



## Chorley - CANAL AND COUNTRYSIDE

Set in the heart of Lancashire's glorious countryside, Chorley offers many opportunities for all types of outdoor recreation.

The magnificent Leeds and Liverpool Canal winds its way through Chorley offering a range of formal and informal recreation, from fishing and walking, to cruising at one of the Canal's boat-hire centres.

The Pennine Moors of Anglezarke and Rivington Pike Country Park attract many visitors each year for their magnificent views and rugged moorland scenery. Very different is the Yarrow Valley Country Park at Birkacres, covering river valleys, woodlands, open grassland, and a Nature Reserve. Yarrow Valley Park can accommodate fishing, walking and canoeing. Astley Park is right in the town centre, and home to the historic Astley Hall.



## CANAL AND COUNTRYSIDE Circular Walks

This walk around Walton Summit and Whittle-le-Woods is one of a series developed in Chorley, through a partnership of Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council. The walks explore the different types of countryside and scenery around the Borough, linking the local footpath network to the canal towpaths. This walk follows part of the historic route of the Walton Summit Branch of the Lancaster Canal and links with the Brindle to Withnell Fold Nature Reserve Walk, also in the series.

Various bus routes serve this walk, for timetable information please contact the County Information Service in Chorley on **01257 241693**.

**For more information on Chorley and other Canal and Countryside Walks please contact Chorley Tourism Unit, Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 2EL. Tel: 01257 515300; Fax: 01257 515301.**

