



NORTHCOTE WALKS | DINKLEY AND MARLES WOOD



A gentle meander through verdant pastureland to an elegant footbridge over the River Ribble followed by a glorious riverside walk through mature woodland.

AT A GLANCE

How far? 10km / 6.2 miles

How long? 2 1/2 hours

How hard? Moderate: A gradual descent into the valley with a few stiles to cross. Some muddy sections and a couple of modest climbs

Dog-friendly? Keep dogs under close control and ideally on a lead.

Refreshments: The Black Bull, Old Langho



START

1. From main entrance cross Northcote Road and head downhill (right) along the narrow pavement. Please be careful as this stretch of road can get busy – especially if there's an event taking place at the equestrian centre. To the right, Pendle appears up the valley. Continue with care downhill past the stables, following the road right then left into Old Langho.

2. After 3/4 of a mile, at the junction beside Keeper's Cottage, head left then cross road with care and after 50m, just before the pub, take driveway right past the lodges and over the stile beside the gate into the field. Continue along the track running past the backs of the lodges, veering slightly left after 200m to follow faint path towards the farm buildings.

3. As you Descend into the wooded valley, you should just be able to spot the green turrets atop the spires of Stonyhurst College, nestling below the ridge of Longridge Fell away to the north. Descend to the footbridge and cross the stream then climb straight up the other side of the valley. At the lip of the valley, head half left across the field towards the farmhouse.

4. Continue through the metal gate beside the yellow marker post then straight on between the buildings and onto the lane. Continue along the lane for 500m into the village of Dinkley. At the junction, turn right and follow the lane for 200m before joining a driveway. The sign says private, but there is a right of way for walkers. Continue down the driveway into the woodland, following it round to the left and descending through the gate towards the river.

5. At the riverbank, turn left and follow the river downstream for a mile and a half. You'll pass the elegant rebuilt footbridge which replaces another bridge which was destroyed by the floods of 2015. Just downstream of the bridge, you'll find a stretch of Sandy beach - perfect for a spot of sunbathing or even a picnic!

Look out for kingfishers, dippers and woodpeckers as you continue downstream through the riverside pastures into Marles Wood. After 500m, just after the rocks where the Ribble meanders right into a huge lagoon, take the footpath off to the left, climbing through the trees.

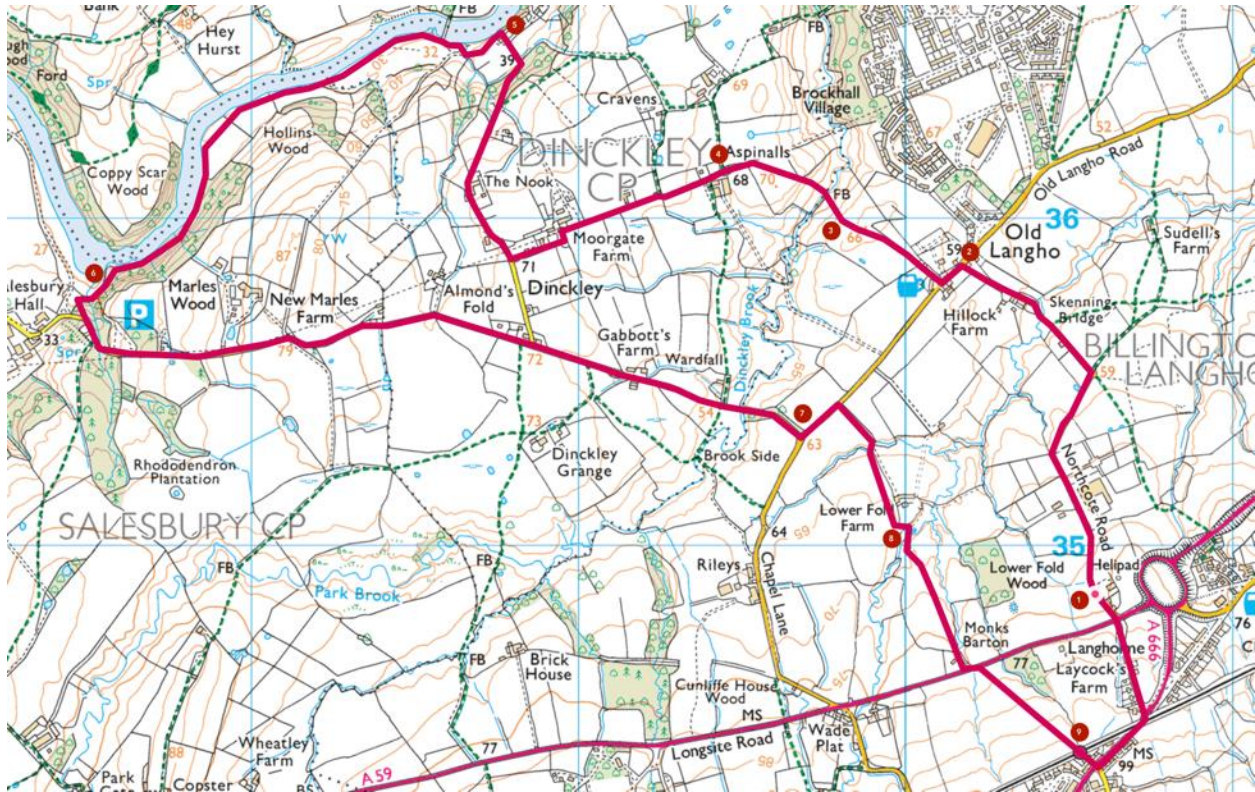
6. At fork, keep right, crossing the footbridge then following path round to the left and climbing again and over the stile to meet the road. Keeping mindful of the traffic, head left and continue uphill past the houses and car park. Continue along the lane, past Dinkley, for a mile and a half.

7. After the bridge, at junction, turn left, then after 150m, take footpath over stile on right and continue across the fields, over the footbridge and right through the gate. Continue along the field boundary to the barn. At barn, head slightly right across field to find a gate in the corner to your left.

8. Turn right through gate and follow track for another 300m. At main A59, turn left onto pavement and cross the road with care to stile and join footpath climbing diagonally left across the field to railway station.



9. Head through the underpass and continue up lane to main road, then turn left and continue on pavement under the railway bridge. After bridge, turn left into Northcote Road and descend to busy A59, crossing with care to return to the hotel.



To download and follow this route on your smartphone, click on the link:

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/9185724/Northcote-Walks-The-River-Ribble-and-Marles-Wood>