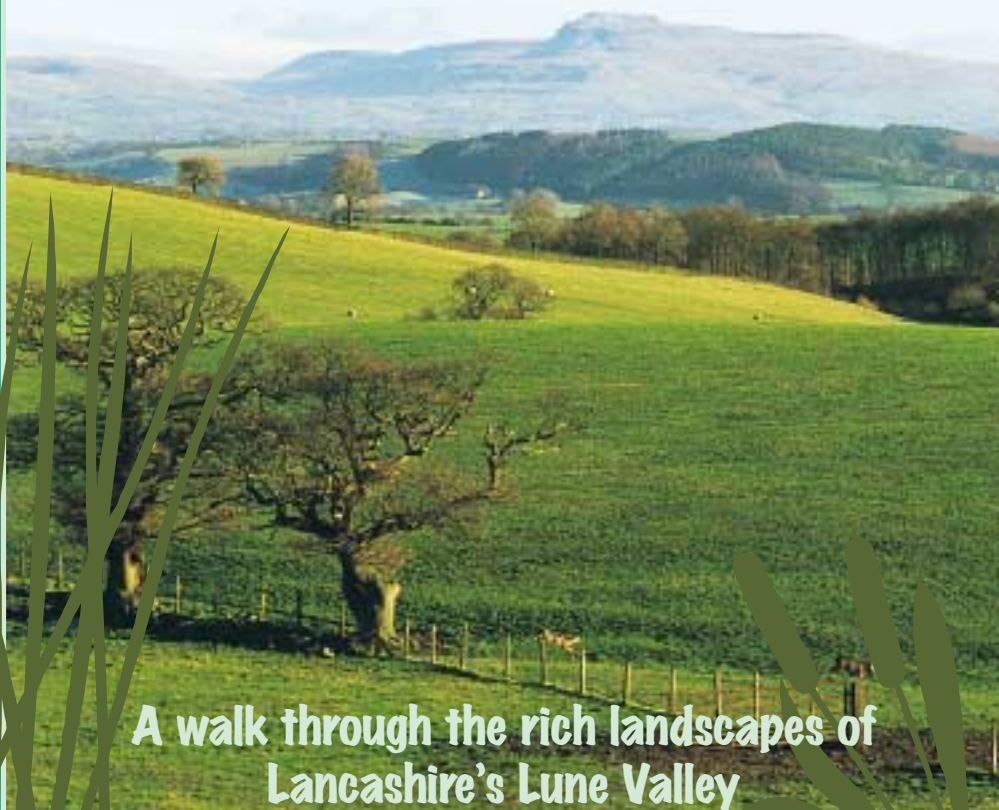


# Lunesdale Walk



*Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*



**A walk through the rich landscapes of  
Lancashire's Lune Valley**

# Lunesdale Walk

Through pastures farmed by Norse settlers to riverside meadows and low-lying villages of the Lune and Wenning valleys, this is a walk of fine landscapes. You will catch glimpses of Morecambe Bay and the mountains of South Cumbria as well as the prospect of Ingleborough from several vantage points. For the most part it is gently undulating countryside, but there are steep climbs; the exceptional views are more than recompense.

The Lunesdale Walk also offers a chance to discover one of the finest paths in Roeburndale, where lichens and mosses festoon the woodland. There you will find a greenness not often seen, the pure waters of the river attract the darting kingfisher beneath overhanging boughs whilst the dipper dips and bobs amongst the rocks beneath. Within twenty minutes walk you will be on the high moorland, where acidic, peaty soils support heather and cotton grass.

The flora and fauna match the diversity of the land. The dales, woodlands and lanes are blessed with a wealth of wild flowers. The pastures are mainly given over to sheep farming, but from the pockets of woodland and parkland emerge wandering deer. On the higher ground hen harrier, buzzard and kestrels quarter the skies above fox and rabbits in the fields.



*Winter floods above Loyn Bridge*

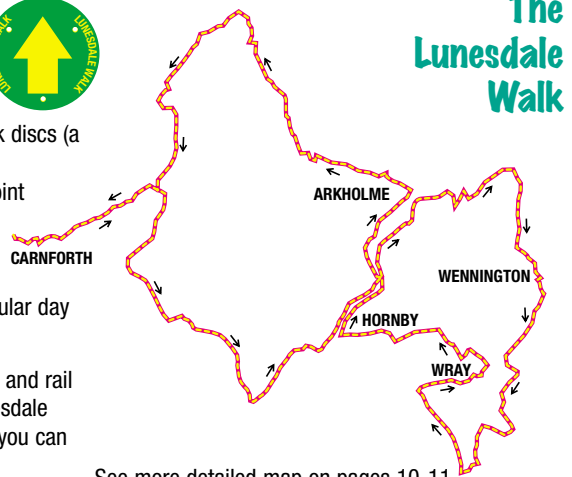
By the riversides you will probably see the heron, and on the shingle beaches the wagtails and sandpiper. In Winter swans, ducks and coots take refuge in the backwaters of the Lune, flocks of geese rest on the flood plain and fieldfare and redwing forage for food. Curlew are common on moorland and riverside.

The Lunesdale Walk introduces walkers to an exceptional part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is special and unspoilt. Please enjoy the Lunesdale countryside, its peace, quiet and in places solitude, but also look after it. Then, others can enjoy equally its splendour in years to come.

## How to use this booklet

The Lunesdale Walk traces a figure of eight, crossing at Loyn Bridge, about half a mile north of Hornby. It is waymarked throughout its 37 mile (59kms) length with dedicated waymark discs (a yellow arrow and walk name on a green background). You can pick up the Walk at any point along its length, but the most easily accessible locations are at Carnforth, Hornby and Wennington. It's ideal for a long weekend break (for the whole route) or for linear and circular day walks.

The Lune Valley is well served by both local bus and rail services which may be used to access the Lunesdale Walk at various points along its route, meaning you can enjoy a day's walk without the need for a car!



See more detailed map on pages 10-11

# Discover the heritage, landscape and wildlife of Lancashire's Lune Valley

For convenience the whole route has been split up into seven sections, based on starting and finishing at Carnforth railway station.

Each of these sections are featured on a double page spread in this booklet. Where appropriate, cut-offs to the nearest village (for buses, trains, refreshments and accommodation) are highlighted in the text and on the strip-map on the right-hand page of each section.

<i>The sections are -</i>	<i>Pages</i>
<b>1 Carnforth - Swarthdale</b> (5 miles/8 kms)	4-5
<b>2 Swarthdale - Melling</b> (7 miles/11kms)	6-7
<b>3 Melling - Roeburndale via Wennington</b> (5 miles/8 kms)	8-9
<b>4 Roeburndale - Hornby via Wray</b> (6 miles/9.5 kms)	12-13
<b>5 Hornby - Arkholme</b> (4 miles/6.5 kms)	14-15
<b>6 Arkholme - Priest Hutton</b> (6 miles/9.5 kms)	16-17
<b>7 Priest Hutton - Carnforth</b> (4 miles/6.5 kms)	18-19

All distances indicated in this booklet are approximate.



*Wennington Station - gateway to Lunesdale*

Here are a few suggestions to help you make the most of the Lunesdale Walk.

## Three Day Break:

- Day 1 - Carnforth to Melling (Sections 1 & 2, 12 miles/19 kms). Overnight stop at Melling.
- Day 2 - Melling to Hornby via Wennington (Sections 3 & 4, 11 miles/17.5kms). Overnight stop at Hornby.
- Day 3 - Hornby to Carnforth (Sections 5-7, 14 miles/22.5kms).

