

# Stocks Reservoir

OS Explorer  
OL41



## Start Point



School Lane Car Park

★ SD 732 565

## Distance/Time



8 Miles

3 Hrs

## Terrain

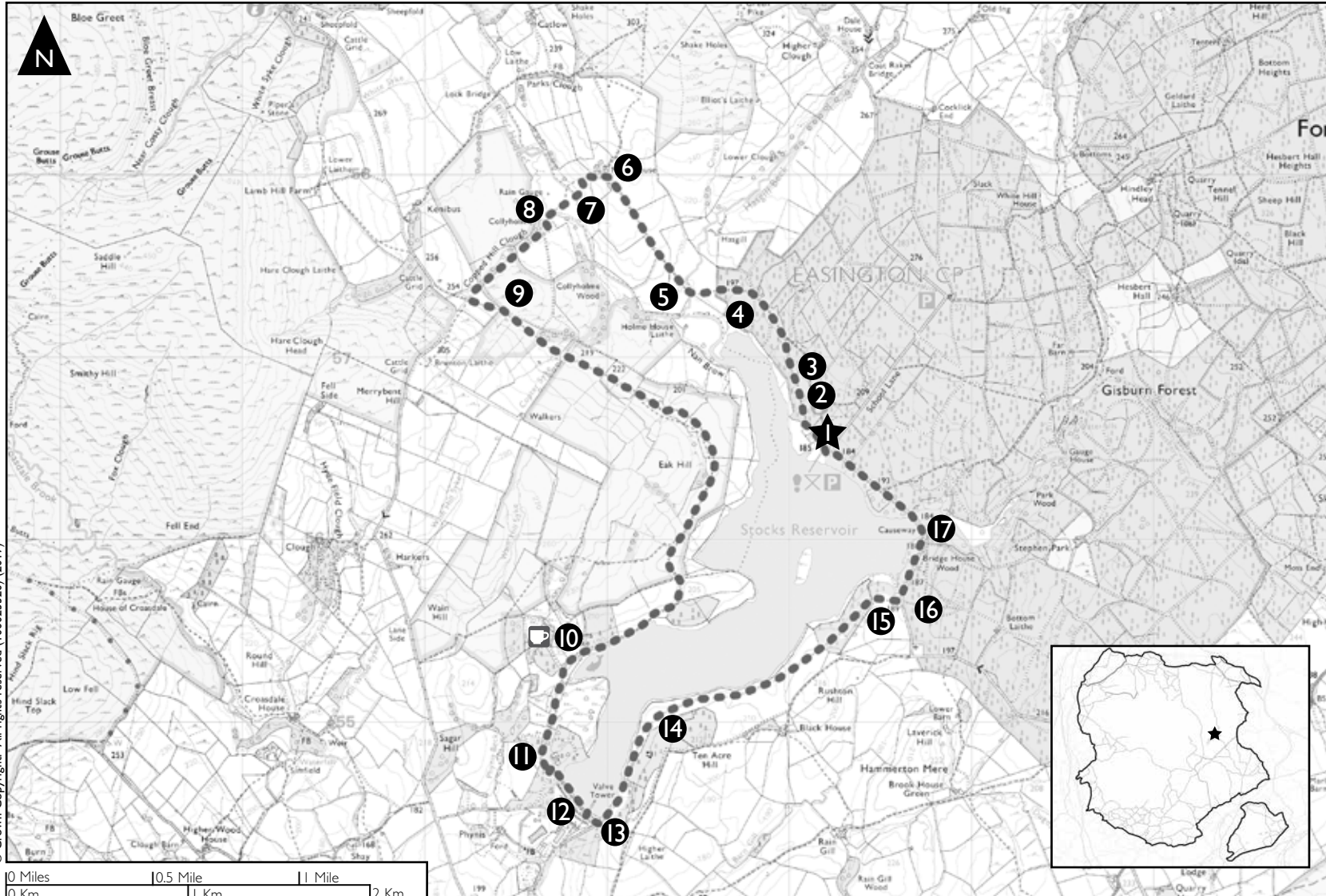
Roads and tracks. Some gates.  
Expect livestock. "Walking  
Safely" information available at  
[www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com)

## Public transport

For public transport  
information please go to  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) or  
[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## Key to Facilities

Café (seasonal opening). Also available  
(but not shown on map), toilets and café  
at Gisburn Forest Hub. Food also available  
in nearby Slaidburn and Tosside.



