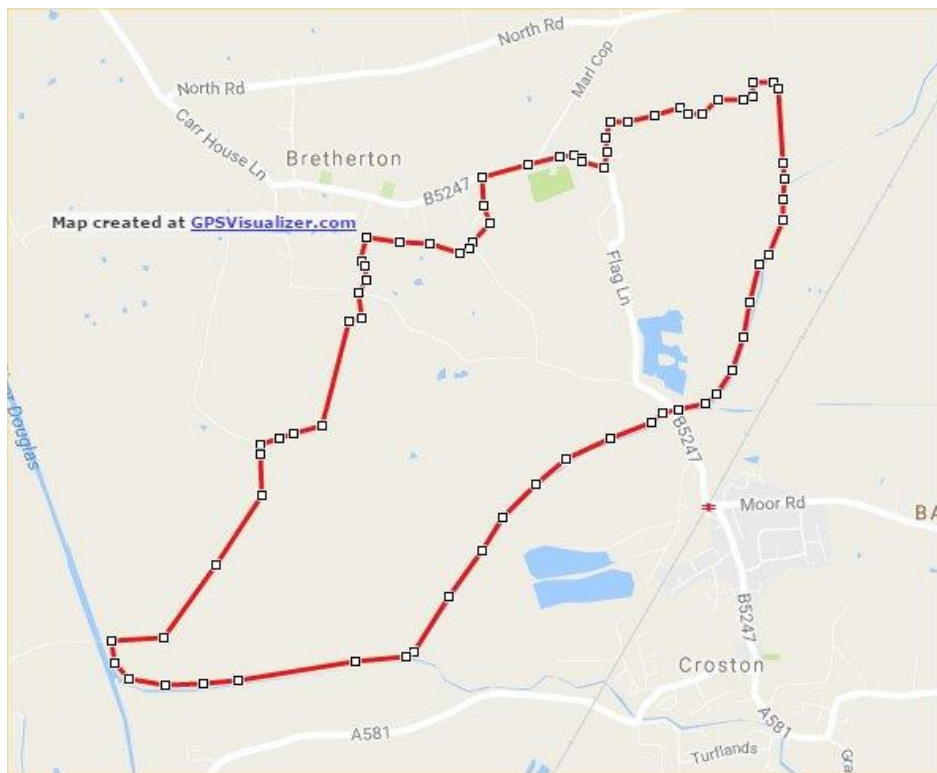


Bretherton River Walk

This is 5 mile walk based on the village of Bretherton and following some of Wymott Brook and the rivers Lostock and Yarrow. Mostly a flat normally easy walk on country paths, fields and some quiet roads in all but the wettest of weathers, although as a less used walk the styles and field tracks can be a touch overgrown. The walk can be combined with the Bretherton & Bank Hall walk to make a walk of about 6.5 miles.

The walk starts from the Blue Anchor Inn in Bretherton car park, 1 South Road, PR26 9AB. If a significant group on the walk please seek permission from the Inn. It does a mainly all day buffet that is well attended.



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

This description can be used/printed/shared for personal use, or to lead a walk but not for commercial use without the author's written consent. 2-June-2016



1: SD482205 From the Blue Anchor car park, turn right and cross the road. After about 250ft (76m) just where the road bends to the right, there is a driveway. Officially the footpath is over the adjacent overgrown style and along the side of the field to a bridge.



2: SD484205 However it appears normal to go down the drive until it turns hard right to the house. On the left at this corner is an opening into a cricket field (beside the overgrown bridge). Turn right to follow the side of the field with the hedge on the right and head for the bridge/style at the corner of the field.



3: SD484207 Go over the style and turn immediately right (ignore the incorrect left only sign) The route now continues in roughly the same direction for about 1/3 mile (600m). Initially cross a style in 150ft and then 650ft (200m) across the middle of a large field (single file in crops) to reach a field boundary.



4: SD486207 Go right about 50ft to cross a ditch and the turn left to follow the ditch until it bears left. Then head at 45deg to the left to a large gap between two trees.

5: SD488207 Go between the trees and then cross the field with the hedge on the left. At the opposite side of the field (330ft/100m) is a narrow gap in the hedge leading to the next field.



6: SD486207 The route is directly across this field but the formal footpath is around it to the left. Ignore the footbridge at the far left corner of the field. Once across the field head to the right (due south) and see the embankment of the Wymott Brook 350yds (320m) ahead.



7: SD490208 Continue towards the embankment across three open fields (possibly muddy in winter). Find the vague path up onto the embankment and then head right along the embankment.



8: SD486207 This stretch of the embankment is not well used so there may not be an obvious path but simply walk the embankment. When in 790ft (240m) the embankment bears sharply right, there is a path down to a bridge.





9: SD489202 Go down and across the bridge and continue across the field beside the brook. At the end of the field is a style, probably in a rather overgrown area.



10: SD489202 Go over the style and either stay beside the brook or for a better view, ascend onto the embankment that has re-appeared on the right. Continue along the embankment until after 680 yds (620m) reaching a style onto a road, Flag Lane, at Lostock Bridge.



11: SD486197 This is about half way around the walk if a refreshment stop is wanted. Cross the road and continue on the embankment (now for the Lostock). Follow this for about 1.5 miles. About halfway along the Lostock meets and becomes the Yarrow. Continue to another style onto a road just after it becomes the river Douglass.



12: SD465188 This is Eyes Lane at Red Bridge. Turn right and follow the lane for 700yds (640m) until it bears left for the third time until just after a gas installation there is a track to the right.

13: SD47195 This track leads promptly (and muddily) into a field. If deemed impractical simply continue on Eyes Lane to meet Back Lane in ½ ml and turn right to reach step 16 in ¼ ml. (or turn left then right onto Bretherton's main street and back to the Inn.



14: SD47196 Despite the appearance it is usually practical to head left along the field boundary then right along the boundary. After 255yd (233m) there is a bridge rather hidden in the hedge on the left.



15: SD473196 Cross the bridge and follow the hedge on the right. IN 400yds (360m) the hedge just stops. Go right for about 60 yds (54m) onto a track and go left down this to reach Back Lane.



16: SD474201 (If you continued down Eyes Lane and Back Lane, this is where you reconnect with the walk.) Cross the lane and go 200yds (180m) down the track until reaching a grassy crossing tree lined track. Do NOT continue ahead through the narrow path.





17: SD475203 Turn right and follow this track to meet a style beside a gate. Cross the style and cross the field to another style. Cross and continue in the same direction (do not cross the style on the left). Continue ahead to find a style rather buried in the corner of two hedges.



18: SD478202 Cross the style and go a few feet left to another style to cross onto a lane. Turn left and follow this lane (NOT the footpath) which bears left and then reaches South Road (B5247). Turn right and after $\frac{1}{4}$ ml you return to the Blue Anchor Inn.

The End.

Eric Crichton 13-3-17

