

Delph Quarry Circular Walk

OS Explorer
OL41



Start Point



Delph Quarry car park

★ SD5458 4552

Distance/Time



6 miles
3 hours

Terrain

Please note the trail follows private estate roads which are also public footpaths. Metalled roads, gravel/hardcore and grassy tracks. Can be quite muddy and wet in places.

Key to Facilities

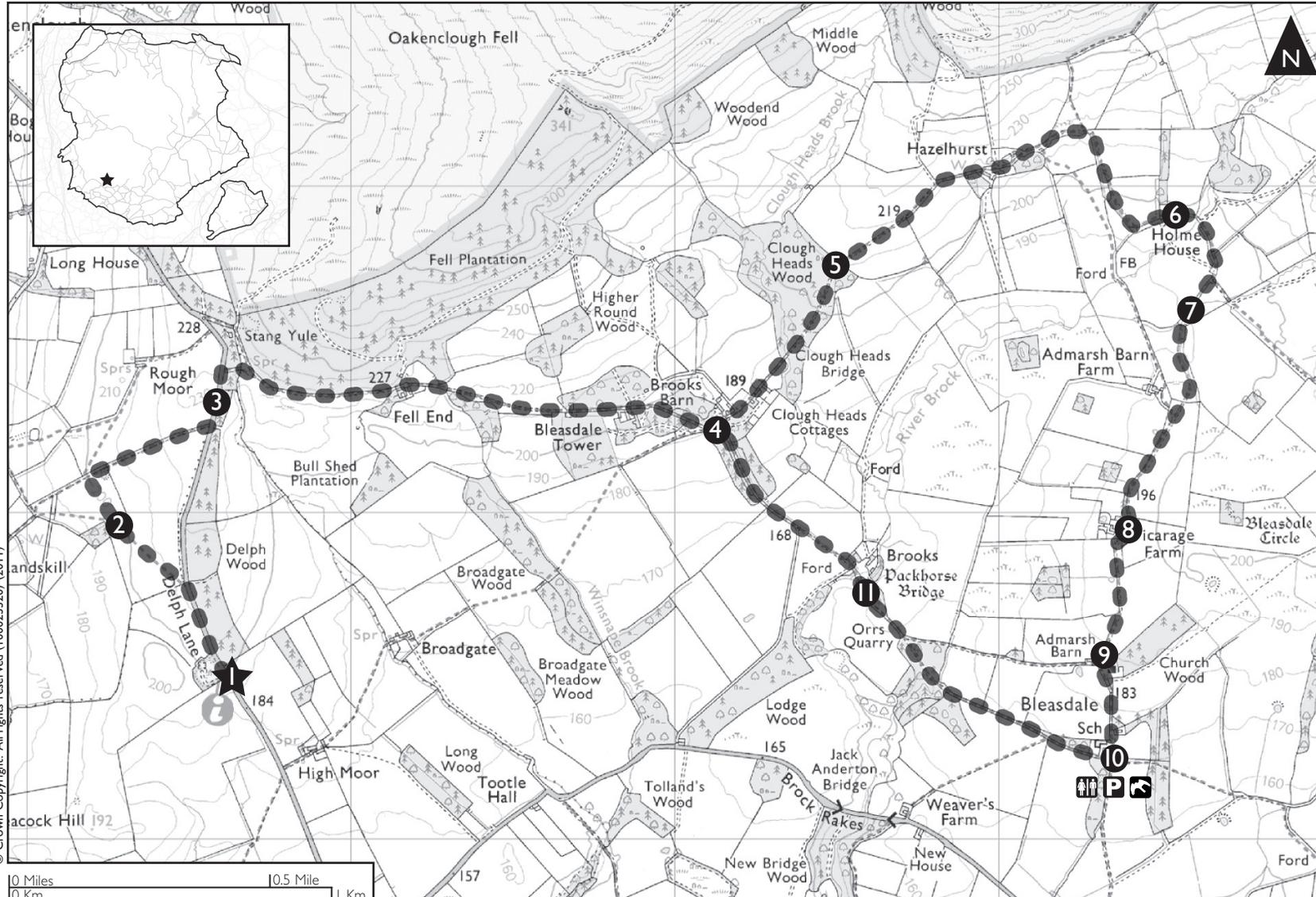
- Bleasdale Parish Hall
SD 5736 4533
- Accessible toilet (24hrs)
- Parking (disabled only)
- Bird hide

Accommodation: Bleasdale Cottages 01995 61343

www.bleasdalecottages.co.uk
for other accommodation visit
www.forestofbowland.com

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

- ★ SD 5458 4552
- ② SD 5429 4596
- ③ SD 5457 4628
- ④ SD 5613 4626
- ⑤ SD 5651 4677
- ⑥ SD 5750 4691
- ⑦ SD 5757 4658
- ⑧ SD 5740 4599
- ⑨ SD 5732 4551
- ⑩ SD 5736 4533
- ⑪ SD 5657 4580



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Walk Description

1 **GPS:** SD 5458 4552

Take the concessionary footpath out of the car park via a stile (adjacent self closing gate with RADAR lock), keeping the drystone wall on your right till you reach a footpath junction with 3 gates. Take the path ahead signposted to Calder Vale/St Johns Church. Head diagonally across the field.

