

# LYTHAM HALL

Walk 2

South Fylde  
Line Walks



Approx 2.7 miles / 4.3 km.

# LYTHAM HALL –

A walk starting at Lytham railway station; finishing at Ansdell & Fairhaven railway station, via Lytham Hall and Witch Wood.  
Approx 4.3 km (2.7 miles)

Exit the station through the brick arch and notice the recent improvements to the entrance area including gateposts and cobbled retaining wall. *Cobble walls are a particular feature of the area with the stones coming from shingle banks or stannars that once protected the Fylde Coast.*

Follow the path in front of you for a few metres to see the fountain in Sparrow Park. *The ornate fountain, a mixture of stone and wood, was placed there by Lady Eleanor Cecily as a memorial to her husband John Talbot Clifton, after his death in 1872.*

Retrace your steps slightly and go up the steps at the side of the station to Ballam Road and turn left and follow the road for a short distance. *As you go over the bridge note the entrance to Witch Wood and the base of a pillar from the original railway station situated on Station Road. It was built in a Renaissance style from Longridge stone.*

- ① Continue along Ballam Road and cross the roundabout. Ahead is the impressive arched entrance to Lytham Hall, home of the Clifton Family. Note the detailing at the top – the Hand and Dagger is a symbol of the Clifton family which can be seen on a number of properties in the area.



1



2

*The gatehouse by the arch consists of two rooms each 10 feet square. To the rear of the right hand building is a wash house containing a sink and the only running water supply. For many years it was the home of an old lady friend of the Clifton family. It is thought to be one of the smallest dwellings in the country.*

## The Clifton Family's Links to the Railway

The family fell on hard times and when Violet Clifton travelled by train, the guard let her get into the 1st class carriage even though she couldn't pay the 1st class fare. At the next stop she exited the carriage and joined other travellers in 3rd class. In this way the railway employee preserved the family's dignity and position.

- ② Follow the drive round noting the huge expanse of trees of different species. At the gates take a short detour to the right and after about 50 metres an opening in the hedge allows the best view of the Hall.

Retrace your steps and go through the gates noting the Tape Storage Centre built by Guardian Insurance when they owned Lytham Hall. *This was formerly the site of the gamekeeper's lodge.*

Continue up the drive and on your left you can see a magnificent hornbeam tree, reputedly the largest in Lancashire.



3

- ③ On reaching the hall go past and follow the road as bears left behind the hall. The drive skirts a number of buildings and continues into woodland.



*The Georgian style hall was designed by John Carr of York and was built in 1764 on the site of an older hall. Here is a perfect opportunity for a comfort break and a stop for refreshments.*

The Clifton family have been connected with Lytham Hall since the 1600s. Designed by John Carr of York, Lytham Hall was built between 1752 and 1764. It is a Grade 1 listed building. Lytham Hall is constructed in the Palladian style of red brick in Flemish bond with stone dressings and stuccoed features. The house is symmetrical in style both inside and out.

- 4 Follow the track round the back of the hall, noting the tall dovecote to your right. *The dovecote has a rotating ladder inside to allow egg collectors to reach all 850 nesting boxes and would have provided birds for the hall's kitchen. At the rear of the hall is a screen or monk's wall, together with a restored two-seater privy together with stables showing evidence of a recent fire.*



4

- 5 Walking away from the hall you come to Curtains Pond which is thought to have provided ice for the ice house and a source of fish for the Clifton dinner table. *The ice house is believed*



5

*to be under the mound that can be seen close to the pond. There are also theories that the mound might have been the site of a windmill but certainly would have afforded great views for watching the horse racing and gallops.*

The path eventually leads to a gate in the fence.

Go through the gate, cross the road and head past the rear of the brick buildings, go through the barrier into Maplewood Close and continue straight across the road into Ringwood Close.

