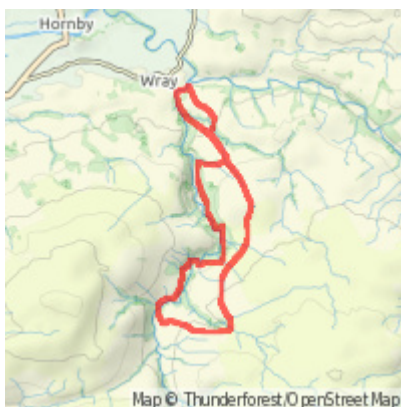




Route Summary

very steep Terrain, Stout footwear and suitable clothing essential

Route Overview



Category: Hiking

Length: 12.050 km / 7.53 mi

Last Modified: 12th February 2019

Difficulty: Hard

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Undefined

Date Published: 12th February 2019

Description

Use of a map for this walk is essential please use OS Explorer OL41

The Valley holds one of the largest and most important areas of ancient semi-natural woodland in Lancashire. Those along the steep eastern valley slopes through which the footpath runs are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The wide range of soils is reflected in the range of woodland types represented. Upland Oak woodland with Bilberry, Wavy Hair Grass, and Heath Mosses is the most extensive whilst mixed Ash woodland with Dog's Mercury, Ramson's and False Brome and Wet Alder woodland are also present. The woods support a diversity of breeding birds including Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Green Woodpecker.

The River Roeburndale has shaped the landscape as we know it today and continue to provide vital habitats for the resident wildlife. The valley's ancient roots as a hunting ground can be seen in the place names of the area. Roeburn, Harterbeck and Bow skill Wood all make reference to deer stalking and it is said that even the name Barkin Wood related to the strange barking calls made by the deer.

Many of the meadows and pastures alongside the river have escaped agricultural improvement as a result of their small size and inaccessibility. They continue to be managed traditionally and support a rich variety of plants and invertebrates. Look out for plants such as common Knapweed, Harebell, Pignut and Yellow Rattle. Wet ground supports plants such as Marsh Marigold, Meadowsweet and Ragged Robin.

Waypoints

1 SD 6060 6747

(54.10160; -2.60417)

Leave Bridge House Farm tearooms and continue straight ahead up the steep road and follow this road for about 1km passing on your left the sawmill at Above Beck. Take the footpath to the right down the track, which is bounded by recently laid hedges on both sides up to Alcocks Farm

2 SD 6092 6667

(54.09473; -2.59887)

At Alcocks Farm turn left and follow this road for about 0.5km

3 SD 6122 6625

(54.09035; -2.59464)

Take the footpath to the right; turn left across a small meadow over a stile in the hedge (care here not to take the footpath that goes through the gate and down to Outhwaite Wood). This path takes you alongside a hedgerow line through two fields then across Outhwaite farm track, and continues alongside drystone walls past the edge of Wray Wood Mor. Keep on the footpath as it crosses several rushy pastures till you reach a field barn

4 SD 6109 6420

(54.07252; -2.59595)

At this point the footpath splits in two. Take the left fork up to Harterbeck Farm. At the farmyard follow the footpath that takes you south out through a field gate and over a small stream. Continue down the grassy bank and over a footbridge above the waterfall.

5 SD 6131 6344

(54.06476; -2.59410)

Take the footpath that bears right down through several fields and into the yard of Lower Salter Farm.

6 SD 6014 6350

(54.06628; -2.60887)

Turn right and follow the road past the Methodist chapel down to Barkin Bridge.

7 SD 6005 6382

(54.06921; -2.61128)

Cross the bridge and take the concessionary footpath to your right. This path follows the left bank of the River Roeburndale for 1km then over a footbridge and continues down the right bank through the woodland.

footbridge SD 6059 6450

(54.07537; -2.60389)

hAVING CROSSED THE RIVER, WALK AS FAR AS sd 6065 6458. dON'T CROSS THE SECOND BRIDGE WHICH IS AHEAD, TURN RIGHT AND CLIMB THE HILL, WELL SIGNED, ALSO A HAND ROPE IS PRESENT TO HELP PRGRESS.Keep the field boundary on your left. Cross the stream at SD 6072 6447

(54.07504; -2.60009)

Follow waymarkers, avoid paths running left into woods. Cross second stream at SD 6083 6451

(54.07515; -2.59603)

Again follow the field boundary to step stile SD 6109 6454, go immediately left down steps, cross the stream.

(54.07571; -2.59542)

After crossing the stream re-enter the woods at SD 6111 6456, FOLLOWING THE PATH THROUGH THE WOODS, STAYING HIGH CLOSE TO THE FILD BOUNDRY

(54.08068; -2.59569)

Follow the way markers, eventually the path goes downhill to a path junction SD 61066514.If you go left, the paths goes down to the river and contrnes as far as the footpath leading to Alcocks Farm.

8 SD 6120 6503

(54.08002; -2.59711)

After approx. 1km the path splits; take the left fork downhill, and continue through the woodland and out into a field. Ahead of you is a large footbridge.

9 SD6068 6583

(54.08766; -2.60200)



Do not go over the footbridge but turn right, up the track out of Outhwaite Wood into a steep pasture and walk up to the road. Turn left and follow this road for 2km back into Wray Village and Bridge House Farm tearooms

