

TOP RMHT Stage 07: Entwistle to Rawtenstall

↔ 11.3 mi

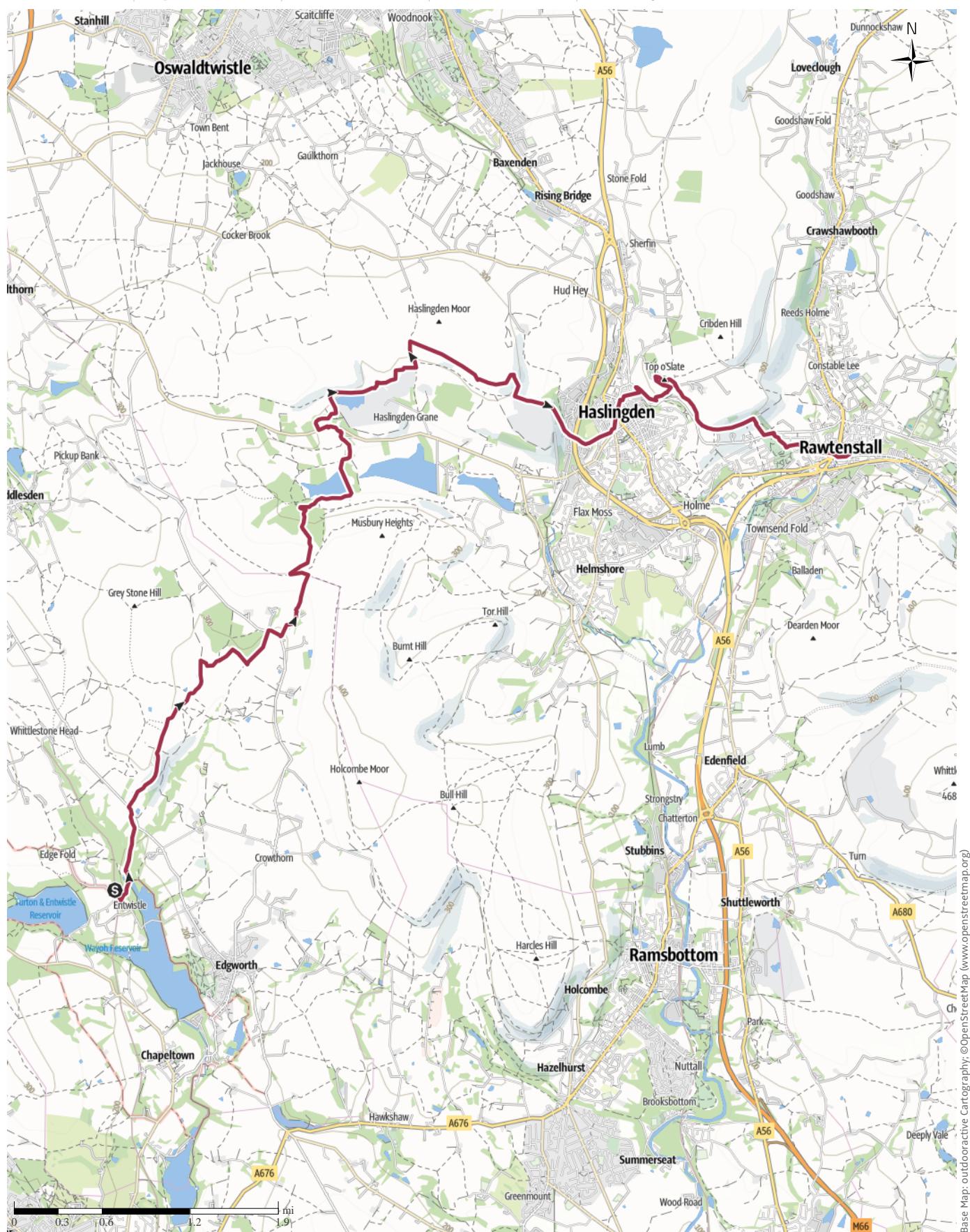
