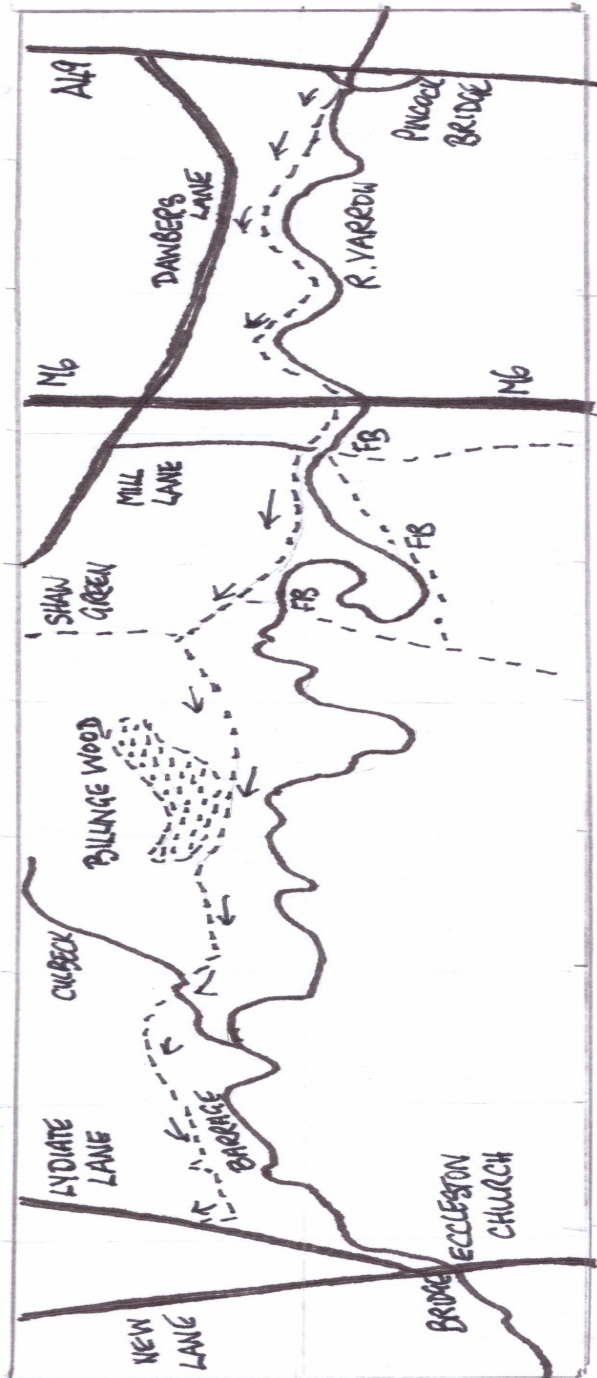


PINCOCK TO ECCLESTON CHURCH



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



# Action for Ulnes Walton

## A walk through our countryside

### Walk Thirteen

### Pincock Bridge to Eccleston Bridge

**LENGTH:** APPROX. 2.5 MILES **TIME:** ONE HOUR

**WHY YOU SHOULD:** much of the walk is through woodland; beautiful in spring and autumn. Part of it goes along the R. Yarrow. Good going under-foot in all but the wettest weather.

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

#### Directions

**START** at the EUXTON MILLS pub on the corner of DAWBER'S LANE and the WIGAN ROAD (A 49).

**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. *Euxton Methodist Church is across the road and is very well attended on Sundays.*

**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.*

**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. A huge tree who's top has been lopped off 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.** On the right above you is Amatrading Farm. Beside the double metal gates on your left 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.

**7.** 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.

**8.** Leave the gorge via a kissing gate. Some of the soil is sandy here giv-

ing rise to gorse bushes and foxgloves.

**9.** 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.

**10. Leave the field via the stile** beside the metal gates and **turn left** along the rough farm track keeping the barbed wire fence on your left.

**11. Leave this field via the gateway. Go straight ahead** to where the corner of the woods sticks out into our field. This is Billinge Wood and is clothed in bluebells in spring. Sometimes roe deer are seen here. The river is now a long way away to the left.

**12. Continue with the woods on your right** towards a line of trees

**13. Enter the woods via a small wooden gate and exit via another.**

**14. You can see the next stile** ahead of you beside a large oak tree.

**15. Once over the stile go right along the farm track** with the fence on your right. Ahead and to the left you can see the barrage.

**16. Cross the farm track bridge** over the Culbeck and **IMMEDIATELY BEAR DIAGONALLY LEFT** across the field to the far corner. As you walk along, the buildings you can see are on the bluff line of the Yarrow, above the flood plain. All these fields will be under water when the barrage is closed.

**17. Leave via a kissing gate and turn right** up the hill then **turn left** to walk down the other side of the barrage. Note the info board about the Flood Scheme.

**18. At the bottom turn right and exit via a small wooden gate**

**19. Follow the line of the hedge to a foot bridge and gate.** Continue along the right edge of the field and the small stream.

**20. Turn right over the footbridge and through the gate.**

**21. Climb straight up the hill.** Look left to get views of the church. **EXIT VIA THE STILE** onto Lydiate Lane. Turn left and follow this road to Eccleston Bridge.