

East Lancashire's Historical Community Railways

Ride • Relax •
Ramble & Roam
on
East Lancashire's
Railways



Introduction

Welcome to this leaflet setting out a series of self guided walks from East Lancashire and Clitheroe line stations. Each walk set out in this leaflet has a map showing the route in detail and the text picks up out the many interesting things that you will see or experience on the walk - from railway history to the local flora and fauna.

The walks are all graded Moderately Easy, so pick a walk and we very much hope you will enjoy them.

We strongly recommend that you take the Ordnance Survey map for the area with you and the map you need is OS Explorer 287, West Pennine Moors.

Beginner's Information

For all walks in this leaflet you should have strong footwear, warm outdoor clothing and rainwear. At all times be aware of your own safety and that of anyone taking part in the walk with you.

Along the walk you will encounter stiles and many twists and turns on the way. We suggest that you familiarise yourself with the route before setting out, do take a map with you. Some walks are way marked BUT beware that you follow the right markings! The walks try to avoid road walking as far as possible but you do sometimes have to cross a busy road so please take extra care at these points.

over two and a half miles on a gradient as steep as one in thirty eight in places before reaching the summit close to Baxenden station 771 feet above sea level. Some services worked as expresses, for example the 4:25 Salford/Burnley Barracks took 48 minutes to cover the 29 miles. The line closed to all traffic in 1969 and was lifted during 1970/71.

4. Waggonway

A section of old stone Waggonway can be found on a small section of the walk. The Waggonway served quarries around Black Moss.

5. High Riley/New Riley

High Riley perched high on the hillsides above Accrington is one of the oldest homesteads in the area. Built by the Riley family records show the house existing in 1306. The house has been rebuilt and the current date stone over the door reads 1628. The castellated tower which now stands as part of the New High Riley or Spire Farm as it is known locally was originally part of High Riley where it served as a watchtower and as a defence against the marauding Scots. The tower was removed from High Riley and rebuilt a few yards away at New High Riley in 1801.

6. Peel Park View Point

Stunning views of Accrington and its surrounding lands can be enjoyed from this lofty viewpoint.

The Country Code

Remember to respect the countryside when you are out walking and follow the Countryside Code.

There are five key points in it:

1. Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
2. Leave gates and property as you find them
3. Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
4. Keep dogs under close control
5. Consider other people

More information about the Countryside Code can be found at:

http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code



Circular Walk from Darwen Station

Level of Walk - Moderately Easy

A walk of just over two miles, steep in parts, affording excellent views of the surrounding area.

Points of Interest

S Darwen Railway Station

Opened on 2 August 1847. The original station buildings were described as being built in the Tudor style. Long since demolished the original stationmaster's house still survives adjacent to the station.

2. India Mill Chimney

A local landmark the massive yet graceful mill chimney built by Eccles Shorrock in 1867 stands 300 feet high. The huge foundation stone came from Cadshaw quarry near Turton.

3. Darwen Jubilee Tower

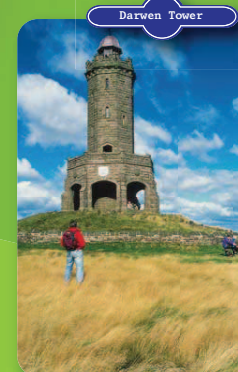
The tower was built in 1897 by Darwen Corporation to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It was restored by public subscription in 1972.

