

Wyre Way, Section 1 - Stanah to Fleetwood

About This Walk

We have chosen the Wyre Estuary Country Park as the starting point, but as this is a circular walk, other locations (e.g. Fleetwood or Knott End) could be used. Please be aware that you will need to use the Knott End ferry to cross the River Wyre so check the ferry timetable (available on the internet) before setting out to ensure the ferry service is operating. Your planning should also ensure you will avoid periods of high tide when walking between Knott End and Shard Bridge. The route begins heading North along the Wyre estuary (a haven for wading birds) before turning inland, crossing the peninsula to join the Irish Sea coast at Rossall. We follow the coast, past the impressive Rossall Point observation tower and marine lakes to the sea front at Fleetwood – with a great outlook over Morecambe bay to the Lake District. Continue along the sea front, past the lighthouse, to the Knott End Ferry terminal, just past the lifeboat station. Take the ferry across the Wyre Estuary to continue the walk heading South along the river, past the location of old salt mines, along sections of sea defences and salt marsh to the wide span of the Shard Bridge. Cross the river here and return to The Wyre Estuary Country Park past the Skippool Creek yacht moorings (once a busy port) and the Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club.

Start Point

At the Wyre Estuary Country Park Ranger Station, River Road, Thornton-Cleveleys
Post Code: FY5 5LR
OS Grid Reference: SD 3551 4302

Distance / Time

26 km (16.2 miles)
6.5-8.5 hours - Plus Ferry Crossing Time

Terrain

Grade: Moderate

The route follows roads, farm tracks, fields, footpaths and rough saltmarsh trails. There are stiles, gates and steps, and paths can be wet and muddy after rain. There may be animals in the fields and farm yards. Dogs should be kept on a short lead at all times. THIS WALK IS NOT SUITABLE FOR TRAMPER VEHICLES

Walk Description

1. [SD 3557 4306](#) From the door of the Ranger Station follow the path on the left, beside the café, down to the Country Park access road. Cross the road and join the wide footpath / cycle-way which runs alongside the river estuary. The path runs almost straight for 5 km (2 miles), past the large chemical works, until it turns left away from the river, just after a large lagoon behind a fence on the left.
2. [SD 3399 4483](#) Continue left and cross an access road used by heavy vehicles (care required), to join a track on the other side with metal fencing on either side. Continue along this track, across a disused railway line, until it eventually emerges onto the B5268. Turn right and follow the road for 500m and take the first turning on the left onto a lane (no through road for vehicles) through 'Farmer Parrs Animal World'. The lane eventually emerges onto the A585. Cross the road and continue along the B5409 opposite (Rossall Lane) until it meets the A587.
3. [SD 3179 4506](#) Cross the road and continue along the lane opposite, which is the entrance to Rossall School. Just before the school gates turn right, then left, to follow a footpath along the edge of the school complex leading to the access ramp to the promenade.
4. [SD 3124 4509](#) Cross over the sea wall and turn right and walk along the promenade (with the sea on your left).
5. [SD 3131 4777](#) Continue along the promenade, past the elegant Rossall Point Observation Tower and on past the boating lakes and the Marine Hall to where the promenade joins the public road in Fleetwood Town. Turn left and follow the road round past the stone lighthouse to the Lifeboat Station and ferry across the river Wyre ('FERRY' sign painted on the roof).
6. [SD 3401 4843](#) Take the ferry across the river Wyre estuary to Knott End. You will need to check the ferry timetable in advance as the ferry does not run in some low-tide conditions.
7. [SD 3464 4850](#) Starting with your back to the shelter at the Knott End ferry terminal, walk straight ahead along the path between the Coastguard Station and the river, passing the golf clubhouse on your left. At the cottages turn left, then immediately right behind the buildings to resume passage parallel to the riverbank but at a higher level and now on the golf course edge. After the golf tee on your left (the 3rd hole) a clear path strikes out across the course, towards Hackensall Hall. Take great care at this point. The route passes the groundsman's huts, then left/right/left/right past the Hall, eventually crossing a cattle grid. Keep on this tarmac drive, crossing two more golf fairways with care (the balls will be coming from your left on the first, from your right on the second) until the tarmac drive swings to the right.
8. [SD 3507 4704](#) Leave the tarmac drive at this point and follow the rough track ahead, initially with hedging / woodland on the left and then across an open field to the line of the old railway siding. Go straight across this onto the raised embankment at Barnaby's Sands. Follow this embankment all the way to the stile at The Heads.
9. [SD 3527 4547](#) Cross the stile and continue ahead onto the tarmac road (Brown's Lane) past a caravan park. When the lane curves to the left clamber up onto the embankment at Burrow's Marsh and follow it left, parallel with the tarmac lane. When the dyke comes to an end at a hedge drop back down to the road and continue along Burrow's Lane, over the hill past Burrow's Farm, reaching the hamlet of Staynall at a sharp left turn.
10. [SD 3600 4380](#) Turn left and then right into Wardley's Lane. Pass the end of New Road and continue over the hill to the boat moorings at Wardley's Creek. The road now swings sharp

