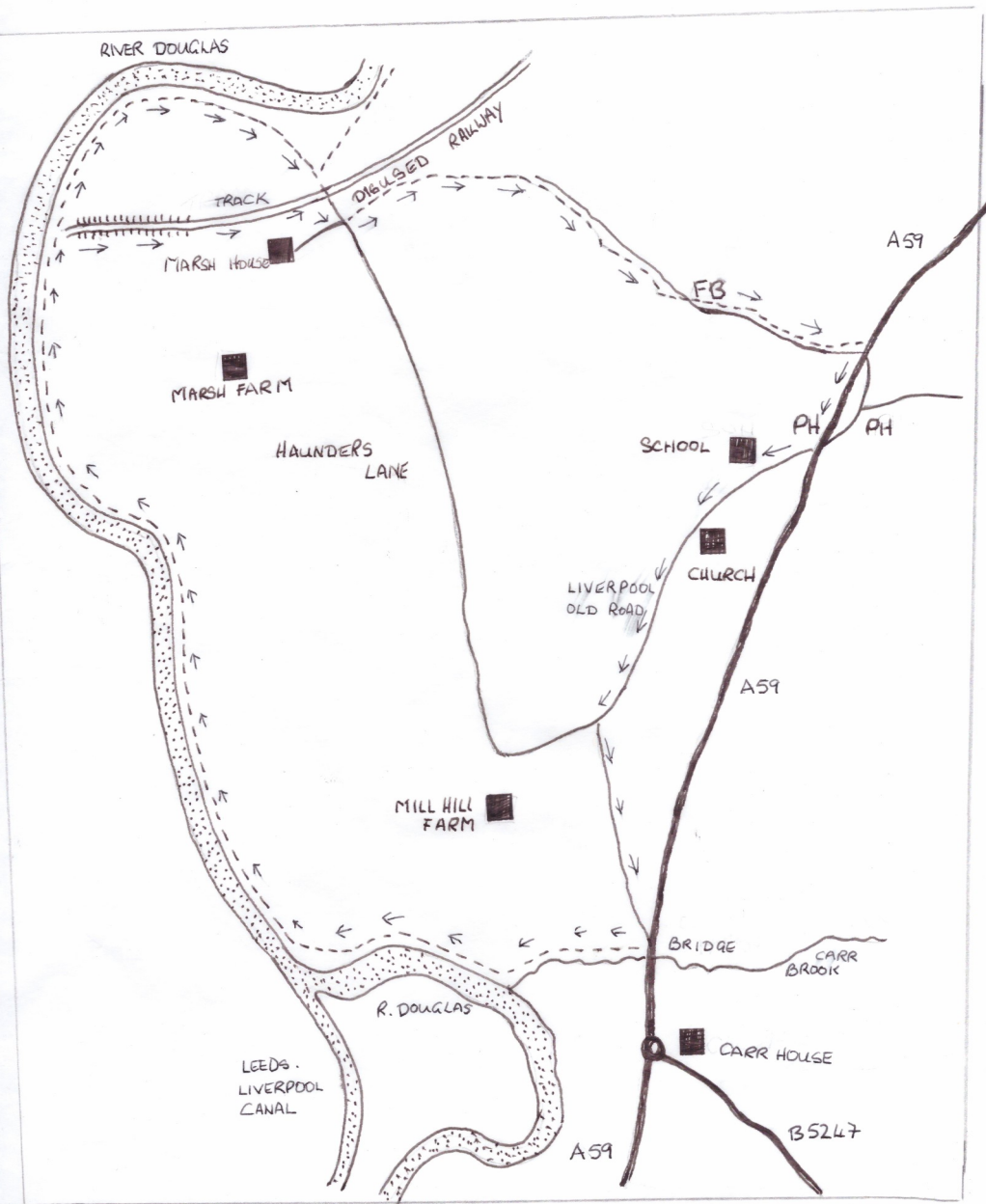


MUCH HOOLE



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



# Action for Ulnes Walton

## A walk through our countryside

### Walk Eleven

### Much Hoole

**TIME:** 1HR 20 MINS. **DISTANCE:** 3.3 MILES

**WHY YOU SHOULD:** Circular walk, mostly through fields, no hills, partly along the R. Douglas.

**WHY YOU SHOULDN'T:** You must cross and recross the busy A59.

**PARKING:** Park on the quiet Liverpool Old Road near its junction with the main road, just to the north of the roundabout where the B5247 from Bretherton joins the A59. A sandwich bar caravan is often parked here.

#### Directions

**1. Walk back to the A59 and turn right in the Southport direction. Almost immediately you'll come across the public footpath sign by a stone wall. Turn right and walk along the embankment. Keep on this embankment for two miles**  
*You'll soon come to the R. Douglas which is tidal here. The huge building on your left is Plocks Farm which makes pet food. Across the river on the skyline is Tarleton High School. The first*

*part of the footpath is mown regularly and is popular with dog walkers.*

**2. Follow the embankment as it swings round to the right.** *You'll see the lock where the Leeds- Liverpool Canal joins the estuary of the R. Douglas. Downstream from here barges can cross the R. Ribble to enter the Lancaster Canal. Look right and you can see the Trough of Bowland and Longridge Fell. A large pipe crosses the Douglas on a gantry high enough to let small craft sail beneath.*

*The flood plain of the R. Douglas is covered in fertile alluvium deposited by the river which is particularly good for growing brassicas. You'll also see leeks, potatoes, barley and maize. You should see a variety of typical estuarine wild fowl including Oystercatchers, Common Geese, Canada Geese, Mallard, Swans, Lapwings etc.*

*The embankment running at right angles to our path is the route of the dismantled Preston/ Southport Railway.*

**(.2a For an interesting short cut follow the old railway route until it meets the original walk at 3 .** *The drier nature of the ground and the presence of limestone chippings ( ballast from the old railway track) give rise to a variety of wildflowers including bird's foot trefoil, yarrow, clover , knapweed etc..) On the left is the marina and boatyard repair shops.*

*The mauve flowers which grow in clumps close to the river in autumn are Michaelmas daisies and are probably garden escapes. Across the river sheep graze on the salt marshes. The going gets rougher now since this part of the footpath is mowed less frequently.*

**3. After two miles the embankment curves to the right away from the river and you come to a crossroads of paths. Leave the embankment which leads off to the left. Cross over one path and take the path facing you which**

**has a hedge at its side and a gate visible at its end.** *The left hedge is Blackthorn and the right is Elderberry.*

**4. At the gate is a metal footpath sign and here go left down a farm track surfaced with limestone chippings.**

*In summer the track is full of red clover, knapweed, lesser willowherb, meadowsweet, vetch and, in September, lots of blackberries.*

**5. When the track comes to an end go straight on along the field edge, keeping the hedge and ditch to your left.**

**6. At the far end of the field cross over the ditch so that the hedge and ditch are now on your right.**

**7. Eventually you'll find yourself walking along the edge of a field where horses graze. Exit the footpath onto the A59**

**8. Turn right along the A 59 then go right onto Liverpool Old Road. Pass the Bangla restaurant on your right.**

**9. Go past Hoole St. Michael school on your right and later the parish church on your left and after half a mile you will eventually come to your car.**

*The parish church of St Michael and all Angels is very interesting and well worth a visit. It is open between 2.00 and 4.00pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks was he Bible Clerk here when he first predicted the Transit of Venus in 1639. Lookout for the sundial above the door.*