4. Views from The Tower

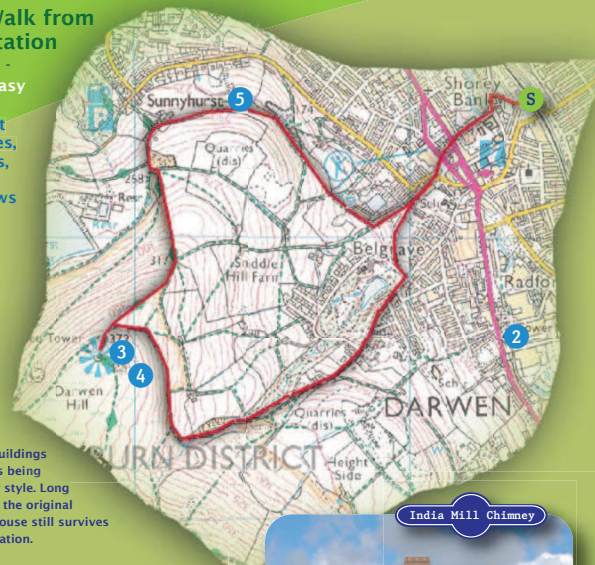
Pendle, Longridge Fell, the Bowland Fells, the Fylde Coast, (including Blackpool Tower), Black Combe, Ingleborough and Wernside can all be viewed from this lofty perch.

5. Sunnyside Woods

Acquired by Darwen Corporation in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII. The woods comprise mainly Beech, Sycamore, Oak, Hawthorne and Rhododendron trees.



Darwen Tower



Preserved Bridge Piers



India Mill Chimney

Further Information
This leaflet has been prepared by the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnerships with assistance from the Lancashire Rail Ramblers.

Who we are

The Community Rail Partnerships bring together a range of organisations including: Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Greater Manchester PTE, Northern Rail, Ribbles Valley Rail, ACoRP (the Association of Community Rail Partnerships) and many others.

Guided Walks

The Partnerships run a programme of guided walks from stations along both lines. Why not pick up a leaflet from your local station or tourist office? Alternatively check out the websites listed below.

Contacts

For more information about this leaflet and the local Community Rail Partnerships please contact:

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Websites

www.elcrp.org
www.ribblesvalleyrail.co.uk

Disclaimer

The details contained in this leaflet were correct at the time of going to print and all walks have been checked. However, the Partnerships cannot accept responsibility for any subsequent changes that might be made to them. We will, however, use the websites to advertise any changes to the paths made known to us.



Accrington Circular

Level of Walk - Moderately Easy

This interesting seven-mile walk takes the walker from Accrington Railway Station over a long closed railway line and on to the high ground above Baxenden and Accrington, affording magnificent views of Accrington and surrounding areas. Refreshments can be taken in Baxenden or Accrington.

Points of Interest

S Accrington Station

Opened in 1848 the station was originally a junction station. The large Accrington Viaduct, which dominates the town, was demolished during construction due to severe subsidence and rebuilt. By 1866 it had again become unsafe and was again demolished and rebuilt at a cost of £11,215. It was completed in September 1867.

2. Preserved Bridge Piers

At the foot of Baxenden Bank and at the start of the walk along the disused railway line the original bridge piers have been preserved and provide evidence of the route of the former railway.

3. The Accrington to Manchester Railway Line

Opened in 1848 the 1849 timetable showed 6 passenger trains in each direction. The notorious climb out of Accrington up Baxenden Bank was known by the local engineers as 'Accrington Broo'. The line climbs for just

Other Walks

Have you enjoyed the walks in this leaflet and want to try out some more? Below we select a few walks described in the Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen websites. It is possible to download full details of these walks and then take the train for another East Lancashire Ramble!

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Witton Weavers Way
A 32 mile trail of discovery around Blackburn and the West Pennine Moors and this is described in detail at: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.20626> or pick up a leaflet from a local tourist information office. However, it is possible to do the walk in small parts such as the Tacklers Trail which is described at: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.20536>

Ribble Way

This is a long distance trail that can be accessed by train from a number of Ribbles Valley stations such as Whalley and Clitheroe. From Clitheroe interchange the Ribble Way can be accessed at Edisford Bridge. For full details check out the link at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/pdf/ribble-way.pdf>

