



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



Action for Ulnes Walton

A walk through our countryside

Walk Seven

Croston Moor

WHY YOU SHOULD: can be done in wet weather since almost all the route is hard surfaced. **No hills or stiles**

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T: very exposed with no shelter so not ideal on very wet or windy days

Long Route—Total distance: 3 ¾ miles. **Time:** 1 ½ hours

PARK on **Out Lane** car park opposite the Wheatsheaf. If full, go further up Out Lane to the Car park on your right beside the surgery.

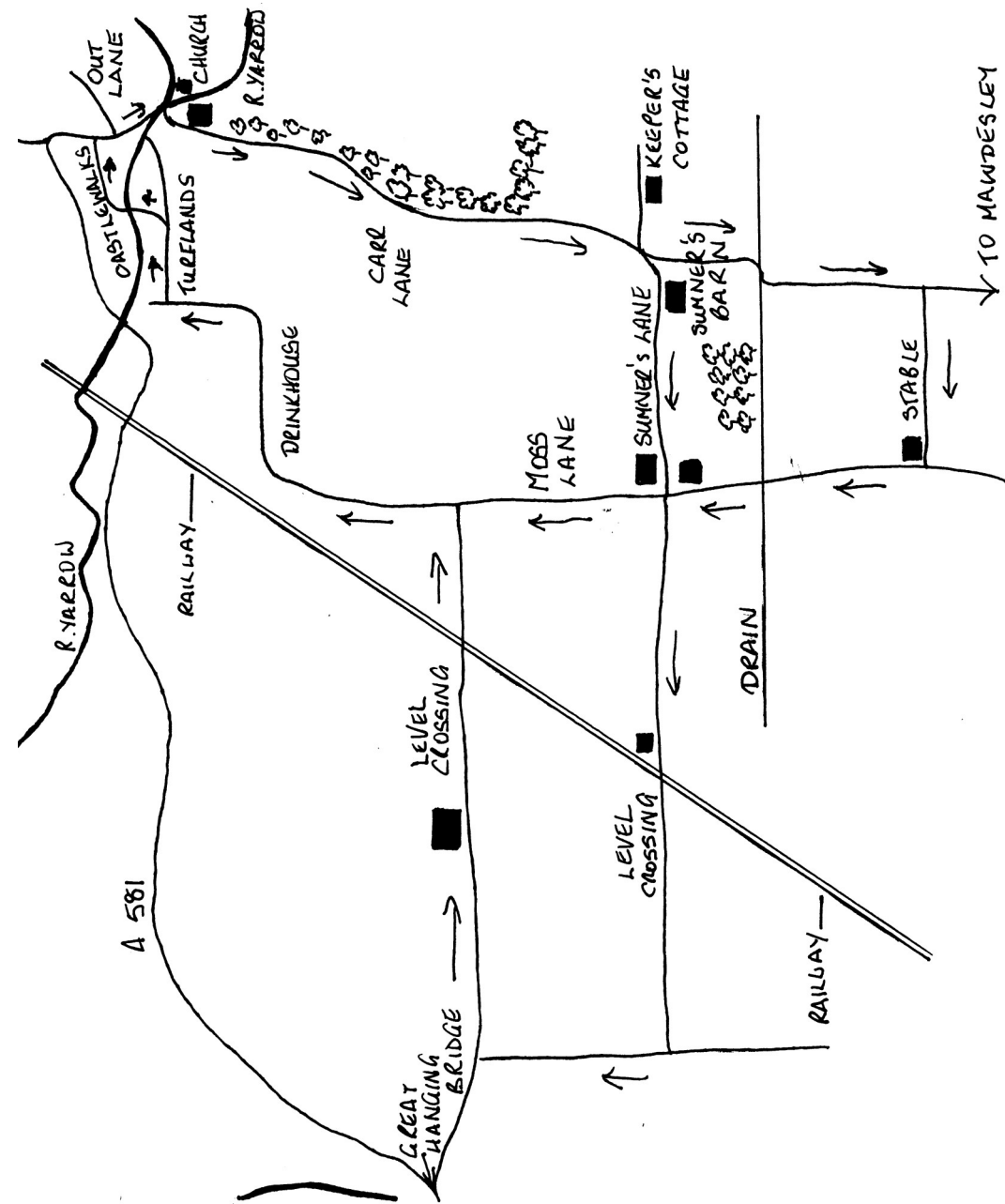
Directions

A1 TURN LEFT ALONG THE MAIN ROAD. The River Yarrow is on your right. Notice the depth indicator and the old bridge with a date of 1682.