## Two Day Break:

- Day 1 - catch the train from Carnforth to Wennington. Pick up the Walk at Wennington station (Point 20 in Section 3) and follow it to Wray or Hornby (accommodation available in both these places).
- Day 2 - complete the walk from your overnight stop back to Carnforth.

## Linear One Day Walks:

- Catch a bus or train from Lancaster to Wennington (Point 20 in Section 3). Walk to Hornby via Roeburndale and catch a bus back to Lancaster from Hornby (8.5 miles/14kms).
- Catch a bus or train from Lancaster to Carnforth. Walk to Loyn Bridge (Points 1-13, Sections 1 & 2). Cut off to Hornby for a bus back to Lancaster (10.5 miles/17kms).
- Catch a bus from Lancaster to Arkholme (Bay Horse Inn). Walk back to Carnforth following the directions in Sections 6 & 7 (10 miles/16kms).

## Circular One Day Walk:

- Catch a bus or train to Wennington. Pick up the Walk at Point 20 (Section 3) and walk through to Loyn Bridge (Point 37, Section 5) via the Wray cut-off (after Point 25). At Loyn Bridge skip back in the text to Point 14 (Section 2) and walk back to Wennington via Melling (Points 14-20). 10 miles/16kms.

# 1 Carnforth - Swarthdale

## Carnforth and The Lancaster Canal

Carnforth owes its existence to the smelting of iron ore and as a major railway junction, hence the size of the existing station. The railway arrived in the 1840s, bringing prosperity to the town. The opening of the Lancaster Canal in 1797, in contrast, was far less important. The railway station gained celluloid immortality as the location for the classic 1945 film 'Brief Encounter' starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson. The canal towpath can be followed as a pleasant walk all the way to Kendal (about 19 miles).

**Refreshments:** *There are several inns and shops in the town.*

**Buses and Trains:** *There are regular daily buses and trains to Lancaster. There is also a useful train link to Wennington and Leeds.*

- 1 From Carnforth Railway Station entrance walk up to the junction of Market Street and Haws Hill where the Royal Station Hotel stands on the corner. Keep ahead up Market Street, crossing the busy Scotland Road, then continuing up Market Street as it rises to a junction with North Road by The Shovel Inn, a hostelry dating from 1750. Go left along North Road and just before Redmayne Drive, opposite Hodgson's Croft, turn right down a track to Hodgson's Bridge.
- 2 Just before the bridge, steps on the right drop to the towpath of the Lancaster Canal. Go left, under the bridge and walk out of Carnforth for nearly 3km. As you approach the hamlet of **Capernwray** you will see at first the railway, then houses on the right-hand bank. Go under the next bridge, then climb left up to a road and go left over the bridge, bearing right to walk between farm buildings to a junction.

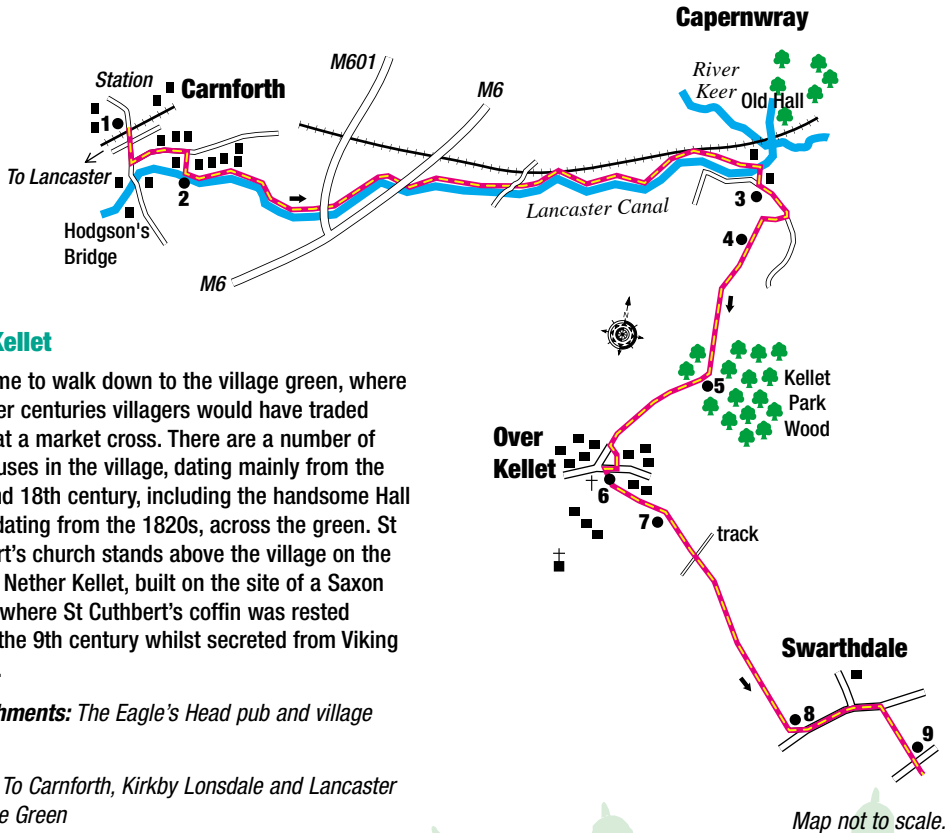
## Capernwray

Capernwray was at one time a junction for a short arm of the Lancaster Canal to Webber Quay and limestone quarries; it was affectionately known as 'Lovers Creek'. The aqueduct at Capernwray, spanning the River Keer, was built by the famous canal engineer John Rennie. In medieval times the Manor of Capernwray was rented from Lord Monteaigle of Hornby for "1 lb of cummin a year".

- 3 Turn left here, passing Capernwray Old Hall and then the entrance to Old Hall Caravan Park. Approximately 50 metres beyond there is a gate on the right. Go through it and then keep ahead to cross a stile and now slightly right, easing away from the Swarth Brook to climb up to a drive. Go left, and within a few metres, right to cross a stile.
- 4 Follow the boundary of Kellet Park Wood, which curves in a semi-circle to a stile. Cross this and head slightly right up the hillside, where there are good views behind of South Lakeland. Cross the fencing by the gate/stile at the next boundary, and proceed ahead to the remnants of a wood rich in lichens and mosses. Keep to the left hand edge of the wood, then bear right to drop down to a step stile.
- 5 Keep ahead now through a large field where hedges and walls have been grubbed. Aim for the houses at Over Kellet. Climb a stile by a barred gate and keep ahead to reach a stile leading to an old track. Follow this for over 100 metres and cut left off this track, climb the stile opposite and loop around with the fenced path to a track between houses leading to Kellet Road.



*Hodgson's Bridge*



## Over Kellet

Take time to walk down to the village green, where in earlier centuries villagers would have traded goods at a market cross. There are a number of fine houses in the village, dating mainly from the 17th and 18th century, including the handsome Hall Garth, dating from the 1820s, across the green. St Cuthbert's church stands above the village on the road to Nether Kellet, built on the site of a Saxon chapel where St Cuthbert's coffin was rested during the 9th century whilst secreted from Viking raiders.

**Refreshments:** *The Eagle's Head pub and village stores.*

**Buses:** *To Carnforth, Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster from the Green*

- 6** Go right for 20 metres along the road, and before the Wesleyan chapel dating from 1835, go left along a drive by a small green. Just past the dwelling there's a gap where a kissing gate leads to a path. This leads through to Greenways. Go right and immediately left to follow the road to a junction. Opposite is a narrow path between houses.
- 7** This short path rises sharply up to a prominent waymark post. Go ahead on a well-worn field path leading to a stile either side of a track. Once over, proceed slightly right through an old slit stile and descending slowly into the secluded shallow **Swarthdale**. The next stile, which is not immediately noticeable, stands to the right of a solitary oak beyond the pylons.