Bear left to gain access to the middle bridge entrance into Witch Wood. If you wish, carry straight on to visit the original lodge and entrance to the hall and to visit the site of the commemorative plaque marking the relics of St Cuthbert on Church Road and then retrace your steps. *The wood owes its name to a horse called The Witch, much loved by the Clifton family. Reputedly when it died in 1888 the horse was buried in the wood.*

- 6 Take the gate on the right (left, if using the detour) and take the path into Witch Wood. You will see the second of the three pillars rescued from the original Lytham Station. Follow the path and to your left, set some way back from the track is the gravestone of The Witch. *The path opens out to reveal a wooden*



6

*sculpture by John Adamson erected to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the wood. Further on you come to an open area on the right which has been designated as a wetland area with a pond and plants suitable for a wetland location.*

- 7 On leaving the wood, note the cobbled walls and the plaque commemorating the opening by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh in 1974. Bear right and across the road and turn left into Ansdell Road South. *Look closely at the imposing properties which feature*



7

wide from doors, and detailing on the roofs and brickwork. The gateposts too show signs of impressive carvings and detailing.

At the end of the road is a footbridge which takes you across the railway line. Opposite you to the left is an unusual building which is now a family home but was once a chapel.

8 Keeping on the same side of the road as the former chapel continue towards the traffic lights and you will come across a small cottage named Starr Hills featuring a blue plaque in recognition of artist Richard Ansdell after whom this area and the station were named.

Cross the road and continue to the junction.

**From here you can visit the White Church, walk on to Fairhaven Lake and then into St. Anne's via the coastal path and the promenade (walk 3)**

At the traffic lights turn right and continue along Clifton Drive noting the pantile fronts to the bays, the black and white bay windows and the turret on Croftlea.



8

9 On the opposite side is a tram shelter built by John Heap & Sons of St Anne's and erected by Lytham St Anne's Corporation in 1923. It served the tramway which ran between Blackpool and Lytham from 1898-1936. The shelter was restored in 2009 by the Lytham St Anne's Civic Society.

Turn left into Woodlands Road note the impressive shop fronts and former bank buildings to the left. At the bridge you arrive at Ansdell & Fairhaven station.



