

Garstang and Barnacre Circular Walk

A circular walk starting and finishing near the Visit Garstang Centre.

Terrain

Mainly easy with a little uphill walking. Some areas on farmland may be muddy.

Distance

Approximately 3.2 miles (5.1km). Allow 2 to 3 hours to complete the walk.

The Route

Please observe the Countryside Code at all times.

- 1.** Follow the riverside path around the playing field until you reach the water pumping station and bridge. Climb the stone steps situated in the stone wall.
- 2.** Turn right at the top of the steps and walk straight ahead. Leave the tarmac road and continue along the footpath until you reach a stile which follows the line of The Pilling Pig Railway. Cross this stile and the next one and continue onto the third stile which is located underneath the power pylon. Ascend the railway embankment on the left hand side.
- 3.** Follow the hedge line until you reach a stile at the end of a hedge on the left hand side. Here you can view the ruins of Greenhalgh Castle on the right. Note also, the conservation area known as Wildgoose Wood.
- 4.** Climb the stile and cross over the field. Head towards the far corner where the footpath crosses the rail and motorway bridge via a ladder stile.
- 5.** Cross both bridges and continue ahead. Just before you reach the first house on the right, turn left and proceed down the track. Go through the field gate and follow the hedge line until it bears to the right. As the hedge bears right, continue straight ahead, following the motorway fence, until you reach a stone ladder in the corner of the field. Climb over the stile and turn right to cross another stile at the opposite end of the fence.
- 6.** Proceed across the field, keeping the hedge and stream on your right hand side, until you reach a gate. Climb the stile, turn right and continue along the road for 300 - 400 yards. Keep walking uphill until you see a red post box on your left hand side.
- 7.** Immediately before the post box, the path leads you down some stone steps and onto a footbridge. Cross the bridge and continue to your left following the riverside shrubbery. As you reach a stile, climb over it and proceed uphill to the right, heading towards the wood.
- 8.** On reaching the wood, the path descends steeply alongside a fence until you reach a stile in the corner. Once over the stile turn right and follow the fence line until you reach a large Alder tree. On the left beneath the tree you can see the remains of Lady Hamilton's Well. Continue across until you reach the field fence stile. Having crossed the stile, turn left, and proceed along the track until you reach the farm gate and Keepers Lane.
- 9.** Turn right up Keepers Lane until you pass Crosby Cottage on the left. Locate a stile in the hedge on your left hand side. This is situated next to the first field gate.
- 10.** Once over the stile, follow the hedge line towards the motorway footbridge. Climb the small ladder stile in front of you and proceed across the bridge. Once over the bridge, climb a similar stile and bear slightly right as you cross the field. A ladder stile provides you with access to the railway line. Cross with great care - this is a main line.

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Route continued...

11. On the other side of the line you will reach a ladder stile. Climb over it. Once in the field, follow the hedgeline and continue ahead until you reach a footbridge.

12. After the footbridge, turn left onto the road and walk past the farm building on the left hand side. Here the road bends sharply to the left. Turn right at this point into the unsurfaced lane (Lingart Lane). At the junction adjacent to the farm, continue straight ahead and locate a stile situated between 2 gates on your left hand side.

13. Cross the stile and follow the hedge line for a short distance, about half way across the field, the hedge bears slightly towards the right. Continue straight ahead for a short distance until you locate a stile in the hedgerow.

14. Cross the adjacent field on a diagonal, bearing left. Climb a fence stile and continue through the next field in the same direction. A final stile is located in the corner, under the embankment. This leads you up onto the tarmac road of the pumping station.

15. From here, retrace the route over the weir and back to the car park.

Nearby Places of Interest

- Visit Garstang Centre
- Greenhalgh Castle
- Pilling Pig Railway
- Wildgoose Wood Railway Cutting

Starting Point

- Garstang and Barnacre Circular Walk can be found at:
- Garstang town centre, Lancashire