Cross it and head slightly right once more across a low-lying pasture to another stile, this time situated to the left of a tree. Go over it and keep ahead, nearing a wood on the left as you rise up to a road.

- 8** Turn left to walk along the road, passing the junction with Swarthdale Road. Fifty metres beyond the junction, go right over a stile and climb up the field to the top right hand corner. Take a break to admire the view of Cumbrian hills behind you.

Map not to scale.



## 2 Swarthdale - Loyn Bridge - Melling

### Ingleborough

Throughout the walk you will catch glimpses of the distant, distinct weathered upland mass of Ingleborough, one of the famous 'Three Peaks' of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This high ground was the capital of the Brigantes, a tribe who fought ferociously against the Roman invasion. It is hard to imagine that before the Normans arrived, much of the uplands hereabouts would have been covered in forest!

- 9 On reaching the road go left and next right along a track through woodland to Sidegarth. Pass by a barn and go right but then be certain to go left over a stile, down steps and alongside a garden boundary to a small gate. Once through, keep ahead in this high pasture, but all eyes will be left for here is an exceptional view of Ingleborough in the distance and the Lune Valley in the foreground.
- 10 Cross a stile and cut the corner to a giant of a stile in a tall hedge. Proceed to a stile and footbridge and then climb up the hillside aiming slightly right to a stile in the next boundary. You can see Aughton church. Head slightly right, descending the field to cross a stile. Once over, keep ahead to cross a stone step stile by a gate onto a lane.

### Aughton

This hamlet is no more than a few houses and farmsteads dotting the hillside between the 15th century church and the River Lune, where in past times basket makers cropped local willows to boil and store for peeling and weaving later in the year. It was also well known for its Pudding Festival; a massive plum pudding was boiled after the willow preparation, but only once every 21 years. The tradition died out in 1887 but was revived in the early 1970s, with Aughton having its very own Pudding Queen!

- 11 Go right along the lane to a junction in approximately 50 metres, where you turn left, down to a cross-roads. There's a seat here to rest awhile or continue to descend into the Lune Valley (sign-posted as a cul-de-sac). This drops more steeply to Aughton Barns. Go left over a stile to walk ahead through river meadows.

### The Lune Valley Ramble

Stretching from Lancaster to Kirkby Lonsdale, this is a popular linear walk which allows discovery of one of the loveliest of British rivers, said to have been named by the Celts after a health-giving god named Lon.

- 12 You have now joined the 'Lune Valley Ramble'. Cross the next stile and walk upstream alongside the river. Opposite is the outline of Claughton Brick Works and above, on Caton Moor, a wind farm. The path continues along the river and runs through Great Close Wood, a superb section but one which requires care for despite the maintenance of stiles and steps, erosion by flood waters is a perennial problem. Pass by the ox-bow lake where, in winter, wildfowl like to gather. Exit the woods by a stile and continue ahead along a fence to pass to the rear of a house.
- 13 Go right on the track, by the cattle-grid and then left as it rises towards a house. However, your way is to the right, through a barred gate into the flood plain for a second time. Head slightly right to cross a stile; here you re-gain the riverbank. There's a good view of Hornby village and castle as you turn left to walk upstream. Pass well below the dwelling 'Sandbeds' which is to your left, and cross another stile here before entering woodland.

Follow the river valley up to **Loyn Bridge** where there is a stone step stile up to the road. Go right to cross the bridge.

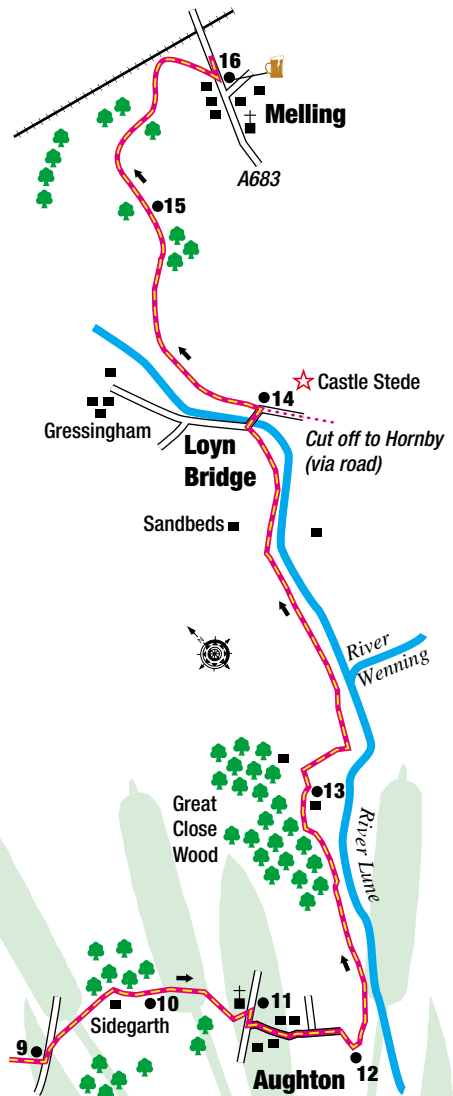
- *Cut off to Hornby*  
*To cut the walk short here, bear right off the bridge and walk up the road to the junction, here going ahead to Hornby (for buses, refreshment and accommodation).*

**14** Immediately over the bridge go through a gap stile by a gate on the left. Follow the embankment as it curves away from the river. You get a first glimpse of the village of Melling to your right. As you approach a line of trees cross a concrete track, then head slightly left to a tapering corner where you will find a stone slab bridge across the brook.

**15** Cross the bridge and go over the stile. Now proceed ahead by an old streambed, then across to a stile in a hedge. Cross a second stile in the next pasture and once over continue through a group of trees. Arkholme can be seen across the river in the distance. Once you have cleared the trees, bear right as indicated by the waymarks. There is a hedge to your right and a water channel soon appears on your left. Cross two stiles where cattle take water and keep company with the fence on the right, ducking beneath the boughs of alders, which line the channel here. You soon reach a barred gate and kissing gate before the railway embankment, leading to a track (right) to the main A683 road at **Melling**.

## Melling

Melling is nestled above the flood plain of the Lune. Its medieval church is situated by the earthworks of a castle motte dating from the reign of King Stephen (13th century). One antiquarian suggests that it might be a communal burial of plague victims. The churchyard is a veritable treasure of social history for there are many old gravestones surviving. Melling Hall, now a hotel and inn, dates from early Georgian times and stands amid a group of fine 17th and 18th century stone cottages. There's also a tea room next to the village hall just south of the church.



Map not to scale.



Train on Melling Viaduct

### 3 Melling - Wennington - Roeburndale

- 16** Turn right if visiting Melling, otherwise cross the road, and turn left towards Kirkby Lonsdale. After the railway bridge turn right to pass by old station cottages, at the top of the road look for a gate on the left. Proceed across two fields and through two barred gates. In the next field continue along the fence to your left. Cross a stile and bear slightly right through a narrower pasture to cross another stile. Climb up to a barred gate and once through bear slightly left towards a barn. Go over a stone step stile and walk ahead to a barred gate and bridleway where you turn right for Wrayton.
- 17** The bridleway soon joins a road in the hamlet of Wrayton. Proceed ahead through the hamlet until you see the entrance on the left to Wrayton Hall and then a cottage. Opposite (right) is a stile. Cross this to walk through a corner plot where geese and ducks reside. Squeeze through a gap stile to climb the hillside in earnest. At the summit you will see a small piece of wall with stone step stile, which is a curious remnant for the remainder of the boundary is fence or hedge.
- 18** There's a knoll to your left crowned with conifers, but your way is ahead in the direction of the barn, or more precisely towards a summit just to the right of two barns. The latter point becomes apparent as you reach the crest of the hill, where you dip down sharply to a plank bridge across a stream and then some dexterity is required to climb a stone stile. Rise up the hillside with the boundary to your left to pass the isolated barns.
- 19** Just beyond Catgill Barn, cross a stone stile and keep ahead to another stile, go across a track and cross a third stile. Proceed ahead again, keeping company with the fence on your right. Climb a stile and rise to the summit and there beneath you are the castellations of Wennington Hall. Head down the hill to the right of the Hall to meet a fence and woodland. Your way is over the second 'V' stile and through a pocket of wood to an old gate. At the road go left to walk into the village of **Wennington**.

