

THE WALK

Weets Hill, near Barnoldswick, (or "Barlick" to locals) is about as far east you can go in Lancashire without straying into that other place. It is sometimes referred to as "the Third Peak of Pendle" and although not as high as Pendle Hill or Boulsworth it is a superb viewpoint rewarding all the effort taken to reach it.

Start: Letcliff Hill Country Park, off B6251 (Manchester Road) south of Barnoldswick. It may seem to those of you who choose to follow this walk that the biggest challenge will be to locate this park. Be warned – it is not very well signed and the signs it has are prone to being dislodged by bad weather. Moreover do not rely on local enquiry to help you out.

This is not a well known amenity even in Barlick. From the end of M65 take first exit A6068 Vivary Way leading onto North Valley Road. After one and a half miles, turn left on to A65 Skipton Road. At Foulridge turn left onto B6251 to Barnoldswick. Continue to the outskirts of the town – almost three miles. If you are lucky you may spot a hand painted sign indicating the park is on your right.

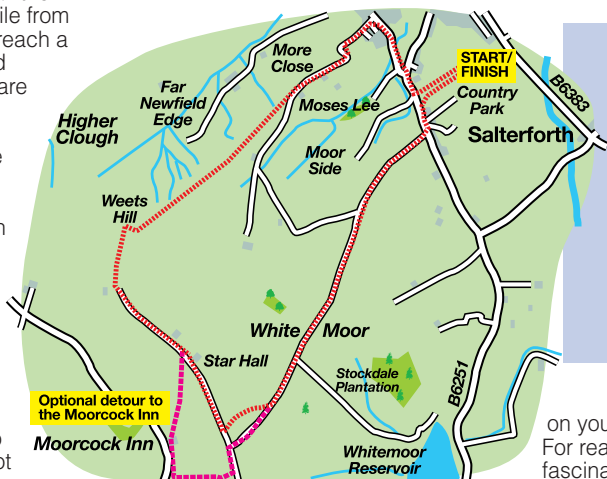
Directions: Car park to summit: Compared to the trouble of finding the park the route is relatively simple to follow. For this section you will be on the Pendle Way with its distinctive witch on a broomstick waymark sign. Return to Manchester Road and turn right, and then after 200m turn left down Gillian's Lane. This leads past Bancroft Mill which is now a museum. Keep ahead turning left into Moorgate Road which leads on to Folly Lane, a farm track. The ascent now begins. After 500m look for a stile on the right. Cross this into pasture and continue the ascent, at first through fields, but as you gain height across moorland. A stone wall on your left will now provide a good guide nearly all the way to the top. After 1500m/one mile from the lane the path will bear right to reach a trig. point 397m (or 1250 feet in old money). On a clear day the views are outstanding.

Summit to car park. Begin a gentle descent bearing left so you regain the wall and follow this down to where it meets a lane end (Gisburn Old Road). Still on the Pendle Way turn left and walk past Weets House. Keep on the lane for the next 1500/ mile. Just beyond Star Hall you will part company with the Pendle Way which bears off to the right. After Star Hall take the first footpath on the left. This crosses three fields to reach Lister Well Road, which is not a road at all, but a rough track. On reaching it turn left to commence a long straight descent back to the B625 on a gradually improving surface. At the road turn left for the car park which on a clear day you would have spotted from some considerable distance away. [If refreshment is needed on route a detour to the Moorcock Inn can be easily



ON THE WAY: Walking along Gisburn Old Road

Super view in the east



FACTFILE

Summary: Distance: 8k 5m
Time: 2 – 3 hours
Terrain: Mainly farm tracks with some moorland footpaths. The ascent is gradual and not too strenuous.
Map: OS Explorer OS 21

on your right will lead to Lister Well Road] For readers wishing to explore this fascinating area of the county we can thoroughly recommend Jack Keighley's excellent guide "Walks in Lancashire Witch Country" published by Cicerone Press.

• Walk 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

Freshly thawed hedgebottoms are green with fresh leaves of cow parsley and snowdrops will soon be in flower. Our wild birds suffered in the cold spell no doubt many perished in the harsh conditions. Garden birds probably fared better but please continue to feed them.

Tomorrow, Wyre's Countryside Rangers will be celebrating the Big Garden Birdwatch at the Wyre Estuary Country Park. You can join them at 11am to make a bird feeder and 2pm for a stroll around the park and to help with a survey.

On the same day the more adventurous can attend a map reading and compass skills workshop at Cobble Hey Farm near Bleasdale (below). Following the indoor session you will be able to try out your new skills on an afternoon walk in our upland countryside.

Our February programme includes a beach clean at Rossall on Monday, February 8, while the legstretcher walk on Friday, February 12, will follow a circular route around Garstang along the Lancaster Canal footpaths

On Sunday, February 14, members of the Fylde Bird Club will be on the banks of the River Wyre at Preesall. Why not join them and learn about our estuary birds and an important survey that monitors our wetland bird populations? Non-birdwatchers can join the rangers for a morning walk around Scorton, Grizedale and Nicky Nook.

On Thursday, February 18, visit the Wyre Estuary Country Park and learn some of the skills required to become a Countryside Ranger.

The following day you can walk the recent strandline at Fleetwood to look at what the tide has washed ashore, learn to identify some of the shells and seaweeds on the beach.

The last weekend of the month gives you the opportunity to join the rangers at the Wyre Estuary Country Park to help with some of the conservation work required to keep our award winning park in tip-top condition.

For more information about our walks and activities, please contact countryside@wyrebc.gov.uk or telephone 01253 887220.



THE KOI POOL WATER GARDENS & GARDEN CENTRE
 Woody's Coffee Shop | Giftware & Outdoor Living
 Mains Lane, Singleton
 Tel: 01253 896127 www.thekoipool.co.uk