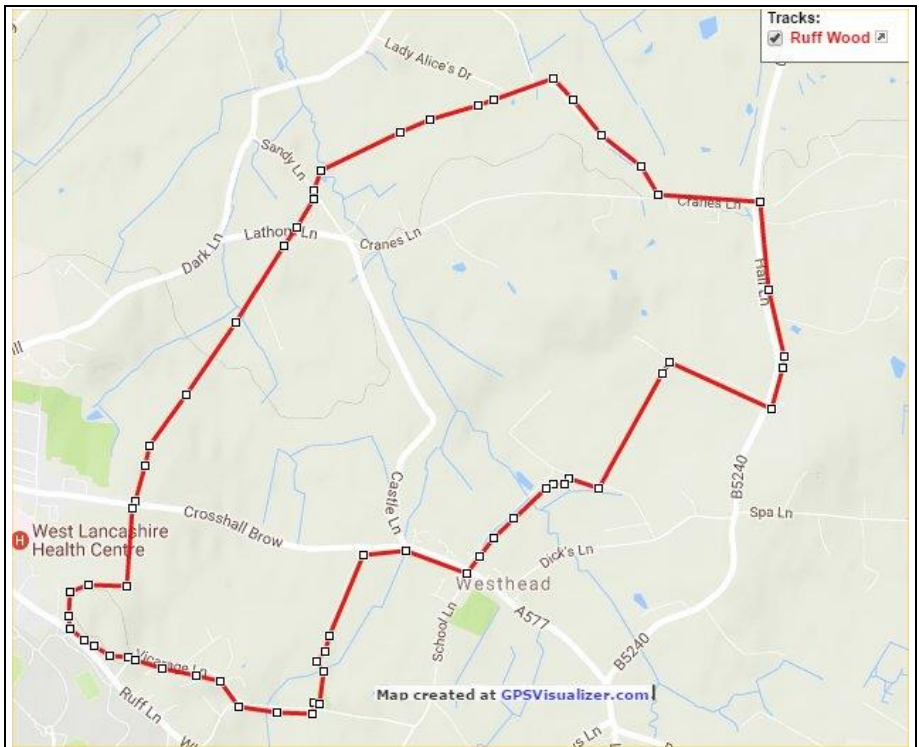


## Ruff Wood and Surrounds

This is a 5.5 mile circular level walk starting in Ruff Woods near Ormskirk and taking in surrounding countryside. Ruff Wood is a Woodlands Trust wood containing a 0.61 circular walk.

The walk is mainly on good paths, though some farm tracks will be muddy in relevant weather. Open views and a range of bird life to watch for.

Parking is mainly in Vicarage Lane at grid ref. SD 433071 and post code L40 6HQ. There is a parking layby at the start of Vicarage Lane but in the week it is time limited and is always busy. So street parking further along the lane is common. The walk can also be started from the layby at the road to Lathom Hall on the B5240 at SD 455092 Post code L40 5UQ (see item 8 below)



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

***This description can be used/printed/shared for personal use, or to lead a walk but not for commercial use without the author's written consent. 2-June-2016***



**1: SD429074** The walk starts at the south east corner of Ruff Wood. There are other entrances. The exit from the wood is 270 yards (250m) at 45 deg to the right. However, taking the left hand track will lead you around the whole wood to the one and only exit into an open field. This is about ½ mile of the walk.



**2: SD429077** This north east exit leads to a path running through a field. After 325 yards(275m) the path meets the A577 (Crossshall Brow). Cross the road and a few yards to the right is another lane. Take this cobbled lane which leads past some houses after about 185 yds (170m).



**3: SD429081** After the houses the path changes to an earth path (may be very muddy although easy enough to negotiate). Pass a gas distribution centre and keep in the same direction along the path to meet a concrete driveway in about 860 yds(780m).



**4: SD434088** Follow this driveway for about 300yds (275m) to reach a road (Lathom Lane). Cross the road onto a path beside trees.

**5: SD436091** The path passes first to the left of some trees and then to the right of the next set of trees. After 150yds (140m) a quiet road is reached. Turn left and in 20 yds turn right down a driveway to a couple of houses. After some yds the driveway bears right and you continue straight ahead on a path that soon reaches a very old bridge.



**6: SD437093** Cross the bridge and continue ahead on a path through a field. Shortly notice a post with all of 12 way markers on it! Continue ahead for 1000 yds(915m) to meeting a gravel driveway and follow it to the right to reach some houses.



**7: SD446096** Immediately after the right hand house (with white wooden gate) turn right onto a farm track (muddy in winter). Continue for 670yds (615m) to meet a more solid track. Turn left here to meet the B5240 (Hall Lane) in 420 yds(380m).



**8: SD454092** This is the junction leading to Lathom Hall. Turn right and follow the narrow pavement for 830yds (760m) to reach a farm track on the right.





**9: SD454084** Turn onto this track and in 450 yds (410m) find a footpath on the left a distance before the farm buildings. Turn left onto this and after 600yds (550m) it meets a driveway. Turn right along the drive.



**10: SD446081** At the house, turn left along it's driveway to pass through a small housing estate to meet the A577 (Wigan Road) in 650 yds (600m). Turn right along the A577 for 215 yds (200m) to find an opening between the houses on the other side of the road.



**11: SD438078** Cross over and go down this track. At some buildings the track ends and you follow a footpath to the right of the buildings. This reaches a church and then a road (Vicarage Lane) after 740 yds (675 m)



**12: SD436072** This is the road you started on so turn right and follow it for 890 yds (815m) back to the start.

The End.