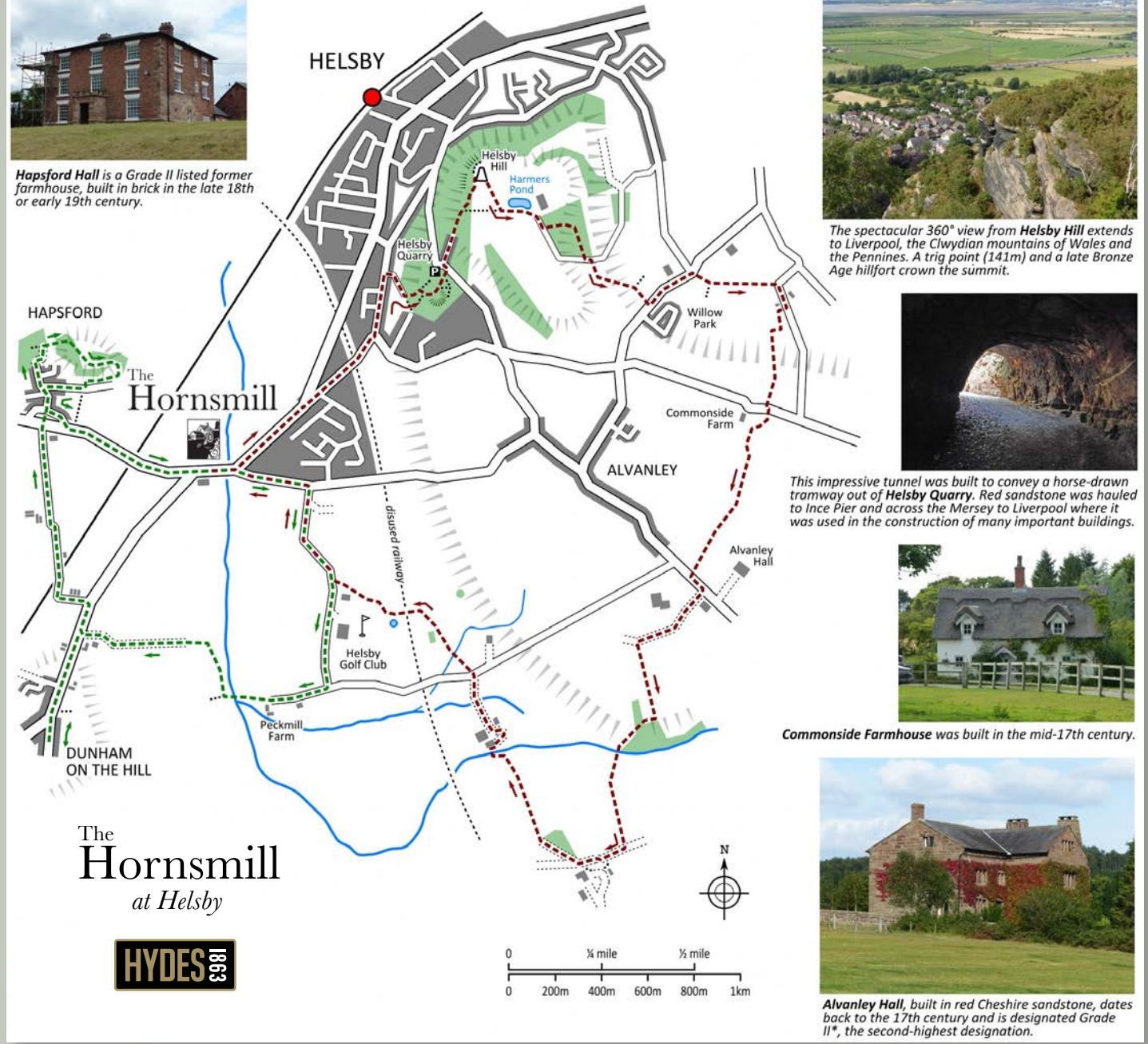
Hapsford Hall *is a Grade II listed former farmhouse, built in brick in the late 18th or early 19th century.*



The spectacular 360° view from ***Helsby Hill*** *extends to Liverpool, the Clwydian mountains of Wales and the Pennines. A trig point (141m) and a late Bronze Age hillfort crown the summit.*

This impressive tunnel was built to convey a horse-drawn tramway out of ***Helsby Quarry****. Red sandstone was hauled to Ince Pier and across the Mersey to Liverpool where it was used in the construction of many important buildings.*

