

## About the Walk

The idea for this short countryside walk was originally proposed by the late John Islip, Chairman of the Chorley Group Ramblers Association, for 10 years.

The suggested start point is in Brindle Village four miles north of Chorley. Parking is available near the Village Hall and is marked on the enclosed map. For bus times contact the County Information Centre in Chorley on 01257 241693

The route is approximately 4 miles and leads the walker through very pleasant undulating countryside, with panoramic views of the surrounding hills and moors.

Walkers are provided with the opportunity to take a look around the historic village of Withnell Fold, and the canal-side nature reserve which was developed from a series of old filter beds used by the redundant paper mill. More detailed information about both village and reserve are included in this leaflet. On the route there is also the chance to view the Lancashire Plain (on a clear day) by taking the short detour up the bridlepath at the Top o'th' Lane. This is clearly marked on the map. The Cavendish Arms in Brindle is an ideal stop for a refreshing drink. The pub also has an Italian restaurant to whet your appetite. For further details call 01254 852912.

## Canals

The walk passes along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. What was once a symbol of Chorley's strength during the industrial revolution is now transformed into an attractive route, rich in wildlife, for narrow boats, walkers and cyclists. The canal is the longest in the country and is linked to 2000 miles of inland waterways. For further information about the canal contact British Waterways, at White Bear Marina on 01257 481054. For daily narrow boat hire contact L & L Cruisers on 01257 480825 or for organised party and afternoon cruises contact Boatel Party Cruises on 01257 273269.

By using the map, supporting text, new stiles and way marking the walker should have no difficulty following the suggested route.

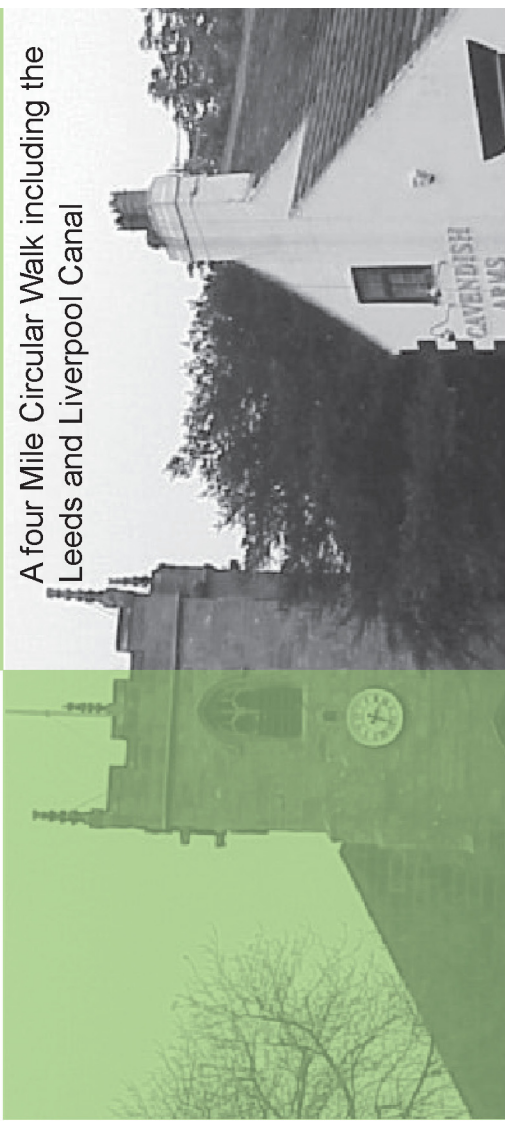
The new stiles were put in place for the Canal and Countryside Project by the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).

The whole of the area is predominantly grazing land, and dogs must be kept on leads at all times, (not just in the lambing season) and please follow the Country Code. Enjoy your walk.

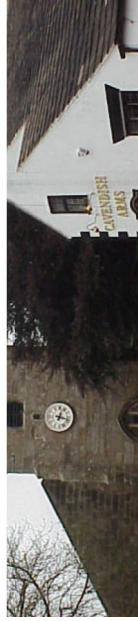
The Brindle to Withnell Fold Nature Reserve Walk is one of a series of 5 around the Chorley area see also the Chorley Circular - 9 miles, Botany Bay Circular - 11 miles, Whittle-le-Woods and the Walton Summit Branch - 6 miles and the Rufford and Mawdesley Circular Walk - 6 miles. For free copies of any of these walking leaflets please contact Chorley Borough Council on 01257 515151.

# Brindle to Withnell Fold Nature Reserve

A four Mile Circular Walk including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal



*Canal and  
Countryside*



Funded by  
**Chorley**  
Borough Council

  
**Lancashire**  
County Council

## Withnell Fold Village History

The village of Withnell Fold was built to house workers from the paper mill which opened in 1844 and occupied all the land from the chimney down to the canal. In recent times half the mill has been demolished and the site, including some of the old buildings, converted for housing.

The main features of the original village are the cobbled road, terraced houses surrounding the square, Reading Room, stocks, school and chapel.

