

Wyre Self Guided Trails: Wyre Way Part 2 – Shard Bridge to Garstang

Start Point

At the Shard Bridge Hotel, Old Bridge Lane,
Hambleton, Poulton-le-Fylde
Post Code: FY6 9BT
OS Grid Reference: SD 3701 4114

Distance / Time

19km (11.8 miles)
5 – 6 hours

Maps

OS Landranger 102 (1:50000) or
OS Explorer 296 (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

Starting at the Shard Bridge Hotel, this section begins along the estuary margins before turning inland across the mixed farmland of Northern Fylde. We pass within 2 km of the village of Great Eccleston before eventually re-joining the riverside path through the village of St Michaels, with its beautiful 13th century church. Past the village of St Michaels our route diverges from that shown on the OS map due to lack of public access along the riverside. However, after a short section

of road-walking we rejoin the river for most of the way to the village of Churchtown, where you will find another 13th century church and an ancient sundial perched high on a stone pillar in the village centre. Leaving the river, we take a 'short cut', crossing farmland and a couple of busy main roads, before re-joining it again on the way into the busy market town of Garstang, with a final short section

Route Description

1. [SD 3709 4116](#) Locate a Wyre Way information Board at the far end of the patio in front of the Hotel. Cross the stile next to the information board and continue straight ahead, keeping to the left, with the river estuary on the right. The path eventually runs on top of the dyke, which can be quite overgrown in summer, to a farm gate next to a stile.
2. [SD 3772 4063](#) Go over the stile (or through the gate) and descend the dyke on the left into the field. Bear right across the field to the other side, and continue with the hedge on your right. Go through a gate and then round the left side of the tree lined pond ahead. Continue following the right hand hedge line toward the farm building ahead. Skirt round the left side of the farm buildings and any machinery parked there, to locate the track leading out of the field onto the farm access lane.
3. [SD 3829 4078](#) Keep straight ahead (don't go right into the farm yard) on the lane, past the farm house. The lane eventually takes a sharp left turn and continues past some woodland on the left. At the end of the woodland the lane turns left with a well-marked footpath on the right. Take the footpath along a hedge-lined track until it eventually emerges onto the riverside dyke again.
4. [SD 3890 4078](#) Turn left and initially follow the dyke towards the farm buildings ahead. Skirt the farm buildings on the right (river) side by descending the dyke and walking across the marshy ground parallel to the dyke on the left. You will need to cross several small channels to reach a stile in the fence ahead, which crosses your path.
5. [SD 3964 4083](#) Continue on close to the dyke on your left with the river on your right, over several stiles and under the large overhead power lines. Eventually your path will be barred by a deep channel running into the river. Walk to the left and cross a footbridge, then locate the entrance to a hedge-lined track on the left. There are two choices here;
 - a. The adventurous walker can continue ahead along the riverside, through some fairly dense patches of reeds and across rough, debris strewn and marshy ground - eventually arriving at a stile on the left. Cross the stile and climb the bank on the left to join the road. Turn Left and continue along the road for about 300m. The road turns left, then right in front of a large white house. Just before the next left turn go through the gate on the right leading to a track beside the house.
 - b. Walkers of a more nervous disposition should take the hedge-lined track on the left, which leads to the road at Town End. Turn right and continue for about 3000m to where the road turns sharp right in front of a large white house. Go through

