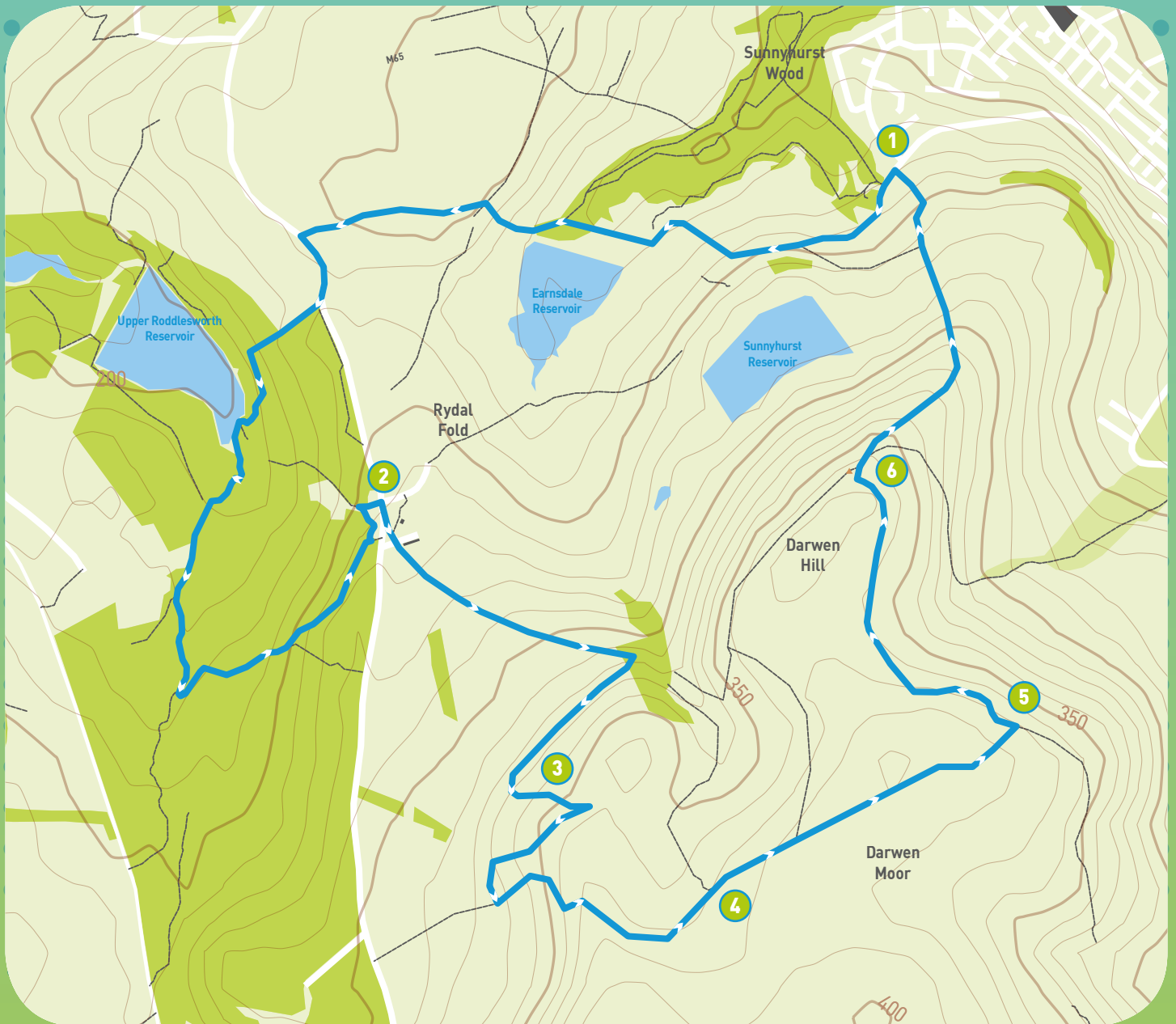
Arrival by train: Darwen Rail Station (approx 1km). Sunnyhurst is signed from the centre of Darwen

Refreshments: Pub in Sunnyhurst, café at Tockholes Visitor Centre **Toilets:** Tockholes visitor centre

General description:

This is a good loop both for someone just starting mountain-biking looking to gain further confidence and ability as well as for regular mountain-bikers after a good training blast or a night ride over the beautiful rugged West Pennine Moors.

A varied circuit of rough track, single-track, short testing climbs and a fast downhill finish.



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Route Description:

- 1** Turn right out of the car-park and follow the track away from Sunnyhurst. Take the right fork by the solitary house to descend and cross the dam. Once the other side of the dam turn left onto loose stone steep track signed to Tockholes. Head straight on at track junction at the top to reach the road. Turn left then right after 25m onto a concessionary bridleway descending through the woods to merge with another track. Continue in the same direction until reaching another track junction. Take the track climbing up to the left, signed to the visitor centre. Follow up to the road with the centre in front.
- 2** Cross the road and ride up a track towards set of terraced houses (Hollinshead Terrace). Turn right onto the bridleway and climb gently up on a stone-based track. Immediately through the second gate turn right through a further adjacent gate. Ride along this track running parallel to the wall with great views across to the Fylde peninsula, the coast and Longridge Fells.
- 3** At a solitary farmhouse the track starts to zig-zag up the hill before levelling out for a short way and even dropping a little. At a track junction, turn left for a final climb to a gate at the edge of the top plateau.
- 4** Pass through a pair of gates to take the middle (of three tracks) now in front of you to cross the plateau – following the footsteps of the 19th century coal miners!
- 5** Turn left and follow the track towards Jubilee Tower.
- 6** The tower makes for an interesting stop - built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee it also celebrated the opening of Darwen Moor to the public after a long fight for access. From the top of the tower on clear days you can see as far as the Fylde coast, the Lake District and North Wales. Head north from the tower following the Witton Way signs. The descent brings you out at the Sunnyhurst pub.