#### Wennington

Wennington Hall dates originally from the 14th century, but the building you see today is a Victorian reconstruction, now used as a school. The village green would have been the site of both markets and fairs in past centuries and an old pound can be seen on the left near to the river, where stray animals would have been secured. The former Punch Bowl Inn, overlooking the green, is long closed. The narrow bridge over the River Wenning marks the boundary of the old Norman Lordship of Lonsdale.

***Refreshments:** A short walk along the B6480 towards Wray brings you to the Bridge Inn (pub food, real ales and accommodation), featured in a painting by JMW Turner.*

***Buses and Trains from Wennington:** There is a daily bus service to Hornby and Lancaster, and a daily train service to Carnforth, Lancaster and Leeds.*

- 20** At the junction in the village centre, go right to pass the entrance to Wennington Railway Station. Turn next left up Old Moor Road. The road climbs out of the village, bending to the right and then left. Beforehand, there's a stile on the right. Cross this to enter a field. Head slightly left to a barred gate. On passing through this you join a drive which leads ahead to Overends Farm.
- 21** Pass by the farmhouse, then go next right through the farmyard (not ahead) Pass through the gate ahead into a field, and turn left to descend a field. There's a stile by a gate. Cross this and aim for a stone step stile, just to the left of an old barn, which leads into Coat Bank Coppice. A clear path leads through the wood to exit at a barred gate into a high level pasture. Keep ahead to a stile, which exits on Park Lane. The landmark to look for is an old school house in the next field.



**22** Cross the lane and walk in the direction of the dwelling, but then ease left to follow the boundary up the hillside to a stile flanked by holly bushes near the summit. Proceed ahead again to descend through three fields and over three stiles. In the fourth field, keep ahead as the hedge line dips right to Tatham Park Wood. In the next boundary cross a stile, which is difficult to see at first, and step across a small stone bridge.

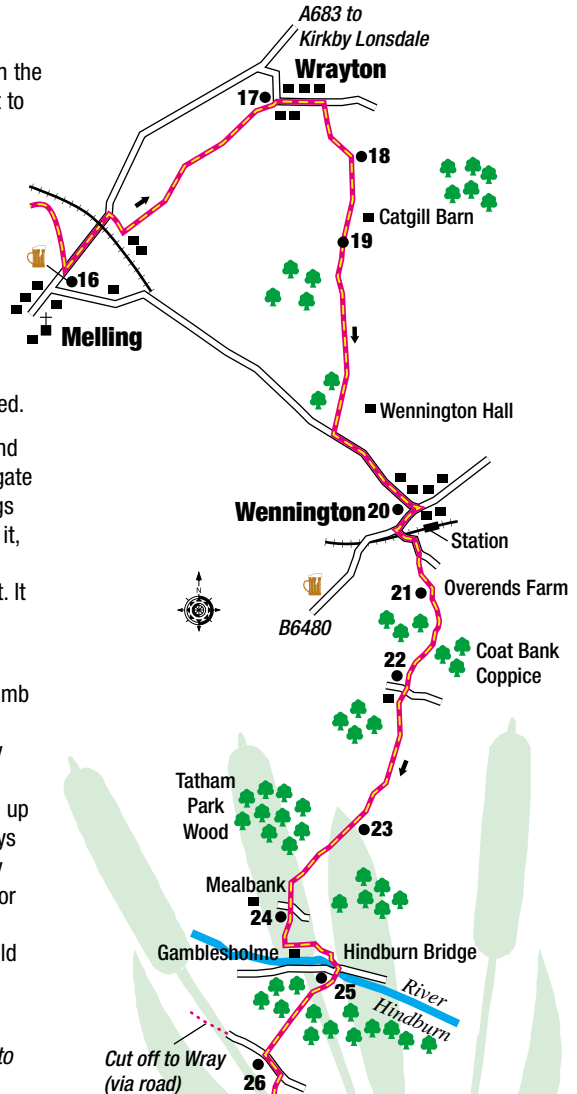
**23** Climb ahead up the bank, aiming for a top corner where you go through a barred gate. Proceed ahead to the next gate and now aim for the left-hand farm of the two you can see. There's a stile and signpost just to the right of the farmhouse. Go left on Trinket Lane, but then turn right through the farmyard as sign-posted.

**24** Exit to the rear of the buildings into a field and proceed ahead down the hillside to a small gate above Gamblesholme Farm. The path zig zags down to a wall and gateway. Go left through it, and walk ahead along the track by the farm buildings. The track bends right and then left. It then runs ahead to the road at Hindburn Bridge.

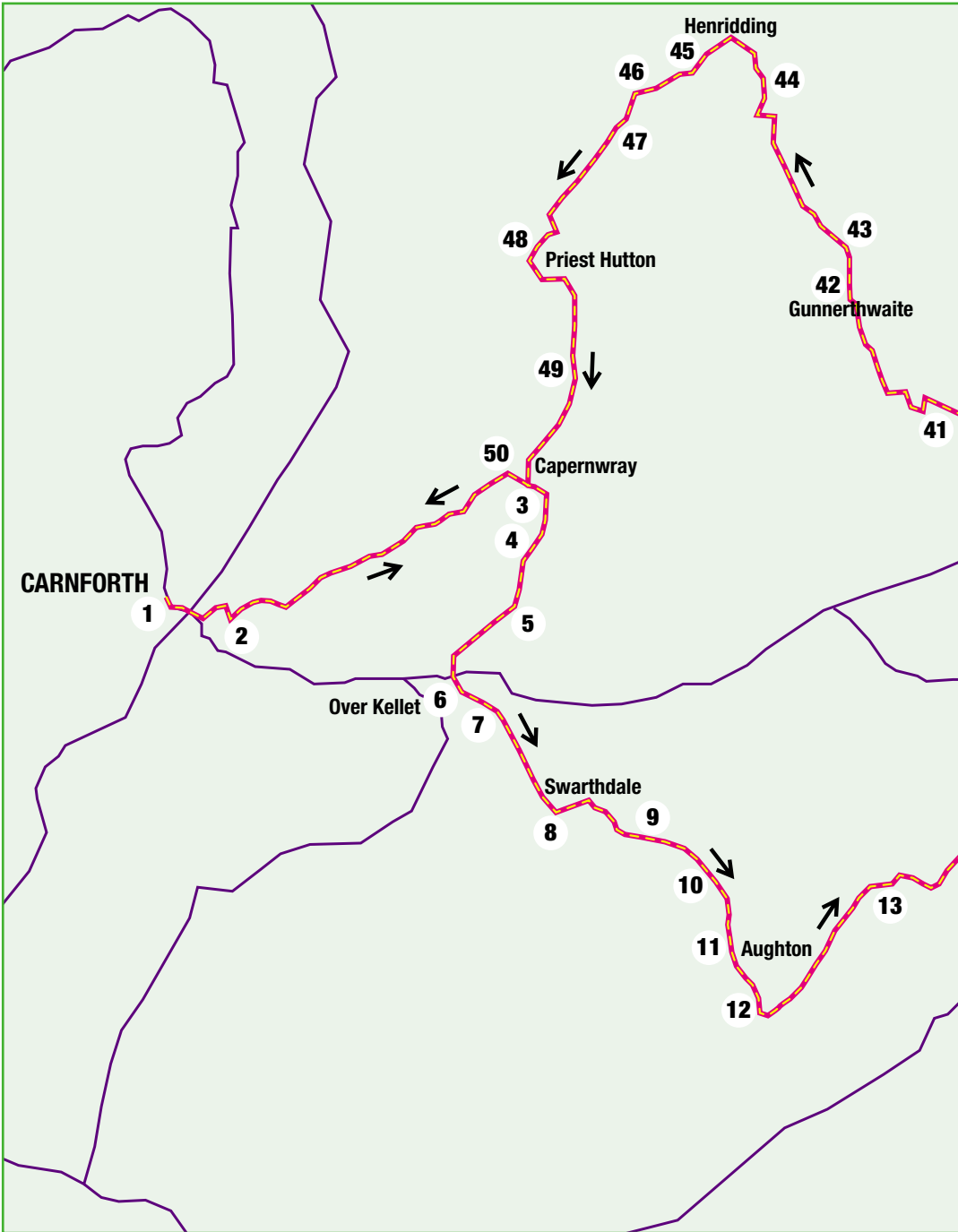
**25** Go right to pass over the bridge, and then climb a stile ahead where a track rises to the left. Walk up to the steps and enter the woods by the stile. This wood is riddled with paths so take care to go right, across a gully, and rise up the hillside to the right. The path is not always clear during the winter when there's a heavy leaf fall but the important landmark to look for is a kissing gate in the top boundary. Go through it and walk ahead through a long field to a lane.