5:10 h

▲↑ 1617ft

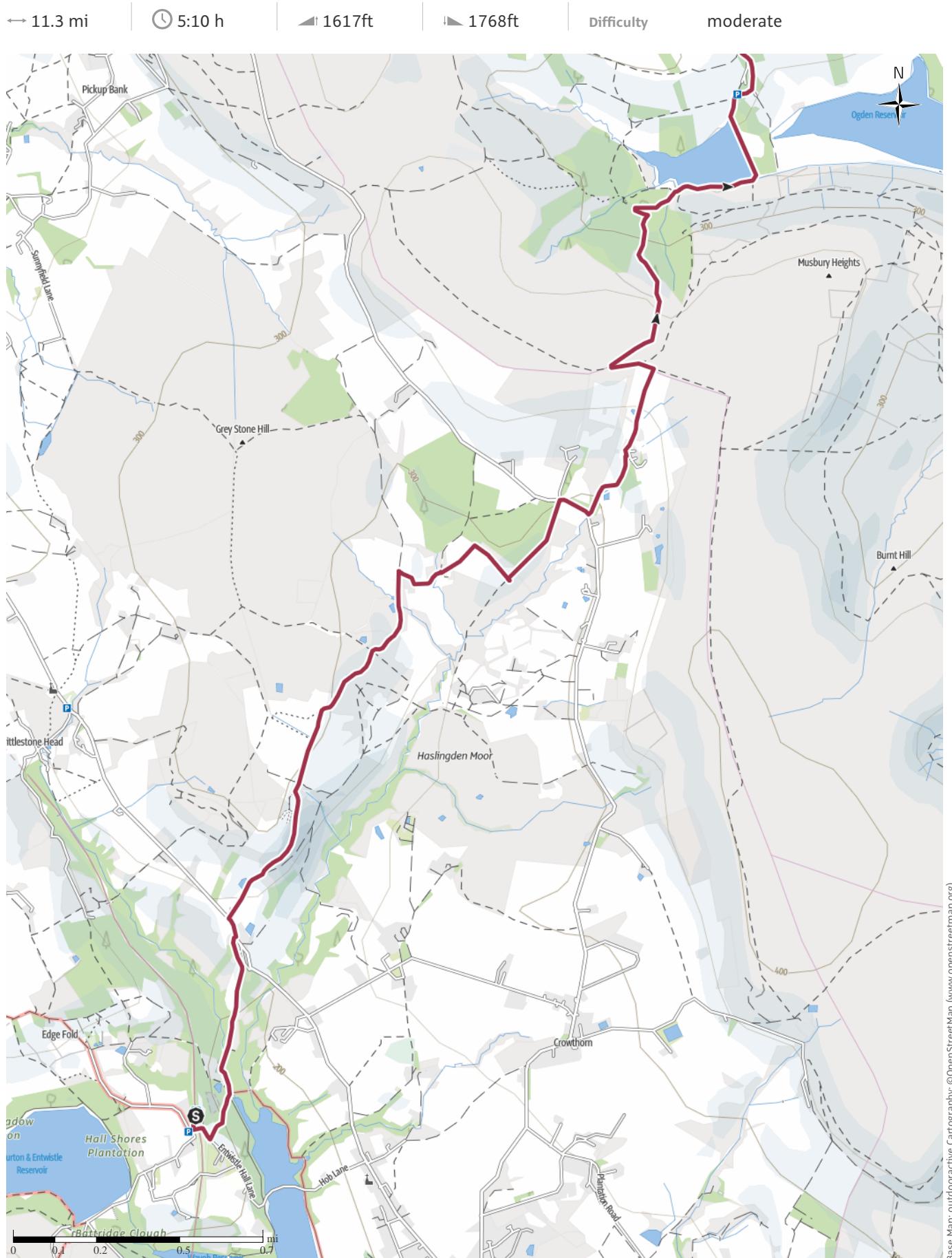
1768ft

Difficulty

moderate



