



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



Action for Ulnes Walton

A walk through our countryside

Walk Eight

Euxton Park

LENGTH: APPROX. 3 MILES; ONE HOUR TEN MINUTES

WHY YOU SHOULD: much of the walk is through woodland; beautiful in spring and autumn. Part of it goes along the R. Yarrow. Beautiful thoroughbred racehorses graze in the fields you walk through. Good going underfoot in all but the wettest weather.

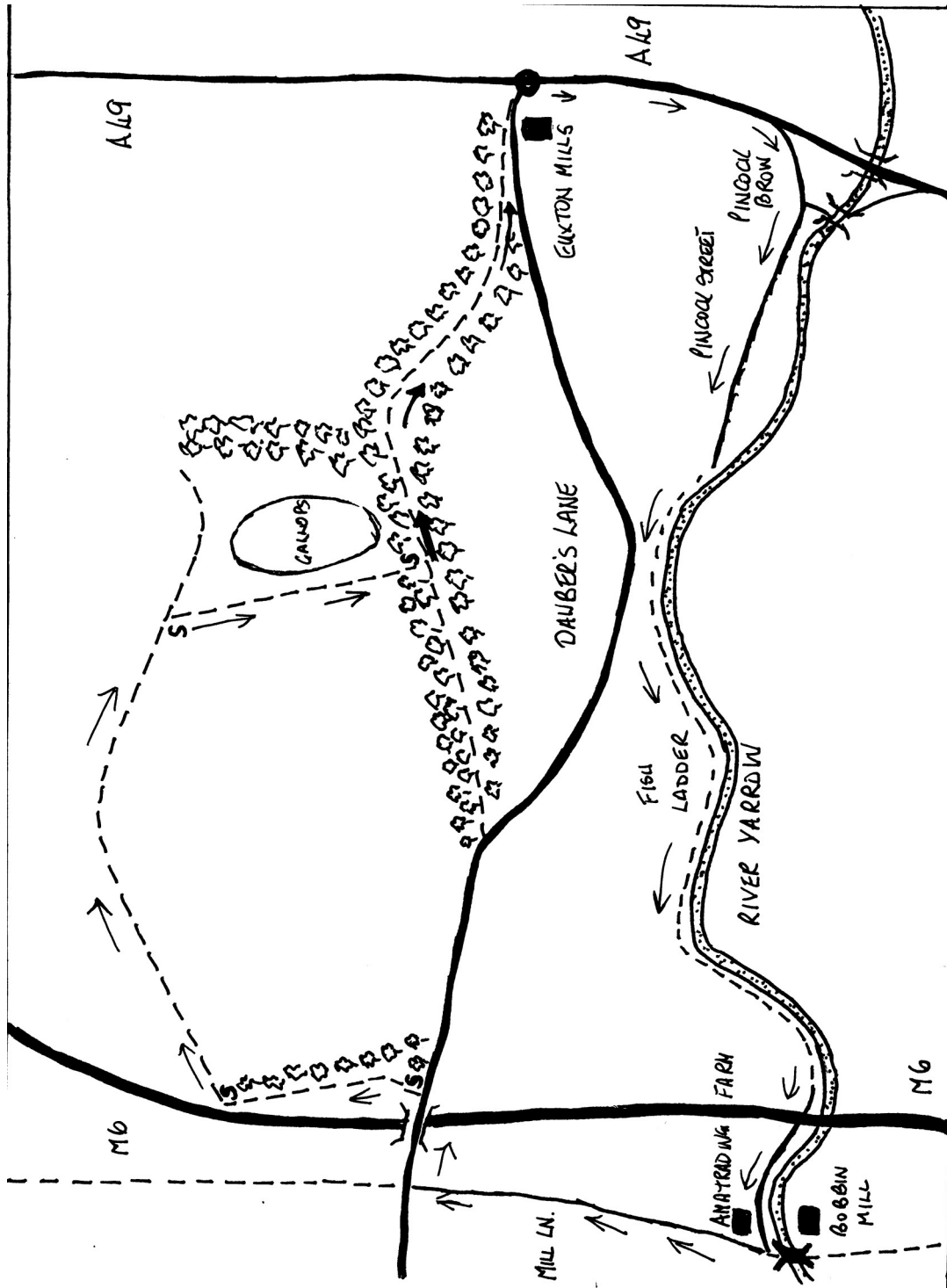
WHY YOU SHOULDN'T: in very wet weather parts of the fields become muddy.