● **Cut off to Wray**

*Those wishing to take refreshment in Wray, to catch a bus or to follow a shorter walk to Hornby go right along the road to descend to a junction in Wray. Go left to the bridge and join the main route at point 32.*



Map not to scale.



# The Lunesdale Walk

Numbers **1** to **50** refer to points in main text of booklet.

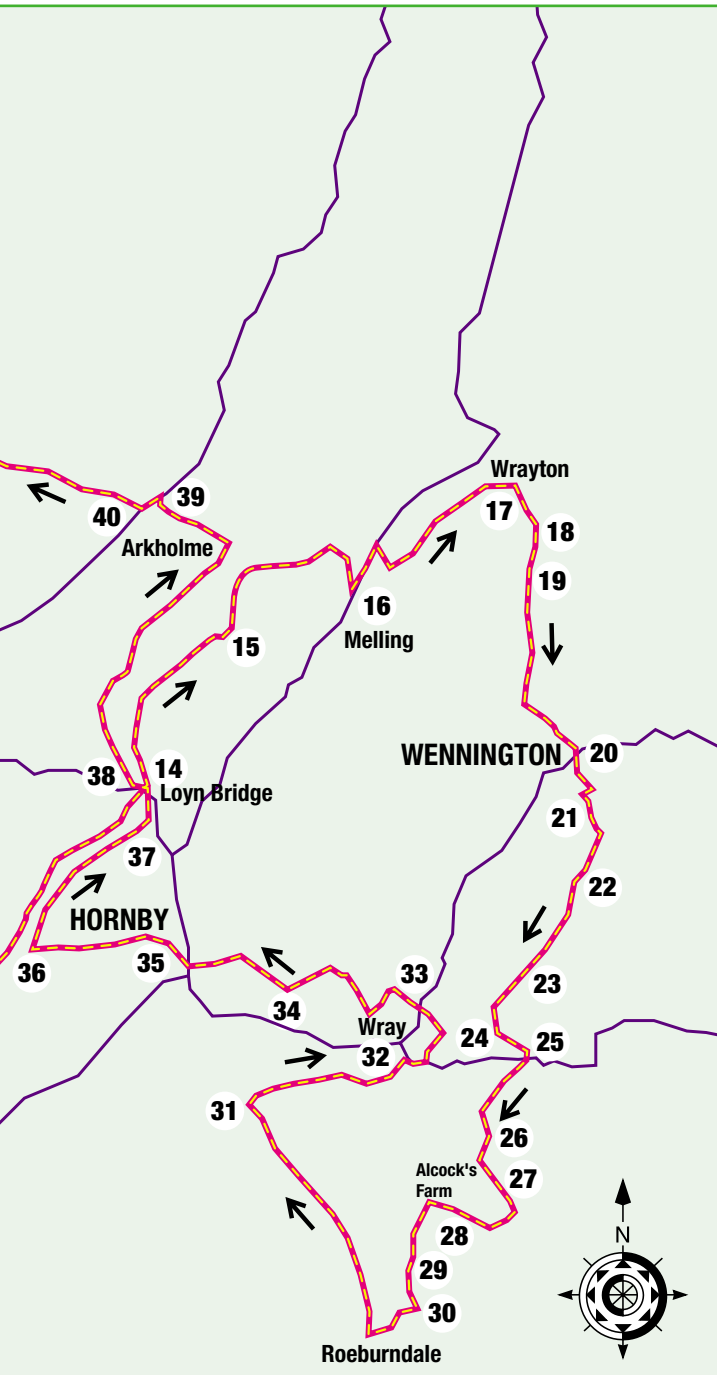
**Key:**

 **Lunesdale Walk**  
 **Bus Route**

For details of accommodation and local public transport in the Lune Valley, ask for a copy of the Lunesdale Accommodation & Public Transport Guide.

Due to the wide variety of wildlife and domestic stock along the route, please leave your dog at home, or keep on a short lead at all times.

For a wider perspective of the Lune Valley area the relevant Ordnance Survey maps are:- Landranger 97 (Kendal to Morecambe); Outdoor Leisure 41 (Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale) and Pathfinder sheets 628 & 637.



## 4 Roeburndale - Hornby

- 26** Turn left along the lane. It descends to a point where a closed hedge track cuts off right. Go down this old track, signposted to Alcock's Farm. It drops to a ford and a footbridge across the sparkling waters of the Hunt's Gill Beck. The path climbs slightly right up the bank to a gate by Alcock's Farm.
- 27** Turn left and follow this very quiet lane as it rises for approximately 500 metres. When you see a barn ahead, as the road bends slightly to the left, go over a wall stile here on the right as signposted. Your way is ahead through rough ground, proceeding over another wall stile. Keep ahead, proceeding through the remnant of a hedge and over a trickle of stream, then bear slightly right before reaching another gate. Keep ahead on a raised green strip.
- 28** This leads to a gate and into Roeburndale. The sunken path descends through woodland to a gate and then angles right to a long bridge across the River Roeburn. Climb up steps, then bear left on a track. At the junction keep ahead to climb out of the valley on a zig-zag track, but at the next junction keep left to pass to the left of a dwelling where you cross a stile by a barred gate.

### Roeburndale

The path passes through Outhwaite Wood, which is part of the Roeburndale Site of Special Scientific Interest. There is an optional loop here, through what must be one of the loveliest corners of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. To follow it, look for the waymark on your left just after the gate referred to at the start of direction **28** (above). The waymarked route loops round back to the main walk near the footbridge.

- 29** In the field, head slightly right along the boundary fence until you reach a stile. Go over this and climb up the steep valley side by way of steps to a stile. Go ahead to cross another, then bear right to walk up to farm buildings. Keep to the left of the buildings to go through a gate/stile.