9



John Talbot Clifton's Memorial

10 Although officially Fairhaven United Reformed Church, this church is known locally as The White Church.

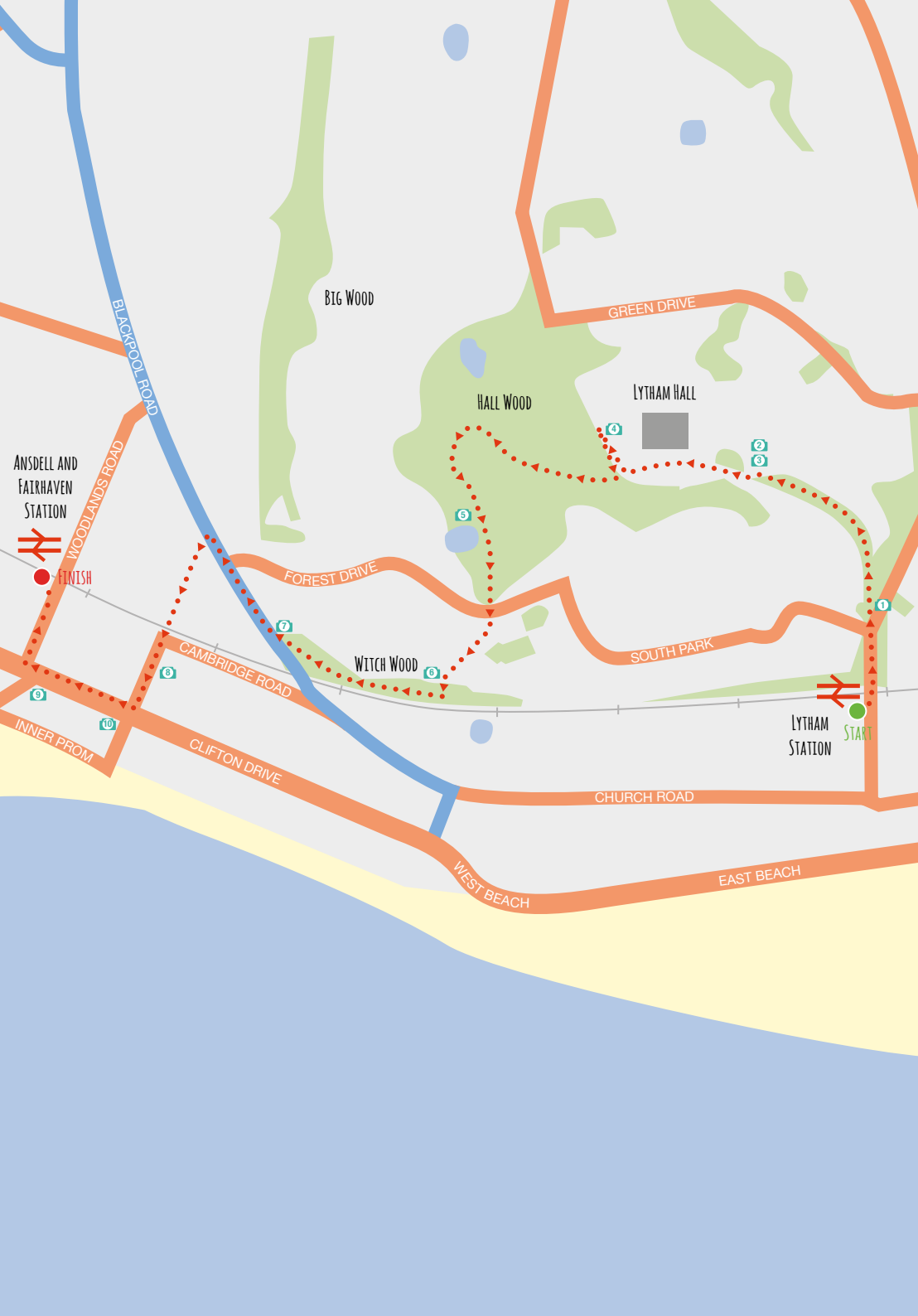
The story of The White Church begins at a meeting of the congregation of Lytham Congregational Church in 1899 with the suggestion that there should be a new church in Fairhaven on the estuary of the Ribble on land leased by the Clifton family of Lytham Hall. A month after the proposal was made they received great encouragement for their vision. The congregational Union of England and Wales had commenced a fund to raise half a million guineas for the church extension... 'in view of the rapid increase in population'.

Now there was no stopping them and with scarcely a setback they raised the money required to build the new church, a church which they all agreed should be a distinctive architectural feature in the district.

The successful architects were Briggs, Wolstenholme and Thornley of Blackburn who produced a design that imitated some of the featured of Byzantine architecture (on the outside that is). When the church was opened on October 17, 1912, their vision was realised.



10



BLACKPOOL ROAD

BIG WOOD

GREEN DRIVE

HALL WOOD

LYTHAM HALL

ANSDELL AND FAIRHAVEN STATION



WOODLANDS ROAD

FOREST DRIVE

SOUTH PARK

WITCH WOOD

CAMBRIDGE ROAD

LYTHAM STATION

START

INNER PROM

CLIFTON DRIVE

CHURCH ROAD

WEST BEACH

EAST BEACH



## Further Information

### Maps of the Area

- OS Explorer 286 Blackpool & Preston
- OS Landranger 102 Preston & Blackpool
- [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

An hourly train service runs between Preston and St. Anne's. For more details go to:

Web: [www.northernrailway.co.uk](http://www.northernrailway.co.uk)

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Tel: **08457 484950**

For information on local attractions, events, places of interest and accommodation please contact:

Web: [www.discoverfylde.co.uk](http://www.discoverfylde.co.uk)

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/south-fylde-line](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/south-fylde-line)

Tel: **01253 725610**

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## Acknowledgements

Lytham St. Anne's Civic Society, Tony Ford  
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**Before commencing this walk, please check with Lytham Hall that the grounds are fully open. Tel: 01253 736652**



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[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk)