

Wyre Self Guided Trails: Ratcliffe Bridge

Start Point

At the Post Office in the centre of the village of Scorton, approximately 2 miles North of Garstang. Post Code: PR3 1AU

Distance – Time

9.1 km (5.7 miles) 2.5-3.5 hours

Maps

OS Landranger 102 (1:50000) or OS Explorer OL41 (1:25000)

Terrain

Terrain Grade: Easy

The route follows roads, farm tracks, fields, footpaths and canal towpath. The terrain is largely flat with no steep gradients. There are stiles, gates and steps, and paths can be wet and muddy after rain. There may be animals in the fields and farmyards. Dogs should be kept on a short lead at all times.

THIS WALK IS NOT SUITABLE FOR TRAMPER VEHICLES

About this walk

This route follows the quiet fields and lanes to the West of Scorton including a section of the historic Lancaster canal, which although popular with the leisure boating and angling communities, is also a haven for wildlife and wild flowers.

Route Description

1. [SD 5021 4883](#) Stand with your back to the post office, then turn to the right and walk along Gubberford Lane (South) past the Methodist Church. Just after the public toilets turn right at the finger post, over a stile. Follow the footpath over two more stiles and across a field to a bridge carrying the railway. Go under the bridge, with a stile on either side, then turn right. Go over a stile next to the gate ahead and turn left following the left field boundary to a footbridge over the River Wyre; under the overhead power lines.
2. [SD 4975 4852](#) Cross the footbridge and climb the stone steps on the right. At the top of the steps turn left in front of the 'Stepping Stones' restaurant, then walk down the side path on the right. Continue past the site reception buildings to join Weavers Lane. Continue along the lane until it meets the A6. Cross the A6 and follow the Bridleway (Green Lane) directly ahead to a stile onto Cabus Nook Lane.
3. [SD 4865 4863](#) Cross the stile and turn right, following the lane for about 250m to a track on the left marked by a finger post and a sign to 'Greaves Farm'. Follow the track which soon crosses a canal bridge. Immediately after the bridge turn right and go through a gate onto the towpath. Turn left and follow the canal north,

i.e. with the canal on your right, to Ratcliffe Bridge (bridge number 75); the second bridge after you joined the canal.

4. SD 4826 5029 At Ratcliffe Bridge double back on yourself by taking a path on the left just before the bridge, which joins a farm road. Follow the farm road, with the canal now on your left. After 250m the farm road divides, take the right hand track through two sets of buildings comprising Hornby Farm. After the second set of buildings (caravan storage units) continue through two farm gates and follow the hedge line on the right until the hedge turns sharp right, just after a pedestrian gate on the right.
5. SD 4794 4994 Turn left here (South) across the open field, with a small bank on the right, towards a gap in the trees ahead where a hedge joins from the right next to a large tree. Continue with the hedge on your right, through a kissing gate. Continue with the hedge on your right, past a pond on the left, to a stile near a small stream. Cross the stream by the footbridge and then follow the hedge on the left heading for a small copse and a pond in the corner of the field.
6. SD 4812 4930 Cross the stile to the right of the pond and follow the right hand hedge line to another stile. Once over the stile bear slightly left across the field heading for a post and stile at a corner of the hedge ahead.
7. SD 4818 4905 Cross the stile and follow the left field boundary crossing a footbridge over a stream. Enter the enclosed lane ahead; proceed through a field gate then continue with the hedge on your left through a second field gate to a gate and stile on the left in the corner of the field (this is a 'permissive path' avoiding the farm yard).
8. SD 4832 4860 Go over the stile and turn immediately right through two more field gates and then left along the farm access road towards the canal bridge ahead.
9. SD 4838 4849 Just before the bridge turn left, over a stile and down some steps onto the towpath. Continue left along the towpath with the canal on your right, to the next bridge along, number 73 - Cabus Nook Bridge. Just after the bridge leave the towpath via the small gate on the left.
10. SD 4864 4894 This is the point where you first joined the canal towpath. To return to Scorton reverse your outward route from here as follows.....Turn left over the canal bridge and follow the track to join Cabus Nook Lane. Turn right along Cabus Nook Lane for 250m to the finger post pointing down Green Lane on the left. Follow Green Lane to the A6. Cross the road and continue along Weaver's Lane ahead, through the caravan park, down the steps behind the restaurant to the bridge over the river Wyre. Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead to the field gate and stile on the right, next to the railway. Cross the stile and go through the tunnel 50m ahead on the left. Head for the far right hand corner of the field ahead to join the footpath back to Gubberford Lane, then turn left into Scorton.

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

