

Wyre Self Guided Trails: Wyre Way Part 3 –Garstang to Abbeystead

Start Point

At the circular “Villa de Garstang” mosaic in Cherestanc Square Garstang
Post Code: PR3 1EF
OS Grid Reference: SD 4915 4529

Distance / Time

16km (10 miles)
4 – 5hours

Maps

OS Landranger 102 (1:50000) or
OS Explorer OL41 (1:25000)

Terrain

Terrain Grade: Moderate

The route follows roads, farm tracks, fields and footpaths. There are stiles, gates and steps, and paths can be wet and muddy after rain. There may be animals in the fields and farm yards. Dogs should be kept on a short lead at all times.
THIS WALK IS NOT SUITABLE FOR TRAMPER VEHICLES

About This Walk

From Garstang we head North, initially following the river Wyre, then one of its tributaries – Grizedale Brook. After crossing the busy M6 motorway there’s a section of farmland and woodland before joining a quiet country lane into the picturesque village of Scorton. The next section is a very watery landscape dotted with many lakes; evidence of large-scale gravel workings that have now been sensitively returned to nature. After passing through the Wyreside

Lakes fishery and caravan site the route re-joins the river Wyre through a lovely stretch of countryside to the former mill village of Dolphinholme. The route to Abbeystead begins high along the side of the river Wyre valley, offering great views across to the North Bowland Fells of Ward’s Stone, Grit Fell and Clougha. After descending to the riverside we pass the site of the tragic Abbeystead water-works explosion of 1984. The final stretch passes in front of the now disused Abbeystead dam – which in former times was used to store water for the many mills sited downstream along the river.

Route Description

1. [SD 4915 4529](#) Stand on the “Villa de Garstang” mosaic facing the stone seat, turn to your right and walk to Park Hill road (10m). Cross the road by the pedestrian crossing and go down the alleyway ahead, to reach High Street. Turn left and proceed to the mini roundabout at the entrance to the High Street car park on the right. Walk through the car park heading for a footpath at the far left hand corner, with the football field on the left and the riverside picnic area on the right.
2. [SD 4937 4545](#) Follow the path around the playing field by the river, under the bridge by the river and then over the flood defence embankment, via the concrete steps, to the Millennium Green.
3. [SD 4958 4562](#) Follow the path for 600m to a gate onto Wyre Lane at the far end of the Millennium Green. Go through this gate and turn right for a few metres until you see a path and information panel on the left between two hedges. Follow this over the foot bridge, turning left on the other side,

eventually leading to a gate at the foot of Broom Hill.

4. [SD 4981 4639](#) Go through the gate and follow the path, through another gate, round the edge of some trees on the left and along the field edge, with Grizedale Brook on the left. The path eventually leaves the brook and goes straight across the field to a gate onto Hazelhead Lane.

THERE ARE NOW TWO ROUTE OPTIONS;

paragraphs 5-8 below follow a slightly higher level route across field paths to the village of Scorton, with good views on a clear day. However, if you wish to stay closer to the River Wyre, go through the gate and turn left, following Hazelhead Lane to where it joins Gubberford Lane near a bridge over the River Wyre. Do not cross the bridge, but bear right across the road and through a pedestrian gate to join the riverside path. Follow the path, which eventually joins the road, under a railway bridge and on into Scorton Village. Now continue from paragraph 9.

5. [SD 5030 4692](#) Go through the gate, cross the lane and bear right, then left, into the yard of a small factory next to the railway. Walk diagonally left across the yard, go over the railway footbridge and follow the path over the motorway bridge immediately beyond. Just beyond the motorway bridge take the descending track on the left, turning sharp left at the bottom by an old stile. Follow the path