Commonside Farmhouse *was built in the mid-17th century.*

Alvanley Hall*, built in red Cheshire sandstone, dates back to the 17th century and is designated Grade II*, the second-highest designation.*

THE HORNSMILL

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Open: Mon to Thurs: 11.30am-11pm

Fri & Sat: 11.30am-12am, Sunday: Midday-11pm

Food Served: Mon to Sat: 11.30am-9.30pm

Sunday:11.30-9pm

The Hornsmill, Chester Road, Hapsford, Chester, Cheshire WA6 0JE

Two Country Walks From

The Hornsmill at Helsby

PUB & DINING

Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford

3½ or 4¼ miles: Fairly easy

Explore two interesting villages full of historic buildings.

Helsby Hill

6 miles: Moderate

Experience superb views, intriguing industrial relics and a pleasant return through rolling Cheshire countryside.

Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford

3½ or 4¼ miles: Easy

Allow 2 hours. Much of the walk is on surfaced roads, but short sections may be overgrown in summer or wet in winter. An optional "there and back" diversion explores Dunham-on-the-Hill village.

1 From the front entrance, turn left and walk down the A56 towards Helsby. **2** Cross the Hornsmill Brook then turn right into Primrose Lane, signposted to Alvanley and Manley. **3** After 300 yards turn right into Towers Lane (signposted "Helsby Golf Club"). **4** Follow the road for ¼ mile to the golf club entrance and a further ¼ mile beyond, to a T-junction. Turn right into Peck Mill Lane. **5** At the end of the lane, go through a pedestrian gate to the right of the main gate and pass to the right of the property ahead of you to a wooden gate **6** Keep to the right of the next field to a sometimes rather overgrown footbridge. **7** Beyond the stream, keep on in the same direction, looking out for a gate in the hedge on your right. **8** Go through this hedge, and follow the two right-hand sides of the next field to reach a field gate in the far left-hand corner. **9** Follow the attractive track beyond to reach the A56 next to Wood Farm. To explore the intriguing village of Dunham-on-the-Hill, with its old farmhouses and cottages and rock-cut roads, optionally turn left along the main road for quarter of a mile, and then bear left along the main street (Village Road) to Dunham Hall and beyond, returning the same way when you have had your fill. **10** Beyond Wood Farm on the A56, continue away from the village for a further quarter-mile, then turn left into Hapsford Lane. **11** Follow this quiet winding lane for a little over half a mile, crossing the railway along the way. **12** On reaching the A5117, cross carefully, walk across the grass and join the main street in Hapsford (Moor Lane), passing Hapsford Hall on your right. **13** At the end of the metalled road, just beyond the entrance to Moor Court, pass a gate onto a track and follow it to a pumping station, where you bear right then left. **14** At a further gate (beyond which are several large boulders), turn right through a metal kissing gate onto a footpath. **15** Follow this hedged path until it opens out, then walk up through the woodland ahead of you. **16** Once out of the wood, bear right and follow an attractive grassy path through trees and scrub, with glimpses to open fields away to your left. **17** At a wooded corner the official right of way keeps on ahead of you, dropping through the trees to a hand gate overlooking the sewage works, and then turns right along a track to reach the road (Cash Lane); a better-used if unofficial alternative bears right before the trees along the top of a grassy ride, to reach the road via a stile on the left. Whichever route you choose, follow Cash Lane to the right to return to Moor Lane in Hapsford village. **18** Turn left and pass Hapsford Hall again, turning left before the main road to pass an ornate brick barn converted into dwelling accommodation (like Hapsford Hall, a Grade II Listed Building). **19** Leave the village along the metalled footway of the A5117 and follow it until it crosses the railway again, continuing beyond for a short distance back to the Hornsmill.

Helsby Hill

6 miles: Moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. Several steep climbs; beware sheer cliffs if venturing off the path on Helsby Hill. Some paths may be overgrown or muddy depending on the season. Some road walking at the start and end.

