

Delph Quarry Circular Walk

Route Summary

The walk follows fields, roads, private roads (which are public footpaths) and tracks. Gates and stiles. Can be wet and muddy in places. Expect livestock. Keep dogs under control. Refer to the "Walking Safely" information at www.forestofbowland.com Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer Map OL41

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Length: 11.190 km / 6.99 mi

Last Modified: 10th January 2018

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Undefined

Date Published: 13th July 2017

Description

This walk offers fantastic views of the fells behind Bleasdale, including Hazelhurst, Fairsnape and Parlick. Wooded Beacon Fell is prominent to the south. The rushy fields are ideal habitat for ground nesting waders like lapwing, curlew and snipe - and don't forget to keep an eye out for brown hare in springtime. At Brooks Farm, as you cross the road bridge, look out for the much smaller and older "packhorse" bridge on the right.

Waypoints

(53.90404; -2.69287)

Take the concessionary footpath from the back of the car parking area via the stile (adjacent self-closing gate with RADAR lock), keeping the drystone wall on your right, until you reach a boundary junction with three gates. Go through the left hand gate and head diagonally left across the field to a gateway to the right of the small wood.

2.

(53.90778; -2.69754)

Head straight across the field towards a gate in the wall and in front of it, turn right onto the stone track. Follow this up

the hill to reach the road.

3.

(53.91055; -2.69310)

At the road gate turn left and follow the road for approximately 200m to reach a footpath which takes you through a young woodland area and out through a small gate into a large field. Walk up onto the track ahead and follow this track through Fell End farm, past Bleasdale Tower and into the complex of buildings at Brooks Barn.

4.

(53.91064; -2.66942)

Turn left to pass a rare, red 'GR' postbox set into the wall. You will pass behind Clough Heads Cottages, a pretty row of terraced cottages that were once part of the North Lancashire Reformatory. (Slightly further along the road you come to a well-constructed, buttressed stone bridge some 30 feet over a stream. This was built by boys from the Reformatory.) The path now climbs slightly through a wood.

5.

(53.91520; -2.66353)

Leave the wood via a cattle grid and enter open, rough pasture with views of Fairsnape and Parlick to the right and the wooded summit of Beacon Fell Country Park to the south. A track joins from the left as you head to the left of Hazelhurst farm. (Note the long water trough just before the cattle grid.) After a short distance the track begins to descend and becomes rougher.

6.

(53.91649; -2.64867)

Enter Holme House farmyard through a gate and concrete yard before leaving by another gate at the far end. The track resumes, becoming more rutted with boulders and cobbles from the nearby stream making the surface tricky as you descend to a concrete bridge over a stream. Keep right as the track forks. (The track from this point can be wet and muddy.) Further along, go through a gate and after a time the track bears right and turns to a grassy track with deeper ruts. (Note the undercut roots of trees on the stream bank on the right hand side further along.)

7.

(53.91376; -2.64730)

Bear slightly left after a small bridge to climb across open fields. The track is at its wettest here as you approach a wooden gate with stile to the right, emerging onto a rough, metalled road and turning left. Continue towards Vicarage farm.

8.

(53.90811; -2.64986)

Pass over a cattle grid near Vicarage Farm and note the permissive footpath to Bleasdale Circle on the left. Passing over another cattle grid, bear left and head for Bleasdale Church and then on to Bleasdale Parish Hall and school.

9.

(53.90164; -2.65057)

After passing the school, turn right along a hedge-lined track. After a while you enter a pine wood and descend to a bridge over the river Brock, with Brooks farmhouse on the right.

10.

(53.90652; -2.66259)

Climb gently away from the bridge. The road is now fenced on both sides and you may see hares in the open fields. A track joins from the left as you approach another wood. After a distance you approach more buildings that were once part of the North Lancashire Reformatory.

On reaching the Brooks Barn complex retrace the route back to the start of the walk.

