

South Lakeland Leisure Village, Priest Hutton, Borwick Circular

Length 4 miles

Duration: 1 hour 30 mins

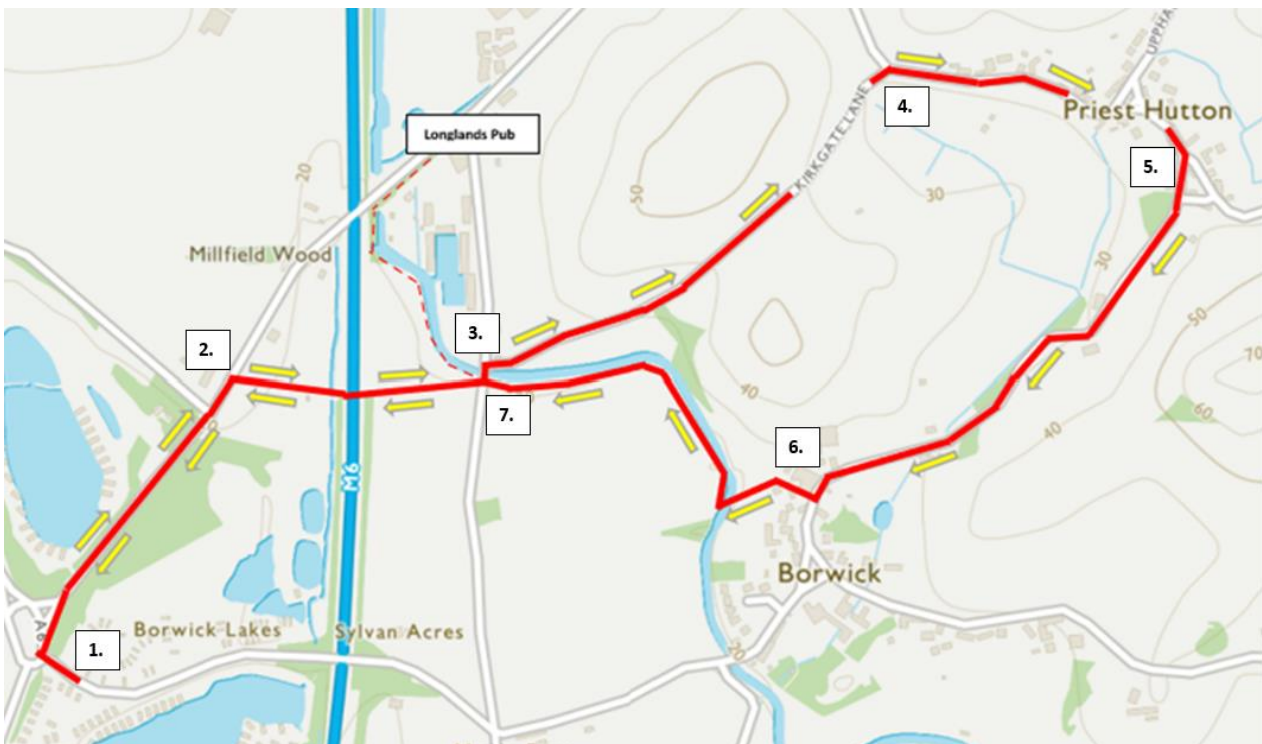
Difficulty: Moderate. Some of the lanes and the canal towpath can get muddy in places after heavy rain. Suitable walking footwear/wellies recommended.

Map: OS Explorer OL7 The English Lakes. South-eastern area. Windermere, Kendal & Silverdale



Without doubt, our most regular walk that starts and finishes at the lodges (South Lakeland Leisure Village). The walk passes through the picturesque villages of Priest Hutton and Borwick and includes sections of the Lancaster Canal. Also, a short detour (marked on my by the dotted red line) takes you to the excellent Longlands Pub & Restaurant.