A2 TURN RIGHT down cobbled **Church Street** passing the Prayer Cross and the old smithy.

A3 GO into the Church yard passing to the right of St Michael's and All Angels' Church to **exit under the stone archway** through the old school, which is now a nursery.

A4 GO over the bridge and turn **right then left** past Manor House Barn onto Carr Lane. **Follow the road for half a mile.** On the edge of the road, just after a bench on the left is a tall tree with a very wide fissured trunk. This is a Black Poplar.



A5 Eventually a road leads off to the left to Keeper's Cottage but **as our roads make a 90 degrees bend to the right follow it round**. It becomes Sumner's Lane with Sumners' Barn on your left. Ignore a road which goes off to the left southwards.

A6 Continue along Sumners Lane for 1/3 of a mile where you will eventually come across a large newly built house on your right and a grain store on your left. A track crosses our road to go back into Croston but do not take it. **Keep straight on along the original road**.

A7 Cross the railway line at the level crossing. *This is the Preston to Ormskirk line*. Our road goes beneath the high voltage transmission lines and eventually after 3/4 of a mile **it swings round to the right**.

A8 A track comes in from the left **after 1/3 of a mile. Turn right**, back towards Croston.

A9 After 1/2 a mile cross the railway at the level crossing.

A10 At the road junction turn left back towards Croston.

A11 Follow the road as it bends round to the right and becomes Drinkhouse Lane. *Notice the four three storey weavers' cottages. Their garden walls are flagstones*. Back Drinkhouse Lane goes off to the left but **Keep on our road as it bends round to the left** just further on.

A12 Take the First right onto Turflands. *Carriage horses are stabled on the left*.

A13 Look out for a Small path to the left marked with a footpath sign. **Follow it to the foot bridge** over the Yarrow straight ahead of you **onto Castle Walks**.

A14 At the end of Castle Walks turn right return to the car park.

Medium Route

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LONG WALK FOR 0.8 MILES UNTIL POINT 5. WHERE THE ROAD SWINGS SHARPLY RIGHT FOLLOW IT ROUND THEN IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT TO HEAD SOUTH

Sumner's Barn will be on your right. *Look left and you will see Harrock Hill and three huge wind turbines. On the right is an outdoor manege where horses are trained. This part of Croston Moor has beautiful black*

fertile peaty soil. In spring bright yellow flowers of oilseed rape bloom. Wheat, barley and a variety of vegetables are grown.

B7 After a short time follow the road as it swings round **to the right**. (the left track goes off to a farm). *This is one of the lowest points on Croston Moor. The drain here is an important one and you can often see water pouring into it from the field drains entering from about three feet below soil level. You pass a solitary elder tree which looks magnificent in June when the cream cow parsley flowers match its blossoms.*

B8 After half a mile you'll see the **first right turn which you take**. *The track ahead goes to Mawdesley. Large flocks of Lapwings are sometimes seen here. In winter the fields are alive with various finch species gleaning the stubble. Pheasant may be seen throughout Croston Moor. You may be lucky and see a kingfisher flying fast and low along a ditch or a Barn Owl quartering the fields.*

B9 At the end of the track turn right past the small brick building. *Inside are three stalls where the plough horses were stabled.*

B10 You re-cross the main drain (B7). *Being one of the lowest points on Croston Moor all this area was underwater during Christmas 2015.* The road rises very gradually from this point

B11 Pass a grain store on your right and **go straight ahead at the cross roads** onto Moss Lane. *These are the remains of an old farmstead and a working farm operated here only a few years ago. After the crossroads, the arable fields give way to pasture grazed by sheep and there are now hawthorn hedges and hedgerow trees.*

B12 The road joining from the left is **where the Long Route comes in** so **FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM A11** to take you back to the car park.
Total distance 3.2 miles.

Short Route

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LONG ROUTE UNTIL A6 C7 CONTINUE PAST SUMNER'S BARN ON YOUR LEFT until you come to a large modern house on you right

C8 At the cross roads turn right onto Moss Lane.

C9 After a 1/4 of a mile a road joins from the left. This is where the Long Route comes in.