



Gisburn Forest – Tramper Trail

OS Explorer
OL41



Start Point



School Lane car park

★ SD 7320 5650

Distance/Time



1.3 Miles / 2.1 km

1 Hr

Terrain

Generally good surfaces, with long stretches of compacted stone, or grass track. The route is adequately wide with some narrow stretches. Cross slopes and cambers are mostly minor and there are small stretches which may become soft and slightly rutted following heavy rain. Total height climbed along the route is up to 40 metres. Disabled Ramblers category 2 – moderate

Key to Facilities

Parking, Bird Hide

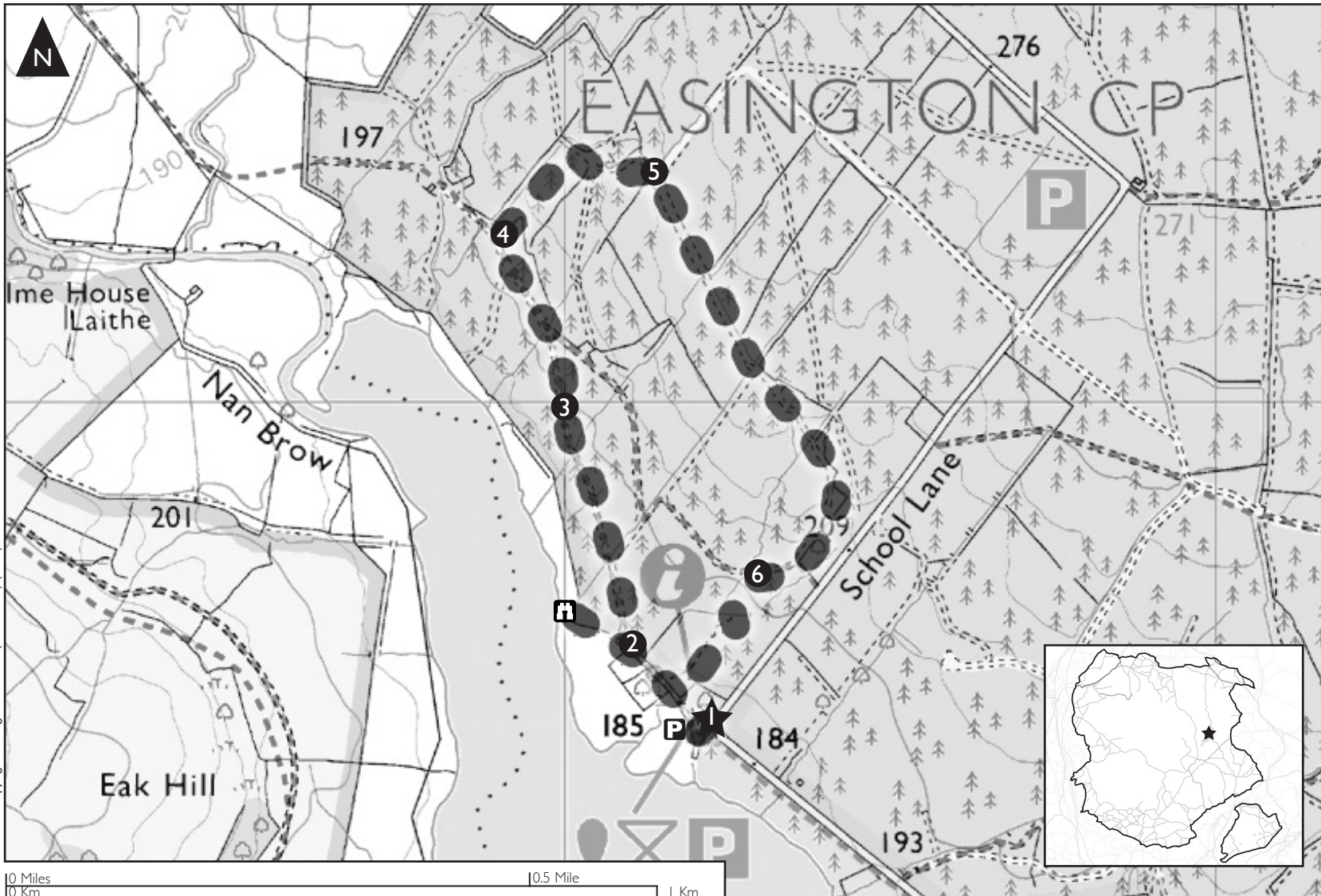
Slaidburn village 5 miles / 8km
village hall, shop, tearoom and inn.