2 **GPS:** SD 5429 4596

Through a metal gate to the right of the small wood - **Note** at this gate you need to lift the handle before you pull it to open the gate.

Head straight across the field towards the white gate in the wall and turn right onto the stone track. Follow this up the hill to reach the road.

3 **GPS:** SD 5457 4628

At the road gate turn left and follow the road for approximately 200m to reach the footpath that takes you right through the narrow woodland and out through a small gate into a large field.

Walk up onto the track ahead and follow the track through Fell End farm, past Bleasdale Tower and into the complex of buildings at Brooks Barn.

4 **GPS:** SD 5613 4626

Turn right to pass a rare red 'GR' post box set into the wall. There are likely to be dogs, horses and children now as you pass the rear of Clough Heads Cottages, a pretty row of terraced cottages that were once part of the North Lancashire reformatory. Climbing slightly on the road

that is rougher than before, you come to a well constructed, buttressed stone bridge some 30 feet over a stream. This was built by boys from the reformatory. Continue through the wood.

5 **GPS:** SD 5651 4677

Leave the wood via a cattle grid and enter open rough pasture with views of Fairsnape and Parlick to the right and the wooded summit of Beacon Fell Country Park to the South. The road rises a little and is potholed. A track joins from the left as you head to the left of Hazelhurst farm with a cobbled yard. Note the long water trough just before the cattle grid. There is now a rough descent to another cattle grid. The track is rutted and care is needed.

6 **GPS:** SD 5750 4691

Enter Holme House farmyard through a gate and travel across the concrete yard before leaving through a gate. The track resumes becoming more rutted with boulders and cobbles from the nearby stream making the surface tricky as you descend to a concrete bridge over a stream. The track from now on is likely to be wet and muddy unless we have had good weather. The track turns to a grassy track with deeper tracks and it is advisable to stop and choose a safe route before continuing. Note the undercut roots of trees that are on the stream bank on the right hand side.

7 **GPS:** SD 5757 4658

Bear left after a small bridge to climb across open fields. The track is at its wettest here as you approach a wooden gate with stile to the right. Emerge on to a rough metalled road with a road joining from the right.

8 **GPS:** SD 5740 4599

Pass over another cattle grid near Vicarage farm and note the permissive footpath to Bleasdale circle on the left. Passing over another cattle grid, bear left and head for Bleasdale church.

9 **GPS:** SD 5732 4551

From Bleasdale Church it is a short distance on a good road surface to the Parish Hall.

10 **GPS:** SD 5736 4533

From the parish hall pass the school opposite before turning right. This pleasant track has an intermittent beech hedge to the right and open fields to the left. After a while, you enter a pine wood and descend to a bridge over the river Brock with Brooks farmhouse on the right.

11 **GPS:** SD 5657 4580

Climb gently away from the bridge. The road is now fenced on both sides and you may see hares in the open fields. A track joins from the left as you approach another well maintained wood. After a distance you approach more buildings that were once part of the North Lancashire reformatory. After a distance you approach Brooks Barn, retrace the route back to the beginning.

About This Walk

Much of the land on this route is owned and managed by one estate. Estate buildings can be easily recognised by their khaki paintwork. The estate is managed partly for farming and partly for the benefit of sporting pursuits – shooting grouse, pheasant and partridge. The habitats and landscape that you see are a direct result of this balance of interests. You will notice well maintained beech hedges and woods of beech, oak and Scots pine underplanted with rhododendron. In the shooting season you may well hear distant shots and meet with vehicles carrying beaters and 'guns'. At Brooks farm as you cross the road bridge, you will see a much smaller and older 'packhorse' bridge on the right. Note the evergreen holm oak as you move away from the bridge. Look out for brown hares on this route, especially in the springtime. The brown hare was introduced to Britain before the Roman invasion. It has become characteristic of traditional mixed farming landscapes. Perhaps you will see hares standing on their back legs and looking just like a pair of boxers trying to knock each other out. This occurs when females fight off or test the strength of potential male suitors! The rushy fields are ideal habitat for ground nesting waders like lapwing, curlew and snipe.