

Garstang & Barnacre Circular Walk

Starting Point

The walk commences from the river end of the main car park situated behind The Discovery Centre on the High Street in Garstang. Grid Reference 494 455.

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Terrain

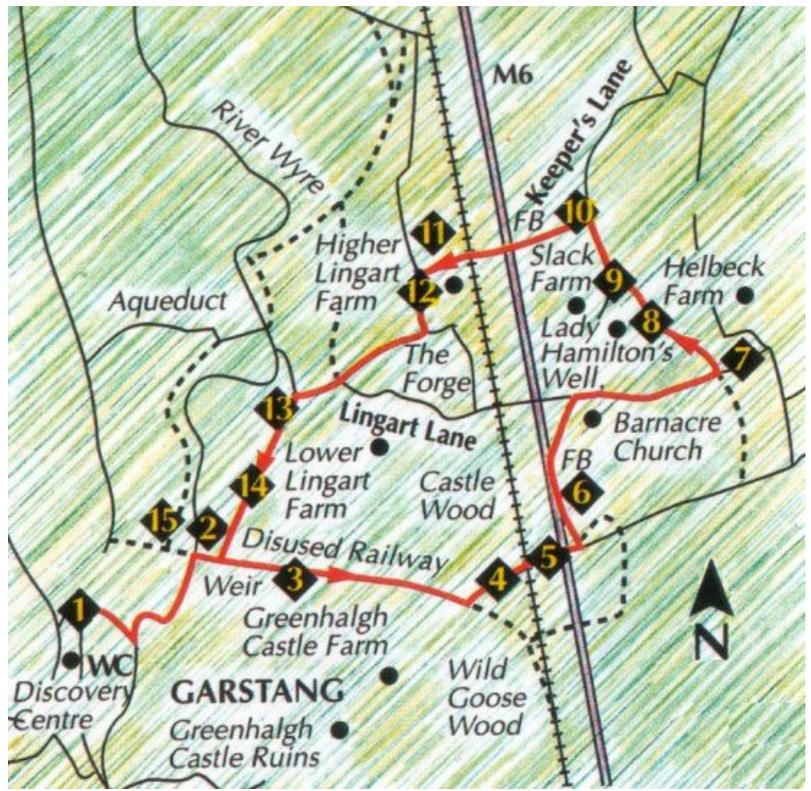
Mainly easy with a little uphill walking. Some areas on farmland may be muddy.

Distance

Approximately 3.2 miles (5.1km). Allow 2 to 3 hours to complete the walk.

The Route

Please observe the [Countryside Code](#) at all times.



1. Follow the riverside path around the playing field until you reach the water pumping station and bridge. Climb the stone steps situated in the stone wall.
2. Turn right at the top of the steps and walk straight ahead. Leave the tarmac road and continue along the footpath until you reach a stile which follows the line of The Pilling Pig Railway. Cross this stile and the next one and continue onto the third stile which is located underneath the power pylon. Ascend the railway embankment on the left hand side.
3. Follow the hedge line until you reach a stile at the end of a hedge on the left hand side. Here you can view the ruins of Greenhalgh Castle on the right. Note also, the conservation area known as Wildgoose Wood.
4. Climb the stile and cross over the field. Head towards the far corner where the footpath crosses the rail and motorway bridge via a ladder stile.
5. Cross both bridges and continue ahead. Just before you reach the first house on the right, turn left and proceed down the track. Go through the field gate and follow the hedge line until it bears to the right. As the hedge bears right, continue straight ahead, following the motorway fence, until you reach a stone ladder in the corner of the field. Climb over the stile and turn right to cross another stile at the opposite end of the fence.
6. Proceed across the field, keeping the hedge and stream on your right hand side, until you reach a gate. Climb the stile, turn right and continue along the road for 300 - 400 yards. Keep walking uphill until you see a red post box on your left hand side.
7. Immediately before the post box, the path leads you down some stone steps and onto a footbridge. Cross the bridge and continue to your left following the riverside shrubbery. As you reach a stile, climb over it and proceed uphill to the right, heading towards the wood (note the former quarry on the left, which is now a home for rabbits).

8. On reaching the wood, the path descends steeply alongside a fence until you reach a stile in the corner. Once over the stile turn right and follow the fence line until you reach a large Alder tree (on the left beneath the tree you can see the remains of Lady Hamilton's Well). Continue across until you reach the field fence stile. Having crossed the stile, turn left and proceed along the track until you reach the farm gate and Keepers Lane.
9. Turn right and proceed up Keepers Lane until you pass Crosby Cottage on the left. Locate a stile in the hedge on your left hand side. This is situated next to the first field gate.
10. Once over the stile, follow the hedge line towards the motorway footbridge. Climb the small ladder stile in front of you and proceed across the bridge. Once over the bridge, climb a similar stile and bear slightly right as you cross the field. A ladder stile provides you will access to the railway line. Cross with great care – this is a main line.
11. On the other side of the line you will reach a ladder stile. Climb over it. Once in the field, follow the hedgeline and continue ahead until you reach a footbridge.
12. After the footbridge, turn left onto the road and walk past the farm building on the left hand side. Here the road bends sharply to the left. Turn right at this point into the unsurfaced lane (Lingart Lane). At the junction adjacent to the farm, continue straight ahead and locate a stile situated between 2 gates on your left hand side.
13. Cross the stile and follow the hedge line for a short distance, about half way across the field, the hedge bears slightly towards the right. Continue straight ahead for a short distance until you locate a stile in the hedgerow.
14. Cross the adjacent field on a diagonal, bearing left. Climb a fence stile and continue through the next field in the same direction. A final stile is located in the corner, under the embankment. This leads you up onto the tarmac road of the pumping station.
15. From here, retrace the route over the weir and back to the car park.

The Pilling Pig Railway

The line was named after the plaintive whistle of one of its trains. It opened in 1870 to serve the rural areas of the district, running from Garstang to Knott End. The line was never profitable. By 1930 passenger transport was discontinued and the line was finally closed in the early 1960's.

Greenhalgh Castle

The corner tower is all that now remains of this stronghold built by Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby in 1490. Many of the castle's stones were used in building the adjacent Castle Farm.



Wildgoose Railway Cutting

The wood is part of a conservation area containing a variety of trees within the railway cutting. The landowner allows concessionary access. The whole stretch of this old line has become a 'green corridor of wildlife'. A walk along here in summer will reveal the splendour of wild flowers and butterflies.

Lady Hamilton's Well

A spa well reputed to have possessed medicinal properties and used to bathe in by members of the Hamilton family. Originally square in form with steps leading down, much of the stone work has now collapsed but the water still flows freely.