

Lathom Chapel & Burscough Priory

A 5.5 mile walk mainly on tracks and fields and almost completely flat and although the fields can be a little soggy in wet weather, there is usually little mud. Initially the walk visits the Lathom Park Chapel and later passes the ruins of Burscough Priory.

See the last page for some further information on the Chapel and Priory.

The walk starts from a layby at SD 454 091 and the post code L40 5UE is a few 100ft south of this.



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

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1: SD 454 091 There is good parking space in this separated layby that is also the access road to the Chapel. Initially follow the road ¼ mile (400m) to the chapel, i.e. head East.



2. SD457934 View the chapel and it's connected Alms houses. It has a burial vault with rails and a well kept garden. The drive also has a "Cromwell Stone". To continue, return along the road to the starting point and then cross the very busy road.



3. SD 454 091 Having crossed onto Cranes Lane, follow this close to 1 mile.(1.6Km). The lane is a mixture of rough track and tarmacadam. Nearing the end you pass a golf course on the left. When you reach Castle Lane, look immediately to the right to find a footpath down a driveway.



4. SD 437090 The driveway is to the left of a house on the corner. After about 150 ft. (45m) take a stile on the left of a metal gate.

5. SD 438091 After a few yds the route is through the garden along the side of the tennis court.

Look for the stile in the trees beyond the court.



6. SD 438092 There are two stiles leading into and out of a narrow wood.

On exiting the wood turn left. This can be a very soggy stretch until you reach the grass on the field margin.



7. SD 437092 Having turned left out of the stile, when you reach the field margin, turn right and follow the field edge/tree line for over ¼ mile (450m). (heading just west of north). There is no clear path and you cross one obvious path. In due course you reach Blythe Lane through a wide opening.



8. SD 436096 The Lane is very busy and has no pavement. Turn left through the opening over the iron bridge. Follow the lane for 510 ft (154m) to reach a corner and the entrance to a farm cum caravan park.





9. SD 434096 Turn right and continue for under ¼ mile (360m) all the way through the caravan park, past the barrier. Just as you reach the end of the park there are some gates and fences.



10. SD 433100 Find the kissing gate on the right and into the field. Shortly after entering the field, look to your right over the wall to see some of the ruins of the Burscough Priory. Continue on the cut grass path bearing left to reach a stile/footbridge after about 330yds (300m).



11. SD 435101 Over the footbridge and bear right and follow the fence towards a farm with a large tree between the buildings. Aim for the tree and take the grass path and stile under the tree to meet a farm road.



12. SD 436103 Turn left here up the cobbled track. After 40 yds there is a kissing gate on the right. However, going a few yds more to find some stones and a bridge is a convenient refreshment point about ½ way around the route. Return to the kissing gate.

13. SD 436104 Go through the gate and head slightly left of straight ahead (NE) to reach the opposite tree line. Find the stile onto a (local) path and cross it and over the stile on the other side.



14. SD 438104 This leads onto a wide field with a fence visible ahead. Continue in the same NE direction to meet the fence in about 260yds (232m) and hopefully near the kissing gates.



15. SD 440106 There are two kissing gates either side of a track to pass through. Head toward the white house in some trees at the far left corner of the field. Just before the house is a stile leading onto a tree lined path past the house onto a cu-de-sac.



16. SD 443107 More or less opposite is a path just beyond and at the side of Burscough Hall. Follow the path which soon turns right. Continue (now SE) with the trees on your right, at the end of one field zigzagging left/right to continue in the same direction between two fields. Do NOT cross the final field. Notice a crossing ditch.





17. SD 445105 The ditch is not immediately obvious as there is a wide grass crossing. Look for the line of trees going off to the left. Turn left and follow the tree line BUT on the RIGHT of the ditch. After 200yds (180m) cross a footbridge to continue with trees on the right. After 270yds (250 m) you reach a local lane by a bridge.



18. SD 450106 Turn right along this busy road with no pavement and follow it up it's slight incline to a road junction in 300yds (270m).



19. SD 451103 At the junction look left to find a footpath on the opposite side of the road. Follow this fenced in path (badly overgrown at this time) until in about 50yds(45m) it goes left and enters a field. Continue along the side of the field for to reach a corner in another 50yds (45m).



20. SD 452101 At the corner turn right and continue in that direction for 1/2mile (800m). Be sure to go BETWEEN the fences that start after some distance. Eventually you reach an earth (muddy) track beside a house.

21. SD 446096 At the path, head left and follow it as it turns right and follows the house hedge. After 660yds (600m) you meet up with Cranes Lane again. Turn left along the lane and in ¼ mile (400m) you will be back at the start.



End of Walk.

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Lathom Park Chapel’s history goes back to 1500 when it was founded as a Chantry by Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby. It has notable windows and carvings that came from Burscough Priory, and there are bullet holes claimed to be from Roundhead muskets during the civil war. Google for more details.



Lathom Park Chapel

Burscough Priory was founded in c. 1190 by Robert Fitz-Henry, Lord of Lathom, for Augustinian canons and dissolved around 1536. Some ruins remain though mainly visible over a wall. It’s bells have been moved to Ormskirk and Croston churches.

Eric Crichton
22-9-17



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