

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal, with a total length of 127 1/4 miles, was opened in 1816. It links the sea port of Liverpool with the Aire and Calder Navigation at Leeds so forming a through route between the Irish Sea and the North Sea. Although no longer vital to local industry it is now an important attraction for the leisure industry.



Pendle Canal Walks

Circular Walk 4

Foulridge Wharf & County Brook

ON THIS WALK

Points of interest:

- Foulridge Wharf - built in 1796
- Mile tunnel - look for the traffic lights just under the tunnel
- Mileage post at bridge 149
- Water inlet - just before bridge, feeding the canal from White Moor Reservoir
- Mount Pleasant Methodist Chapel - still holding services to this day

Flora and Fauna:

The area is home to a wide diversity of life. Watch for:

Heron, Tawny Owl, Chiffchaffs, Swans and Kingfishers

Water Voles, Bats, Hedgehogs and Rabbits

Primrose, Clover, Speedwell, Foxglove and Woodruff

The beautiful Willow, Aspen, Wild Rose and Hazel

HOW TO GET THERE

From end of M65 turn left onto Vivary Way, ahead at traffic lights to the roundabout. Take first exit left onto Harrison Drive, continue to the top, going straight across at next roundabout, until the road forks right up to the rugby club car park.

Alternatively...

Walk up to the top of Alkincoates Park, onto the lane past Rookery Cottage until you reach the woodland entrance on the right. On entering the woodland follow the path until you reach the first way marker pointing left.

Please Note: There is no parking adjacent to the woodland on Red Lane.

Further Information

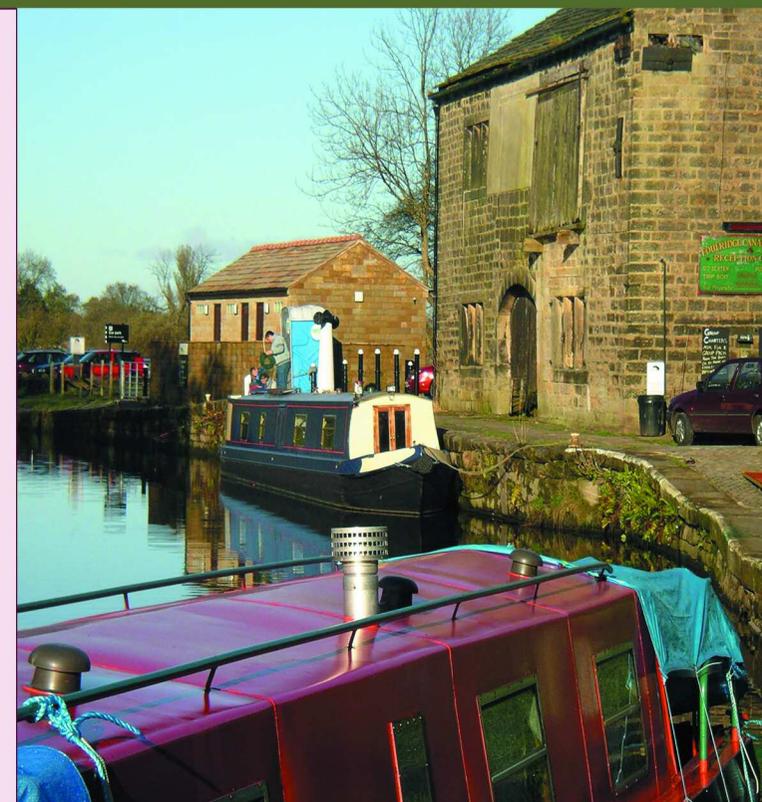
Contact tourist information on 01282 661701 for answers to queries or to be put in touch with members.

Alkincoates Woodland Nature Reserve Group are supported by: PCN, PEN, Groundwork, Pendle Borough Council, Forestry Commission/ ELWOOD, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Green Partnership Awards and Canal Corridor/ Big Lottery. Photographs kindly donated by group members, Vikki Greenwood & Peter Laycock.

