

Calder Vale Walk: Mills along the Brock

Start Point

Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens

SD 536 449



Distance/Time

8 miles

4.5 hrs



Terrain

Tracks, fields, roads and riverside paths. Gates and stiles can be very wet underfoot

OS Explorer

OL41

'Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale'

Walk Description

This route is waymarked with a blue disc labelled 'Calder Vale Walk Blue 2'.



1 Head south from Cobble Hey along the track to the road.

2 Turn left and take the first footpath to the right.

3 Cross the field diagonally to Foggs Farm. Before the farm go through the gate at the corner of the field and then through a kissing gate.

4 Straight across 2 fields and out through a gate onto Gonder Lane.

5 Turn right along the lane and take first footpath to the left along a track, past High House Farm.

6 When the track bends left go through the gate on the right and follow the path across several fields to Clarkson's Farm and out along the drive onto the road.

7 At the road turn right and take the next road on the left down to Walmsley Bridge.

8 Before the bridge take the stile on the left and follow the River Brock up-stream until you reach a track.

9 Turn right along this track, which becomes a well-walked path, passing the ruins of Brock Bottoms Mill and Cottages, and on to Brock picnic site.

10 Climb the steps up to the road, turn right and cross the road bridge. Turn left through the stone gateway (Brock Mill). Immediately bear left in front of the houses and follow the path alongside the river up to the weir.

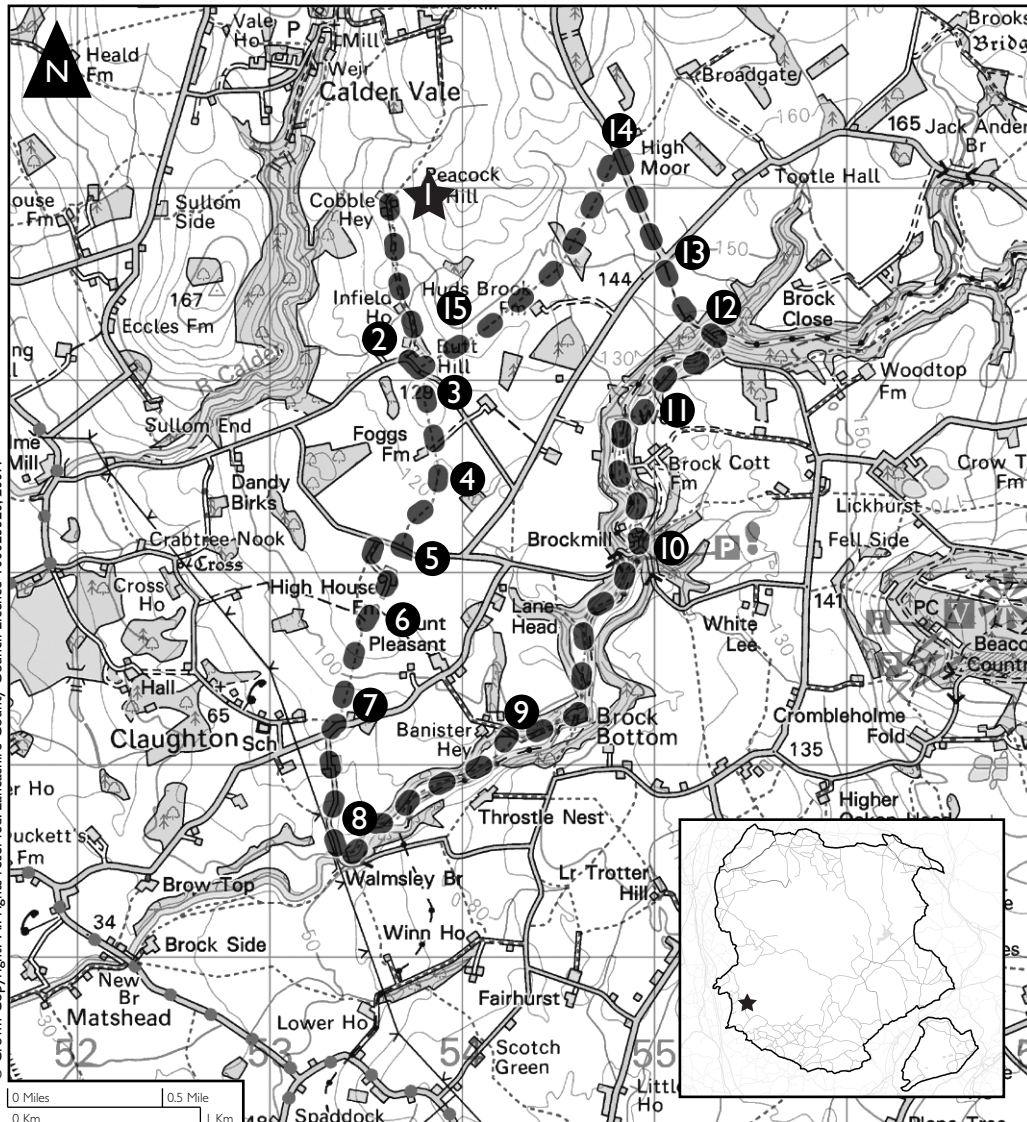
11 Follow the track up-stream past an old farmstead, take the path to the right of the buildings along a wooded bank and over a footbridge.

12 Go up the tree-lined track to a road T-junction.

13 Cross the road and follow Delph Lane uphill until you reach a stone wall stile on your left.

14 Go over this stile and cross over the fields into the wood, and out into fields, passing to the right of Huds Brook Farm. Continue through several fields until you reach Butt Hill Farm to your right and out onto Hobbs Lane.

15 Turn right along this lane and take the first track on your right back to Cobble Hey.



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About This Walk

The River Brock flows through a steep sided valley of semi natural ancient woodland, which during the spring is a botanists delight, with a wide array of wildflower species and a magnificent carpet of bluebells.

The woodland supports a variety of birds such as greater spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, treecreepers, long-tailed tits; typical summer migrants such as blackcap, willow warbler, chiffchaff, and garden warbler, as well as the more common woodland species. Dipper and grey wagtail can also be regularly seen along the river itself.

Brock Bottoms was once the site of a cotton spinning mill, with about 20 cottages built to accommodate the workforce. The mill was probably built in the 1790's by a Preston firm Lorimer & Company. After a chequered history and two re-incarnations as a roller making factory, and then a file making factory the mill finally closed in the 1930s. For some time the ground floor of the mill operated as a café, whilst the top floor was used for dancing on Saturday nights. Today the remains of the mill can still be seen, but the cottages are easily overlooked.

Sustainable Tourism

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a protected landscape that has international importance for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. In 2005 the AONB became the first protected area in England to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, joining just 30 other areas across Europe. The Charter is awarded to protected areas that are delivering tourism that is both nature and landscape friendly and which contributes to the economic development of the region. The Charter approach ensures that organisations, local people and businesses are working together to protect the area, whilst at the same time increasing opportunities for visitors to discover and enjoy its special qualities.

You can contribute to sustainable tourism by:

- Leaving the car at home and using public transport instead
- Purchasing local products, including food and drink
- Making a donation to the Bowland Tourism Environment Fund through donation boxes at participating businesses in the area

Countryside / Moorland Code



From a gentle stroll or relaxing picnic, to a long-distance walk or heart-pumping adventure, the countryside provides every opportunity for enjoyment and relaxation. If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you'll get the best enjoyment possible and you'll help to protect our open spaces now and for future generations.

1. Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
2. Leave gates and property as you find them
3. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
4. Keep dogs under close control
5. Consider other people
6. Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires

Safety

If you are going for a walk, it is strongly recommended that you:

- Dress appropriately - avoid wearing denim and any other clothing, which doesn't dry quickly. It is better to wear lots of lighter layers, which can be easily removed or added. Sturdy footwear and waterproofs are also a must
- Carry the right equipment - including an Ordnance Survey Map (OS Explorer OL41); compass; small first aid kit; high energy snack; something to drink; mobile phone (be aware that coverage can be patchy); whistle
- Always let someone know where you're going and what time you expect to be back
- Do not take any unnecessary risks.

If you are in difficulty or see someone in difficulty, please dial **999** and ask for **Mountain Rescue**

To report any other incident contact:

- **Countryside Service** - **01772 534 709**, open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday
- **Lancashire Constabulary** - **0845 1 25 35 45** or **999** for emergencies