

Lancashire Walks



Dunsop Bridge

Dunsop Bridge

A few years back the Wizards of the Ordnance Survey decided to work out the precise location for the centre of Britain. It happens to be in Lancashire a mile or so north of the village of Dunsop Bridge. To mark this discovery BT located their 100,000th phone box beside the green – with the ten figure grid reference etched on a plaque inside. This walk does not take you to that particular spot, but it will allow you to start that particular telephone box. Besides any other consideration this walk happens to be stunningly beautiful.

Distance: 10.7 Km or 6¾ miles

Start: Car park at Dunsop Bridge. SD 661501. From Longridge follow signs for Trough of Bowland and Whitewell

1. Dunsop Bridge to Whitewell (3.4 Km or 2 miles: 55 mins)

After having your photo taken by the famous telephone box, walk along the lane towards Newton and as it bends sharply to the left, turn right into an impressive drive lined with pines – the approach to Thorneyholme Hall. **(Pic 1)** Across the bridge turn immediately right through a metal gate onto a footpath. With the river Hodder on your right, follow the path through fields. The path is not always easy to pick out so you need to be alert when after 20-25 minutes it begins to turn towards Burholme Farm to the left. This is beyond a distinctive metal gate next to a stile. Just before the farm, cross a wooden bridge, and turn right through the farm emerging on a good track which takes you to Burholme Bridge. Continue along the lane ahead looking for a concessionary path on the right at 400m. This follows the lane on the safe side of the wall, up to wooded Whitewell.

2. Whitewell – Tunstall Ing (1.2 Km or ¾ mile: 20 minutes)

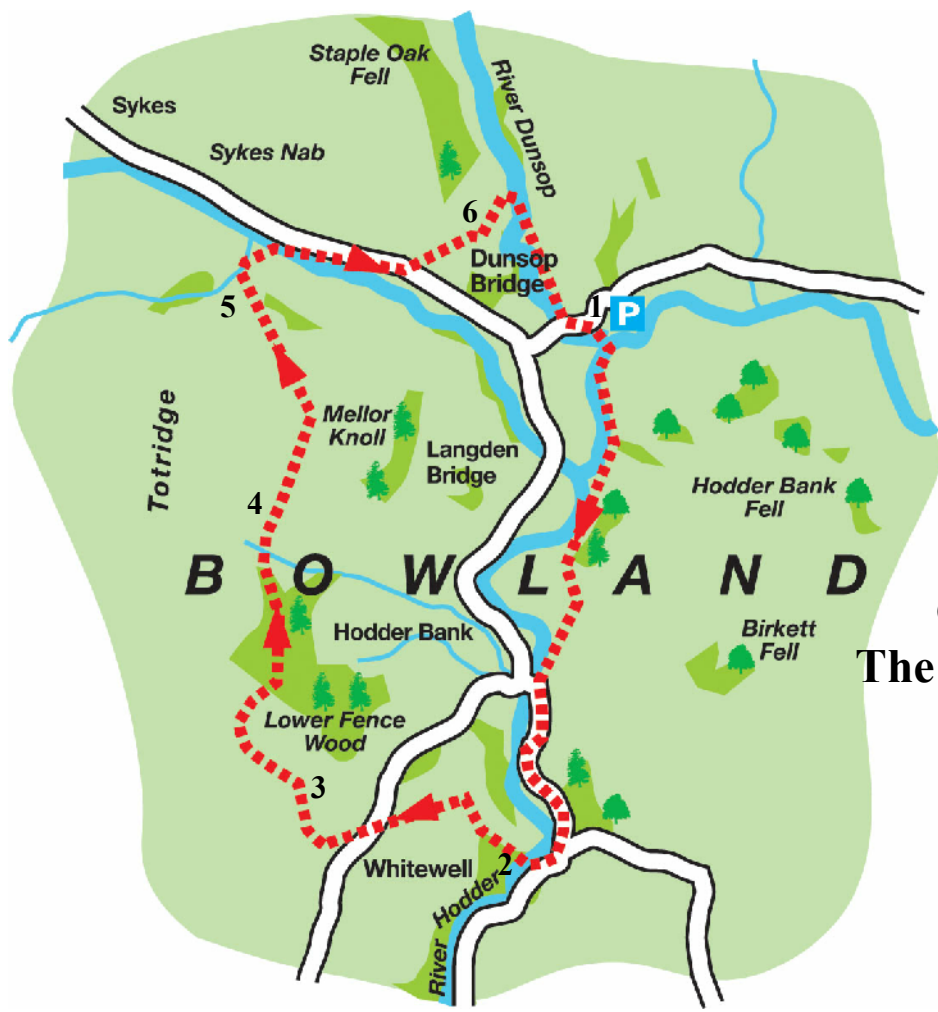
Pass the Inn at Whitewell and church on your right and go through a car park. A sign will direct you to the stepping stones. **(Pic 2)** Across the stepping stones the ground rises steeply beside a wood, reaching the large farmstead of New Laund. Pass through the yard and 100m beyond the farm, by a cheese press, turn left through the first of two metal gates and begin to climb along a grassy track. Further on follow the line of a fence on your left. After 600m the path levels out with limestone outcrops in evidence. Go through gate onto lane. Turn left looking for a stile 30m on your right. Cross a marshy meadow aiming to the left of a white house. **(Pic 3)** As the path meets the farm track turn right.

3. Tunstall Ing to Hareden (3.7 Km or 2¼ miles: 1 hour)

*For a while you are on a firm farm track, which in fact is a public bridleway. Across the 3rd cattle grid the track leads towards Higher Fence Wood past chicken huts. Turn right at the junction before reaching the farm, and then 300m further along, turn right by more chicken huts. This track brings you to a gate leading into a conifer plantation. As the track levels out you enter scattered woodland by a wall and soon especially fine views of the Hodder will draw your attention to your right. **(Pic 4)** After crossing a stream, the path climbs and by way of a stile/gate passes into the open pasture below Toteridge Fell. The route, after crossing a wall by a ladder stile, traverses very muddy pasture towards Mellor Knoll. Then veering left and crossing another wall by ladder stile, begins the descent towards Hareden. With a wall on your left drop down to Hareden, quite steeply through pasture, reaching a corner where a gate and ladder stile are to your left. **(Pic 5)** Cross this and bear right with the wall on your right down to Hareden. At the farm road turn right and follow it to the Trough Road.*

4. Harden to Dunsop Bridge 2.4 Km or 1½ miles: 40 minutes

*At the Trough Road turn right. Take care along here as the road can be quite busy especially at weekends. 800m along, beyond a cattle grid, go through a gate on the left to traverse a field to reach a metal gate. Beyond the gate, pass behind a farmhouse to arrive at a metalled track. **(Pic 6)** Turn left and walk towards the heavily conifered sides of Dunsop Valley. In a little over 200m cross the wooden bridge on the right and walk back in the opposite direction to Dunsop Bridge. Immediately on your left as you enter the village, is the post office with its adjoining Puddleducks café. The famous telephone box is a little further on the right.*



Map by
Chris Wyatt at
The Blackpool Gazette

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6