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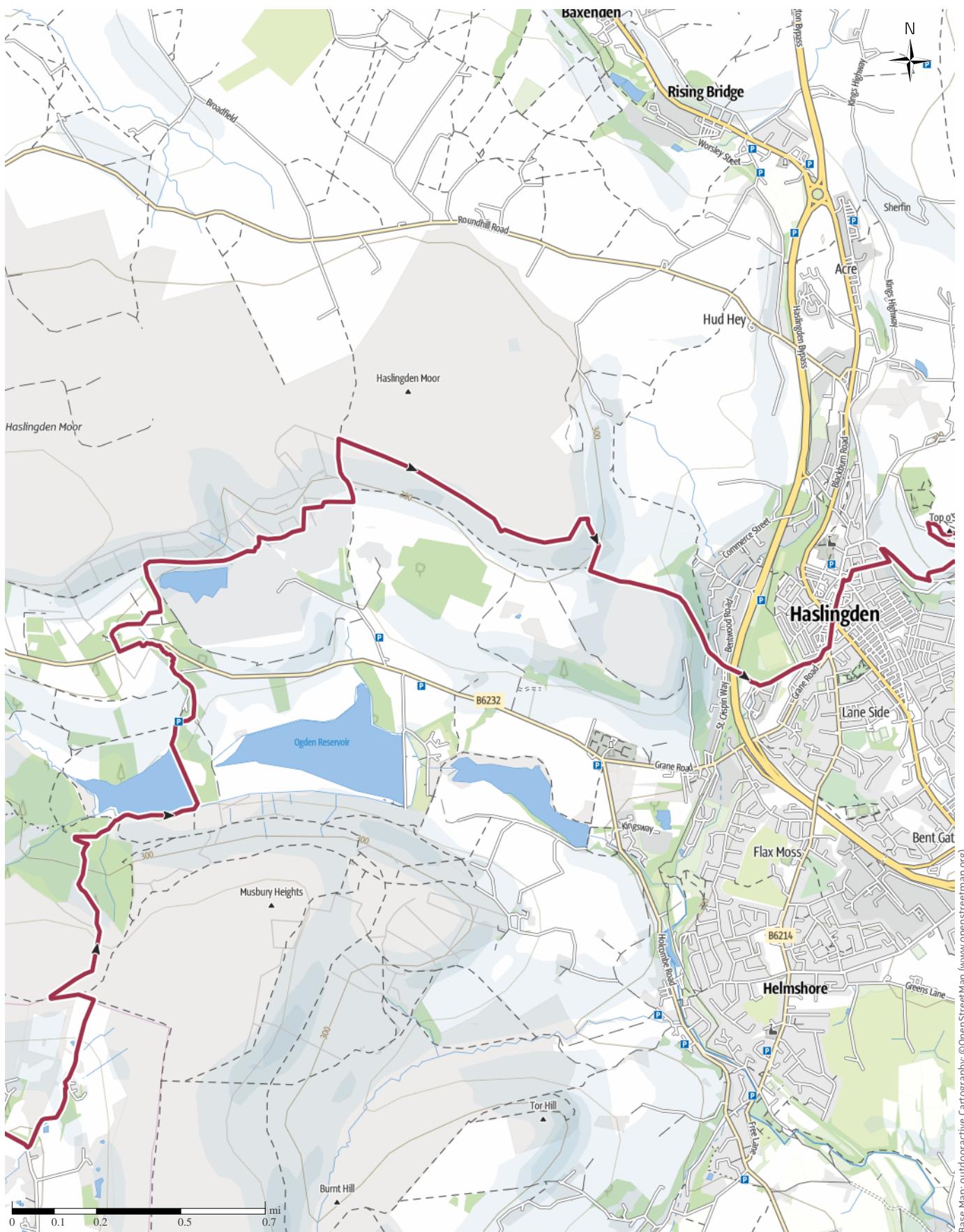
🕒 5:10 h

