

**SUGGESTED START:** Layby in Copster Green (BB1 9EP, SD 6755 3378)

**DISTANCE:** 11.7 km / 7.3 miles

**TIME:** 4 hours (plus sight-seeing and wildlife watching)

**TERRAIN:** Farmland, tracks and some pavement

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate/Hard

**OS MAP REFERENCE:** It is advisable to use OS Explorer Map 287 with this guide.

 25 (Clitheroe - Blackburn)  
280 (Preston - Skipton)

 Limited on-street parking in Copster Green

 The Bonny Inn, Salesbury

 Co-op, Wilpshire

 The Bonny Inn, Salesbury

 **WILDLIFE:** Herons can frequently be spotted along the quiet streams on this route. Also keep an eye out for dippers and grey wagtails along the water's edge. Reed buntings have been spotted in



Dipper

wetland habitat in this area. The upland sections of the walk are ideal habitat for wildlife such as buzzards, sparrowhawks, hares and lapwings. Barn owls and tawny owls have also been heard and seen in the area at suitable times of day.



Buzzard

#### WHAT TO EXPECT:

Starting in Copster Green, the route heads down towards Dinckley. Crossing both Park Brook and Dinckley Brook, the walk continues across farmland and up to the village of Salesbury. The route continues to climb towards Showley Brook before returning to Copster Green. Fantastic views of Pendle Hill and Longridge Fell can be enjoyed at many points on this route. The terrain is mainly farmland which is wet and muddy in places, therefore wellies or walking boots are recommended for this walk. Livestock are present in some of the fields on this route, so please keep dogs on a lead. If cattle get too close or become excitable, let the dog off the lead.



Showley Brook

#### LOOK OUT FOR:

**1. Copster Green** was once home to many geese and other farmyard fowl, which would have congregated around the now vanished pond on the common. In more recent times, Copster Green was a popular picnic spot for residents of Blackburn visiting on the tram. The hamlet is laid out around a series of filled in and grassed over quarries.



Copster Green

**2. Copster Hall** - on the top of an outcrop of rock above Copster Green stands Copster Hall. The house has a date stone of 1615, but has been completely rebuilt since then. The property was originally used as a hunting lodge for the deer park of Salesbury Hall.



Copster Hall

**3. Lovely Hall** can be glimpsed from the fields leading to Ashes Farm. The hall was built in the 17th century on the site of an earlier building. The dwelling was home to powerful local families, the Boltons and Parkers, for five centuries. There is still a working farm adjacent to the hall.

**4. St Peter's church** - prior to 1807, residents of Salesbury would have had to have travelled to Ribchester or Blackburn to attend church. The original church built in Salesbury was called the 'White Church' and was located towards the lower end of the current churchyard. The present church, St Peter's, was built in 1887.



St Peter's church

**5. Clayton Grange** was the home of Sir Robert Raynsford Jackson, president of the Textile Employers' Federation. In May 1878, factory workers' wages were reduced by 10% due to poor trade. This decision led to riots through Blackburn, with an angry mob arriving at Clayton Grange and torching the house. The family escaped to the safety of the Bonny Inn and the house was eventually rebuilt. It was demolished in 1955 and an attractive turreted building now stands in its place.