Near the stocks is a sunken garden, formally a lodge for the paper mill, now a memorial to the dead of two World Wars. Behind the stocks and under the village square passes the Thirlmere Aqueduct bringing water supplies from the Lake District to South Lancashire.

## Hoghton Tower

Only two miles North of Brindle is Hoghton Tower. A visit to this spectacular fortified house will reveal numerous fascinating real life stories involving some of the most famous people in British history. Hoghton Tower has been the Ancestral home of the de Hoghton family since William the Conqueror and the family still live in part of the house.

The place is steeped in history - a young William Shakespeare worked here. King James I is just one of the many English Monarchs to have stayed at Hoghton. However, James' visit was particularly interesting, as during a night of merriment the King was so impressed with the banquet that he knighted the Loin of Beef, "Arise Sir Loin," the sirloin steak was born. The great house is also reckoned to be the second most haunted in the country. For further information tel 01254 852986.

## Withnell Fold Local nature Reserve

This area was developed as a series of filter beds and sludge lagoons for the Wiggins Teape paper mill which stood on the eastern side of the canal. Disused and derelict for many years, the site has gradually been reclaimed by nature: the lagoons and filter beds have infilled with silt and reedswamp whilst, further north, a former waste tip has overgrown with scrub. Today the area supports a wide variety of plants and animals.

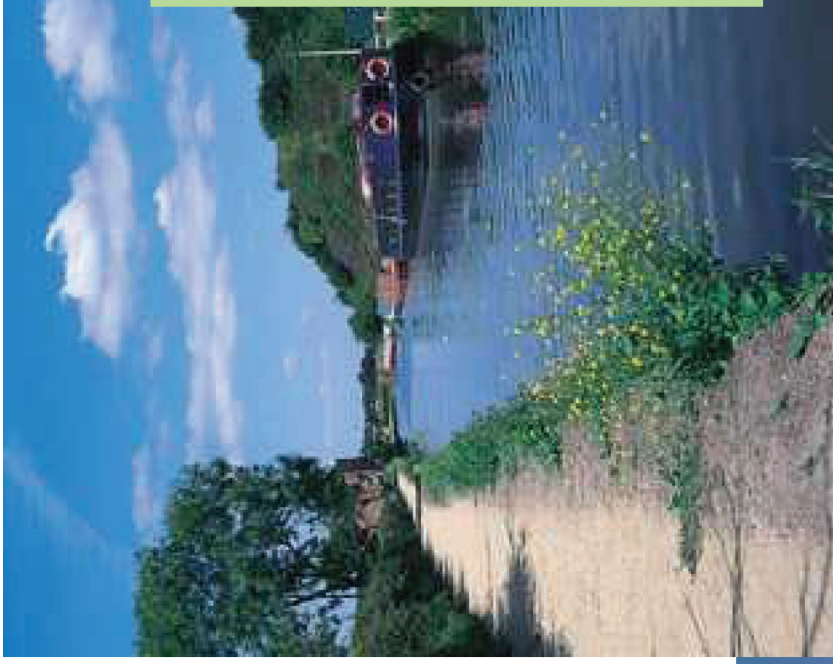
Due to its local wildlife value, the area has recently been acquired by Lancashire County Council to be managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

## Looking after the Reserve

The County Council has carried out a scheme to increase the range of wildlife habitats and to improve public access to the reserve. A bird watching hide and pond-dipping platform have been constructed to help people observe wildlife at first hand.

Future management will aim to improve and extend areas of reed bed. In addition, some plants, such as willow and reed canary grass, will have to be controlled to stop their invasion and drying of the wetland areas.

These and other management tasks will be carried out by the County Council along with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and local people.



The walk is based on a route proposed by the late John Islip, for ten years Chairman of Chorley Group Ramblers Association

Start/Finish

At this point you have a choice of route to the canal:

- A Turn left along the road and after 400 metres turn right down the old lane to Lady Hall, or;
- B using similar paths as before, cross the road and use the field path and new stiles that lead to the nature reserve.

When you enter the woodland the cobbled path leads you down towards the stream. In wet weather this path can become slippery, so please take care and use the hand rail. When the path emerges at the canal turn hard right and follow the towpath for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile until just before the 4th bridge (which is metal and not stone) you will find a new stile.

THIS FARMLAND IS USED FOR LIVESTOCK REARING  
Please keep your dog on a lead at all times

If you are not in a hurry leave the canal and discover the village of Withnell Fold, or the canalside nature reserve. There is more information contained in this leaflet about both the village and reserve.

Leave the canal towpath via the new stile on your right. Walk downhill bearing slightly right and head for the wooden footbridge, cross and carry on straight up the steep bank towards the gate and stile. When you reach the gate continue in much the same direction but bearing slightly to the left following the sheep track, over the brow of the hill. After 400 metres you will reach a hedge and fence corner. Cross to the adjacent field on your left, and again, walking in the same direction continue to the top corner of this field, when in the corner turn hard left keeping to the boundary until the farm track is reached.

### Key

- G Gate
- i Information Board
- P Parking
- S Stile
- T Public Telephone