- through some bushes and turn right over a small bridge crossing the brook.
6. [SD 5046 4712](#) Head straight across the field ahead, with the motorway on your left, aiming for a stile in the corner of the field (about 60m from the motorway boundary) leading into the wood. Go over the stile and turn left and then right onto a track through the wood. After 400m go through a kissing gate on the right and over a footbridge into the field, turn left and walk along the edge of the field to a gate.
 7. [SD 5059 4780](#) Go through the gate and walk straight across the field in front, roughly parallel with the motorway, heading for another gate next to a farm gate. Continue with a fence on your right, past a large house, then head for a gate at the right hand end of a Leylandii hedge. The gate leads onto Tithe Barn Lane.
 8. [5055 4820](#) Turn left and follow the lane to eventually go under the M6 motorway to the junction with Gubberford Lane. Turn right and proceed to the square in the centre of Scorton where you will find the Post Office, a public telephone, the 'Priory' Hotel and Restaurant, and the 'Barn' garden centre and restaurant.
 9. [SD 5020 4880](#) Continue North out of Scorton, ignoring the lane on the left (Station Lane) and follow a sign for Scorton Picnic Site. Approximately 500m outside Scorton look for a finger post on the left marked 'Wyre Way'.
 10. [SD 5029 4930](#) Take the footpath, indicated by the finger post, cross a small stream then turn right along the edge of a field before re-crossing the stream at a gate. Continue along this path, with the stream on the left, cross a footbridge then go through a pedestrian gate. Continue past a derelict barn and over several stiles, until the path eventually joins a wide gravel track.
 11. [SD 5025 5010](#) Turn right along the gravel track until it joins the tarmac road near the bridge over the River Wyre – this is Cleveley Bridge. Turn left over the bridge and immediately take a path on the right which follows the river upstream. The path initially follows a raised bank, but after 200m the path divides; take the right fork, which descends from the bank and soon leaves the riverside. Take the left fork which leads into a field via a stile and boardwalk.
 12. [SD 5053 5103](#) Continue straight ahead, keeping to the right of a ditch / stream which runs along the centre of the field until you can cross near the far end of the field, close to the motorway. Bear left up the hill heading towards a motorway footbridge just over the brow of the hill.
 13. [SD 5067 5139](#) Cross the motorway footbridge and bear slightly left across the field ahead to a small stream. Cross the stream and bear right to a stile in the field boundary ahead. Continue straight ahead across the field to join the field boundary (a row of tall conifer trees) on the right, which screens a stone yard. Continue along the line of trees to a stile in the corner of the field. Cross the stile to join a tarmac lane. Follow the lane to the right (do not enter the stone yard) past the 'Welcome' sign at the entrance to 'Guys Farm Activity Centre'.
 14. [SD 5094 5157](#) Continue past the farmhouse on the left, go through a gap in the wall ahead, then turn immediately left. Go past a novel 'public footpath' sign (two footsteps on a post) and through a very short passageway/tunnel. The path then continues through a grassy area at the back of the establishment and leads to a gate opening onto the large field beyond. Continue straight ahead, eventually converging on the right hand field boundary, to a footbridge and gate entering a caravan site.
 15. [SD 5113 5192](#) Go through the gate and bear left along a wide gravel path with caravans on either side. Go through a gate into the camp-site parking, just past the children's playground.
 16. [SD 5122 5205](#) Turn right and follow the wide track heading towards woodland. Bear left at the next track junction and continue until a large lake is seen on the left. Just after the start of the lake take a well marked path on the right into the trees. This proceeds through woodland beside the river to a gate onto a tarmac road beside a bridge (Street Bridge) over the river.
 17. [SD 5186 5221](#) Cross the road, go through the kissing gate opposite, and continue along the edge of the field with the river on you right, through two pedestrian gates (with a bridge over the river to the right but with no public access) to a gate leading into a wood. Go through the gate, over a small footbridge, and continue straight ahead through the wood bearing right to join a wide track. Continue past Keepers Cottage

to the front of Corless Mill (now a farm) with the old water wheel on your right.

18. SD 5180 5283 Follow the wall on your right heading for a small gate in the corner of the yard next to the farmhouse. Go through the gate into the field beyond. Bear slightly left heading for the opposite corner of the field to a gate, where the field boundary meets a wood. Go through the gate and follow the track next to the wall on the right; it eventually leads past a water treatment works, past some former mill buildings (now private residences) to join the tarmac lane in Lower Dolphinholme.
19. SD 5189 5348 Turn right and follow the lane, over the river, and on up the hill out of the village with a wood on the left. Shortly after the end of the wood take the farm access road on the left sign posted Wyre Way. Continue straight along this track, ignoring the sharp left turn down to the farmyard, through several farm gates and on uphill across a large field to a gate in the top right corner. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead with the field boundary on your right, ignoring any tracks off to left or right – the track eventually becomes just a grass field edge – to a small footbridge with a gate and stile on the other side.
20. SD 5326 5377 Cross the stile and bear slightly right, heading for the two trees, just visible over the brow of the hill ahead. You will soon see a pedestrian gate with an old barn just beyond it. Go through the gate and pass to the right of the barn, where you will notice a line of trees along a bank and a shallow ditch

ahead. Follow the left side of the line of trees, over a small stream, to another footbridge and stile.

21. SD 5375 5375 Cross the stile and walk straight ahead across the large field towards some trees in the distance. As you cross the field you will notice a gate at the corner of the wood ahead. Enter the wood through this gate and follow the track down through the trees, across a small boardwalk, then steeply downward; eventually reaching a bridge across the river.
22. SD 5449 5381 Cross the bridge and turn right. Walk straight ahead across the undulating pasture, with the river visible on the right. Stay on the higher ground across this pasture (approx. 50m from the tree line) passing a small stone carving of a duck, cross a small ditch and keep in the belt of trees ahead to join a farm track at a bend. Continue straight ahead following the track, which eventually becomes a concrete roadway. Shortly after passing the Abbeystead water pumping station leave the concrete track and continue straight ahead to a gate near the corner of a dry-stone wall with a wood beyond.
23. SD 5555 5385 At this point the Wyre Way diverges taking both northerly and southerly routes around the Abbeystead dam and reservoir before joining up in Abbeystead:

For the southerly route go through the gate and head downhill to a bridge over the river. Cross the bridge and turn left, following the permissive path past the Abbeystead dam and reservoir to the left and on, winding through

the trees and crossing several footbridges (for approx. 1km), until it eventually meets a tarmac lane. Turn left and follow the lane for about 200m to the car park at Stoops Bridge, ignore the track on the right signposted 'Wyre Way', this will be our return on the final section of the Wyre way; the 'Tarnbrook Loop'.