Tosside 4 miles / 8km
community hall and inn

To book a tramper please telephone
01200 448000

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

- ★ SD 7320 5652
- ② SD 7309 5663
- SD 7300 5665
- ③ SD 7300 5698
- ④ SD 7288 5726
- ⑤ SD7315 5735
- ⑥ SD7328 5672



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0 Miles / 0 Km 0.5 Mile 1 Km



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Gisburn Forest – Trumper Trail

★ GPS: SD 7320 5652

Start at School Lane car park and access the trail through a field gate alongside the reservoir wall (radar lock).

Continue along the well-made stone track for a short distance passing a picnic area to the left. One of the bench seats is useable by trampers.

② GPS: SD 7309 5663

At this point the trail bears right. However, to the left around a dry stone wall is a 70 metre optional route to the reservoir edge, with trumper friendly bird hide (GR SD 7300 5665). Inside, the hide has a range of bird information including a species list/report of birdlife for the area indicating it to be the best location in east Lancashire with the reservoir attracting many wildfowl, waders and passage migrants. Re-trace your route back to the dry stone wall and continue gently uphill where the path narrows and cross falls aid drainage.

③ GPS: SD 7300 5698

The views now begin to expand across the reservoir onto the high points of Saddle Hill, Bloe Greet and Catlow Fell, below which sit scattered farmsteads, managing sheep and cattle. Inland, the pine backdrop is layered with a foreground of native birch, alder and willow trees interspersed with veteran oaks and sycamore trees dating back pre-reservoir and forest to the once thriving community. This open ground offers good opportunity to hear and view a range of woodland birds including the quite rare redstart and pied fly catcher although more commonly seen and heard are many finches, woodpeckers, thrushes and groups of long tailed tits flitting between trees in search of food, sounding their distinctive wisping `zee-zee-zee`

④ GPS: SD 7288 5726

Turn right at this junction and head on a slight uphill streamside path into the woodland. Continue past a stone gatepost and former farm compound as the gradient increases to meet a forestry road.

⑤ GPS: SD 7315 5735

From the woodland track turn right along the vehicle width forest road. You may see evidence of felled woodland `compartments` and high fencing to prevent deer damaging new plantings. Gradually the forest road tapers to a single track crossing streams and gently meandering clockwise downhill. The walled enclosure of School Lane appears to the left across a shallow wooded `clough` valley of mature sycamores

⑥ GPS: SD 7328 5672

Continue a gradual descent on a gently undulating surface of pine needles and tree roots. Note the height and straight stems of the rough barked pine trees and their potential commercial value for long lengths of sawn timber. Pass over a small bridge and continue to rejoin the original track close to the car park gate on your left.

Gisburn Forest, Stocks reservoir and much of the surrounding farmland is owned by United Utilities as a water catchment area. The forest is managed by the Forestry Commission for timber sales, conservation and recreation. The forest and reservoir are rich in both birdlife and local history, playing host to a "Lost Village". The village of Stocks in Bowland was first recorded in 1242 and continued until the early 1930s when the valley was flooded to create the reservoir. Only the church, school and village remained above the water (now all demolished). The church stood on the site of the car park and the vicarage is now the picnic area. A new church was built in 1938 on the eastern side of the reservoir. Imagine this former village of cottages, smithy, inn, post office, church and school serving the wider rural and farming community - a blueprint for countryside life which still holds strong today.