- the gate on the left leading to a track beside the house.
6. SD 4057 4173 The track bends to the right and after about 100m follow the footpath signs to the right into a field. Follow the hedge along the left side of the field down to a footbridge in a small copse. Cross the bridge and through some fairly dense vegetation to emerge into a large field. Continue straight ahead across the field heading for the right hand end of a wood sticking out into the field. Continue past the wood to the corner of a fenced area of rough ground to the right. Keep the fence to your right and continue to a stile in the corner of the field leading to a lane.
 7. SD 4143 4198 Cross the lane and over another stile into a field. Continue directly ahead across the field, over another stile and on to a farm gate leading onto a hedge lined track. Follow the track to the junction with Sandy Lane. Turn right and continue along the lane until it joins a tarmac road (Lancaster Road).
 8. SD 4235 4173 Turn left and walk along the road for about 200m and turn right down a farm track (Light Ash Lane), indicated by a finger post. Follow the lane past a junction on the left to a house on the right. (NOTE the OS map shows the Wyre Way entering the field on the right of the lane and then re-joining the lane 100m further on before reaching the house. However we see no point in such a diversion, although the stiles are there if you wish to follow the route 'to the letter'). Just past the house take the stile on the right and follow the path, which diverts round the farm ahead, and onto a farm track. Go straight across the track and over a stile into a large field.
 9. SD 4298 4176 Follow the left hedge line, over a stile and continue on past Crabtree Farm, to join a farm lane at the junction of Hagg Lane and Crab Tree Lane. Continue straight on along the lane ahead, past some houses on the left and into the yard of the farm at Moss House. Bear slightly left across the yard to a stile into the garden / paddock attached to the nearby Moss House. Cross the stile and go straight across the paddock and over another stile into a large field.
 10. SD 4387 4182 Continue straight on, directly across the field through the middle of the crops (this can be extremely muddy in winter) towards the farm buildings ahead. As you reach the field boundary in front of the buildings, locate a stile in the hedge line straight ahead. Cross the stile and walk round the farm buildings to another stile, by the large silage tank, joining a farm track. Go left along the track for a short distance then over a stile on the right into a field.
 11. SD 4415 4170 Continue straight ahead across the field, gradually converging with the left fence line, to a stile next to a gate. Go over the stile and keep to the left hand side of the field to a stile next to a gate. Cross the stile, turn right and then cross the field staying on the right to reach a stile next to a fishery. Cross the stile and turn left to walk around the outside of the fenced fishery. At the end of the fishery turn left into a field and follow the fence on the right hand side before turning right into the next field. Go past the pond on the right to eventually join a path which leads to Turnover Hall Farm which is easily recognisable as it hosts a large caravan site and also stores many caravans. There are several routes through the farm buildings but we suggest you follow the way-markers and turn left (with very tall Leylandii trees to your right) immediately on entering the farm precincts into a caravan storage area. Follow the caravan-lined track round to the right and then straight on to join a farm track. Turn right and then straight on past the caravan site entrance on the left. Turn left just past the very large red brick building (function room etc.) and follow the farm access lane round to the right to join Rawcliffe Road.
 12. SD 4526 4139 Turn right along the road for about 150m then cross a stile on the left to join the path along the flood defences next to the River Wyre. Follow the path along the top of the flood barrier, past some coarse fishing ponds and on to the bridge which carries the main A586 over the river at St Michael's on Wyre.
 13. SD 4615 4112 Cross the road and re-join the riverside path. Take the second footpath on the left, away from the river, about 200m after leaving the main road. The path leads through several gates, eventually becoming a lane, which re-joins the main A586. Turn right along the main road leading out of St Michael's. The OS map shows the Wyre Way re-joining the riverside on the outskirts of St Michael's. However, there is currently no public right of way between the main road and the riverside. We must therefore continue along the road, past the end of the tarmac footpath and along the roadside grass verge to a farm gate on the right - just before a right hand bend in the road.
 14. SD 4671 4201 Cross the stile and follow the right hand field boundary, over another stile to re-join the riverside path. (NOTE that the next section of path can be very overgrown in summer, so be prepared for some fairly arduous walking

through long grass, and some nettles!) Turn left and follow the path until your way is barred by a stream entering from the left at Tyrer Bridge. Turn left for about 20m, then right, over a stile, following the edge of the trees, then right again. The path eventually rejoins the River Wyre.

15. SD 4718 4223 Continue along the river for about 600m until it bends sharp right. At this point cross a stile and the path joins the edge of the field on the left and proceeds to a farm gate and stile at the rear of Hamilton House Farm. Continue through the gate/stile and on, through another stile and then another gate and into a field. Continue on with the field boundary to the left with extremely tall trees, to a metal footbridge in the corner of the field. Cross the bridge and then immediately right, to follow the fence line leading round the large water treatment works. Cross a stile and then just past the works head for the Church along the embankment path.
16. SD 4814 4272 Enter the Church grounds via the small gate and follow the path through the outer grave yard to the car park to the side of the Church. (NOTE the OS map shows the Wyre Way going to the east of Churchtown to join the A586 but there are no signs anywhere showing this route, consequently we suggest taking the route through the centre of the village.) Take the lane heading away from the front of the Church, past the stone dial-post (sundial) in Churchtown 'square', and bear left along Ainspool Lane to reach the A586. Turn left and continue for about 50m to Ainspool Bridge.

17. SD 4796 4308 Cross the A586 and proceed down the farm access road on the other side; indicated by a finger post. Follow the farm road for 500m then take the sharp right turn and continue through the farm yard of Kirkland Hall Farm. Continue through the yard and just past the farmhouse turn right, then left along a track leading to a field gate. Go through the gate and over the stile on the left. Follow the right hand fence to the hedge at the bottom of the field, then turn left and follow the hedge line to a field gate.
18. SD 4819 4380 Go through the gate and continue straight ahead along a wide farm track, past the impressive wind turbine on the right, to a sharp right turn. Follow the track round to the right then proceed through the yard of Cross House Farm, via several farm gates, to reach the A6. Turn left along the A6 for about 100m, then cross over to locate a footpath 'finger post' sign and stile.
19. SD 4850 4441 Go over the stile, down the steep bank and across the stile ahead. Follow the along a metal fence, which borders a building site, until you are forced to turn sharp left in front of the river. Continue with the metal fence on your left and the river on the right, to where the fence turns sharp left. Leave the fence here and continue ahead across a footbridge with a stile at either end. Continue straight ahead via two kissing gates until the path emerges onto the towpath of the Lancaster canal at a metal gate.
20. SD 4897 4489 Turn left along the canal, go under the next (road) bridge and the associated footbridge, then immediately left

up to the road leading over the canal bridge.

21. SD 4890 4500 Proceed over the canal footbridge and on past the church to a mini roundabout. Turn left at this roundabout then right at the next one to Park Hill Road. After about 100m you will reach Cherestanc Square with its stone seat and "Villa de Garstang" floor mosaic. The Garstang information centre is on your left as you enter the square, opposite the seat.

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