## GPS Waypoints (OS Grid Refs)

- ★ SD 7320 5653
- ② SD 7311 5659
- ③ SD 7308 5663
- ④ SD 7282 5732
- ⑤ SD 7246 5735
- ⑥ SD 7200 5800
- ⑦ SD 7181 5791
- ⑧ SD 7156 5768
- ⑨ SD 7124 5731
- ⑩ SD 7179 5532
- ⑪ SD 7165 5483
- ⑫ SD 7181 5458
- ⑬ SD 7197 5444
- ⑭ SD 7241 5508
- ⑮ SD 7346 5567
- ⑯ SD 7360 5568
- ⑰ SD 7366 5613



# Stocks Reservoir

## Points of interest along the way

★ **GPS:** SD 7320 5653

School Lane Car Park makes a good starting point for the reservoir walk and also for many forest trails. It is also the former site of St James' Church, which was reconstructed at its present site down the road at Dalehead.

The walk is approximately 8 miles through fields and woodlands. Follow United Utilities 'Stock's Reservoir Circular Walk' signs.

Leave the car park via the gap next to the access gate in the corner and follow the path ahead.

② **GPS:** SD 7311 5659

A few yards on there is a Picnic area on your left. Continue a little further along the track.

③ **GPS:** SD 7308 5663

Down a path to the left is a bird hide; a good spot for observing birds such as ducks and geese, plus the occasional rare visitor. Continue along the path through the woodland. (A second hide is found further along this path.)

④ **GPS:** SD 7282 5732

Site of Birch Hill Farm. The small building is all that remains. Many farms became unviable when the reservoir was constructed and afforestation of the land took place. Continue across field and then to a bridge over Hasgill Beck.

⑤ **GPS:** SD 7246 5735

Hasgill Bridge over Hasgill Beck carried the old road which would connect the farms of Hasgill, New House and Collyholme. Continue along grassy track eventually reaching New House Farm.

⑥ **GPS:** SD 7200 5800

New House Farm. Whilst the house and barn are derelict, the land is still farmed. Turn left in front of New House Farm and descend a zig-zagged grassy track to a footbridge over the River Hodder.

⑦ **GPS:** SD 7181 5791

After crossing the bridge, continue ahead, go through two kissing gates and turn right. (Close by are the ruined remains of Collyholme Farm.)

⑧ **GPS:** SD 7156 5768

Continue alongside Copped Hill Clough until you reach a track, straight on over the flags then a footbridge until you reach a track, turn left.

⑨ **GPS:** SD 7124 5731

Route of old railway track. Continue along the track all the way to Stocks Reservoir Fly Fishery.

⑩ **GPS:** SD 7179 5532

The Fishing Lodge - fishing is available during the season. Refreshments can also be obtained when open. Continue along the track.

⑪ **GPS:** SD 7165 5483

Stocks Board House – formerly offices of the Fylde Water Board, now United Utilities Bowland Estate Office. Continue straight ahead along a path away from the main track and over the dam.

⑫ **GPS:** SD 7181 5458

Stocks Reservoir Dam with huge overflow returning water to the River Hodder.

⑬ **GPS:** SD 7197 5444

Towards the end of the dam, descend the steps, turn left and left again to join the old railway track.

⑭ **GPS:** SD 7241 5508

Follow the path along the edge of the reservoir then head slightly right, through fields and then into the woodland. Emerge at the other side into a meadow.

⑮ **GPS:** SD 7346 5567

Wildflower Meadow - during the summer this is a good site for many wild flowers, including Orchids. Continue and then through a kissing gate on the left towards the end of the field, emerging next to the road.

⑯ **GPS:** SD 7360 5568

Continue ahead on a footpath adjacent to the road, emerging onto the road before the causeway.

⑰ **GPS:** SD 7366 5613

After the causeway follow the path behind the hedge on your left to your starting point at School Lane Car Park.

## About This Walk

### The reservoir

Stocks reservoir was opened by HRH The Prince George on July 5th 1932. Annual rainfall here is about 1500mm (5 feet) and when full the reservoir covers an area of about 192 hectares, the equivalent of about 500 football pitches. After treatment, the water from Stocks goes mainly to the Fylde area of Lancashire.

### Forestry

Gisburn Forest, to the north east of the reservoir, is a major part of the Stocks catchment area. The coniferous trees generate a useful raw material, contributing to the regional demand for timber. Small areas of ancient woodland are being supplemented by the creation of new native woodland providing a range of important wildlife habitats. The forest has also become an important recreation destination for locals and visitors alike.

### Farming

The massive catchment area for the reservoir is split between three farms, all of which produce sheep and cattle as the mainstay. The principal sheep breed is Swaledale and around 3000 animals are present for most of the year. It is important that visitors, especially those with dogs, take extra care to avoid disturbing livestock.