

## Stocks Reservoir

### Circular

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



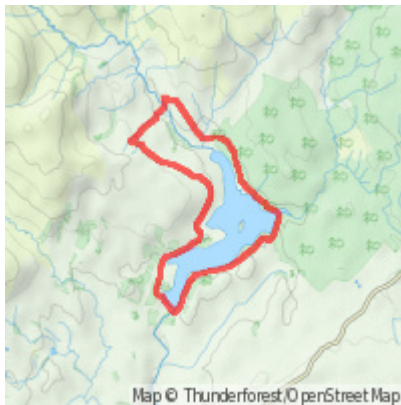
### Route Summary

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Roads, tracks and fields. Can get muddy in parts. Take care on unpaved road sections. Expect livestock. "Walking safely" information available at [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com) Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer map OL41.

### Route Overview

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Category: Walking  
Length: 11.070 km / 6.92 mi  
Last Modified: 6th February 2018  
Difficulty: Medium  
Rating: Unrated  
Surface: Undefined  
Date Published: 6th February 2018

### Description

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Stocks Reservoir car park on School Lane makes a good starting point for the reservoir walk and also for a number of forest trails. The car park is also the site of the original St James' Church, which was demolished along with the village of Stocks-in-Bowland when the reservoir was constructed during the early part of the 20th century. The church was rebuilt at its present site down the road at Dalehead.

### Waypoints

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#### 1 Stocks Reservoir

(54.00389; -2.41041)

1. Leave the car park via the gap next to the field gate in the corner near the pay machine and follow the path ahead - known as Miry Lane. After a short distance you will come to a gap in the wall on your left. This is the entrance to the picnic area, which was once the site of the village vicarage. Continue along the track.

#### 2 (54.00511; -2.41217)

2. Down a side path to the left is a bird hide - the first of two which are open to the public; a good spot for observing

birds such as ducks and geese plus the occasional rare visitor. Continue along the main path through the woodland.

**3** (54.01132; -2.41644)

3. Site of Birch Hill Farm. The small building is all that remains. Many farms became unviable when the reservoir was constructed and afforestation of the land took place. Continue across the field and to a bridge over Hasgill Beck.

**4** (54.01147; -2.42178)

4. Hasgill Bridge, over Hasgill Beck, carried the old road which would have connected the farms of Hasgill, New House and Collyholme. Continue along a grassy track eventually reaching New House Farm.

**5** (54.01733; -2.42881)

5. New House Farm. Whilst the house and barn are derelict, the land is still farmed. Turn left in front of New House Farm and descend a zig-zagged grassy track to a footbridge over the River Hodder.

**6** (54.01622; -2.43181)

6. After crossing the bridge continue ahead to go through two kissing gates. (Close by are the ruined remains of Collyholme Farm.)

**7** (54.01450; -2.43371)

7. Turn right and continue alongside Copped Hill Clough until you reach a track. Go straight on over the flags, then a footbridge, until you reach a track. Turn left.

**8** (54.01108; -2.44050)

8. Route of old railway track. Continue along the track all the way to Stocks Reservoir Fly Fishery.

**9** (53.99360; -2.43120)

9. The Fising Lodge. Fishing is available during the season and refreshments can also be obtained. (Note seasonal opening.) Continue along the track.

**10** (53.98770; -2.43339)

10. Stocks Board House. Formerly offices of the Fylde Water Board, now United Utilities Bowland Estate Office. Continue straight ahead along a path away from the main track and along the dam.

**11** (53.98670; -2.43127)

11. Stocks Reservoir dam, with huge overflow returning water to the River Hodder. Towards the end of the dam, descend the steps, turn left to cross the outlet channel and then left again to join the old railway track. Follow this path ahead.

**12** (53.99089; -2.42378)

12. Follow the path along the edge of the reservoir then head slightly right, through fields and then into the woodland. Emerge at the other side into a meadow.

**13** 13

(53.99650; -2.40597)

Wildflower meadow. During the summer this is a good site for many wildflowers, including orchids. Continue and then through a kissing gate on the left towards the end of the field, emerging next to the road.

**14** 14.

(53.99634; -2.40413)

Continue ahead on a footpath adjacent to the left hand side of the road, emerging onto the road before the causeway. Turn left to follow the road over the causeway.

**15** (54.00059; -2.40332)

15. After the causeway follow the path behind the hedge on your left to your starting point at Stocks Reservoir car park.