Map:



Directions:

1. Conveniently, the walk starts and finishes at the lodges. Leave the entrance to South Lakeland Leisure Village and turn left to walk the short distance to the road junction. Cross over the road to the right and walk onto Burton Road (A6070) following the signs for 'Tewitfield'. Walk along the footpath on the left of the road passing the entrance to Twin Lakes Country Club after about 200 meters.

A short distance later, Burton Road bends round to the left, at this point look across the road to your right and you will see a gap in the hedge with a gate, there is usually a wagon parked up behind the gate. This is the start of the green lane section of the walk.



The not too obvious entrance to the green lane from Burton Road

2. Cross over Burton Road to the gate (**Note- be very careful here, this is a fast section of road**), the footpath stile is at the lefthand side of the gate. The lane continues as a hedged lined track and shortly arrives at a wooden bridge over a beck, and then a less attractive concrete footbridge over the M6 motorway. Cross the bridges and then continue along the lane until you arrive at a road junction by a bridge over the Lancaster Canal (bridge number 138).

3. Turn left onto the road (Kellet Lane) and cross over the canal, then immediately turn right onto the lane at the righthand side of Tewitfield Methodist Church. This lane is followed for about half a mile as it climbs gradually and then descends to meet a road (Whitebeck Lane).



4. Turn right onto Whitebeck Lane and walk into the village of Priest Hutton (look out for the donkeys in the field to your right, they often come over for a stroke). Continue along the road through the village until you arrive at a road junction just past the old School House (on your right) by the village green.

Priest Hutton Donkeys

5. Continue to the right on what is now Borwick Lane. Although this is usually a quiet road, it is narrow in places with no footpath, so best to walk on the righthand side where you can see any oncoming traffic. Continue along Borwick Lane for about ¼ mile until you reach the pretty St Marys Church on your left. Just after the church lychgate you will see some steps at the lefthand side of the road leading to two gates. Go through the righthand gate which takes you onto a footpath above the road. The path is lined by a fence line to your left and a row of trees to your right. There are quite a few tree roots to navigate, but it is certainly a safer option than walking on the road below. When the path comes to an end, re-join the road and continue forward passing the entrance to Linden Hall on your left (not open to the public) and into the village of Borwick.

Look out for the interesting clocktower and weathervane on top of the farm buildings to your right. Also, as you enter the village, you will in front of you see the impressive frontage of Borwick Hall. Borwick Hall is a 16th century manor house and a grade 1 listed building that was mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is now an outdoor education centre owned by the Lancashire County Council. It boasts being the residence of several ghosts, a fact that should help the visiting little kiddies get to sleep at night!

6. Returning to our walk, just after passing the farm buildings with the clock tower, lookout for Rosethorn Cottage on your right. Turn right down the track on the lefthand side of the cottage. The track is followed a short distance between farm building and houses before turning left and dropping down to a bridge over the canal (bridge number 137). Cross over the bridge and then drop down right to regain the canal towpath. Turn left (ie away from the bridge and follow the canal until you reach the next bridge. You are now back at bridge number 138).



The lane to the left of Rosethorn Cottage

The return route from here simply to leave the canal up onto the lefthand side of the bridge, then cross the road onto the green lane, back down to the M6 footbridge, the wooden bridge over the beck, then follow the lane back to Burton Road, then turn left back to the road junction close to the Leisure Village site entrance, however....

7. Once you arrive back at canal bridge 138, there is the option to continue a short distance along the canal in order to visit the excellent Longlands Pub for a drink/food (shown on the map a the red dotted line). Longlands is a very welcoming and dog friendly hostelry with an excellent range of drinks and food on offer. So, continue along the towpath passing the Tewitfield Marina to your right until you reach the abrupt end of the canal. It does actually continue further on but was rudely severed by the passing of the M6 motorway. At the end of the canal, follow the footpath round to your right and the pub will appear in front of you.

Having taken the detour, you have the return options of walking back along the canal to bridge number 138 and then regain the green lane etc. Or, for a slight quicker route home, just walk up to the main road at the front of the hotel, turn left (the footpath is on the righthand side (again, careful when crossing this road), and then follow Burton Road back for about half a mile until you reach the road junction close to the site entrance.