

Produced by Chris and Margaret Abel.

Acknowledgements: Jon Hickling.

Revised 2018

PARBOLD WALK No 2

CIRCULAR WALK FROM BRAMBLE WAY CAR PARK (WN8 7HZ) WITH OPTIONAL DETOUR TO THE SITE OF THE OLD DOUGLAS CHAPEL

About Parbold - Parbold is a small township in West Lancashire. It is situated 6 Km (4 miles) from J27 of the M6. It can also be accessed via the regular rail service which runs between Wigan and Southport. The name Parbold is drawn from Old English and means the "Pear Orchard". Its name still reflects its quiet and rural atmosphere.

Overview - This is a varied walk which includes Chapel Lane Meadow, Parbold's Biological Heritage site, a stroll through the grounds of Our Lady's & All Saints' Church and a short detour to visit the site of the old Douglas Chapel, which was built in 1240. Refreshments can be obtained from the various pubs and cafes in Parbold.

It includes one fairly steep ascent up across a field and **there are some stiles**. There is a short route around Chapel Lane Meadow from the car park suitable for wheelchairs.

Bramble Way car park is approximately ten minutes walk from Parbold Railway Station and the bus stop.

Distance: Approximately 2.75 Km/ 1.75miles

Grade: Moderate

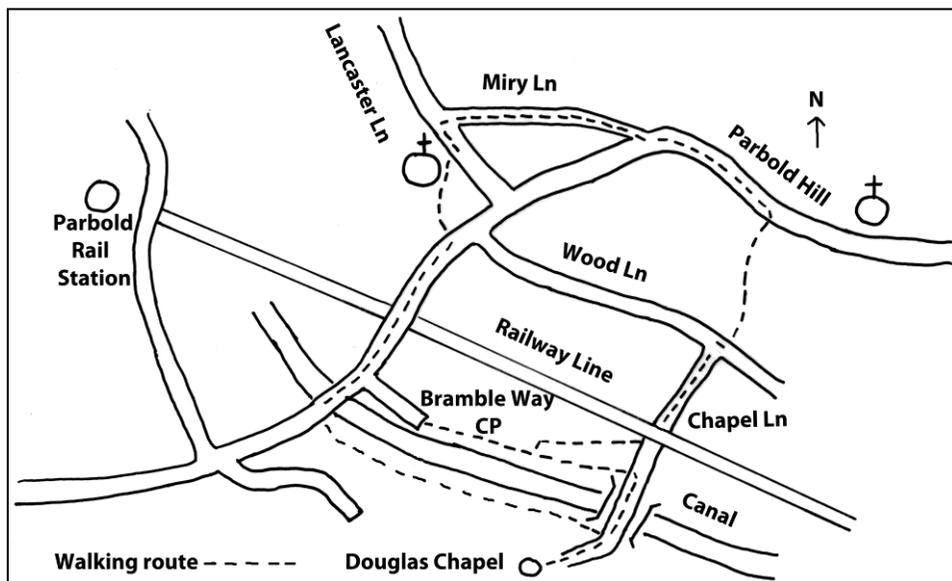
Walk start point: Bramble Way car park. NGR SD 495104

OS Map: Explorer 285 Southport and Chorley (1:25,000)
Landranger 108 Liverpool (1:50,000)

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear; keep to the paths and close gates. Please keep dogs under control and do not leave any litter.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in preparing the walks. No liability can be accepted and people using the routes do so at their own risk. Date of printing 2011. The series of 6 walks are posted on www.parboldonline.info – Walks page.

Walk No.2



Wildlife notes: There are large reed beds in the canal, where reed and sedge warblers can be heard in summer. Along the path there are large clumps of comfrey and some field scabious. **Chapel Lane Meadow** supports yellow rattle, lady's smock, meadow buttercups, as well as various grasses and sedges. Southern marsh and spotted orchids flower in late May/early June, followed by meadow vetchling, tufted vetch and knapweed. Gatekeeper and meadow brown butterflies can be seen fluttering in the many wild flowers during the summer months. Amongst the many birds to be seen are common whitethroat, bullfinch, willow warbler, reed bunting and barn owl.

Chapel Lane, with its avenue of oak trees, is used by pipistrelle and daubentins bats in the evenings. Toads also use this route on their way to and from their breeding ponds. As you walk up the field towards the church you may see buzzards and kestrels. Jackdaws nest in the belltower at **Christchurch**, dropping large twigs over the churchyard in spring. **Miry Lane** is a wooded dell with oak and ash trees, bluebells, hedge garlic, red campion, herb robert and male ferns. Amongst the mature trees in the churchyard nuthatches and treecreepers can often be seen. As you walk back along the towpath, notice the large crack willows on the right (used for making cricket bats). Kingfishers are frequently seen on the canal near Chapel House bridge. You may also see dragonflies, banded demoiselles and damselflies in this area.

Starting from Bramble Way car park, follow the path towards the iron railings keeping these on your right. The path then runs parallel to the canal past an alder copse. Just before the next woodland starts, by the culvert and wooden fence, turn left and follow the path over the rough ground to a gap in the trees on the right. Turn right here into Chapel Lane Meadow, which is a Biological Heritage Site. Walk round the meadow and exit at the far side onto Chapel Lane. Turn left and go over the level crossing.

At the top of the lane, where it joins Wood Lane, turn right and then immediately left by the lamp post, and go over the stile. Walk straight up the field, keeping to the path between the fences, for approximately 300 metres and go over the stile, being careful of the main road, Parbold Hill. *To the right is Parbold Parish Church, Christ Church, built in 1875. Next to it is the old primary school built with stone from the Old Douglas Chapel.*

Cross the road, turn left down the hill and after about 100 metres go through some bollards and walk down Miry Lane. Go through a second set of bollards and follow the lane downhill to the left. At the end of Miry Lane cross Lancaster Lane and turn left. After 60 metres turn right into the Roman Catholic Churchyard. *The Church was built by Hugh and Richard Ainscough in 1884. This is private land, but the path is open to the public by kind permission of the Parish Priest.* Go through the Church grounds following the path as it bears left through some woodland. Cross a stream and go through an iron gate back onto the main road. Turning right down the hill, go over the railway-bridge and then just past the traffic lights cross the road and go down onto the towpath. Turn right and continue on to the next bridge. Go under the bridge and turn immediately right. To see the site of the old Douglas chapel, walk through the houses and the cross can be seen on the left. *These buildings were once part of the settlement of Chapel House.* Go back to the canal bridge and cross over the canal. Turn immediately left and follow the path back to the car park at Bramble Way.



Short route for wheelchair users – Starting from Bramble Way car park

Follow the path towards the iron railings keeping these on your right. The path then runs parallel to the canal past an alder copse. Just before the next woodland by the culvert and wooden fence, turn left and follow the path over the rough ground to a gap in the trees on the right. Turn right here into Chapel Lane Meadow, which is a Biological Heritage Site. Follow the path to the left and keep on it all the way round the field until it exits the field and re-joins the path along the canal. Turn right and follow it back to the car park at Bramble Way.