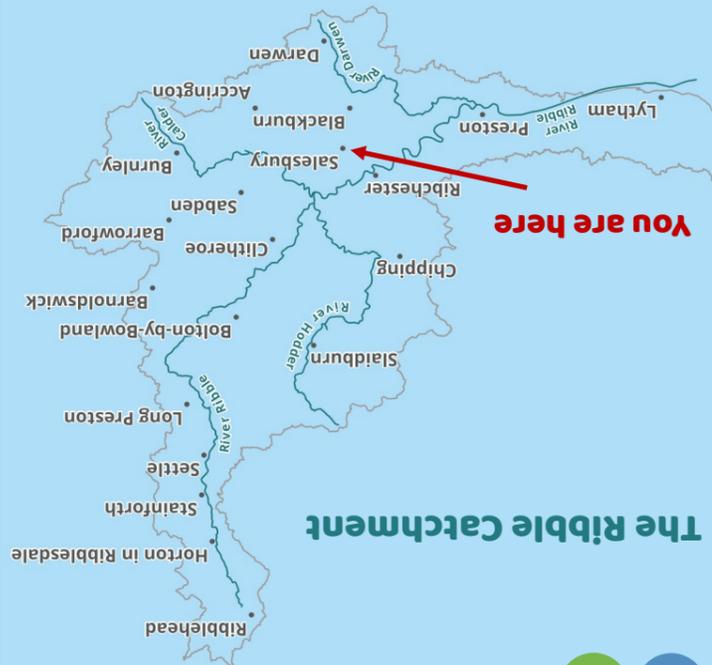


Clayton Grange

**6. Chinatown** - several dilapidated houses are visible from the track leading to Haggs Hall; these are locally nicknamed 'Chinatown'. After WWI, it was common for farmers to allow people to construct small, wooden bungalows on their land in return for a low ground rent. These properties allowed people to escape from mill towns such as Blackburn at the weekends. At its peak, there were around 30 bungalows on this site, which had no mains gas, electricity or water.

**7. Showley Brook woodland** - a new woodland was created along Showley Brook in 2015 as part of the 'Keeping Rivers Cool' project. For further information about the scheme, see overleaf.

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The Ribble Catchment



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## River Walks Park Brook

Taking in Park Brook, Dinckley Brook and Showley Brook, this route provides spectacular views of the Ribble Valley countryside.

Work undertaken by Ribble Rivers Trust to improve Showley Brook is visible from the route.

Distance: 11.7 km / 7.3 miles  
Difficulty: Moderate/Hard



This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project. Scan the QR code to find out more or visit [www.ribbonlife.org](http://www.ribbonlife.org). Download the Ribble Life app to accompany this route on Android and iPhone.

- Follow the Countryside Code: consider wildlife and other users
- Carry spare food and drinks
- Take a charged mobile phone, first aid kit, map and compass
- Wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for forecast conditions

#### Enjoy safely

- Ribble Valley Geotrails: Dinckley Gorge
- Viewranger: Marles Wood and Copster Green
- Wilpshire Parish Council: Across Wilpshire Moor

#### Nearby trails

Ribble Life Together is working to create a healthier river system by 2020 for people and wildlife. The project celebrates the heritage of the rivers, improving access and using the river to inspire and educate. Through practical environmental action, based on science, we aim to leave a positive legacy for the future.

#### Thank you!

To National Lottery Players for funding the project and Mark Sutcliffe, Mike Sumner, Patricia Smith and Community History at Blackburn Central Library for support in developing and trialling the route.

Photography: M. Sutcliffe, Blackburn Central Library & H. Smith.



## ROUTE DIRECTIONS

### A. Copster Green to Park Brook

From the little layby along the edge of the grassed common (grid reference SD 6755 3378), head north along the bridleway, keeping the green to your right. Where the bridleway splits, keep to the left and cross the A59 (with care) opposite the restaurant. Turn right, following the pavement round the bend, past the chevron signs, then take the footpath on the left towards a white bungalow. Walk up the track, over the cattle grid and continue for 500 m past the barn and then the farm buildings. Enjoy fantastic views of Pendle Hill ahead. Head diagonally left across the field to a footbridge over Park Brook. Continue straight to a stone stile.



### B. Dinckley

Once over the stile, continue straight, following the remnants of an old stone wall. Skirt the oak coppice and go over the stile, continuing straight ahead towards the buildings in the distance. At the property, go over the stile and head left along the fence, past the front of Dinckley Grange. Join the tarmac track and follow it to the lane. Beware of fast-moving traffic on the lane. Turn right and continue for approximately 1/4 mile, then follow the footpath to the right over a stile. Head straight across the field to a kissing gate next to Dinckley Brook. Once through the gate, head towards the bridge, **but do not cross it.**



Instead, head right, up the slope and across to the top left corner of the field. Go over the stile and turn left, rejoining the track to Dinckley Grange. Go over the stile in front of the house, head left round the corner of the fence and then diagonally right (2 o'clock direction) over the field to a footbridge over Park Brook.

