

THE YELLOW HAMMER ROUTE

Ormskirk is an historic market town in the heart of West Lancashire. The trail starts and finishes at Ormskirk railway station or bus station taking you through the historic town centre and out to the rolling countryside beyond, boasting stunning views of Lancashire and Merseyside. The fields surrounding Ormskirk are mostly arable so whether it's cereal crops blowing in the breeze or the harvesting of root crops, the views along this route change from season to season.

This walk is fairly level with some gentle gradients. Follow the map in conjunction with the public footpath signs on the ground. There are many cafes and places to eat in Ormskirk town centre on your way out or on your return and along the way there are benches where you may enjoy a picnic.

1 Leave the station via the footpath signed to Ormskirk bus station where you will find the County Information Centre, a great place to pick up information on other things to see and do whilst you are in the area.

2 Walk along Moor Street until you reach the clock tower. This was erected in 1876, a 'Gothic' stone structure with clock faces in each side and an arched belfry. The market cross was located here from medieval times.



3 Head down Aughton Street, cross at the signal controlled crossing point, keep right and continue to Coronation Park entrance. The Park boasts a range of play and leisure facilities and is home to Ormskirk's war memorial. Home to a variety of events throughout the year; visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/events for further information.

4 Follow the route through the park, keeping the bandstand on your left and exit at County Road, cross at the controlled crossing and continue down the path ahead. Turn left into Cottage Lane passing some of the historic buildings along the way, including the lovely old Tudor/Gothic style Rookery.

5 Continue left at the mini roundabout and then turn right into Redgate. Turn right at the end and then look for the public right of way just ahead on your left. This path takes you out into the countryside where you will begin to see some of the stunning views along this route. Continue straight ahead.

6 A short detour here takes you to Christ Church and Café Vista, open Tuesday to Friday between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

7 Keep the reservoir railings on your right continue along the public footpath and through the gates until you exit the field onto Holly Lane by way of a flight of stone steps. Turn right and on walking along Holly Lane a short detour here takes you to Gorse Hill Nature Reserve information centre and secluded woodland, open Wed & Sat 9am-5pm.

8 Continue down Holly Lane keeping to the right and go through the metal gate marking the entrance to Gorse Hill Nature Reserve and turn immediately left. The circular route now takes you along the public footpaths and minor roads out to Clieves Hill. Why not take advantage of the benches for a rest and refreshment.



9 Follow the road to the T Junction and turn left to rejoin Fir Tree Lane, at the cross roads go straight across and turn right just ahead, through the gate of Clieves Hill Farm. Keep to the right and exit the garden by a further gate.

10 Continue along the farm tracks, out onto Cut Lane and then turn right at the next public right of way. When the path turns right ahead, pass the field entrance and take the path on the right hand side of the tree line.



11 At the end of the field take the gate on the left towards Gorse Hill Nature Reserve.

12 At the top of the hill there is another bench affording great views of Blackpool, Southport, Formby Woods and on a clear day the Lake District. You are now in the middle of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve, an ideal place to see and hear Yellowhammers. Take the path to the right of the bench leading up the hill and around the reservoir.

13 Rejoin the track and retrace your route along Cottage Lane. On entering Coronation Park this time walk straight ahead and out onto Churchfields. Turn left up to St. Peter and Paul Parish Church which is well worth a visit. Continue down Church Street, a short detour takes you to Church Walk Shopping Arcade, a cobbled alleyway lined with quaint shops.



The Yellowhammer bird is often seen perched on top of a hedge or bush, singing. Its recent population decline makes it a Red List species.

There are many more lovely walks within the area covered by the VISIT Project, please visit our website at www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk for more leaflets and ideas for walks, cycle rides and days out.

This leaflet hopes to encourage you to get out and about in the Ormskirk area and discover the area's wonderful public rights of way network.

The public regularly uses all the footpaths in this leaflet without let or hindrance as public rights of way; however, please respect the privacy of landowners, tenants and farmers and the possession of this leaflet is NOT to be taken as a guarantee of any particular right of access.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING WITH YOU

- When walking any distance, good quality walking shoes or lightweight waterproof boots are advisable, as is a daypack to carry your maps, food and drink and extra warm clothing or waterproofs. In winter be aware of the wind chill effect in exposed areas and in winter some sections can become muddy and suitable footwear should be worn.
- In summer it would also be sensible to pack a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water, especially as this route is mostly over exposed open fields. A pair of binoculars will bring another fascinating world into focus from the top of Clieves Hill.
- Why not take a small digital camera to record your walk, we would be happy to share your experiences and receive your feedback on the route. Contact us via the website: www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk

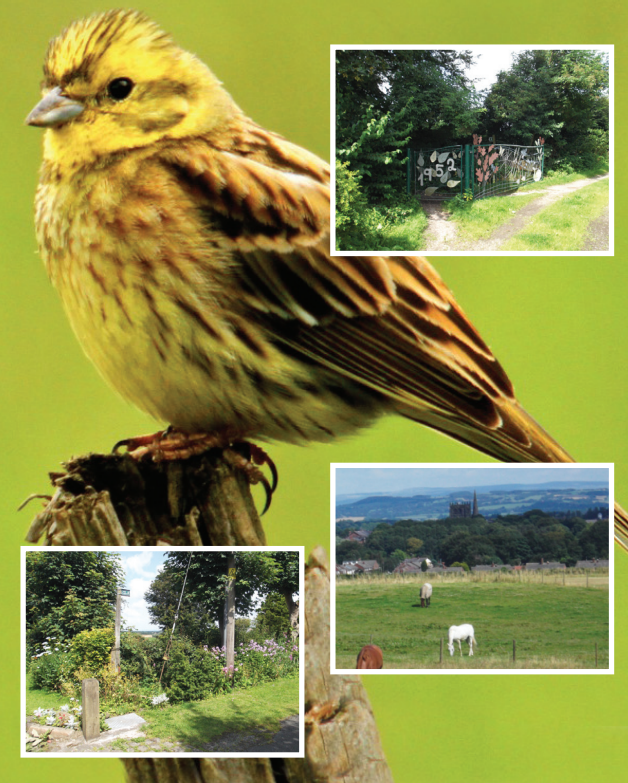


VISIT – Visitors in Sustainable Integrated Transport
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Yellow Hammer



Route



- Moderate
- Town Centre, quiet roads and field edge paths
- Distance 7 miles
- About 3 hours



