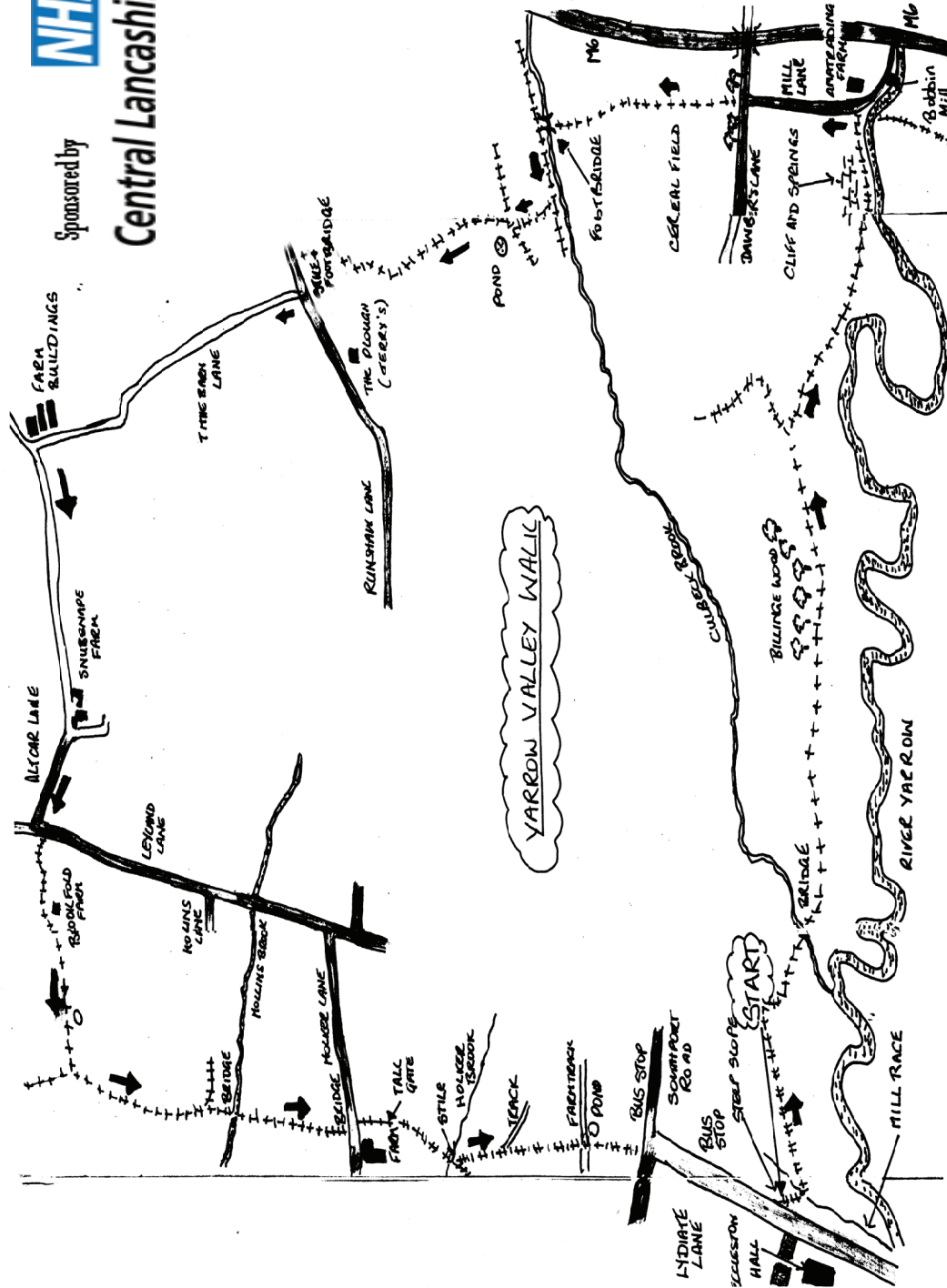




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Action for Ulnes Walton

Walk Three

The Yarrow Valley

A walk through our countryside

PREFACE TO WALK THREE: THE YARROW VALLEY

Approx 6 miles 2 hours 40 mins

The Yarrow is particularly picturesque here and you walk through beautiful countryside. The route is relatively flat on grassland grazed by cattle and sheep and on traffic free tarmac farm tracks. Only a very short time is spent on the road. Stiles and bridges are well maintained. It can get muddy in the winter but for the remainder of the year going underfoot is good. There is a pub serving food at the halfway point. It is on the C7 and 347 bus routes.

Bus routes

C7: Chorley interchange to Croston station. Timetable: <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables/>

ChorleyLocalServicesfrom03September2007.pdf

347: Chorley to Southport. Timetable:

<http://www.transportforlancashire.com/timetables/PDFS/264.pdf>

Walk Three: Yarrow Valley

- 1. Approximately** 50 metres uphill from Eccleston Hall and just before the first house on the right (going northwards) is a STILE beside a huge sycamore tree and a field gate. Once over the stile keep left and beside the fence and follow it downhill. *Look right to see a view of St Mary's Parish Church.*
- 2. Cross** the FOOTBRIDGE (*Going over the mill race for Eccleston Cornmill which used to stand 100metres to the right*). Go LEFT along the edge of the field towards a line of trees.
- 3. A STILE** and FOOTBRIDGE are to the right of the gate, hidden by the trees and bushes. Keep forwards with the hedge/fence on your left. *To the right tall willows mark the course of the River Yarrow. You are walking in a huge flood plain which is covered in a mass of buttercups in the summer.*
- 4. Just** before the fence and line of trees going from left to right veer off to the RIGHT to find a STILE and FOOTBRIDGE beside a large sycamore. *To your left is the bluff line (gentle slope) of the Yarrow valley.*
- 5. The** path goes DIAGONALLY across the next field from the near left corner to the far right corner. Here cross the farm track BRIDGE over the Culbeck. *The Culbeck (cool beck) flows through Euxton under the M6 to join the River Yarrow close to here.* Follow the farm track to the LEFT. *At the top of the bluff line to your left is Whiterigg Alpines.*
- 6. Go** over the STILE beside the gate and head for *Billinge Wood covered in a carpet of bluebells April/May.* Go STRAIGHT AHEAD straight through the wood leaving it very shortly by another STILE. Go STRAIGHT AHEAD keeping Billinge Wood on your left towards the power lines. *The m6 is just visible to the right.* A large meander brings the Yarrow close to the footpath here. Head towards a gate between a line of trees. Cross the STILE and continue forward along the farm track.
- 7. Just** before the track starts to climb upwards at a gateway take the STILE into the field on the RIGHT and head for the nearby line of trees. Here you cross a STILE and a small brook. Bear RIGHT then after only a few metres bear LEFT. **DO NOT CROSS THE BRIDGE.**
- 8. Cross** the field and find a STILE among the trees beside the river. Once across keep to the river to the right and follow along the line of electricity poles towards the roof of a farm just visible in the distance. Look out for the gate beneath the steep slope and go through the KISSING GATE beside it. *Note the springs as water seeps from the cliff of shale.* Exit via another KISSING GATE.
- 9. A STILE** is straight ahead beside the large metal gates. Once over it turn LEFT up the tarmac farm track, Mill Lane. *The area was once industrial with several mills and a file factory powered by the Yarrow Amatrading is an ancient settlement. Note the date stone in the wall with the inscription "Richard Jones 1662".*
- 10. Walk** up Mill Lane and head STRAIGHT ACROSS the main road (DAWBBER'S LANE) entering a gap in the woods marked with a footpath sign. Exit via a STILE and go STRAIGHT across the arable field. The route is well trod and easy to follow. *The area is earmarked as the future Euxton Quarry for sand extraction. A rigorous anti-quarry campaign is being waged by Euxton residents.*

Walk Three continued

- 11. A fluorescent** orange marker shows the route. Go over a STILE beside a metal gate into a grass field and keep along the barbed wire fence. Where the wire makes a 90° bend to the left continue straight ahead over a small rise. The STILE is facing you beside a gate. Go downwards to cross the Culbeck via a footbridge. Ignore the stile to the right and bear left along the fence beside a line of trees and you soon come to a STILE on the right going into the next field. Go uphill keeping to the hedge on your right. Exit this field by a STILE in the top right corner. Keep along the hedge and after a few yards go LEFT over a STILE near an oak tree. On your left you may see wild geese on the pond.
- 12. Go straight** ahead through the middle of the field and the STILE is in front of you in the hedge. Cross the next field to a FOOTBRIDGE. Ahead, a little to the right, the next FOOTBRIDGE is visible. Exit onto Runshaw Lane via a STILE. Turn LEFT along the main road (busy and fast) and turn RIGHT down Tithebarn Lane.
- 13. A pub** serving food (The Plough) is one hundred yards further down Runshaw Lane.
- 14. Go** all the way along Tithebarn Lane until you eventually reach three huge farm buildings. Go over two STILES to exit onto Altcar Lane. Turn left and follow the road downwards. *To the right is Worden Park woods, to the front right is St James' Church and ahead is the Southport gas holder.* Altcar Lane meets Leyland Lane. After crossing the main road turn LEFT then immediately go RIGHT at the sign for Brookfold Farm. Follow the lane past the white house and farm after it swings round to the left. Exit via a STILE beside a wooden gate. Follow the hedge round to the right along an overgrown track. Keeping the hedge on your left
- 15. Where** the track splits go LEFT downwards to a STILE and FOOTBRIDGE in the corner. **TAKE CARE HERE. THE ROUTE IS EASY TO MISS.** Keep left keeping along the barbed wire fence and go over a STILE onto a rough cart track. Where the track swings 90° to the left leave it to find a STILE in the corner to the right. **TAKE CARE. THE STILE IS DIFFICULT TO SEE.** Once over the stile turn LEFT where the route can be overgrown with nettles.
- 16. Cross** Hollins Brook via a FOOTBRIDGE and continue straight ahead and uphill ignoring the stile to your left. Go over a STILE beside a metal gate then over a STILE behind the round drinking tank. Turn RIGHT and keep along the hedge. Exit onto Holker Lane via a FOOTBRIDGE.
- 17. Turn** LEFT on Holker Lane then immediately RIGHT beside the farmhouse to a tall narrow iron gate. Go through and straight ahead going over the STILE in the next field. Look ahead and slightly to the right to see a metal gate with a STILE. Once over go through the electric fence by using the blue grip handle and follow the farm track. Look out for the white fencing post on the right. Just before it use the grip handle to go through the electric fence.
- 18. Ahead** beside an oak tree, is a FOOTBRIDGE and STILE. Once over it cross the farm track using the STILES and keep along the hedge on your left. Go over the STILE beside the metal gate and the grassy track takes you onto Southport Road. Cross over the road and into Lydiate lane and back to the start.