Downham Walks

Downham is a lovely village nestling below Pendle Hill and has many TV and Film connections. The village is also the starting point for some scenic and interesting walks and some of these are described by using the link set out below. To get to Downham use the train to Clitheroe Interchange and then catch Bus 5/5A from the Interchange to Downham on Monday to Saturday and the Pendle Witch Hopper on Sundays (April to October). Full details tel: 0871 200 2233 or 01200 429832. <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/walking/sdownham.asp>

MANCHESTER VICTORIA

SALFORD CRESCENT

HALL I' TH' WOOD

ENTWISTLE

BLACKBURN

LANGHO

CLITHEROE



SALFORD CENTRAL

BOLTON

BROMLEY CROSS

DARWEN

RAMSGREAVE & WILPSHIRE

WHALLEY



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A Whalley Circular (Two Viaducts Walk)

Level of Walk - Moderately Easy

This six-mile circular walk starting and finishing at Whalley Railway Station affords the walker views of two contrasting railway viaducts. Whalley Viaduct predominantly built of locally produced brick spanning the Calder Valley in a straight line and the gracefully curved stone Martholme Viaduct sadly no longer carrying trains. The route takes the walker through the lands of Read Hall and along the banks of the River Calder. Refreshments can be taken at the Gamecock Inn (SD 745339) or in the historic village of Whalley.

Points of Interest

S Starting Point - Whalley Station

The station was opened in 1850, closed in 1962 and reopened on 29 May 1994. This station was once a major destination for cattle from Eire in particular from County West Meath.

2. Clerk Hill
Viewpoint affording splendid views across the valley.
3. Read Hall
A Regency mansion built by Richard Fort in 1772.

4. Martholme Viaduct
Originally planned as a wooden viaduct the discovery of coal seams during construction made money available to build in stone. A graceful ten arch viaduct was built in the late 1860s carrying the North Lancashire Loop Line over the River Calder.

5. Old Salt Trail
Track used by monks carrying salt to Whalley Abbey. Spectacular views of Whalley all the way down this steep path.

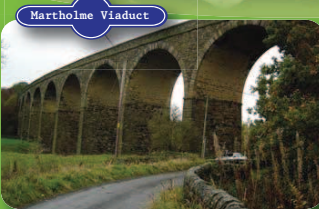
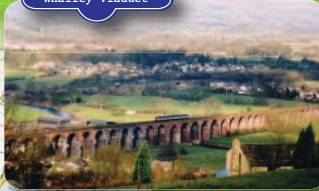
6. Whalley Parish Church
Built in 1200 with choir stalls dating from the fifteenth century this church situated in the village centre is a joy to behold. Three stone crosses can be found in the graveyard dating from the twelfth century.

7. Whalley Abbey
Established by monks from Stanlow in 1296 the ancient ruined Abbey is well worth a visit. The Abbey church was built in 1334.

8. Whalley Viaduct
Forty-eight spans, seven million bricks and four hundred and thirty six thousand cubic feet of stone were used in its construction. Arches twelve and thirteen collapsed during construction killing three workers.



Whalley Viaduct



Martholme Viaduct

Circular Walk from Entwistle Station

Level of Walk - Moderately Easy

This delightful walk takes the walker along the banks of two reservoirs, the Turton and Entwistle Reservoir and the Wayoh Reservoir. The two Reservoirs contrast in particular where wild flowers are concerned.

S Starting Point

The upper section of the Wayoh Reservoir gives shelter to flowers. In spring you can expect to find Celandine, Marsh Marigolds, Butterbur, Daisies, Buttercups, Bluebells, Ladies Mantle, Dandelion and Horsetail. In summer Meadow Sweet, Rose Bay Willow Herb, Bistort, Blackberry and Comfrey can be found. In contrast the Turton and Entwistle Reservoir is moorland in character, lined with fir tree plantations, which give little encouragement to wild flowers leaving Heather and Bilberry in the ascendancy.