### C. To Dewhurst Farm

Climb along the right-hand side of the trees, then diagonally right across the field. Go over the stile and keep straight to reach the next footbridge (take care on the footbridge!). Continue along the field boundary to your left, looking out for a stile on your left. Once over the stile, keep the hedge line on your right. Follow the hedge to the stile onto the A59. Take care on the roadside; the traffic can be very fast-moving. Cross the road with care and take the track to Dewhurst Farm. Follow the track past the properties and downhill to a stile. Then bear right, going over the stile ahead.

### D. To Ashes Farm

Head straight on, following the left-hand field boundary. Go over the stile and take the stile directly on the right. Follow the well-trodden path and the line of trees straight ahead, then head slightly left to the stile on the far side of the field. Once over the stile, keep the fence to your right and follow it round the left-hand bend on the corner, then go over the stile on your right. Head straight across the field to the metal gate and stile. Follow the track to Ashes Farm, going through two more metal gates.



### E. To Salesbury

Once out of the farmyard, keep straight on the track and cross Lovely Hall Lane at the end. Head slightly right to take the track indicated with a fingerpost. Before reaching the property, take the stile to the left of the gateway. Cross the field behind the school and head for the top right corner. Go over the stile and through the squeeze gap to join Ribchester Road. Take care crossing the road.

### F. To Showley Brook

Head right, walking for about 30 m, then take the track to the left, following the fingerpost set back from the main road. Where the path forks to the right, take the right-hand path. Head for the stile to the left of the pylon ahead. Continue over the footbridge, crossing Showley Brook. Continue through the fields, over a series of 3 stiles, before climbing steeply.



In the steep field, head towards the top right-hand corner and over a stile to join the tarmac track, then turn right. Look out for the derelict cottages on your right (*Chinatown - see overleaf for more information*). Continue to follow the tarmac track and descend through the gate to Hags Hall Farm. Immediately through the gate, continue straight on and look out for a large footpath sign leading straight ahead to a metal gate. Do not go as far as the farmhouse. Go through the field, along the back of the chicken sheds. At the end of the sheds, take the gate on the right and head straight down the field for about 200 m. Halfway down the field, look out for a footpath sign on a tree and turn left across the field, going over a footbridge in the trees. Cross the field, heading towards the large oak tree ahead, then keep the fence line to your right. Keep going straight, through a section of overgrown green lane and then head left onto the track. After 10 m, take the gate to the right. Head across the paddock, around the back of the farm building and use the stile to the farmyard. Follow the track for approximately 500 m.



### G. Return to Copster Green

After the fourth cattle grid, turn right, keeping the fence line on your right-hand side and go through the kissing gate. Head straight and go over a rudimentary stone stile at the side of a gate (slightly right of the pylon ahead). Go straight, through 2 metal gates and follow the track uphill. Go over a stile, continuing straight to join Ribchester Road, then turn left. Walk approximately 150 m along the road, taking care around traffic, and go through the kissing gate on the right. Once the field opens out, beyond the garden on the left, keep to the left of the line of trees ahead and continue downhill. When the field narrows, continue straight, keeping the fence on your right-hand side and go through the small metal gate at the bottom of the field. Follow the track to Lovely Hall Lane and cross over to the common to reach the starting point.

**THE RIVERS:** Park Brook winds its way through Copster Green and Dinckley before joining the Ribble near Old Langho. Showley Brook is the culmination of several small watercourses flowing down from Ramsgreave and Wilpshire, and joins Park Brook at Copster Green. The land around Park Brook and Showley Brook is predominantly agricultural.



This walk route passes close to the Ribble Way near the Sale Wheel. The Sale Wheel is a circular pool on the River Ribble at Dinckley which has been created by the movement of the river. It has long been said to be a prime fishing location.

### Ribble Rivers Trust projects (see points on map)

**Showley Brook woodland:** In 2015, 850 trees were planted along Showley Brook and over 1 km of the brook was fenced off to livestock. The woodland was part of the 'Keeping Rivers Cool' project in which 10,000 trees were planted and 10 km of fencing were installed at 13 sites. The project was supported by SITA, DEFRA and the Woodland Trust. Amongst many other benefits, the trees help to provide shade along the brook which is vital for fish and other species during warm weather.

**Hags Hall pond:** In 2018, a wetland pond was created next to Showley Brook to support natural flood management and provide habitat for wading birds.

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