▲↑ 1617ft

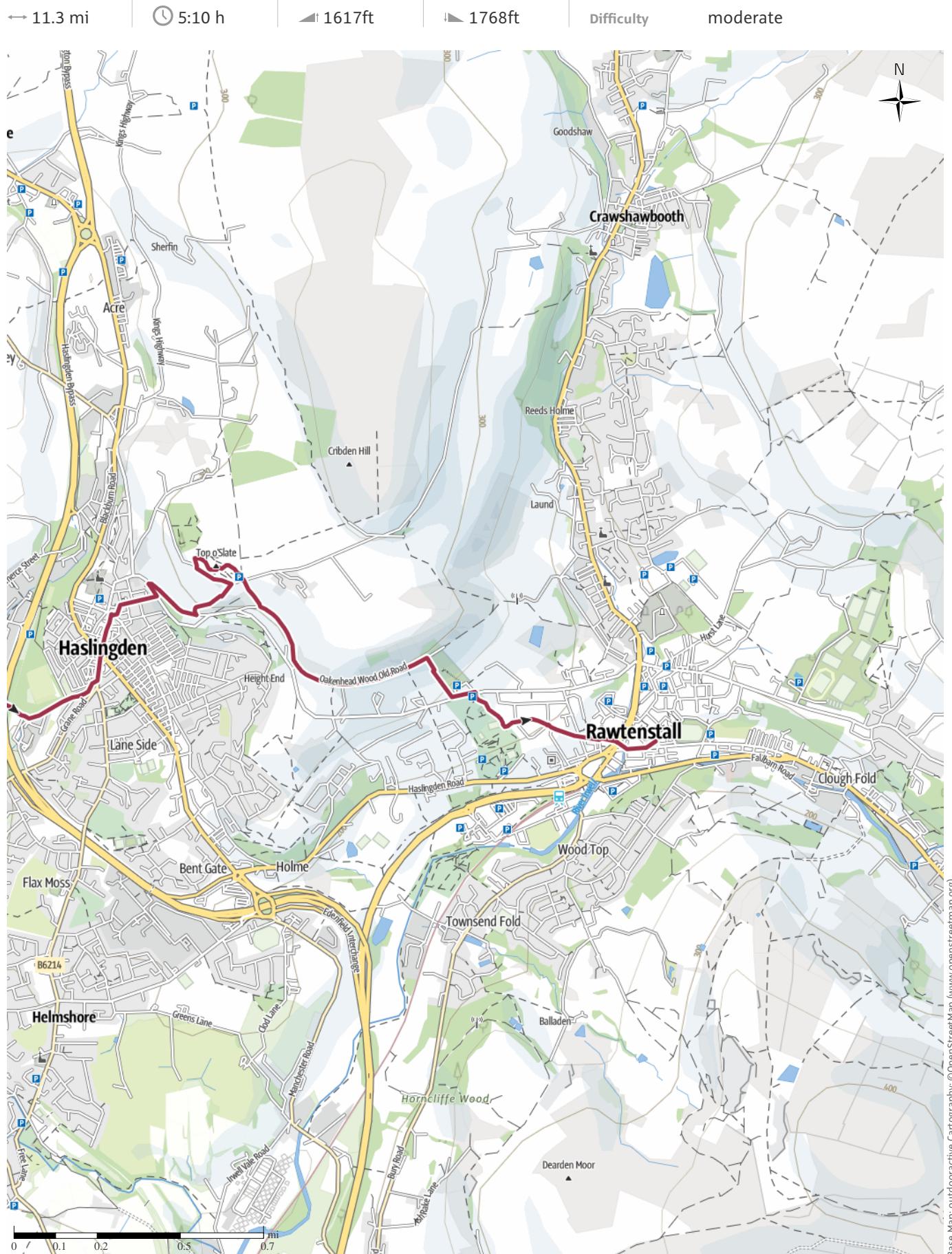
1768ft

Difficulty

moderate



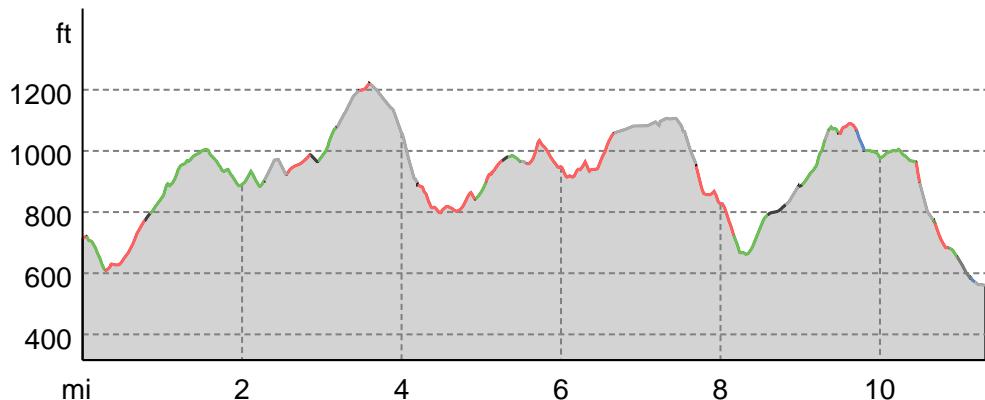
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Road surface

Asphalt	0.2 mi
Dirt road	0.1 mi
Way	3.8 mi
Path	3.9 mi
Street	0.5 mi
Unknown	2.8 mi

Elevation profile

route data
Hiking route

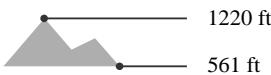
Distance	11.3 mi
Duration	5:10 h
Ascent	1617 ft
Descent	1768 ft

Difficulty ██████ moderate

Stamina ██████

Technique ██████

Altitude


Best time of year

JAN | FEB | MAR
APR | MAY | JUN
JUL | AUG | SEP
OCT | NOV | DEC

Ratings
Authors

Experience █████

Landscape █████

Community
More route data
Properties

Public-transport-friendly	Linear route
Multi-stage route	Scenic
Geological highlights	Summit route

Awards

 Refreshment stops available



Matthew Ball

Update: September 16, 2021

Stage 7 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail:

Entwistle to Rawtenstall via Hog Lowe Pike and the Haslingden Halo

Starting from Entwistle, we pass through some picturesque woodland alongside a stream heading north to Wayoh. After this we pass into more open countryside with views to the right of big farmhouses

and country houses. We then climb Hog Lowe Pike - at 383m above sea level, the triangulation pillar marks the highest point of this walk. We then head downhill through some very lush green woods and then between two reservoirs before reaching the lunch stop at Clough Head Visitor Centre, where there is a cafe and some seating and toilet facilities.

After the lunch stop we head past various quarries on the Rossendale Way before switching to the higher ground on Haslingden Moor. After this we drop down steeply in to Haslingden, before passing an old mill on the way up to the Halo - a metal lattice sculpture you can walk around. From the Halo it is all downhill into Rawtenstall, past the Rossendale Ski Slope, through the gorgeous Whitaker Park and then past St Mary's Church before reaching the Rawtenstall Bus Station.

Author's recommendation

This route was walked by Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) on Saturday 5th June 2021.

As well as being a walking route in its own

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right, it is also Stage 7 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail, a 13-stage long distance walk that completely encircles the city of Manchester. The Trail is designed to be accessible by public transport, and to take in a varied selection of the best scenery in the Manchester area. It is 157 miles long in total and has about 6,000m of ascent.

The Trail starts in Macclesfield, and then proceeds in a clockwise direction via the other twelve staging points (Wilmslow, Knutsford, Lymm, Leigh, Blackrod, Entwistle, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Marsden, Hadfield, Edale, and Buxton) before the last stage takes it back to Macclesfield again to complete the loop.

Since 2019, Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) have been walking each of the stages in order roughly once every four weeks (pandemic permitting), which results in the full loop being completed once every year. The first five stages cover mostly lowland territory, and so are walked in the winter months, leaving the sunnier parts of the year in which to tackle the hills that otherwise nearly surround Manchester on three sides.

As of the summer of 2021, it is intended that the Trail will at some point be registered with the Long Distance Walkers Association as an "official" long distance path, although this hasn't yet happened at the time of writing. However, all 13 stages are available on the Outdoor Active website and can be downloaded as GPX files.