left and curves around inland of the anchorages. As these are left behind a private road appears on the right (Shore Road), by a telephone box. At this point the simplest route is to turn right and follow Shore Road to its end, however, please bear in mind the initial section of the road is not a public right of way. Alternatively, the 'official', public footpath enters the small residential caravan park (Wyresdale) ahead – carry straight on along the tarmac road between the caravans to a sharp right turn. Continue right for a few metres until the road turns right again; at this point go straight ahead on a narrow concrete walkway between the caravans. At a 'T' junction in the walkway turn left to a metal gate immediately in front of a house wall. Go through the gate and turn right along a narrow alleyway and through another gate onto Shore Road. Turn left and continue on to the end of Shore Road. **(NOTE: The route ahead, up to Shard Bridge, is sometimes impassable due to tidal conditions. The alternative is to return to Wardley's Lane and continue following it into Hambleton Village. Turn right at the 'T' junction (next to the public house) and follow the main road to Shard Bridge. If you followed this route jump to paragraph 12.)**

11. [SD 3673 4255](#) The route now follows a badly defined, debris strewn, and often muddy, path along the riverbank. Stay close to the riverbank margin on the left. On reaching the smart new apartment block (Regatta Point) clamber up onto the embankment and follow it until forced back down to the riverbank after about 250m. The riverbank should now be followed with great care, keeping left around Point Shard, to approach Shard Bridge.
12. [SD 3676 4095](#) If you are continuing along Wyre Way, rather than returning to the Country Park at Stanah, stay on the river bank under the bridge and continue the next section "Shard Bridge to Garstang" – which starts at the 'Shard Riverside Inn', just upstream of the bridge. Otherwise proceed up the slope on the left immediately before the bridge to join the main road (A588). Cross Shard Bridge, without crossing the carriageway. Immediately after crossing the bridge return to the river bank down the slope on the right and follow the riverbank, now with the river on your right and trees / hedging to the left. The path is more distinct on this side of the river but the final part can be very muddy. As the trees on the left come to an end clamber up the bank (there are steps, but these can get overgrown). Ignore the stile ahead (which leads to Old Mains Lane) and turn right, following the fence that surrounds grassy paddocks (with the fence on your left and the river on your right). At the far side of these paddocks, having followed the fence to its end, turn right over the substantial tidal gate over Main Dyke, then around the right edge of more grassland to a stile next to a large roundabout on the main A585, close to the River Wyre Hotel.
13. [SD 3550 4060](#) Do not cross the stile but bear right, passing over a tidal stream. Do not descend the first set of steps down to the stream, but keep to the higher path which turns to the right and eventually joins the lane beside the stream. Continue right along the lane with boat moorings on the right. Where the track splits keep right following a rough track close to the boat moorings, and continue on, passing in front of the B&FYC Yacht Club, and on along the track past the end of the boat moorings to where the path takes a sharp right turn.
14. [SD 3571 4227](#) Continue right following the track by the estuary, which eventually passes under some power lines. Keep straight ahead along the main path, which soon climbs a concrete ramp to the roadway near the riverside car-park of the Wyre Estuary Country Park. Cross the roadway and follow the signs to the Visitor Centre, past the children's play area on the left, to the main car park and ranger Offices.

If you need to speak to someone about this route or report a problem use the following Wyre Council contacts:
Website: Wyre.gov.uk

Address: Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le- Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7PU

Telephone: 01253 891000

E-mail: mailroom@wyre.gov.uk

Configuration Status

Issue Date	Version Number	Why Updated?	Compatible .gpx file	Who Updated It?
2/04/2017	2	To remove grid references from the text and other refinements		AIJ
23/11/2018	3	Include updates from Mike Ramsey		AIJ
10/04/2021	4	Remove path diversion due to coastal defence work, and clarify the route just downstream of Shard Bridge.		AIJ