1 From the front entrance, turn left and walk down the A56 towards Helsby. **2** Ignore Primrose Lane on the right, keeping along the main road for a further ¼-mile to the next junction. **3** Turn right and follow Robin Hood Lane uphill for ¼ mile, crossing a disused railway before reaching a junction with The Rock. **4** Bear left along Robin Hood Lane, passing Newfield Terrace, Marlborough Drive and Windsor Drive on your left. **5** Just before the footway ends, turn right up Robin Hood Lane, also signposted to Helsby Quarry and Sandy Lane. **6** Bear right to a gate and then left through the short sandstone tunnel into Helsby Quarry. **7** Shortly after the tunnel, go up some steps on your right, and head straight on through an open area on the quarry floor to reach a fenced-off rock face. Bear left and follow the obvious path to the car park. **8** Exit to the road, turn left and then right into Hill Road South. **9** At the end of the road proceed past two gateways into woodland and continue on the obvious path uphill. **10** Keep left at the junction with the path to Harmer's Pond to emerge into open country before reaching the trig point on Helsby Hill. **11** Having admired the views and the impressive sandstone crags, bear right, directly away from the edge to join a sandy descending path alongside a field. **12** At a T-junction of paths turn left past Harmer's Pond, and beyond the gate bear right along the lane. **13** Shortly, take a left turn into Harmer's Wood. At a fork after 100 yards or so bear right, heading downhill and passing to the left of a fenced and overgrown quarry to re-emerge on the lane at a layby with a picnic table (there are several paths within the wood; if in doubt, bear right and downhill and you are sure to emerge on the lane). **14** From the layby turn left and then leave the lane on the right through a metal gate with a Longster Trail waymark. **15** Pass two wooden kissing gates then follow the left-hand edge of the next field to a third. **16** Follow the obvious path beyond, bearing right at a further Longster Trail waymark to a road. **17** Turn left (downhill) and pass the delimit signs, then join a footpath through a kissing gate on the right just before a road junction. **18** Follow the field edge then turn right through a kissing gate and over a footbridge, then bear left and continue in a similar direction with the field edge now on your left. **19** On reaching a narrow lane, turn right (uphill). **20** Beyond a property on the right, turn right over a stile and follow a footpath along the hedge to a wooden footbridge. **21** Turn left along the field edge ad then bear right to a kissing gate above some steps. **23** Follow the uphill path beyond, before crossing the field to another road. **24** Turn left then right through a metal kissing gate, still following the Longster Trail waymarks. **25** Pass discreetly in front of the thatched Commonside Farmhouse and keep left of a horse-riding menage to a stile, then skirt a further paddock to a second. **26** Follow the fence to a projecting corner, then keep straight on across the field to a kissing gate. **27** In the next field aim just to the right of an isolated tree and continue to a stile, with Alvanley Hall away to your left. **28** Cross a couple more fields to reach another road. **29** Cross over and turn left along the pavement, then turn right beyond a postbox into a farm drive; keep along the hedged track beyond a gate, bearing right as you reach open fields. **30** When the track bears right again, turn left to pass an electricity pylon. **31** Follow the field edge with views to your right, then bear right at the end of the field to a waymark and pass through a belt of trees. **32** Bear left and drop down a scrubby bank to a double stile and footbridge. **33** Climb the hill opposite to an obvious stile into a farm track; cross straight over and follow the fence to another stile and track. **34** This time turn right and follow the track as it skirts to the right of a farm. **35** Beyond an area of hard standing, bear right along the bottom of a wood, then pass between two posts and along a hedged path. **36** Cross a perpendicular track to a gate into a damp corner of a field. Aim slightly away from the right-hand field edge and at the far side of the field drop down to a concealed footbridge. **37** Bear right up the far bank to a stile by a barn and turn left and right through the farmyard. **38** Follow the farm drive out to the road. **39** *If the path opposite is under crops it may be prudent to follow the road left, turning right at a junction and rejoining the printed route beyond the golf course at step* **42**. However, if all is well straight ahead, cross the field to the left of a pylon to a footbridge. **40** Cross the next field, keeping to the right of a clump of trees concealing the remains of a pond, then bear left to find an old bridge over the disused railway. **41** In the golf course beyond, pass a pond on your left then bear right, keeping to the right of a line of old trees, to reach the road near the club car park. Turn right. **42** Follow Towers Lane to its junction with Primrose Lane, where you turn left. **43** At the main road, cross carefully then turn left to return to the Hornsmill.

The Hornsmill at Helsby

Come and join us after your long walk for a relaxing pint and a bite to eat in a warm and friendly environment.

Welcome to the Hornsmill at Helsby, a new name and now a wonderful new look.

Following our impressive transformation you'll find the Hornsmill oozes with style, quality and character. Join us to enjoy a superb selection of freshly prepared food and a great range of your favourite drinks.

Text, mapping and photography
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