Safety information

Take care crossing the B6232 just before the lunch stop at the Visitor Centre.

Equipment

Good walking boots and otherwise sensible hiking gear.

Additional information**Tips and hints****Assembly Points:**

Although you will have the platform on the railway

station all to yourself, the best point is outside the pub in case anyone has parked up.

Stiles:

13, mostly in good condition

Toilets:

None at the walk start, although there will be at Victoria, Salford Crescent and Bolton railway stations, as well as on the trains. The first facilities that we meet along the way are at the Clough Head Visitor Centre, the half way point of the walk. After that, there are none till the end at Rawtenstall Bus Station, although there are plenty of wooded areas along the way throughout the walk to provide shelter.

Obstructions:

None known as of June 2021.

Timings:

0:30 - Wayoh Farm

1:10 - Longshoot

2:00 - Hog Lowe Pike (triangulation pillar)

3:00 - Clough Head Visitor Centre

4:45 - The A56

5:30 - The Haslingden Halo

6:15 - Rawtenstall Bus Station

Bail-Out Points:

From the half-way point at the Visitor Centre, the 481 bus heads back towards Rawtenstall and then Bury once an hour at :15, from where you can get on the Metrolink. After this it is possible to bail out in Haslingden, from where you can get the X41 service (also once an hour, at :55) all the way back to Chorlton Street in Manchester.

Lunch Stop:

Definitely the best place for this is the Visitor Centre, half way in to the walk. Unless you have made a late start, in which case maybe the stone ruins on the path downhill through the woods after Hog Lowe Pike and before Calf Hey. Another possibility if the weather is good is the trig point at Hog Lowe Pike.

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Pub Stops En-Route:

It is possible to stop in Haslingden at either the Black Bull (directly on route at the main crossroads in town) or the Foresters Arms (just to the right of Deardengate after the crossroads). I haven't tried either, but as both are only about 1:15 hours from the end of the walk, it is probably best to leave it till the end.

Post-Walk Refreshments:

There is a large selection of places to go to in Rawtenstall. I have personally only sampled the Casked Ale House and Ginporium because Covid lockdown interfered with my research, but this place is excellent with very good customer service.

Turn-by-turn directions

Starting point / trailhead

Entwistle Railway Station

Coordinates:

DD: 53.655588, -2.413985

DMS: 53°39'20.1"N 2°24'50.3"W

UTM: 30U 538729 5945362

w3w: //blacked.puts.committee

Point of arrival

Rawtenstall Bus Station

Turn-by-turn directions

From the platform at Entwistle Railway Station, head up the ramp and turn left at the top to head eastward away from the Strawbury Duck. Immediately after crossing the railway line the road bends round to the right, and after just a few yards a footpath turns off at a 90 degree angle leftward, to take us downhill into some woods. At the bottom of the slope we cross another footpath that heads north-south to approach a bridge over a stream. However, we don't cross the bridge. Instead we turn left to head northwards with the stream immediately to our right. We now stay on this footpath for half a mile - it soon crosses the stream, and then starts heading uphill and leading us out of the wooded area on a rather winding trajectory, before arriving at Wayoh Farm.

The path then takes us past the farm buildings to the Roman Road, which we continue on northwards for a few yards until a footpath comes off it at 90 degrees to the right. This is a much more solid path which we follow for about 200 yards before a fork appears, at which we take the higher branch bearing slightly to the left. We now stick with this relatively broad track northwards all the way, and mostly quite straight, for

almost a mile until we reach Longshoot Farm.

Longshoot should be the first farm that we pass relatively close to since Wayoh, although there are plenty of other farmsteads (many converted) visible in the open landscape. When we approach the farm we keep it to our right at first (ignoring the pathround the farm's southern perimeter, which actually goes nowhere) and almost go past it, until a faint track appears to the right heading straight to a stile over the fence, taking us into a lawn on the north side of the farm. The footpath then takes us diagonally south-eastwards across this lawn to a gate that leads us past a neat garden and to the driveway leading away eastwards from the farm.

