



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



Action for Ulnes Walton

A walk through our countryside

Walk One

Culbeck Lane

LENGTH: 3 miles **TIME:** 1hr 15 mins

WHY YOU SHOULD: A varied walk through beautiful countryside incorporating the "hidden valley" of the Culbeck.

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T: Parts can get muddy in the winter and after rain; some of the fields are rough to walk over; many of the stiles are "unfriendly".

PARK: At The Plough if you are having a drink/meal **there**.

Directions

1 START: At The Plough. Turn right out of the carpark and walk along the verge beside the main road until you come to a stile in the hedge marked with a public footpath sign

2 Once over the stile walk straight ahead to go over the footbridge facing you.

3 Walk diagonally across the next field towards the telegraph poles and cross the footbridge beside them.

4 The next stile is ahead of you in the hedgerow. The going under foot can be rough here since it is clay soil which grazing cattle churn up. It gets muddy in winter and after rain

5. After this stile continue straight ahead towards another hedgerow and you'll see a stile beside a large Oaktree. These fields are permanent pasture on boulder clay grazed by dairy cows and there are several small ponds, the remains of marl pits.

6 Once over the stile turn right. Here it can be overgrown with Himalayan Balsam and nettles. The young trees were planted as a screen to the future new quarry. Exit this little woody area via a stile.

7 Turn left keeping to the hedge on your left and walk downhill into the valley of the Culbeck.

8 Leave this field by a stile in the bottom left corner and turn left. The service road is for the quarry and gives access onto Dawber's Lane.

9 Cross the service road using the two stiles and go TOWARDS the stile on your left but do NOT over it. (this footpath leads you to a footbridge over the M6 and in to Euxton) Instead turn right over the footbridge to cross the Culbeck.

10 Climb up the valley side towards the metal field gate and go over the stile on its right.

11 Go straight up the hill to the right line of trees. *You'll be able to hear the M6 to your left but won't see it because here is in a cutting.*

12 Walk along the edge of the field keeping the hedge/trees on your right and you come to a stile into the last field. Cereals are usually grown here but there is a well-marked path through the field. Go straight ahead to the woodland. The stile has been helpfully located with bright orange markers.

13 Go through the little wood to exit onto the main road which you cross to go down Mill Lane. Notice the hedge with several different species of hedge shrub in it, an indicator of it being quite old. This was an ancient route across the river Yarrow via a ford. Notice the barn in the farmyard made of Red Sandstone, the country rock of this area. Follow the road downhill past Amatrading Farm, a local ancient landmark.

14 Beside the double metal gates on your right is a stile which you cross. It takes you into the field beside the R. Yarrow. Dogs should be on a lead

since sheep usually graze here. They are not always immediately visible because they are allowed to roam large distances.

15 Close to the river is a field gate with a kissing gate beside it. This takes you into a small gorge. *Here two different rock types come together, namely Carboniferous shale and Old Red Sandstone. This gives rise to springs and the gorge is always wet under foot. The spring continues to flow even in the severest droughts.*

16 Leave the gorge via a kissing gate. *Some of the soil is sandy here giving rise to gorse bushes and foxgloves.*

17 Go over the blue metal stile and continue straight ahead to a line of trees. There is another line of trees on your right and you should be able to see the next stile. From this stile bear right along the hedge and you should see two metal field gates.

18 When you come to the two metal field gates besides a water trough look right to the corner of the field and you should see the stile you go over Turn right immediately and go through a field gate and up a stony track. *Here the banks are rich in wild flowers, daises, primroses, stitchwort, buttercups, wild violets foxgloves, speedwell. Ahead notice the large Georgian farmhouse.*

19 Go over a stile beside a metal gate and follow the stone path to another metal gate beside a Dutch Barn. Go through it and continue along the stone path. *Notice more Red Sandstone buildings.*

20 Follow the track round to the right to Dawber's Lane and turn left along the main road.

21 Cross over the main road to go down Culbeck Lane.

22 Continue along the full length of the lane until you eventually reach the main road. Exit onto Runshaw Lane via a kissing gate. This is a very dangerous part of the road and it is advisable to cross onto the left side so that you can walk on the verge, then re-cross to the right side

23 Continue along Runshaw Lane to return to the Plough.