

THE WALK

At the beginning of the 20th century Blackpool was in crisis – a victim of its popularity. The problem: there were insufficient supplies of drinking water to meet the needs of millions of visitors. The situation became so dire water had to be carted in. The town's options were limited. Water could be piped in from the Lake District but Manchester had secured that source; while the West Pennine Moors had been bagged by Liverpool. So the Bowland Hills were examined as a potential for water collection. The result the damming of the River Hodder close to its source and the creation of Stocks Reservoir. This walk will take you this amenity which has played such an important part in the development of the resort.

Start: Village car park Newton-in-Bowland. From the M6 junction 31a follow signs for Longridge, Chipping, Whitewell, and Dunsop Bridge. Newton is 2m further along the Hodder Valley.

Directions: Car park to Stocks Reservoir. 6k 4m. From car park walk back into village. Opposite the junction with lane coming from Waddington turn right onto a drive. After a short distance a waymark post indicates a fork. Your way is right on a path rather intrusively through a garden. Follow waymark signs to a metal gate. Go through and continue with hedge on your right. Path begins to climb steadily. 500m from the garden keep ahead as your path crosses another close to the field boundary. The way now follows a wall on the left. Keep ahead and after passing through a plantation of young trees bear left over a stile and cross next field to a ladder stile. Once over this turn right. With wall on your right walk 600m across pastures to the farmstead of Pain Hill. Cross a stone stile and walk down a gentle slope to a plank bridge followed by two stiles – one in a wall and one in a fence. Now follow the track up to the substantial complex of Parrock Head. After passing through a gate, bear right onto a drive. This leads to a lane which you cross. The route now traverses three fields with a wall to your left to reach the farmstead of Myttons which is on your right. Keep ahead across its drive. After a second drive (leading right to Bridge End) continue to reach a footbridge across a small brook. From here the footpath leads up to a lane close by a dilapidated barn. Turn right. Now on Wood House Lane walk 200m and turn right onto a public bridleway. After a stile the route crosses a rise to drop to a farm track leading left around Shay House. Keep on the track as it leads across Croasdale Brook and then onto Bentham Road. Turn right and then left into the United Utilities facility of Stocks Reservoir. The service road leads to a junction just below the dam. Turn left and walk up hill and then just before a handsome house turn right to reach the top of the dam. Reservoir to Newton. 6k 4m From water's edge drop to a wooden gate and on



Big stocks of water



reaching a track turn left. At its end cross stile and climb up steep slope. As ground levels out turn right onto a track leading down hill to Hammerton Hall with a wall on your left. After Hammerton Hall continue along a good track to Holmehead Bridge. After crossing the Hod-

FACTFILE

Distance: 12k 7 ½ m

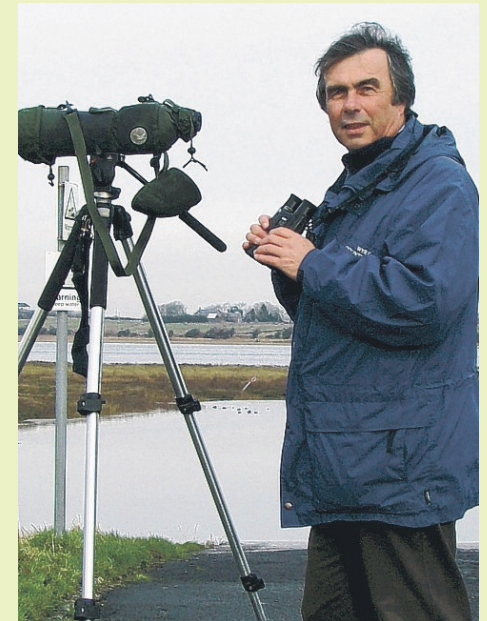
Time: 3 – 4 hours

Summary: A modest climb then undulating

Map: OS Outdoor Leisure 41 Forest of Bowland

der turn left after 100m onto unsigned footpath. With a wall on your right follow this path to Slaidburn. On reaching the village turn left over Croasdale Brook and then right by the war memorial. If refreshment is required then look no further than Hark to Bounty Inn an excellent country pub. At the youth hostel turn left towards Newton. Keep on the road past the church and then where the road bends to the right keep ahead along a track. Stay on this through Great Dunnov Wood bringing you once again by the river. After almost a mile from the road turn right onto a footpath leading up to the village close to the car park.

● *Walk devised David Johnstone and described by John Griffiths and Bob Clare. Hit www.lancashirewalks.com for more walks exploring the diversity of the Lancashire countryside.*



WALK ON THE WYRESIDE

with Len Blacow

Every year May is designated as Walk In The Woods Month and in Wyre the rangers have arranged a programme of walks to help you enjoy our spring woodlands. Come and join us to experience the heady scent of wild garlic and bluebells while listening to spring birdsong.

The best examples of spring woodland are those in the Brock Valley, Calder Vale and around Scorton. The Brock Valley in particular is a good area to visit for listening to the dawn chorus.

Our woodlands are alive with the songs of early summer visiting birds; chiffchaffs have now been joined by willow warblers and blackcaps. Several species of butterfly are also out and about enjoying the current warm spell. Look out for peacock and small tortoiseshell in the garden and comma and speckled wood in parks and woodlands.

Every Sunday in May we will lead a short walk from Calder Vale into bluebell woodland followed by afternoon tea in the village hall. We are celebrating International Biodiversity Day on Saturday May 22 with a series of walks through a variety of our finest habitats.

May is also time for our annual Garstang Walking Festival, this running from Friday May 7 to Sunday 16. With more than 60 walks, the festival has something for everyone.

This year's programme includes all-day walks in our uplands, two to three-hour walks around the Garstang area and special interest walks looking at the history and natural history of Wyre. Get a copy of the newly published programme and book early to avoid disappointment.

For details of all our walks and events, visit www.wyrebc.gov.uk/Find/WalksandCountrySideEvents, email countryside@wyrebc.gov.uk or telephone 01253 887220.

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