

Lancashire Walks

Ribchester



It is hard to see in a scene so tranquil why Ribchester was considered to be of such strategic importance that Agricola established a fort there in AD 79. Little remains of the 300 plus years of Roman occupation but the ages since have given Ribchester what has been described as "a goodly heritage".

Start: Crowshaw Quarry Car Park. Old Clitheroe Road. From Junction 31a M6 follow signs for Longridge. On B6243 bear right at mini roundabout towards Clitheroe and Ribchester. Beyond St Cecilia's High School turn left opposite church into town centre. Follow sign for Jeffrey Hill straight ahead. Where the road forks keep right. In 3 Km or 2 miles reach cross roads at Newdrop Inn. In further 2 Km or 1½ miles look for car park on right, opposite plantations of Longridge Fell.

Distance: 11 Km or 7 miles

Time: 3 - 3½ hours

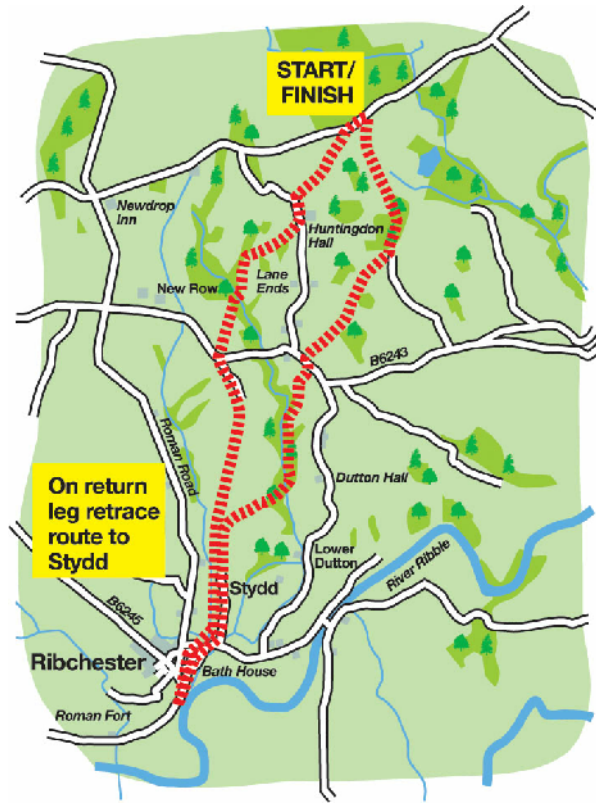
Terrain: Mainly easy though bear in mind the 200m descent to Ribchester on outward leg means an uphill return to the car.

1. Crowshaw Quarry to Ribchester (6 Km or 4 miles: 1½ - 2 hours)

Walk towards Clitheroe turning right onto tarmac drive leading down to Crowshaw House. Pass its barn on the right. At 300m along a track, turn right before a plantation. **(Pic 1)** The track curves around the plantation to enter woodland by a gate. The path leads to Higher Hud Lee Farm. The route now crosses a field to a stile in a hedge, **(Pic 2)** then to a stile in a fence. Cross a rise then drop to another stile. Keep ahead with a farm on your right to reach a footbridge. **(Pic 3)** After, walk up alongside a fence and pass through a gate to come to Manor House Farm. Its track leads down to the B6243. Turn left and then cross to a footpath on the opposite side. **(Pic 4)** This leads to the edge of Duddel Wood. Turn left and walk down hill with the wood on the right. Enter the wood at a stile. The path crosses Duddel Brook and then climbs on the opposite bank. Just before the path exits the wood, turn left on a narrow path staying inside the wood. After crossing two footbridges, turn right onto a track that leads down to another. **(Pic 5)** After this walk to a stile and finally leave the wood. Keep ahead with a hedge on left. When it turns away cross pasture to reach a stile by a metal gate. **(Pic 6)** [Note this arrangement since you will be returning here on the first part of the leg back] Cross the stile and follow the track to Stydd Manor. After two sets of metal gates you come to Stydd Chapel. **(Pic 7)** This lovely building has recently been restored. Continuing along the lane, you will soon come to a second architectural gem - the almshouses built in 1728. Keep on the lane to reach Ribchester. Here turn right and follow signs for the Roman bath house. **(Pic 8)** Keep on the path past the bath house to come to the River Ribble. **(Pic 9)**

2. Ribchester to Crowshaw (5 Km or 3 miles: 1½ hours)

Retrace your steps first to Stydd and to the junction of paths at the metal gate. Here keep ahead with the hedge on your left. **(Pic 10)** The way now is gently up. After a small bridge, **(Pic 11)**, keep ahead aiming to the right of a radio mast. **(Pic 12)** You will come to the large farmyard of Duddel Hill. The track beyond leads to Longridge Road. Cross the road taking the footpath opposite to traverse two pastures to enter woodland. **(Pic 13)** On reaching a drive turn left and take an unsigned path on your right to reach a stile. Your way is left along the side of the wood. After a barn **(Pic 14)** cross a stile and then turn right. Follow the hedge to a stile across a wire fence. Beyond this skirt the wood to the left as you ascend a brow to come to a stile by a metal gate before Cutler's Hill. **(Pic 15)** Contour to the right of the hill then aim towards the castellated building ahead. After passing through a pair of wooden gates, reach Huntingdon Hall. **(Pic 16)** Turn left up the lane and on the first bend reach a stile with a signpost indicating a trio of public footpaths. Your course is the middle one. Following the direction of the waymark, on cresting a hill you will see the farmhouse of Intack ahead. After a stile keep to the right of the house as you follow its drive, past the quarry and up to the car park.



**Map by Chris Wyatt
at the
Balackpool Gazette**

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



Pic 8



Pic 9



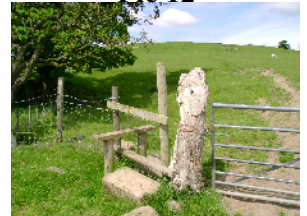
Pic 10



Pic 11



Pic 12



Pic 13



Pic 14



Pic 15



Pic 16