Funding for this leaflet



Approx 5 Miles, 3 Hours
Moderate to Hard



Blue tip and Red Admiral Butterflies, Water Boatmen and Pond



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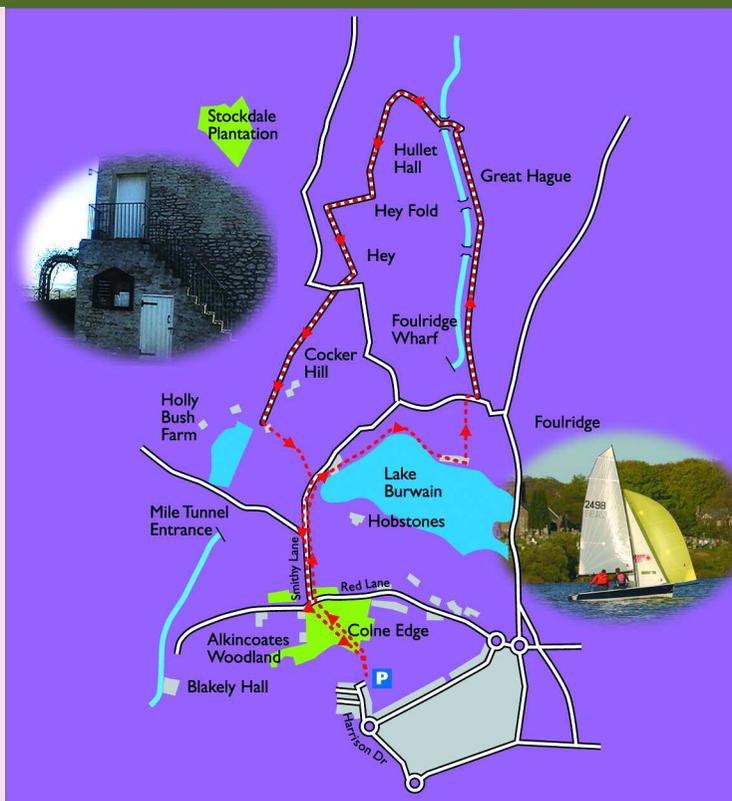
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Arrive rugby club car park and walk directly across rugby field to access woodland. Follow the stone way markers to the exit onto Red Lane. Cross the road and go down Smithy Lane, crossing the ford and continuing along the road until the entrance to Lake Burwain (also the entrance to the sailing club). Take the footpath going off to the left around the lake until you see a footpath sign for Foulridge Wharf.

Follow the signs for the wharf then continue along the towpath, cross the third bridge and go over the stile on the right. Walk up the hill, through two gates, seeing a large white building on the right (County Brook Mill). Walk up the lane until you reach Mount Pleasant Chapel on your left. Take the footpath by the side of the chapel until you arrive at the road at Hill Top.

Turn right up the road and take the stile on your left into a field. Follow the footpath across the field to a small gate and go straight across the two driveways. Continue along the edge of the next field, keeping the stone wall on your left until you reach a stile that leads onto a stony path. Follow the stony path downhill to Sand Hall House. At the bottom, turn left and follow the track back towards Burwain sailing club crossing the old railway line.

At the end of the track (with sailing club in front) turn right. Cross the bridge at the ford and follow Smithy Lane back up the hill to Alkincoates Woodland.



Many places in Colne have local names and the ancient Smithy Lane is no exception. Also known as Blue Slate Lane and best known to Colners as 'Shirt Neck Harry'. The Harry in question was Harry Rycroft, born in 1775, who as a young man became a navy on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. He walked up Smithy Lane every day from Blue Slate farm to buy provisions but being a working man wore neither collar or tie. As a local character he soon acquired the name of 'Shirt Neck Harry' and the lane is still known as this even to this day.

Foulridge Wharf was completed in 1796 and the warehouses were built in 1815 to house the raw American cotton brought up via the canal for use in local mills.

Shortly after the bridge a large white building can be seen – County Brook Mill. This was a corn mill before the canal was built and the mill took both its name and power from County Brook stream. The stream formed the boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire prior to 1974. For many years the mill was known as 'Stew Mill' from stewing down oak bark for dyeing.

