

Stocks Reservoir

Start Point

School Lane
Car Park

★ SD 732 565

Distance/Time



8 Miles

3 Hrs

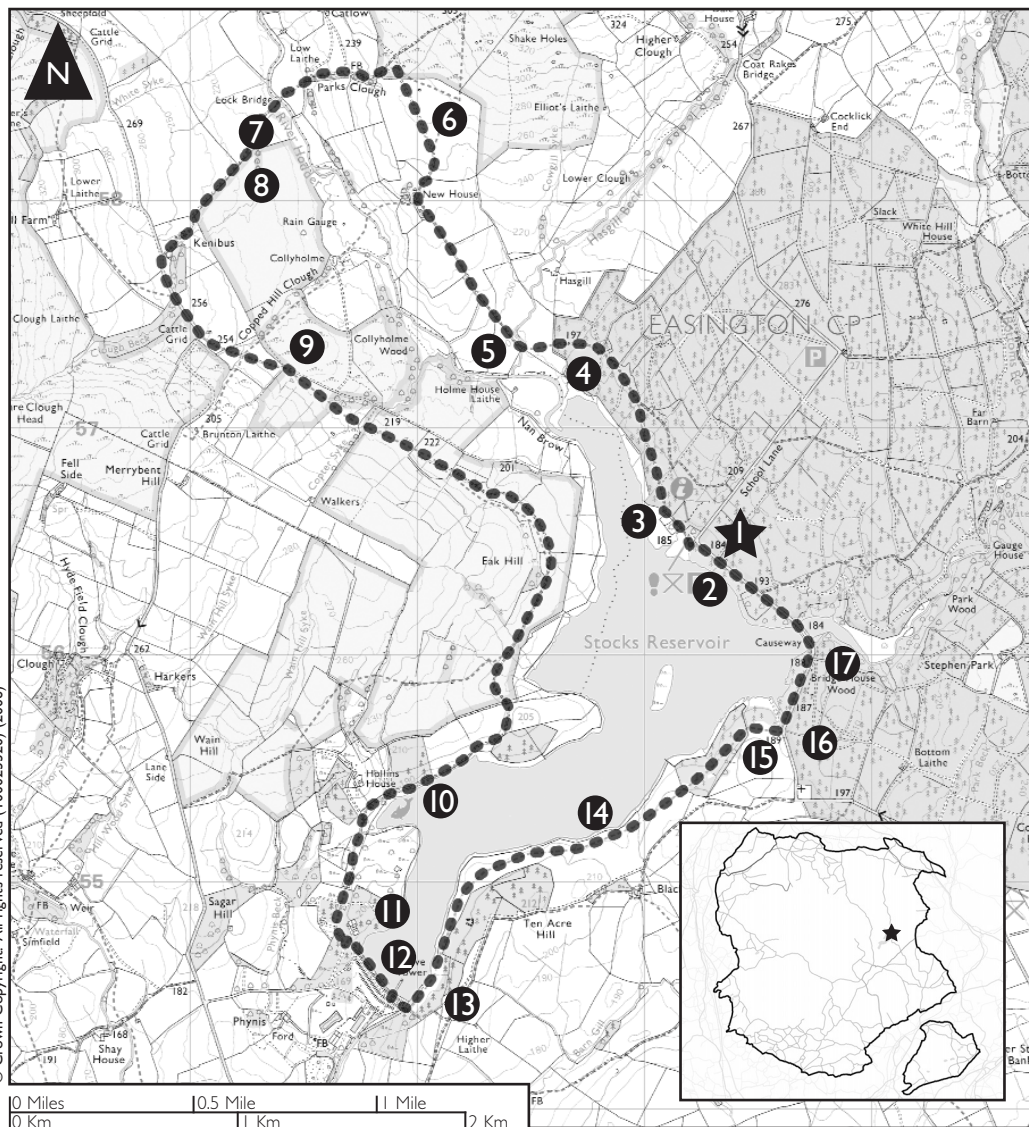
Terrain

Roads and tracks
Some stiles.

OS Explorer

OL41

'Forest of Bowland
and Ribblesdale'



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Walk Description

- ★ School Lane Car Park makes a good starting point for the reservoir walk and also for many forest trails. The walk is approximately 8 miles through fields and woodlands.
- 2 Picnic area and former site of St Marys Church which was reconstructed at its present site.
- 3 Bird Hide. Excellent observation point for many water related birds, ducks, geese, with the occasional rare visitor.
- 4 Site of Birch Hill Farm. The small building is all that remains. Many farms became unviable when the reservoir was constructed and afforestation of the land took place.
- 5 Lock Bridge over Hasgill Beck carried the old road which would connect the farms of Hasgill, New House and Collyholme.
- 6 New House Farm. Whilst the house and barn are derelict, the land is still farmed.
- 7 New footbridge replacing one which was washed away when the River Hodder was in flood condition.
- 8 Ruined remains of Collyholme Farm.
- 9 Route of old railway track taking walkers to the Fishing Lodge.
- 10 The Fishing Lodge - fishing is available during the season. Refreshments can also be obtained when open.
- 11 Stocks Board House - formerly offices of the Fylde Water Board. Now United Utilities Bowland Estate Office.
- 12 Stocks Reservoir Dam with huge overflow returning water to the River Hodder.
- 13 At the far end of the dam, cross the stile to join the old railway track.
- 14 Follow the path around the edge of the reservoir.
- 15 Wildflower Meadow - during the summer this is a good site for many wild flowers, including Orchids.
- 16 Cross the stile and turn left along the road.
- 17 Follow the path behind the hedge on your left to your starting point at School Lane Car Park.



Stocks Reservoir

About This Walk

The reservoir

Stocks reservoir was opened by HRH The Prince George on July 5th 1932. Annual rainfall here is about 1500mm (5 feet) and when full the reservoir covers an area of about 192 hectares, the equivalent of about 500 football pitches. After treatment, the water from Stocks goes mainly to the Fylde area of Lancashire.

Forestry

Gisburn Forest, to the north east of the reservoir, is a major part of the Stocks catchment area. The coniferous trees generate a useful raw material, contributing to the regional demand for timber. Small areas of ancient woodland are being supplemented by the creation of new native woodland providing a range of important wildlife habitats. The forest has also become an important recreation destination for locals and visitors alike.

Farming

The massive catchment area for the reservoir is split between three farms, all of which produce sheep as the mainstay. The principal breed is Swaledale and around 3000 animals are present for most of the year. It is important that visitors, especially those with dogs, take extra care to avoid disturbing the flocks.

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