



REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1112864



Action for Ulnes Walton

Walk Three

Eccleston Church to Croston Corn Mill

DISTANCE: 3 MILES **TIME: 1 HR. 10 MINS**

WHY YOU SHOULD: Lovely riverside walk through beautiful countryside. No hills. No stiles, just kissing gates.

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T: The clayey soil gets muddy when wet, especially if there are cows grazing. Part of the walk goes along Syd Brook Lane which doesn't have a footpath but does have fast traffic.

Park on the layby at the junction of New lane and

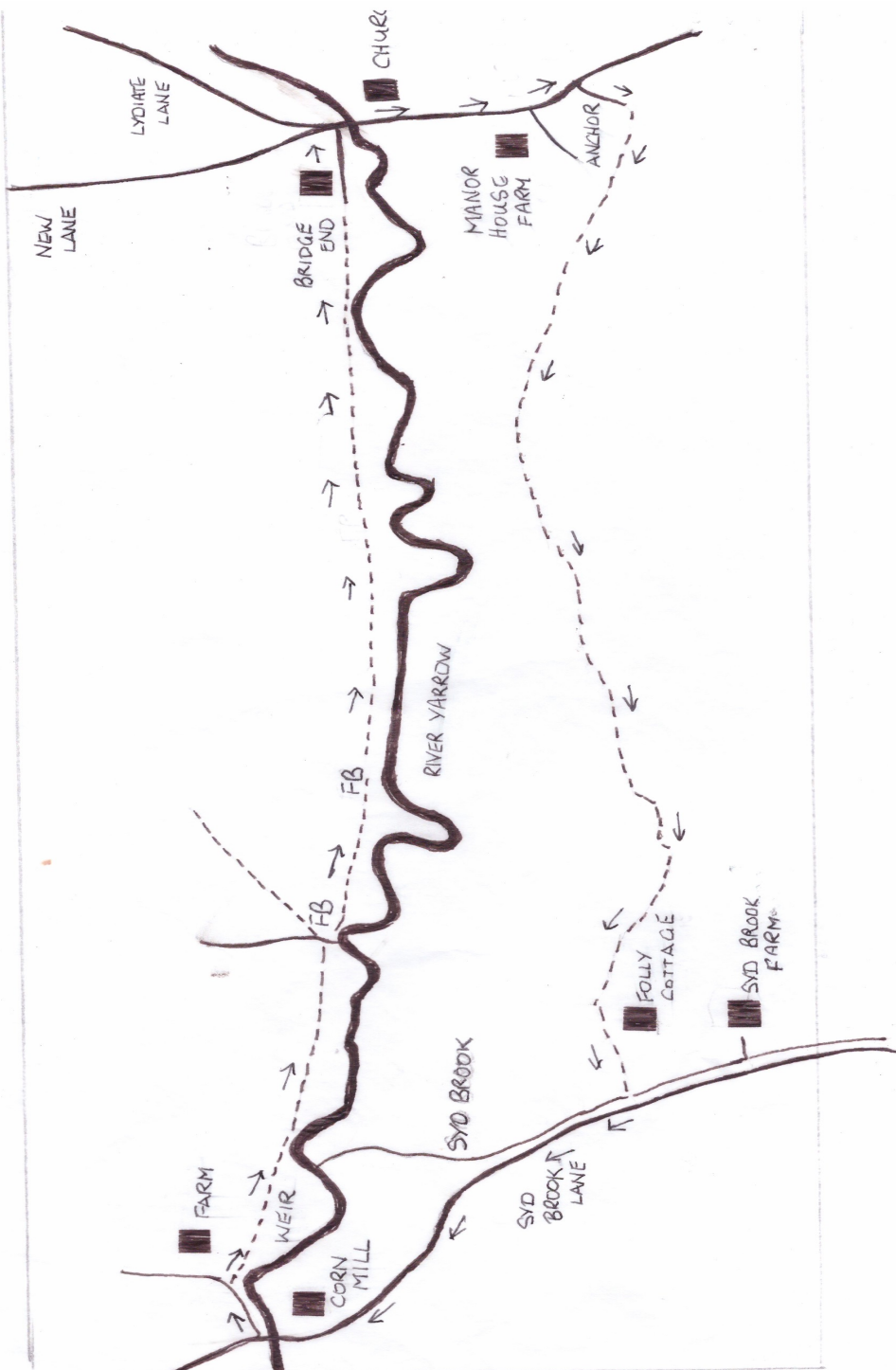
Towngate, Eccleston.

Directions

1 Cross Eccleston Bridge. *St. Mary's Church is on your left and worth a visit.* Continue past Manor House Farm and **turn right onto Anchorfields.**

2 Go through the kissing gate and walk along the side of the hedge. *Dairy cattle graze here so the going can be rough.*

3 Go through the kissing gate beside the metal field gate. Continue along the side of the hedge. *It contains a large number of species-hawthorn, Blackthorn, Holly- suggesting it is very old.*



4 Go through the kissing gate with a footbridge over a spinney and continue along the hedge then **bear left along the fence**. *There is a pond in the trees on your left. The fenced off area is owned by United Utilities and there are underground water storage tanks here.*

5 Bear right along the fence and head towards the hedge which you walk along. *Notice one of many manhole covers you'll see marking the line of the large bore underground sewage pipe.*

6 Go through the kissing gate in the corner of the field beside the hedge and continue along the hedge. *Both hedge and field are species rich in plants and insects, especially butterflies.*

7. Go through the kissing gate and over the footbridge and keep along the hedge. *The soil is clayey here and the ground can be muddy. The pond over the hedge often has Coots and Mallards on it.*

8. Go through the kissing gate and over the little bridge and through a second gate. Straight ahead of you you can see the next stile beside an oak tree. Notice another manhole cover.

9 Bear left along the track until you come to the bridge over the Syd Brook. *In early autumn this is a great place for blackberrying.*

10. Over the bridge you turn right along Syd Brook Lane. *Take care. there is no footpath and the cars come very fast, the drivers not expecting to see walkers. Look over the hedge and you can see the pipe, now above ground.*

11 Eventually you can cross over the road to a footpath. Go past Croston Corn Mill and **cross the bridge over the R. Yarrow.**

12 Turn right immediately down a farm track and **go through a kissing gate beside the river.**

13 *The first river bank is full of wildflowers- oxeye daisies, red campion etc- in late spring. On the side of the river is river recording station and the weir has a fish ladder and an eel tube to allow access upstream. Leave the river and head towards the far-left corner of the field. Turn round to get a good view of the flower filled bank*

14 *You come close to the river once again and just before you get to the*

*small gate notice the confluence of the Syd Brook and the Yarrow. **GO through the small gate beside the river.***

15 Exit this woody area via a kissing gate and continue straight ahead across the middle of the field.

16 Go through a small wooden gate beside a metal field gate. Look ahead and to the right to see the **next small gate and go through it.**

17 Go straight ahead and the river meanders to the right and leaves you. Eventually you **go through a kissing gate beside a metal gate.**

18 Keep left along the hedge and **go through another kissing gate.** *The path through the trees can be slippery when wet.*

19. Exit via a kissing gate and look right to see a ford where the cows cross the river. Go straight ahead with the hedge on your left.

20 Go through another kissing gate and through the trees. *The path here is not good and is tricky when wet.*

21 Continue along between the two hedges. *Note the impressive Beech tree on your left. Pass the cottages to exit beside the bridge*

22 Turn left to return to the layby.