*Note: A torch is essential when doing this walk.*

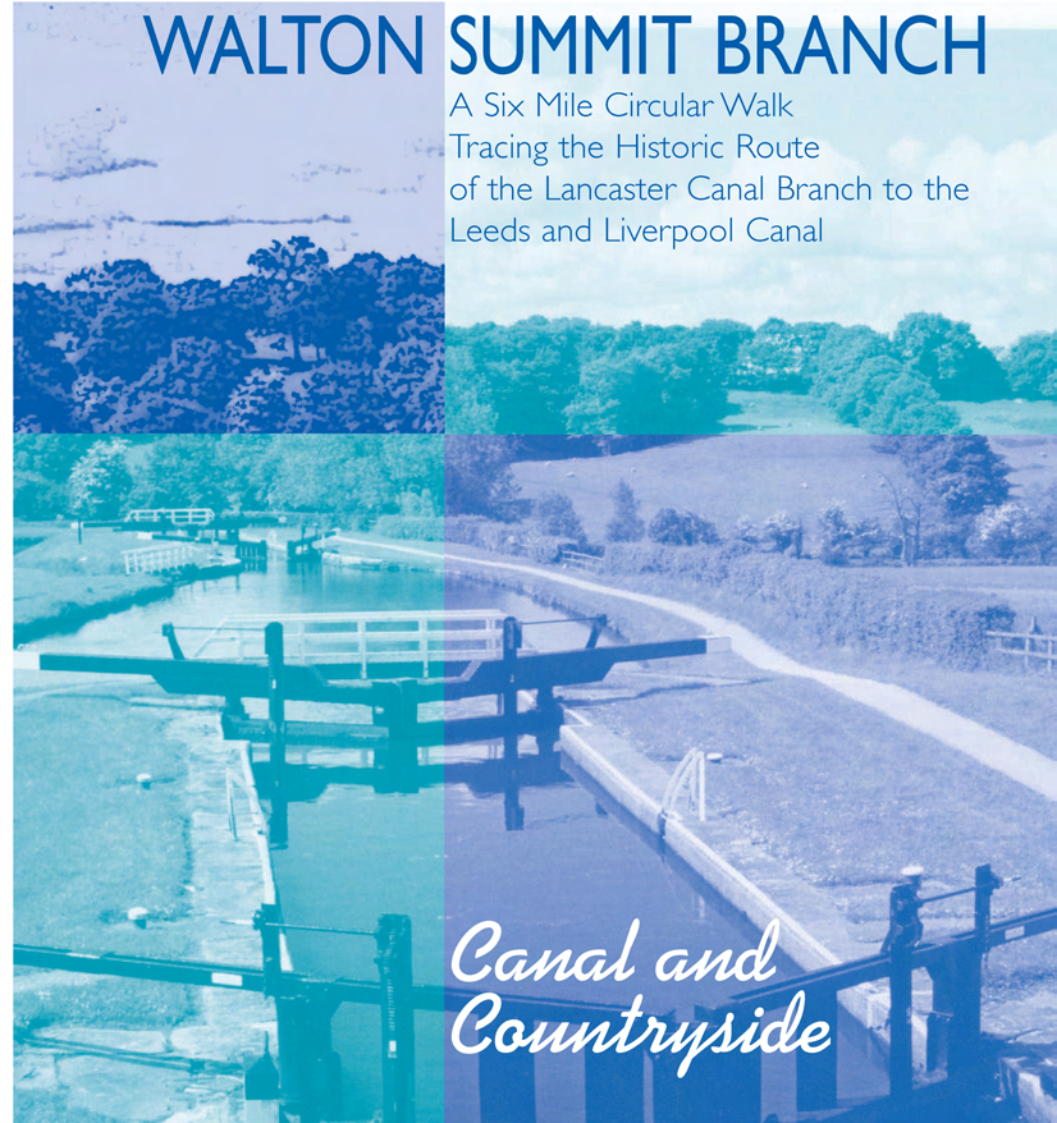


Printed on recycled paper  
Design - Graphics Unit - Environment Directorate



# Whittle-le-Woods and the WALTON SUMMIT BRANCH

A Six Mile Circular Walk  
Tracing the Historic Route  
of the Lancaster Canal Branch to the  
Leeds and Liverpool Canal

