

## Delph Quarry Circular Walk

### Route Summary

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NB/ The route follows private estate roads which are also public footpaths. Roads, gravel/hardcore and grassy tracks. Can be quite muddy and wet in places. 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: 11.190 km / 6.99 mi  
Last Modified: 17th July 2017  
Difficulty: Medium  
Rating: Unrated  
Surface: Undefined  
Date Published: 13th July 2017

### Description

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Much of the land on this route is owned and managed by one estate. Estate buildings can be easily recognised by their khaki paintwork. The estate is managed partly for farming and partly for the benefit of sporting pursuits – shooting grouse, pheasant and partridge. The habitats and landscape that you see are a direct result of this balance of interests.

You will notice well maintained beech hedges and woods of beech, oak and Scots pine underplanted with rhododendron. In the shooting season you may well hear distant shots and meet with vehicles carrying beaters and 'guns'. At Brooks farm, as you cross the road bridge, you will see a much smaller and older 'packhorse' bridge on the right. Note the evergreen holm oak as you move away from the bridge.

Look out for brown hares on this route, especially in the springtime. The brown hare was introduced to Britain before the Roman invasion. It has become characteristic of traditional mixed farming landscapes. Perhaps you will see hares standing on their back legs and looking just like a pair of boxers trying to knock each other out. This occurs when females fight off or test the strength of potential male suitors! The rushy fields are ideal habitat for ground nesting waders like lapwing, curlew and snipe.

## Waypoints

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(53.90404; -2.69287)

Take the concessionary footpath from the back of the car parking area via the stile (adjacent self-closing gate with RADAR lock), keeping the drystone wall on your right, until you reach a boundary junction with three gates. Go through the left hand gate and head diagonally left across the field to a gateway to the right of the small wood.

### 2.

(53.90778; -2.69754)

Head straight across the field towards a gate in the wall and in front of it, turn right onto the stone track. Follow this up the hill to reach the road.

### 3.

(53.91055; -2.69310)

At the road gate turn left and follow the road for approximately 200m to reach a footpath which takes you through a young woodland area and out through a small gate into a large field. Walk up onto the track ahead and follow this track through Fell End farm, past Bleasdale Tower and into the complex of buildings at Brooks Barn.

### 4.

(53.91064; -2.66942)

Turn left to pass a rare, red 'GR' postbox set into the wall. You will pass behind Clough Heads Cottages, a pretty row of terraced cottages that were once part of the North Lancashire Reformatory. (Slightly further along the road you come to a well-constructed, buttressed stone bridge some 30 feet over a stream. This was built by boys from the Reformatory.) The path now climbs slightly through a wood.

### 5.

(53.91520; -2.66353)

Leave the wood via a cattle grid and enter open, rough pasture with views of Fairsnape and Parlick to the right and the wooded summit of Beacon Fell Country Park to the south. A track joins from the left as you head to the left of Hazelhurst farm. (Note the long water trough just before the cattle grid.) After a short distance the track begins to descend and becomes rougher.

### 6.

(53.91649; -2.64867)

Enter Holme House farmyard through a gate and concrete yard before leaving by another gate at the far end. The track resumes, becoming more rutted with boulders and cobbles from the nearby stream making the surface tricky as you descend to a concrete bridge over a stream. Keep right as the track forks. (The track from this point can be wet and muddy.) Further along, go through a gate and after a time the track bears right and turns to a grassy track with

deeper ruts. (Note the undercut roots of trees on the stream bank on the right hand side further along.)

## 7.

(53.91376; -2.64730)

Bear slightly left after a small bridge to climb across open fields. The track is at its wettest here as you approach a wooden gate with stile to the right, emerging onto a rough, metalled road and turning left. Continue towards Vicarage farm.

## 8.

(53.90811; -2.64986)

Pass over a cattle grid near Vicarage Farm and note the permissive footpath to Bleasdale Circle on the left. Passing over another cattle grid, bear left and head for Bleasdale Church and then on to Bleasdale Parish Hall and school.

## 9.

(53.90164; -2.65057)

After passing the school, turn right along a hedge-lined track. After a while you enter a pine wood and descend to a bridge over the river Brock, with Brooks farmhouse on the right.

## 10.

(53.90652; -2.66259)

Climb gently away from the bridge. The road is now fenced on both sides and you may see hares in the open fields. A track joins from the left as you approach another wood. After a distance you approach more buildings that were once part of the North Lancashire Reformatory.

On reaching the Brooks Barn complex retrace the route back to the start of the walk.



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