

Ribble Walk from Much Hoole

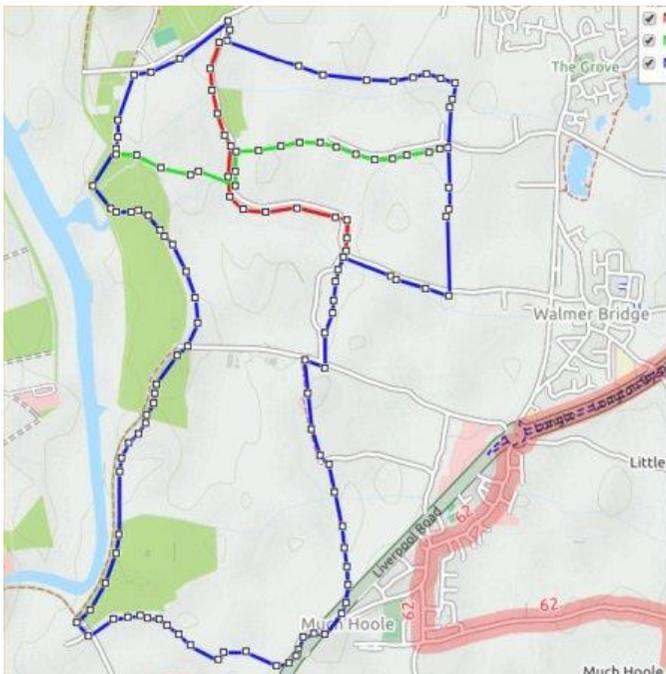
A choice of flat walks over fields and Ribble embankments with good views over Ribble flat lands and possibility of bird sightings.

Park in Old Liverpool Street on the WEST side of A59, i.e. driving north to Preston. (there is a nearby Old Liverpool Street on the East side as well).
Near PR4 4RJ.

All the routes share the same first half, and while affected by wet conditions, it is not usually a problem.

The main walk description is just under 6 miles and best in dry weather though still passable, albeit it muddy, in all but the worst wet weather. If it has been significantly wet then some road walking avoids the most muddy sections and in really wet conditions a number of roads can be used to largely avoid serious mud. (as little as 5.25miles)

A shorter walk, plus variation, is also provided though it can have one muddy gate in recent wet weather and can be nearly impassible in serious weather. (about 5.5 miles)



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: SD466227 From where the south end of Old Liverpool Street meets the A59, walk about 60 m south to find a kissing gate in the hedge.



2: SD466226 The gate leads to a narrow path beside a stream. Keep the hedge on the left, but switch to being on the right at an opening and then it becomes a path between hedges. After 1000m (2/3rds mile) reach a double gate where the road bends 90 deg.



3: SD456228 Do not go through the gate but turn right along the farm track. Continue on this track for only about 100m before you meet a crossing track with an embankment on the other side.



4: SD456229 Cross the track up onto the embankment. You will be following the embankment path for 2.5Km (1.7 miles) although it is not always immediately beside the Ribble.



5: There are wide open views across the Ribble flat lands and you can expect to see some type of bird life on the way. Cross a style beside a field drain.



6: SD459238 The embankment curves around a small hillock (grassed over waste tip). Cross a style then another two either side of a road, and a further pair of styles leading into a small wooded area. The styles may not be in good condition.



7: SD459247 Nearing the end of the hillock, the path splits in a Y shape. You can take either path but at the time of writing the style on the left path is missing. The right hand path is the formal (sometimes muddy) route, it crosses a style then bears hard left to follow the fence.



8: Note: on the map the right of way is shown as veering right across a flat area but is not a viable route. As early as January there may be lambs in the fields





9: SD457248 Depending on which path you took, you cross one or two styles to regain the normal embankment.



10: SD456249 In good weather this stretch of embankment would be a good place to stop and have a break while taking in the views. (there is a pub about 10 min further on). The embankment then curves away from the river to head directly inland for a short stretch.



11: SD458251 Where the embankment turns sharp left again, there are three rights of way. Left on the embankment; straight ahead through a gate; and a style to the right along a smaller embankment which is a shorter (drier weather only) route. Jump to **point 31:** to take this route.



12: For the main longer route and more options (and certainly in wet weather), go straight ahead (metal pedestrian gate on left of track gate). Carry on along the path until you reach a road.