We follow this driveway for about 200 yards before a strikingly new wooden step-stile appears on the right, to lead us into a field that in May/June will be filled with buttercups. The path becomes indistinct in crossing this field, so head towards the stone obelisk broadly straight on and uphill. Near this is another stile, but this time we don't cross and instead turn right, following the narrow path that keeps the boundary wall to our left (across it is an area of cut-down forest). After another 200 yards this leads us to a path crossroads at which we turn left to follow another narrow path along the edge of the deforested area for about 500 yards northwards, till we reach Broadhead Road. Cross the Road and turn right, keeping to the narrow grass verge on the left. After 150 yards we turn left into the spacious driveway leading to Uglow Farm. At this point you will be relieved to learn that the quality of the footpaths improves.

Keep heading upwards and northwards (taking a left turn about 200 yards from Broadhead Road to stay on the road) to go through the main yard of Uglow Farm and all the way up to the boundary of the open country right at the top of the slope. Only at this point (not before) can we turn left to make the final ascent of Hog Lowe Pike, at the top of which is a triangulation pillar, marking the 383m we are now above sea level.

After visiting the triangulation pillar, we turn around and start heading back down again, but immediately take a left fork that takes us away northwards from the path by which we approached. In following this (narrow-ish but basically sound) path we should keep a deep clough to our right. After about half a mile the path starts to head more steeply downhill as we approach a large wooded area. On the way down through the woods the path follows twists and turns past some old stone ruins before eventually joining the Rossendale Way. We now turn right to follow this eastwards for about 200 yards, until a broad track leading down to the shore of Calf Hey Reservoir

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appears to our left. We now follow the southern shore of the Reservoir around to the Dam on its eastern side, which we then cross.

After the Reservoir we head uphill into the area known as Rothwell Fold. Take the right hand out of two similar options to avoid going through a car park, and then join Calf Hey Road. At the first rightward bend of this road, two footpaths branch off, forming a crossroads. At this point we take the uphill footpath heading in a north-westerly direction (it isn't marked on Ordnance Survey maps, but it does exist). This takes us, after crossing the B6232, to the Clough Head Visitor Centre, which is a great place to stop for lunch - having toilets, a seating area, and a cafe that sells ice-cream (and other refreshments).

After you feel suitably refreshed, take the broad track that heads eastward from the seating area till you reach some more woods, and then head north, keeping inside the woods but near to their western edge. After another 200 yards we meet the Rossendale Way again, turning right to follow it eastwards, this time for nearly 3/4 mile. The RW is well signposted so is easy to follow on this stretch. We stop following it when we meet a north-south path heading across it, which the RW follows north for a few yards before turning right again - but we stay on the path northwards up towards Haslingden Moor. When this path reaches a dry-stone wall crossing its path we take a stile across the wall and then turn right to follow the wall eastwards, with views out over Haslingden Grane and beyond to our right. Our side of the wall is open country and so free to roam, although the path is somewhat indistinct and can be boggy in wet conditions.

We follow this wall at the edge of the moor for about 3/4 mile, passing up the opportunity after about 1/2 mile to descend towards Windy Harbour Farm to instead descend on the Rossendale Way further to the east. At this point the RW forms a broad lawn-like platform heading gently down the hill, at the bottom of which we come to a path crossroads. At this we take the second exit, Cob Castle Road, which leads leftwards and downhill. In the first bit of Cob Castle Road, it is best to keep to the higher path to the left rather than walking along the bottom of the gully.

Cob Castle Road is a clear path, although it can get a little boggy at times, and leads us along the side of a hill, overlooking an industrial area to our left, before descending through a wooded area towards the A56 dual carriageway at Hutch Bank, which we cross using the underpass (also known as Flip Road) before heading back uphill towards the town centre of Haslingden along Charles Lane. On reaching the top of Charles Lane, we join Deardengate and continue

northwards, passing straight-on through the central crossroads of the town. At the top of Deardengate we find a residential area. We take a right and a left to dodge through the side streets of this area to get to Hargreaves Street, at the side of which there is a large victorian mill. We climb up past the mill to a main road (Rake Foot), at which we do a further left-right shimmy to keep climbing up Rock Hall Road.

