

WALKING IN THE FOREST OF BOWLAND AND PENDLE

40 WALKS IN LANCASHIRE'S
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

by Terry Marsh

CICERONE

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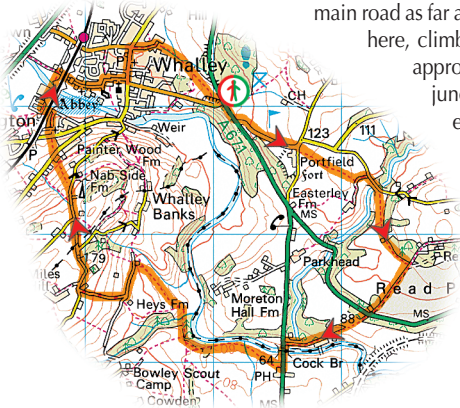
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Front cover: Lush farmland around Pendle

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On leaving the Spring Wood car park, turn left along the main road as far as the side road for Sabden. Turn left here, climbing gently and taking care against approaching traffic. When you reach the junction with **Portfield Lane**, cross the end of the lane to a step-stile giving into a large field, across which there is no discernible path.

Bear a little to the right of centre and then, as the field drops towards a fence, so another step-stile appears.

Cross the next field to a stile beside a gate and then go up the ensuing field to a stile/gate on the skyline. Over this,

keep on in the same direction, passing around the edge of a hollow, before descending to a step-stile in a corner, giving onto a surfaced track. Turn left and walk out to a road, and there turn right and descend to cross **Sabden Brook**.

On the other side, leave the road by branching right through a metal gate onto a farm track, which continues to pass an **open barn** (stile and gate), and then along the edge of **Coppy Plantation** as the route heads into **Read Park**. Keep along the plantation boundary until you reach a gate beyond which you intercept a surfaced lane. Here, turn right and walk down to meet the A671.

Cross the road and go forward **between pillars**, and down a broad track opposite that leads to the A680 beside the **River Calder**. Cross the road and turn left for about 200m until the roadside wall on the right comes to an end just before the first house and close by the Game Cock pub. Here, turn in through a kissing-gate (signed for **Whalley Nab**) and take to a descending way-marked grassy path crossing open pasture above the River Calder. The path leads down to a footbridge and continues as a waymarked route, now close to the river.

In due course, you encounter in-flowing **Egg Syke Brook**. Cross the brook and climb the bank opposite to

continue again above the Calder to arrive at a kissing-gate in a field corner. Beyond the gate keep forward on an enclosed path. Go with the path when it descends through a steep-sided gully and down a stepped path to a kissing gate giving onto a slab bridge spanning **Dean Brook**.

Keep on beyond the bridge and start rising gently keeping to the right of a sunken trackway and then curving left with it. Just on passing the last in a line of hawthorns, bear right across a sloping pasture on a grassy path that leads to another slab bridge spanning a small brook. Go forward into a tree shaded funnel and alongside the brook to arrive at a kissing-gate. Continue alongside a fence to another gate. Turn left here, walking up-field to pass to the right of a ruined barn to arrive at a gate giving onto a rough farm track running south (left) towards **Heys Farm**.

Just before reaching the farm, turn right on a surfaced lane (**Berry's Lane**). At a T-junction at the top of the lane turn right into **Shawcliff Lane**, and follow the lane for about 1km. As you draw level with a **radar mast** so the lane starts to descend steeply. Continue downhill, and then just before reaching the entrance to **Wood Nook**, leave the lane by crossing a stile on the left, and going down-field alongside a reedy ditch on your right with a few hawthorn and holly.

The bottom right-hand corner of the field is usually muddy, but here you will find a stile giving onto an enclosed path that descends to meet **Whalley Old Road**. Cross and go through the wall gap opposite, once more following an enclosed path descending to another road. Cross this, too, diagonally right, to go down a continuing path beside a **chapel** onto a lane in front of cottages.

Keep descending **Walmsley Brow** towards the **viaduct** and you will reach a T-junction. Turn left and walk beneath the viaduct, and then immediately turn right to walk beside it on a path enclosed by iron railings, which feeds you onto **Old Sol's Bridge**, spanning the Calder.

Over the bridge, walk out to meet a road, and there turn right and go ahead through the gatehouse of **Whalley Abbey**. ► The route continues to the left, soon swinging round to pass a **church**. Keep forward to a T-junction in

When you reach a school, Whalley Abbey is to the right, and if you are interested in architecture, is worth a visit; there's also a coffee shop there.