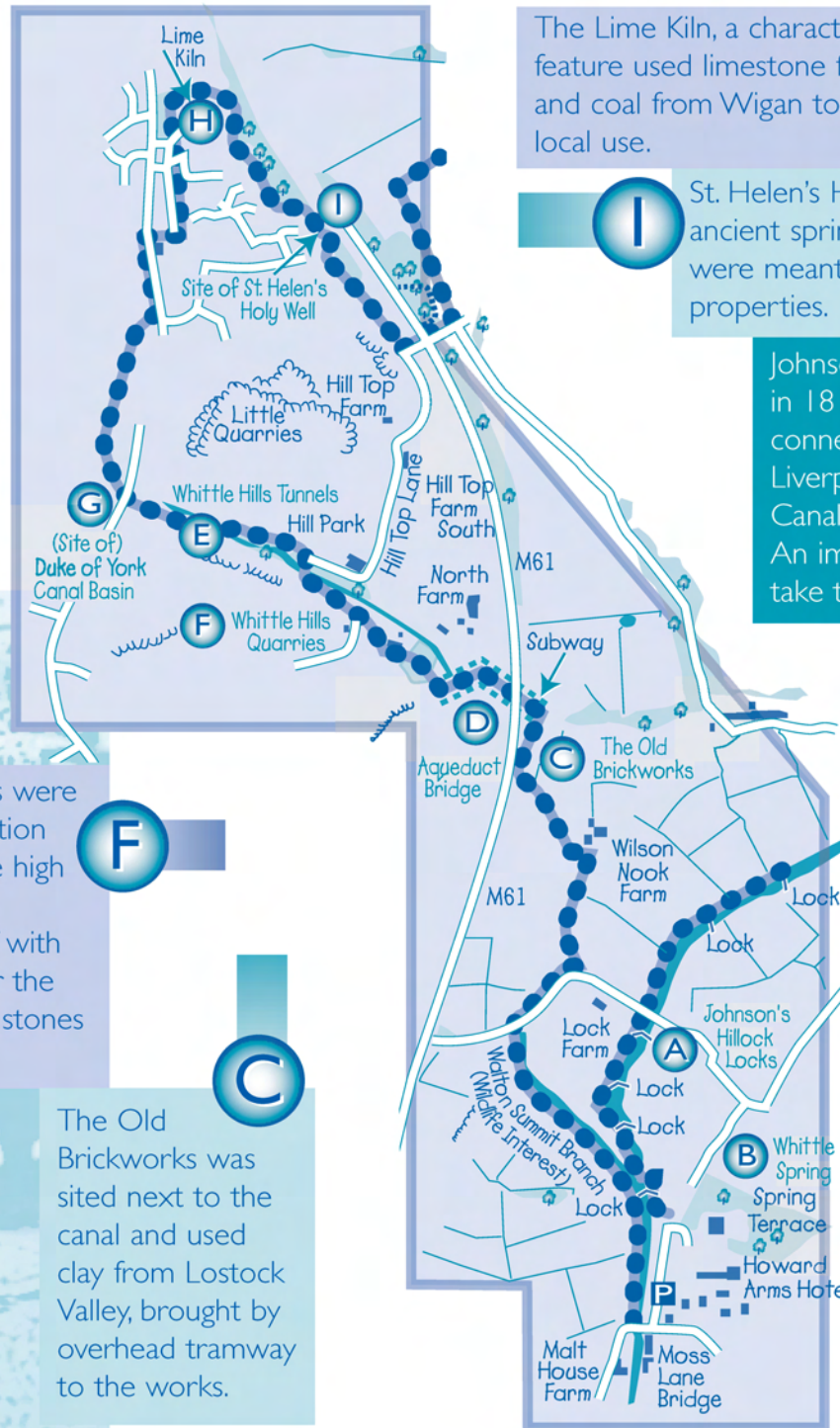


*Canal and  
Countryside*



# Historical Features of the WALTON SUMMIT BRANCH

The Lancaster Canal was begun in 1792 and ran from Kendal to Aspull Top Lock, with a tramroad link of approximately 5 miles from the canal basin at Preston, across the River Ribble to Walton Summit. The Walton Summit Branch joins the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Johnson's Hillock and the route can be traced to Walton Summit. Much of the tramroad can still be traced south of Preston near Bamber Bridge. The map describes some of the historical features associated with the canal branch which may be seen along part of the circular walk.



The Lime Kiln, a characteristic canal feature used limestone from Carnforth and coal from Wigan to make lime for local use. **H**

St. Helen's Holy Well was an ancient spring whose waters were meant to have healing properties. **I**

Johnson's Hillock Locks, completed in 1816, were constructed to connect the new Leeds and Liverpool Canal to the Lancaster Canal at Whittle Springs basin. An impressive flight of seven locks take the canal up 60 feet. **A**

The Duke of York canal basin was filled in when the canal fell into disuse (around 1880). Around the basin were wharves with coal yards, weighing machines and a smithy. The millstones displayed were found in the canal and basin during excavation works. **G**

Whittle Hills Quarries were famed for the production of millstones from the high quality millstone grit. A special stone wharf with a crane was built near the Duke of York to load stones onto canal barges. **F**

Whittle Hills Tunnels were originally a single tunnel, 259 yards long. A 150 yard long section in the middle was opened after collapses occurred, creating two tunnels. **E**

Aqueduct Bridge was built about 1800 to carry the Lancaster Canal over the river Lostock. **D**

The Old Brickworks was sited next to the canal and used clay from Lostock Valley, brought by overhead tramway to the works. **C**

Whittle Springs became a popular spa in the 1840s. There was a hotel (now the Howard Arms), baths and pleasure gardens. Many visitors travelled by canal boat. Nearby was Whittle Springs Brewery which used the spring water in brewing and transported barrels by barge from the canal wharf at Whittle Springs Basin. **B**