- 30** Head slightly left over the moor to a narrow clough. Dip down to cross the stream then climb up. Head for Back Farm where you go through a gate. On the track go right up to the road. Turn right and walk down Moor Lane through the flanks of Whit Moor, dropping steeply at times. Pass by a junction on the right for Wray and continue to a point where the road bends and dips just after Cold Park Wood. Cross a stile on the right over fencing just beyond a little bridge.
- 31** Head slightly left across the field away from the stream to align yourself with the fencing on the left. Go ahead through the gate and onward through pasture to another. Once through, keep to the fence line on the left to dip down to a gateway and now follow the slightly raised green track (presumably an old hedge line) towards the wood. Cross a double stile and keep ahead along Neddy Park Wood. At the far end continue to the field corner, go over a wall stile and, wall on your left, walk to the gate at the corner to join a road. Drop down the hillside into Wray.

### Wray

At one time Wray was a local textile centre with silk mills, tanners and coopers, clog and basket makers, taking advantage of the fast flowing waters of the Roeburn and Wenning. The sublime mix of 17th century yeoman's houses with cottages and alleys dating from the 18th century, give this village considerable character, as do the cobbles and corbelled doorways. You will pass by a house which once belonged to Captain Richard Pooley, who in 1684, funded one of the earliest endowed schools in Britain. The village lost an inn and several cottages in 1967, washed away by a flash flood near the bridge the Walk now passes.

**Refreshments:** *The George and Dragon Inn (turn left along the village road; pub food and real ales). Also village post office and stores.*

**Buses from Wray:** *There are buses, daily, to Hornby, Ingleton and Lancaster. On Sundays, the bus runs through to Kirkby Lonsdale. Be sure to check you are at the right stop as the route forks in the village.*

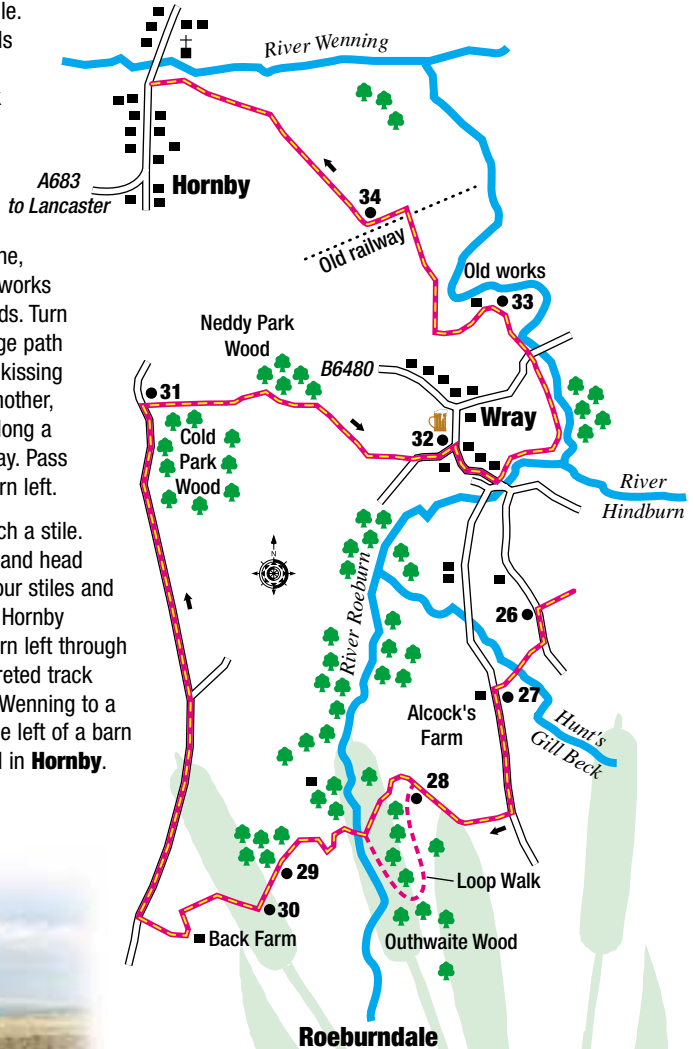
**Points 26 to 34**  
**4 Roeburndale to Hornby**

**6 miles, 9.5 km.**

**32** In Wray, bear right to approach a bridge. The bridge across the river at Wray is the most tranquil of spots and here you drop left to the riverside. This soon rises up to a kissing gate and then ahead to a gap stile. Follow the riverside through fields to a building and kissing gate before stepping up to Meal Bank Bridge. Cross the road (not the bridge) with care and go through a gap in the barrier down to a bridleway.

**33** This pleasant old route, Back Lane, winds past a disused sewerage works and through to a rough crossroads. Turn right here and trace the field-edge path to the riverbank. Go through the kissing gate and walk downstream to another, pass through this and turn left along a green lane to meet the old railway. Pass through the kissing gates and turn left.

**34** Keep the wall on your left to reach a stile. A few yards after this bear right and head across the meadows, crossing four stiles and heading in line for the towers of Hornby Castle, rising above the trees. Turn left through a muddy gateway to join a concreted track which leads alongside the River Wenning to a farmyard. The route passes to the left of a barn and then ahead to the main road in **Hornby**.



*Map not to scale.*



*Ingleborough from Roeburndale*



# 5 Hornby - Loyn Bridge - Arkholme

## Hornby

The Lune Valley was at one time a major route through to Scotland and the North East. It retained a strong coaching trade throughout the 18th century and the Castle Hotel was one of the principal stabling points. Across the road is the parish church of St Margaret, dating from medieval times, but much restored in the 19th century and with gargoyles prominent on the unusual octagonal tower.

The main street is lined by Georgian dwellings; beside Lamb's garage is a fine Victorian drinking fountain where a crest depicts a cat with a rat in its mouth. This is said to refer to Mr Pudsey Dawson, the one time owner of Hornby Castle, bringing in a large number of cats to clear the castle of a plague of rats in the middle of the 19th century.

From the bridge over the Wenning there's a fine view of Hornby Castle, an imposing crenellated dwelling dating mainly from the 19th century although the peel tower dates partly from the 13th and 16th centuries. It is not open to the public. North of the village, above Loyn Bridge, is the site of an earlier motte and bailey castle known as Castle Stede, of which substantial earthworks remain.

**Refreshments:** *The Castle Hotel and The Royal Oak public houses. There are also a post office, village store, butchers and craft shop.*

**Buses:** *Hornby is a key place for starting or finishing walks in the area. There is a daily (including evenings and Sundays) bus service to Ingleton, Kirkby Lonsdale, and Lancaster. The bus stop on the main street in Hornby for Kirkby Lonsdale via Melling or Arkholme is outside The Wenning Stores. The stop for Lancaster is opposite by The Institute. Buses to Ingleton stop nearby opposite Lambs Garage and return buses from Ingleton and Wray to Lancaster stop at the corner by the garage.*

- 35** The next stage of the walk begins at the bridge over the River Wenning in the village of Hornby. At the church end of the bridge go left before a dwelling along a path which soon bends right to run along the riverside. It leads to a stone step stile. Climb this and enter a large riverside pasture. Keep near to the River Wenning, lined with alders, as it approaches its confluence with the River Lune. This is a prime location to watch oystercatcher, Shellduck and Canada Geese.
- 36** Now follow the Lune upstream by willow fringed banks, passing to the left of a bluff where Priory Farm stands gauntly on the site of the medieval Priory of St Wilfred. The path rises up the next bluff and from here is the best view you will get of the ancient Loyn Bridge. The path dips again to a stile.
- 37** The notice here is important. ***If the water is high***, you should not cross this stile, but instead climb up the bank on your right to the fencing to the right of a dwelling. Cross a stile here and proceed ahead to the road. Turn left and walk down to and cross Loyn Bridge. ***If the waters are low*** proceed over the stile and walk through the wood to pass beneath the arch of the bridge into the next meadow. Rise up right to the medieval **Loyn Bridge** and cross it.