13: SD459254 On reaching the end of the farm track, turn right along Marsh Lane. Note that there is a Clay Pigeon shooting range nearby so this narrow road can be busy.



14: The Dolphin Inn is immediately along this road and you are about half way around the walk should refreshments be wanted.



15: SD463256 Go along the road to a junction with Hall Carr Lane. Turn right onto the lane. In very wet weather follow the lane for 1.5Km (1 mile) and jump to **point 24:** In better weather and for a shorter route go 600m and jump to **point 34:** for the full route, go 100m to find a gate and footpath on the left.



16: SD463255. Cross the style and continue in the same direction (in total for about 2/3rds mile/1000m). Pass a small bridge/style on the right. After ¼ mile meet a bridge/style.





17: SD467254 Cross over and continue, now with the hedge on the left. Meet a style on the left at the corner of a field. Cross over but turn right to continue in the same direction and ahead see a row of trees.



18: SD468254 Aim to the right of the row of trees ahead. With the trees on the left, soon find and cross a style into a field then another. Stay with the trees/hedge on the left and find a style leading into a narrow fenced path. Continue the obvious path to reach two bridges on the left where the path goes right. DO NOT cross the bridges.



19: SD473253 Turn right and continue in that direction for about 330m in the process crossing a style, then a bridge, and another style onto a narrow path that reaches and runs beside a cul-de-sac road. The path is overgrown, use the road.



20: SD473252 Go down the cul-de-sac to meet Hall Lane directly opposite a metal kissing gate.

21: SD473251 (The shorter route joins here from **point 34:**). Go through the gate and go in the direction of the hedge on the right for bit less than ½ mile. (If the route is proving too muddy, you can continue along this lane to a T junction and turn right to eventually arrive back at the start.)



22: SD473248 About halfway along, the tree line stops and over a style (or opening) go slightly right to go between two hedges. Halfway along there may be gates either side of a farm route blocking the path. There are footpath accesses at the right. Go the rest of the way between the hedges to find a style onto a road. (Hall Carr Lane)



23: SD473244 Turn right along the lane and after 480m find a farm track on the left. (If the route is proving too muddy, you can continue along this lane to a crossing road and turn right to eventually arrive back at the start.)



24: SD465245 In due course you reach this farm track on the right. Turn onto the farm track and follow it for about 75m looking for a style on the left. (also reach here if the road route taken at **point 15:**).
(see **point 23:** if a road exit is needed.)





25: SD468246 The style leads into a field. Follow the obvious path which takes you over a bridge to the right and then along a path between a hedge and electric fence and later rejoins the farm track you started on! In winter expect some mud.



26: SD467241 In due course arrive at Station Road. Turn right and in 300m find a style on the left. (to avoid more fields, go left on the road 600m, turn right onto Brook Lane that leads back to the A59 to turn right back to the start.)



27: SD466241 Cross the style and head directly over the field and in about 180m find and cross a style leading onto a disused railway. Go a little right to find a muddy slope up to an style/opening.



28: SD466239 Continue straight ahead for 280m crossing a style and passing through a narrow fenced path to reach a lane with a house opposite. Look a little left of the house for the footpath. (going left along the road to a T junction and turning right will lead back to the start)

29: SD467236 Cross the style into a narrow hedge bound path. Continue in the same general direction for 800m/½ mile crossing two bridges, a style and another two bridges to reach an opening in a hedge onto a road.



30: SD468229 This is the A59. Turn right and in 300m reach the start.

The End



--- Alternate Shorter Route -----

31: SD458251 (See point 11:)

Cross the style on the right and follow the fence on the left, which means leaving the embankment. In about 250m the fence goes left a few feet to a style.



32: SD461250 The picture shows a winter state. In drier weather cross the style and head diagonally across the field to a gate and style (can also be muddy). This leads onto Hall Carr Lane





33: SD463249 Crossing the stile onto the lane there are two choices. Go right on the lane less than ½ mile to reach the farm track on the right at **point 24:** of the main route. Alternately, go left 200m to find a farm entrance on the right.



34: SD463250 (also from **point 15:**) Go along the wooden fenced path, through the farm buildings and straight on along a tree fenced path. Pass a sewage farm on the left to meet a road and after 330m just past two houses on the right find a metal kissing gate at **point 21:**.

----- End of this Option -----

Final End

Eric Crichton 29-4-17