Ducks, Swans, Coots and Snipe are common on both Reservoirs along with visiting sea birds. Robins, Wrens, Coal, Great and Blue Tits, Linnets, Jays and Magpies can be found amongst the woodland surrounding the reservoirs. Several historic and listed buildings are situated close to the walk and are easily accessible. Turton Tower a grade one listed building dating from 1400 is built round an ancient Peel Tower, which was constructed as a defence against Scottish raiders. Entwistle Hall is a fine stone built building characteristic of local old farm buildings and is a grade two listed building.

This walk forms part of Blackburn with Darwen's 'Warpers Trail' details of which can be obtained from Blackburn Tourist Information Centre tel: 01254 53277. Refreshments can be taken at The Strawberry Duck Pub (SD 727176) Entwistle, tel: 01204 852013.

Langho

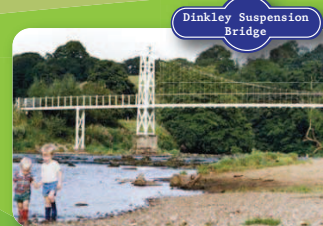
(A Walk to the railway that never was)
Level of Walk - Moderately Easy

This five mile circular walk takes the walker to a railway cutting constructed by the Fleetwood, Preston and West Riding Junction Railway, which never saw a train! The walk commences at Langho Railway Station taking the walker through beautiful countryside and across the River Ribble on an interesting suspension bridge. Refreshments can be taken at the Black Bull (SD 700358), Old Langho which is one of the oldest half timbered hostleries in the area.

Points of Interest

S Starting Point - Langho Station

The station here was opened in 1850, closed on 7 March 1956 and was reopened on the 29 May 1994.



Dinkley Suspension Bridge

2. Dinkley Suspension Bridge

The original bridge was built here in 1951 to replace the old Dinkley Trows ferry. The bridge was refurbished in the 1990s after flood damage. The bridge also forms part of the Ribblesway.

3. Railway Cutting

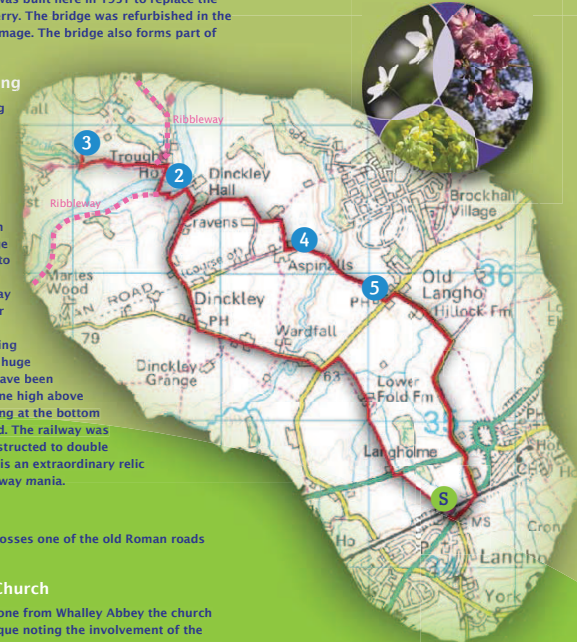
This 350-yard cutting was constructed during August 1847 for the Fleetwood, Preston and West Riding Railway Company who had planned a route from Preston via Longridge and Clitheroe and into the West Riding of Yorkshire. The railway was completed as far as Longridge, but standing on the cutting one can imagine the huge viaduct that would have been required to lift the line high above Starling Brook nesting at the bottom of Clough Bank Wood. The railway was obviously being constructed to double track standards and is an extraordinary relic from the time of railway mania.

4. Aspinnalls

The footpath here crosses one of the old Roman roads to Ribchester.

5. Old Langho Church

Built in 1557 with stone from Whalley Abbey the church contains a brass plaque noting the involvement of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in the past. The church was restored in 1879 by Thomas Carr and still sees occasional use.



Whalley Parish Church



Entwistle Reservoir



Old Langho Church



Entwistle Reservoir