



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



Action for Ulnes Walton

A walk through our countryside

Walk Fifteen

The Rivers Yarrow, Lostock, and Douglas

Distance: 3 ½ miles

Time: 1 Hr 30 mins

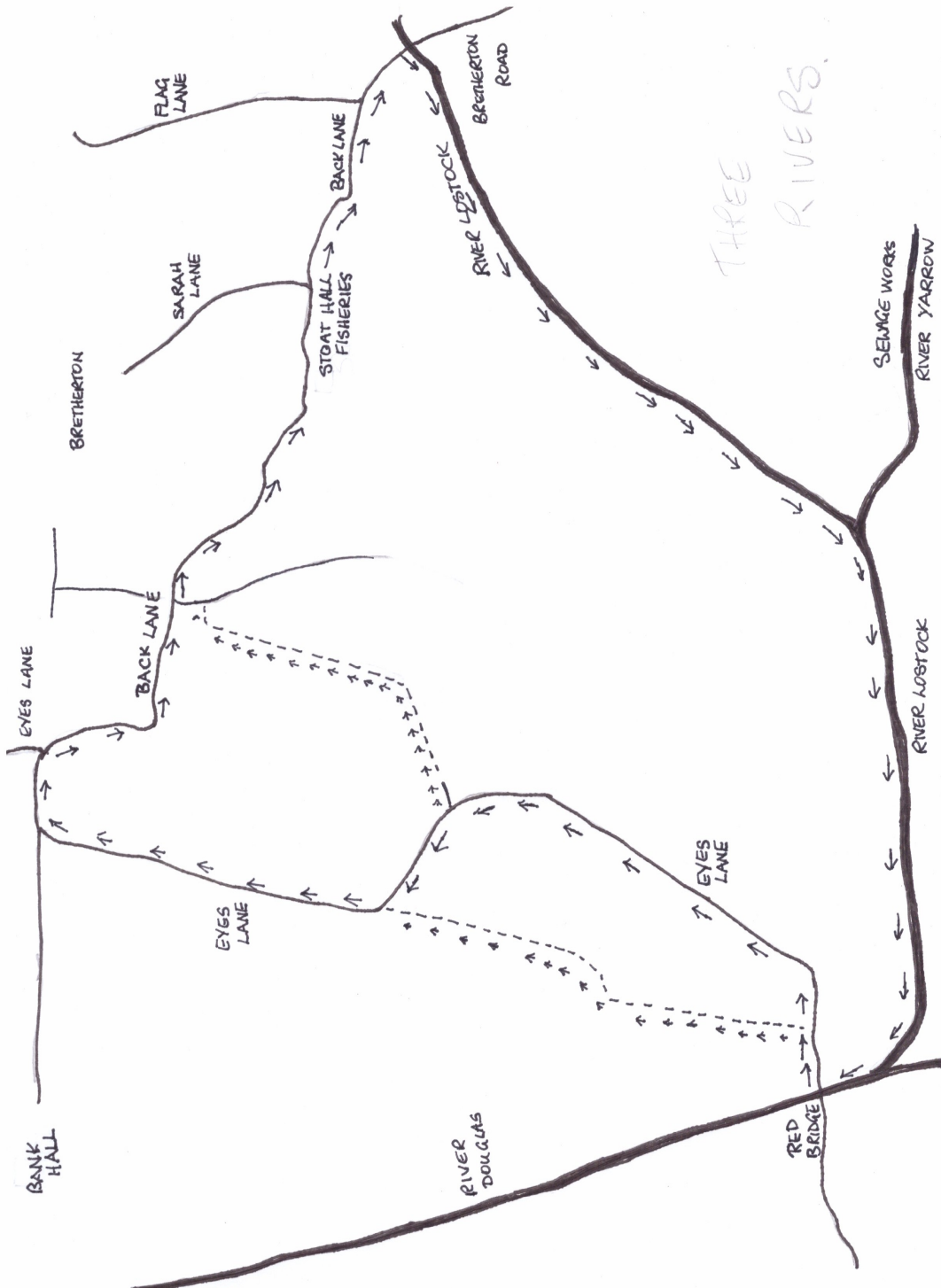
Why you should: No hills. Huge open vistas and views long distance. Big skies.

Why you shouldn't: very open with no shelter from the wind and rain.

Park: on Back Lane near its junction with the main road (Flag Lane) between Croston and Bretherton

Directions

1 Walk to the road bridge over the Lostock and go over the stile on the right side of the road (as you face in the Croston direction)



2 Walk along the embankment for 1 ½ miles until you come to Red Bridge. *The embankment is one of the first places celandine flower in spring. The first field is usually grazed by ponies. The construction in the field is for clay pigeon shooting which takes place here most Sundays. This field floods frequently. Being high up you can see across the arable fields which tend to be used to grow wheat, oats, barley, maize and field beans.* En route you'll go over a stile beside a metal field gate. Eventually the embankment swings round to the right at the confluence of the River Lostock and the River Yarrow. Further on the embankment takes another swing to the right at the confluence of the River Lostock and the River Douglas.

3 When you reach Red Bridge exit the embankment via a stile beside a metal field gate. Turn right along the farm road which comes from the A 59 near Rufford. *On a clear day there are views of Darwen Tower, Great Hill, Winter Hill and Rivington Pike, going from left to right. With Croston Parish Church slightly to the foreground. In July look out for the purple /blue flowers of Meadow Cranesbill in the roadside verges. The willow and Beech hedge is a shelter belt planted to reduce wind speed and its resulting soil erosion.*

4 Continue along the road for 2/3 mile and look out for the gas pumping station on your right. As the road swings left look out for a public footpath sign on the right. Follow it along a stony/grassy track. *On a clear day Darwen Tower is visible directly ahead.*

5 Immediately the track enters the field turn left, keeping the hedge on your left. Keep beside it along the edge of the field as the hedge swings round to the right.

6 Look out for a footbridge on your left in the hedge. Once across it turn right immediately then left along the hedge

7 When you come to the end of the hedge you should be able to see the trodden path through the field going slightly to the right. Go along it to a stony lane where you turn left.

8 The stony lane meets a tarmac road where you turn right. *(if you were to go straight ahead you would come into Bretherton). In some places the fields are higher than the road and water drains from them creating huge puddles after wet weather. The hedgerows are species rich and a favourite with nesting birds. Honeysuckle blooms here in June and there are primroses earlier on. A variety of land use occurs here including small holding, nature conservation, sheep grazing and horse keeping. Towards the end of the lane, hidden in the trees, is Stroat Hall Fisheries*

9 Follow the road for 2/3 mile until you return to your car.