*Hornby Castle from the old railway*

Points 35 to 39

4 miles, 6.5 km.

### 5 Hornby to Arkholme via Loyn Bridge

**38** Go through a gateway on the right sign-posted to Arkholme. You have now rejoined the 'Lune Valley Ramble'. Proceed through a gate and from here to Arkholme the path runs near to the riverside and is clear on the ground. **Do not attempt this section if the river is high.** As you approach the village you will first see a white house to your left. Cross a stile and keep ahead to a track where you bear left to join a road. Here you leave the 'Lune Valley Ramble'. The road leads up to the main road, passing by a curious mixture of sublime 17th and 18th century dwellings and modern buildings.

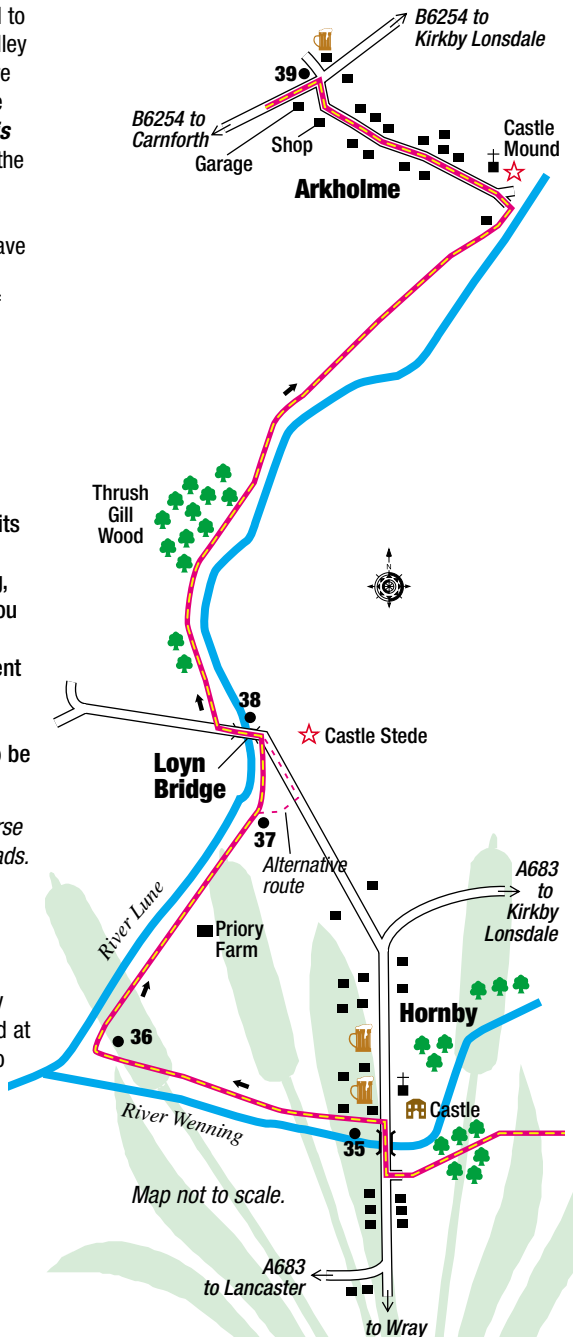
### Arkholme

Like many of the villages in the valley, Arkholme owes its existence to Norse settlers. The name means the 'shielings' or hill pastures and when walking the next section through to Locka Lane, its appropriateness becomes all the more apparent. One long street climbs up from the river crossing, where there was once a ferry, to a crossroads. You will pass by the entrance to the tiny church of St John the Baptist, built in the 14th century, adjacent to the earthworks of a 12th century motte and bailey castle in a quarter known as Chapel Hill. There's a substantial base of a medieval cross to be seen in the churchyard.

**Refreshments:** The village stores and The Bay Horse public house (food, real ales) stand by the crossroads. Also an organic food shop.

**Buses:** Daily service to Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster. Stops are near the crossroads.

**39** At the crossroads go left and cross the road by the garage. Keep ahead along a pavement, and at the corner, go right on a footpath signposted to Locka Lane.



Loyn Bridge



## 6 Arkholme - Priest Hutton

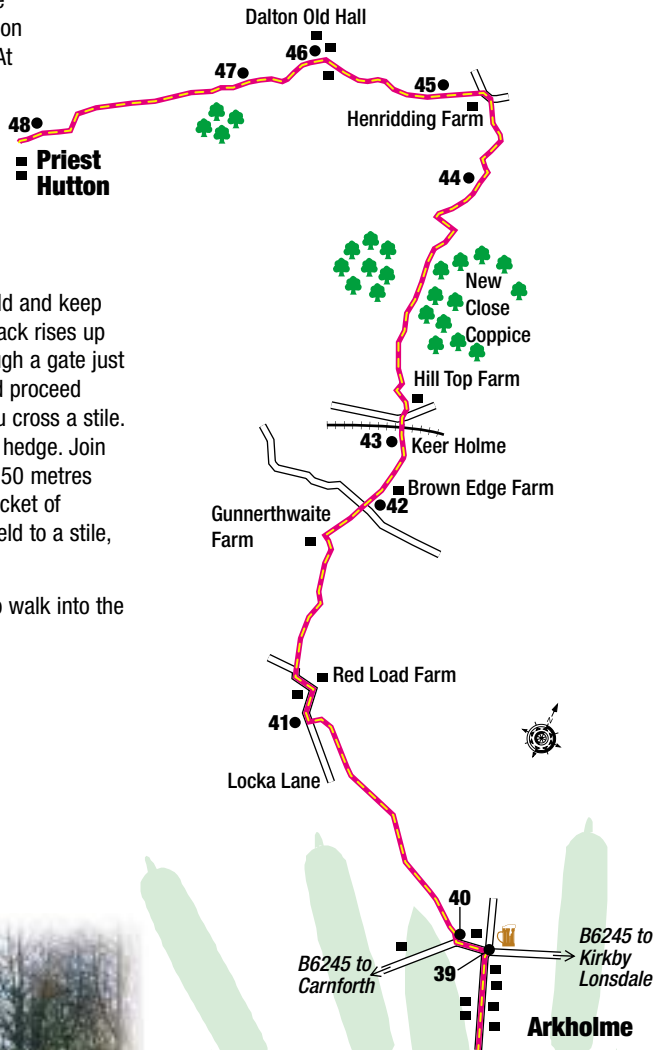
- 40** Walk ahead to the corner, and through a gap into the next field. Keep ahead with a hedge on the left. As you approach the corner, go over a stile to cross sides and proceed ahead with the hedge now on your right. This runs down to a footbridge and stile. Climb up to a stile in fencing to the left of a pocket of woodland. Keep ahead to a stile beneath a holly bush. Go over the stile and go left to climb the next stile, this time beneath three pine trees. Bear slightly right up the field to cross a step stile in a wall and proceed ahead in a similar direction to cross the next stile. Go straight ahead across the next field to a footbridge. Walk to the field corner and then go left along the wall to a gate leading to Locka Lane.
- 41** Go right to pass Red Load Farm. The road rises to a corner where you climb a step stile (right) into a field. Head down the hillside to cross a stile, and then bear slightly right to a stone gap stile. Once over you keep left along a wall and wooded clough at first. Pass by an old boundary stone and then bear right down the hillside to a ford and gate. Once through, turn left and follow a track towards Gunnerthwaite Farm. Before reaching the gateway, opposite a walled garden, go right along a hedge to a barred gate. Head across the next field to a second gate which exits onto a road by the entrance drive to Brown Edge Farm.
- 42** Go left and immediately right to cross a stile into a field, following a concessionary path avoiding the farmyard. The path skirts to the left of farm buildings, over a stile and bridge, then a second stile to the rear of the buildings. Turn left to follow the hedge, which runs parallel to a stream to cross a stile. Go left at the footbridge and continue ahead to a kissing gate and across the railway line. **Take care, watch out for trains.** Climb steps up to the road.
- 43** Turn right to pass Hill Top Farm, which seems a curious name because it stands at the bottom of the hillside as you are about to find out. After the barn go left up to a stile by a barred gate. Climb up the hillside, bearing slightly left to a stile. Continue to climb, keeping to the right of the waterworks building. It really is a climb so take a breather to admire the views and then continue slightly right through old gateposts and up to New Close Coppice.
- 44** Join a track and go right. This winds its way up to a junction. Bear right here, and follow the track to a road. You will see Henridding Farm to your left. Go left and first left down the approach to the farm. However, your way is to the right over a stile into woodland. Follow the path alongside the wall to reach a stone step stile. Once over follow the perimeter wall on your left to another stone step stile, this time to the right of a barred gate. Proceed ahead to go through a gate and bear left to a third gate and waymarked post which is situated to the rear of the farm.
- 45** Go right and walk ahead to cross a ladder stile at the next boundary and keep to the right to cross the next stile. Continue ahead with the wall to your left and as it curves left, bear right as indicated by the finger post. The path takes you closer to the wall descending on your left to a gate beyond an electric telegraph pole. You will see Dalton Old Hall Farm ahead.