For the northerly route go through the gate and head downhill towards the bridge but after a very short distance turn left and follow the path past the Abbeystead dam and reservoir to the right. Continue on with a wood to your right to eventually meeting with another footpath joining from the left. Continue to the right across a field to meet a tarmac road. Turn right and follow the road for about 500m through the village to cross the bridge over the Tarnbrook Wyre and turn right into the car park at Stoops Bridge.

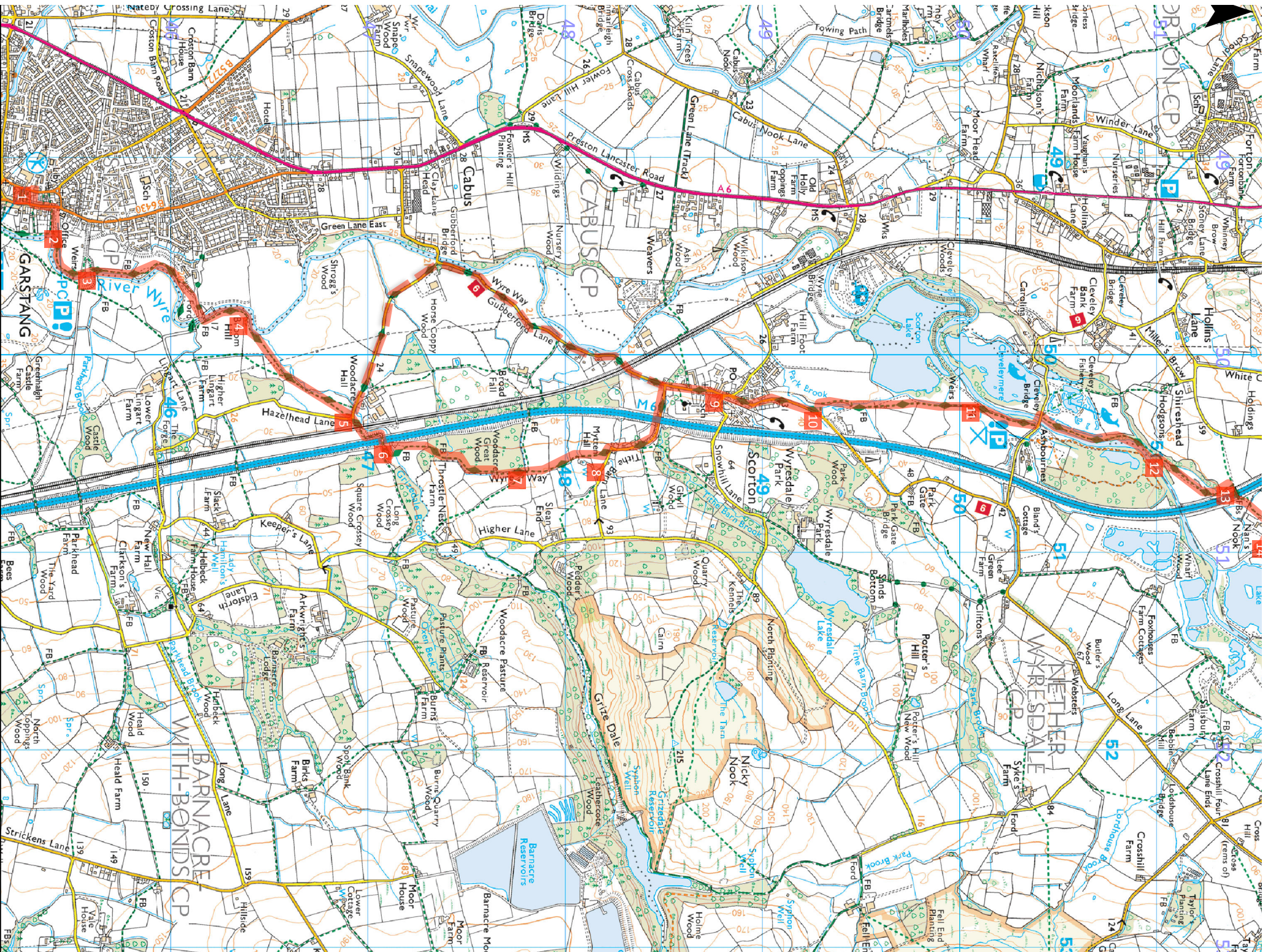
If you need to speak to someone about this route or report a problem use the following Wyre Council contacts:


Website: Wyre.gov.uk

Address: Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7PU

Telephone: 01253 891000

E-mail: mailroom@wyre.gov.uk



Scale  1Km

