

Croston Two River Walk(s)

A 3.75 mile walk and an optional extension to 5.25 miles is described here. The area is completely flat and the walk uses a mixture of good paths, fields and a little road walking. In winter strong footwear is appropriate, in summer more casual footwear would be possible.

Croston's history is very ancient, there was a preaching cross set up before AD651. Then came the followers of St Aidan, who built a simple chapel at this time, replaced first by a Norman structure around 1100, then a rebuild in the 16th century, and a major restoration in the 1887. Much of the original character has been retained.

Until the late 18th Croston was set at a vital crossroads and all traffic had to cross the now-bypassed Town Bridge built in 1682, a single sandstone span for £30.

The junior school, on the site of the 1372 one built by John of Gaunt, who virtually governed England on behalf of the boy King Richard II. There is a 15th-century cobbled pack horse bridge which crosses the River Yarrow

While the start is defined as the village green (SD489186, PR26 9RA) , the walk can also be started from the Highfield Pub on the A581 (SD503189, PR26 9JB)



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: SD489186 There is some parking at the village green also further up the street (Out Lane) at a surgery, or sometimes behind the pub on the right or on the lane. Leaving the green, turn left along A581 and cross when possible. The Yarrow is behind the wall and you pass the pack horse bridge to find Church Street.



2: SD490185 Near the start of the street is a stone cross. The base is thought to be 17th century, built on the site of the original cross. The top is an addition to celebrate the coronation of the present Queen in 1953. This street is the best preserved row of 17th century cottages in Lancashire. Continue down the street and into the church grounds.



3: SD490184 The church of St Michael overseas a junior school and a pre school. Walk around to the right of the church to find an exit path with the Yarrow on the right. Almost immediately notice on the left a table formed from the headstone of a John Riding. Follow this path for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile until you reach a road (Grape Lane.)



4: SD493181 Turn right along the road and follow it for a just over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, passing Home Farm Mews on the left, and where it curves right to a bridge, cross the road to a footpath before the bridge.

5: SD498180 After 150ft as the path turns left, there is a kissing gate giving access to fields beside the Yarrow. You will follow the Yarrow for either 1/3 or 1 mile depending on which walk you follow. Cross this field heading to the far left corner where there is a kissing gate to the right of a wooden gate.



6: SD500179 Pass through the kissing gate onto a fenced narrow (overgrown?) path. In due course this exits through another kissing gate into a field. Cross with the hedge on your left. At the other side of the field there is a field gate (missing?) and footpath gate at the right. BUT on the left partially hidden is a footbridge.



7: SD503179 If you wish to take the shorter route, you cross this footbridge. Then go left at about 45deg. To cross the field to locate a farm track near the remains of a barn (being rebuilt at this point). The longer route will reach this location at Note 18. (see Note 17 re refreshment stop)



8: SD503179 The longer route goes through the gate on the right to cross the field beside the hedge on your left. As the hedge/fence goes left, continue straight ahead. Another kissing gate leads into another field with a kissing gate in it's far right corner.





9: SD511178 Through this gate go left now on the other side of the hedge. Shortly there is another kissing gate into a narrow path beside the Yarrow. This goes through two more kissing gates (can be quite overgrown) and eventually leads past another gate onto a driveway that reaches a road (B5250).



10: SD515178 Turn left and then bear left along New Lane. This is a busy road with no pavement. The road curves right so you may find it better to stay on the small grass verge on the left. After 350 yards there is an entrance to a farm (footpath sign on right of road).



11: SD515182 Go down the driveway to find a path bearing right between a green metal fence and a wooden fence that lead you around a rather substantial property.



12: SD513182 At the path end a gate leads into a field to follow the fence on the left. At the end of this field, offset about 60 ft to the right is a stile onto a footbridge. Cross these (Barbed wire risk) to go past a marker post leading into a field. Continue in the same direction.

13: SD512182 200 ft across this field keep to the right with the hedge on your left and boulders on the right. Continue through a kissing gate with the hedge still on your left. At the far corner of this field there is a choice to be made.



14: SD510182 The legal footpath crosses the stile somewhat to the right at the field end. It leads for about 500 ft. through a largely overgrown path/field to a stile/footbridge in the far left corner of the field which takes you to Note 16.



15: SD510182 Alternately you may notice an opening through the trees into a field straight ahead. This is clearly a well trod route leading 500 ft. across the field to a white/rusty metal gate. Through the gate and immediately on your right is the exit from the legal path described in Note 14.



16: SD508182 The legal path goes to the right of the stream to a footbridge crossing back into the same field you are now in. Whichever way, head to the hedge at the other side of the field and go left with the hedge on the right.





17: SD506181 At the end of the hedge there is an opening on the right through to another field. Turn right into the field and go ahead between the hedge on the left and some trees. Cross a crude stile into an area beside a ruined Barn (being rebuilt). You may find this suits a refreshment stop.



18: SD505180 Cross out of this area over another crude stile onto a farm track that goes right. This is where the shorter route is met again. Follow this farm track for about 800 yards all the way through a couple of gates to a road (A581) opposite a garden centre.



19: SD506188 Turn left along the busy road to pass the Highfield Pub and meet a road junction after about 300 yards. The A581 turns left here towards Croston. On the opposite side of the road at this junction is a driveway and footpath sign.



20: SD503189 Once across this dangerous corner/road go up the driveway for about 200 ft. and where it turns right, go left through the hedge into what used to be a car park for a hotel but has been recently demolished. Cross to the opposite right corner where there is a track to a yellow gate.

21: SD503191 You can go around the left of the gate if it is not open. This leads into a camping site. Walk through the site on the tarmac road, through a metal kissing gate to another metal gate into a field (usually with horses that may be rather friendly).



22: SD504193 The legal path goes slightly to the right of straight ahead and then turns left to now follow beside the Lostock. You may choose to head more diagonally to the left to reach the river and follow it left staying near the river. At the far left diagonal corner there is a short fenced path.



23: SD502196 Enter this path which immediately reaches a rather awkward stile leading into the next field. Continue to follow the river on your right to reach the end of this field where there is a stile and gate.



24: SD497196 The gate is often open as the stile is a little awkward. Cross the road and enter the next field to head at 45 deg. to the left. There is a stile but it's not readily visible from here – see next picture.





25: SD495195 Aim for these trees to find the stile and cross it (possibly very muddy in winter) into a field. Go left to follow the hedge/trees on your left. At the far end there is a stile beside two metal gates. Cross the stile onto a short boardwalk and continue with the hedge on your right to a stile onto a road.



26: SD495192 Cross onto the road and turn right to follow the pavement for about 500 ft. until a little before the 30 mph signs there is a footpath on the other side of the busy (B5249) road.



27: SD493192 Follow the footpath as it moves around the fields. Just before some houses there is a kissing gate on the left. This does lead straight back to the start, but a better route continues to follow the path beside houses to come out on a local road.



28: SD491191 There is another footpath and stile immediately on your left. Cross the field at an angle to the right far corner where there is a footbridge with metal gates either end. Cross the bridge and turn right to follow another footpath. This leads to a playing field.

29: SD489189 Walk past the football field and to the right of the children's playground. Go through the metal gate in the far right corner onto a road. Turn left along the road to find the walk start point after 500 ft.



=====

There are a number of pubs at the walk start, and also a cafe beside the entrance to the church road.

There is also a "Velo café" beside two lakes on backroads to the left just beyond the Croston station.

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

Eric Crichton 2/6/16.