*Ingleborough - a sublime horizon to the northeast*

- 46** Go through the gate to approach the farm, choosing the middle gateway on a track between a wall and hedge. At the fork keep left to pass by the house on your left and a barn below on the right. The track leads ahead through two gates to the rear of a farm. It then runs south of the farm to a junction with a gate to the right.
- 47** Ignore this as you enter the next field and keep ahead on a less clear path as the track rises up the hillside. Your way is ahead through a gate just to the right of a small woodland and proceed ahead to join a hedgerow where you cross a stile. Continue ahead to reach a wall and hedge. Join these to descend for approximately 50 metres and cross a stile. Walk through a pocket of woodland and then head over the field to a stile, which leads to a lane.

Go left, and at the road, turn right to walk into the village of **Priest Hutton**.



Map not to scale.



A winter's ramble in Lunesdale

# 7 Priest Hutton - Carnforth

## Priest Hutton

This is a quiet settlement, now without inn or shop. Matthew Hutton was born here in 1529, during his ecclesiastical career he became the Bishop of Durham (1589) and Archbishop of York (1596).

*note: The route between Priest Hutton & Capernwray is marked by waymarked disks showing "Cinderbarrow Walks". Please follow these between points 48 & 50.*

**48** At the village green turn left and left at the next junction. Climb out of the village to pass Beech House Farm. Before a barn on the right, go right along a track to squeeze through a narrow gap stile by a gate into a field. Keep company with the hedge on the left to go through a gap stile in the corner and proceed ahead. The path descends to meet an old green track, which runs into a dry valley. You will see a house ahead but look for a stile on the right leading back into a field. Once over, go left to the corner where you cross another stile onto a lawn. Go left to the drive then right to the road.

**49** Opposite, cross a stile and walk down the narrow enclosure to two footbridges and a rather large ladder stile. A little path runs by a stream to a kissing gate and from here you go left under the railway bridge. Follow the track over a stone bridge and through the field. It bends slightly left and then right to a stile by the higher of the two gates. Cross it and walk onward to a footbridge and stile, then climb the hillside to walk closer to the railway. Cross a stile by a gate and the track ahead leads to a road by the Lancaster Canal. Turn left, then right at the junction to go over the canal bridge here at Capernwray.

**50** Drop down the steps on the right to the towpath and then turn right for the return last leg to Carnforth. Follow the towpath (canal on your left) back to **Carnforth**, passing beneath the M6 motorway. When you reach the outskirts of the town leave the canal at the first bridge, Hodgson's Bridge, to walk up the rough lane to North Road. Go left and walk back to the junction with Market Street where you bear right into town. Cross Scotland Road and keep ahead down Market Street to Carnforth Railway Station.



*Reflections on the Lancaster Canal*



Points 48 to 50

4 miles, 6.5 km.

7 Priest Hutton to Carnforth



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

For part of its length the Lunesdale Walk passes through the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Equal in landscape status to a National Park, the AONB was designated in 1964 to facilitate the coordinated protection of the fragile landscapes of heather moorland, secluded wooded valleys, unpolluted watercourses and grassy fells which characterise the area.

The AONB is managed to ensure that a balance between environment, ecology, economic and social well being is maintained for the benefit of both current and future generations.

The AONB is managed by a partnership of local authorities, Government agencies, the local landowning & farming community and other interest groups.

For details contact the Bowland Visitor Centre at Beacon Fell Country Park, telephone 01995 640557.

## Further Information

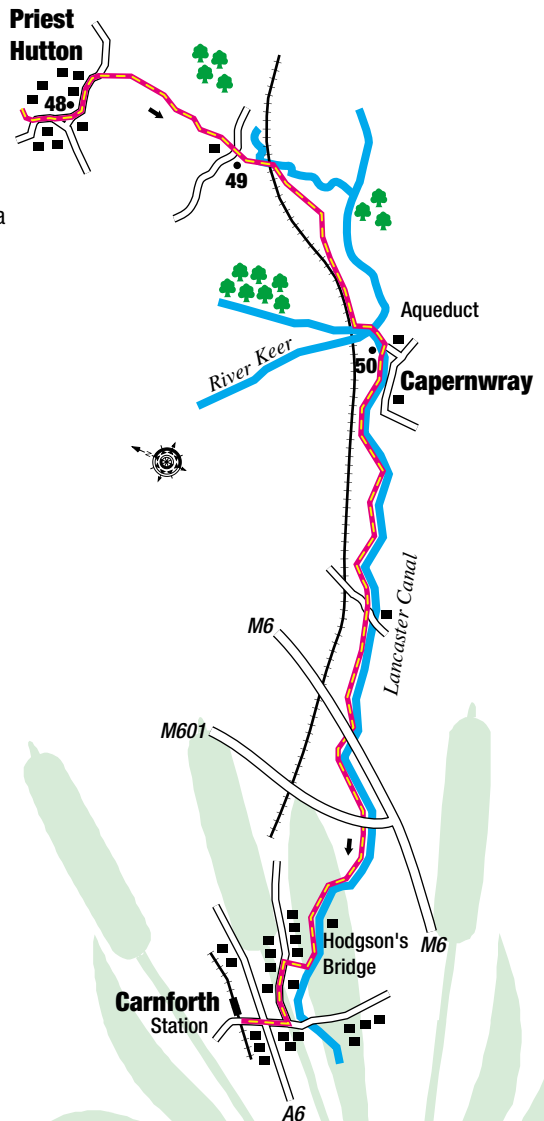
For details of local bus service times in the Lune Valley telephone 0870 608 2608.

For details of rail services on the Lancaster - Carnforth - Wennington - Leeds line telephone 0345 484950.

For details of local accommodation (and bookings) telephone Lancaster Tourist Information Centre 01524 32878.

### Please note:

The route of the Lunesdale Walk is subject to constant upgrading and improvement. At times the route may vary from the information supplied in this booklet and occasionally stiles and gates etc. may be altered or changed as part of this ongoing maintenance programme.



Map not to scale.



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**Lancashire**  
County  
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