3

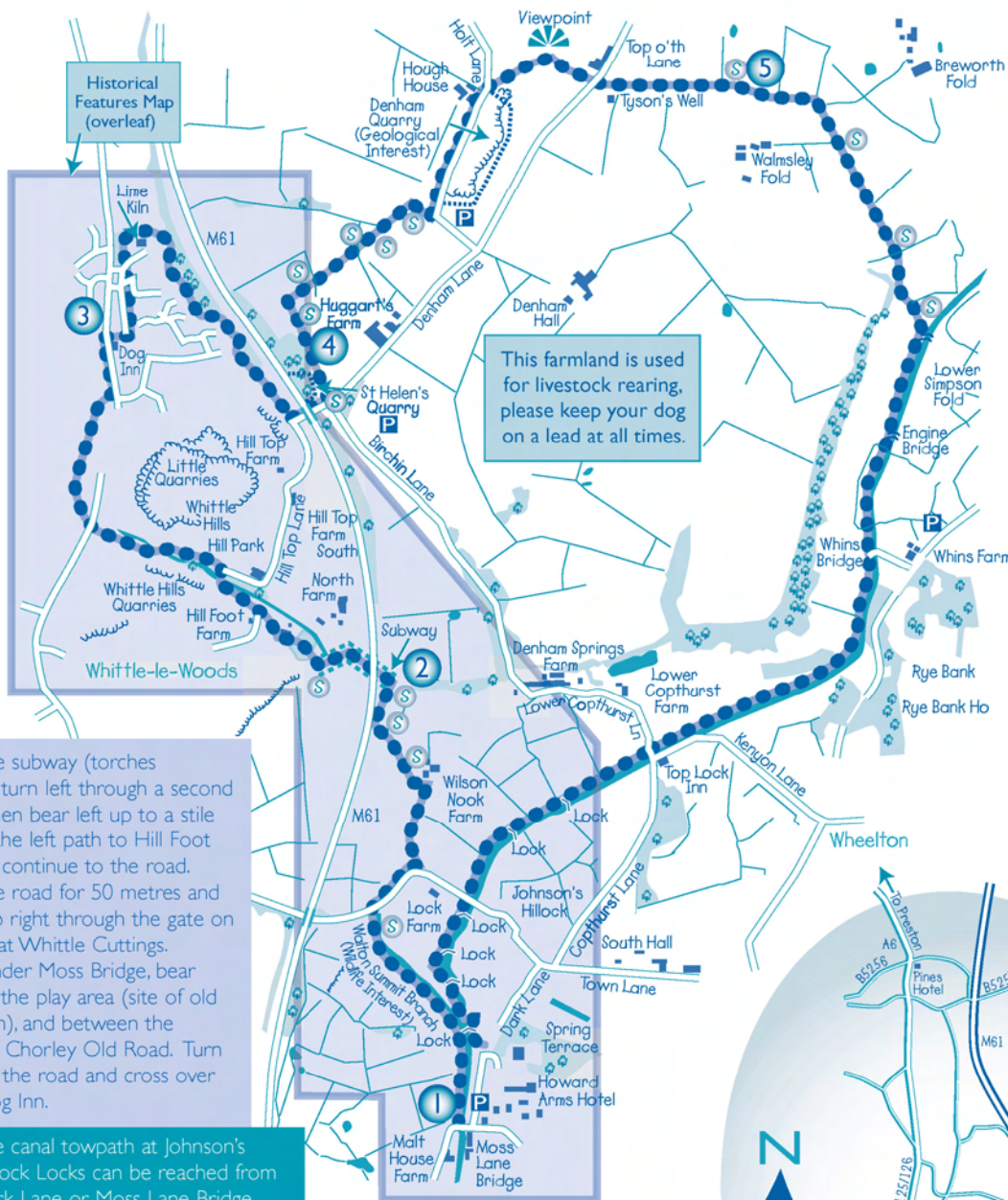
Take the path to the left of the pub and turn left past the housing estate. Cross the road and follow the righthand path to Lime Kiln. (A short distance ahead the remains of the tree lined canal cutting can be seen). Follow the path through the woodland onto Birch Lane and left over the motorway bridge. Go left immediately over a stile. Up steeply through fields behind St. Helen's Quarry.

4

Drop straight down to a small copse, over the stile and turn right up the hill to a small pond and across fields to Holt Lane. Turn left and either follow the lane, or take the path through Denham Quarry. Turn right up the track to the viewpoint, continue along the track to Denham Lane, go straight across and follow the track to a stile.

5

Continue along the field boundary to the corner gate then turn right along the fence to another site. Cross, turn right and go straight across the middle of the field, down the hill to a gate and stile. Continue straight on to a wooden footbridge, cross and go up to a stile onto the canal towpath. Turn right and follow the Leeds/Liverpool canal back to Johnson's Hillock Locks.



2

Follow the subway (torches essential), turn left through a second subway then bear left up to a stile and take the left path to Hill Foot Farm and continue to the road. Follow the road for 50 metres and turn sharp right through the gate on the canal at Whittle Cuttings. Passing under Moss Bridge, bear right past the play area (site of old canal basin), and between the houses to Chorley Old Road. Turn left down the road and cross over to the Dog Inn.

1

The canal towpath at Johnson's Hillock Locks can be reached from Dark Lane or Moss Lane Bridge near to Malt House Farm. Follow the left branch towpath to Town Lane, cross over, follow the road a short distance, turning left down a narrow lane between houses towards Wilson Nook Farm. About 35m before the farm take the stile on your left and follow the path onto the old canal embankment. After the 3rd stile keep to the path by the motorway fence. Go down the bank to the motorway subway.

**P** There are a number of informal parking places available

**S** Stile



How to get to Whittle-le-Woods