Just before Rock Hall Road rejoins the main road, a footpath leads off over a couple of stiles across fields upwards and to the left. After a couple of hundred yards uphill (there may be some cows in the field) we come to another road, Cribden End Lane, at which we take a sharp left to follow underneath some park benches that let people sit down whilst looking out over Haslingden. After a couple of hundred yards a gap in the fence to our right lets us into the park. We take this and then immediately take a steeply upwards right turn to head towards the centrepiece of the park, i.e. a metal sculpture called the Haslingden Halo. After taking in the Halo, head slightly north and then east to exit the tourist area near the car park, and then take a broad gravel track downhill towards Laund Lane, which we now follow for about 2/3 mile until we reach Rossendale Ski Slope.

Just before the Ski Slope, a footpath turns right and heads parallel with the Slope, steeply downhill along steps (thankfully with a handrail). Keep heading straight on until we reach a tree-lined road (Haslingden Old Road), which we cross before turning left to follow the broad pavement for 100 yards till the entrance to Whittaker Park on our right. In the Park, we keep left until we reach the first exit after about 200 yards, onto Barritt Road. We now just keep following this residential road (it becomes Henry Street) straight on all the way downhill until we reach St Mary's Church in Rawtenstall Town Centre. Pass the church and take the pelican crossing directly across the dual carriageway in front of us to join Bacup Road, which takes us, after another 150 yards, to the end of the walk at Rawtenstall Bus Station on our left.

Getting There



This route is conveniently accessible by public transport.

Public transport

Direct trains calling at Entwistle leave Victoria Station once an hour on weekdays and Saturdays, also calling at Salford Crescent and Bolton, which connecting services can reach from Piccadilly. As Entwistle is a "request stop", you will need to advise the conductor on the train that you are alighting there, otherwise it won't

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actually stop.

The GM Wayfarer day pass (which as of 2021 cost £14.70) will cover this train and also the X43 bus journey for the return leg, as well as practically all other buses, trains and trams in Greater Manchester (and also some way outside). See <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/wayfarer-adult> for more detail, including where to buy.

Getting there

The return journey is from Rawtenstall Bus Station. As of 2021, the X43 "Witchway" bus service leaves at frequent intervals (every 20 minutes on Saturday afternoons) from Stand 6 before taking the motorway route back to Manchester City Centre, which takes about 45 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays. The route passes near Victoria Station and St Peter's Square before finishing at Chorlton Street Coach Station, 5 walk minutes from Piccadilly.

Parking

If you were going to use the car for part of the journey, then you would have to park in central Manchester, ideally near Victoria Station, as both the X43 bus service route and the Entwistle Train service meet here. Services to Entwistle (as of 2021) depart from Victoria, and the X43 calls at a stop on Victoria Bridge Street, very near to the station.

Takeaway route for iPhone and Android



Scan QR code, save this route offline, share with friends and more...

[Website](#)

<https://out.ac/lIjFhr>



Hog Lowe Pike

Photo: Matthew Ball, Community

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Legend
Topography

	Wood, forest
	Moor, swamp, marsh
	Moorland
	Residential building area with single building
	Industrial real estate with single building
	Cemetery
	Golf course
	Sportsfield, stadium
	Stadium
	Open-air pool
	Vineyard
	Petrograph
	Country border
	State border
	District border
	Contour line
	Special use area
	Nature reserve

Topographic single signs

	Summit cross
	Elevation point
	Rock
	Cave
	Church
	Chapel
	Cemetery
	Palace/Castle
	Abbey
	Monument
	Ruin
	Mine
	Cairn
	Broadcasting tower
	Windwheel
	Water-/windmill
	Viewpoint

Streets and ways

	Freeway with number
	Highway with number
	State, country, district street
	Village road
	Main agricultural road
	Agricultural road
	Trail
	Via Ferrata

Lifts, Railways

	Ropeway lift
	Gondola lift
	Chairlift
	Ski-, draglift
	Aerial ropeways
	Railway
	Suburban train
	Subway
	Tram
	Railway station