PARK at the **Euxton Mills** pub on the corner of DAWBER'S LANE and the WIGAN ROAD (A 49) if you intend to have a drink or a meal.

Directions

1 Walk downhill along the A49 This is the north side of the Yarrow Valley. The footpath is quite narrow and the traffic is heavy but at least you get the worst part of the walk over right away.

2 Turn right onto Pincock Brow Notice the old stone bridge which carried the main route until the bigger bridge bypassed it. Do not go over it



3. Turn right onto Pincock Street. The river Yarrow is on your left. *Notice the tall old stone walls which have been colonised by a vertical flower bed of dandelions, lesser willow herb, grass, moss, hart's tongue fern etc. Notice the derelict cottage on the left, one of the few buildings in the area built of the underlying Old Red Sandstone. Beyond it you can see a weir on the river.*

4. Go under the metal barrier into the woods. *On the right is a United Utilities brick building which controls the water mains which flow underground along the Yarrow valley. A little later you come to the site where the Xiflex company operated until only a few years ago. The factory buildings were demolished and much of the debris was shipped out. It became a building site. A huge tree whose top has been lopped of leans precariously over the river. It is a Black Poplar, a tree species which is becoming increasingly rare. In spring the woods are carpeted in yellow celandine and strong smelling wild garlic. In February clumps of snowdrops are seen on the river banks. Several underground pipes stick out over the river from the bank and carry water draining from higher up. Notice where the mill race is taken off the main channel. It leads to the fish ladder which allows spawning fish to swim upstream, bypassing the weir which is visible a little upstream. After the fish ladder you can see more of the mill race, a small, dry channel between the path and the river. Our path soon crosses it and then it appears on your right. Notice the rapids on the river. As the path narrows a small stream flows down the valley side on the right and enters the river by two big pipes.*

5. Pass in front of two cottages/ small holdings go under the motorway. *Notice the huge boulders put there to protect the foundations of the bridge which previously were being undercut by the river. The large red sandstone house on the left is a former bobbin mill. A footbridge crosses the river carrying the path to Back Lane. (ignore it)*

6. Follow the road round to the right as it climbs upwards out of the valley passing the ancient landmark, Amatrading Farm, on your right. This is Mill Lane, *the line of an ancient routeway. Judging from the number of species (ash and oak cut to hedge height, hazel, blackthorn hawthorn, holly.) the hedges are several hundred years old.*

7. Turn right onto the A581 and pass another sandstone farmhouse and barn on your right

8. Immediately after crossing the motorway cross the main road and look out for a footpath sign and metal field gate. Go through the gap beside the gate and then through the kissing gate

9 Look diagonally right across the field to see a gap in the hedge into the woods.

10. Go through the gap into the woods and turn left along the narrow path. Take care not to trip over the many exposed tree roots. If, however, the field is very wet remain on the track next to the motorway. *Bluebells, stitchwort and marsh marigolds flower in the wood in spring*

11. Leave the wood by a stile and turn right along the old carriageway which is lined with oak and beech trees. *The fields on either side are often grazed by racehorses. Notice the strange curved horizontals of the wooden fence where bored horses have chewed them. As the road bends right notice a landscaping feature, a ha ha; a sort of sunken stone wall.*

12. Eventually you **Go over a stile on your right** into a field. Walk along the wooden fence. *On the left is a circular track, the gallops, where you might see racehorses being exercised in the morning.*

13 Go over the stile into the woods and turn left along the path through the trees past a pond on your right. *These woods are particularly beautiful in autumn when the beech leaves turn bright orange. Beech woodlands are relatively open with little undergrowth. The dark evergreen leaves of the numerous holly bushes contrast with the lighter green leaves or the bare branches of the deciduous trees."*

14. Go through two sets of metal kissing gates crossing the small road and **follow the path through the woods.** *Euxton Park, which is open to the public, is to the left. On the right is the huge stone wall, the boundary of Euxton Park, and on its other side is Dawber's Lane.*

15. Exit the wood via a kissing gate. Take care because you're immediately onto the busy A49. **Turn right and cross to the Euxton Mills**