



*Produced by Chris and Margaret Abel*

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*Revised 2018*

## PARBOLD WALK No 5

### CIRCULAR WALK FROM THE CANAL BANK CAR PARK, STATION ROAD, PARBOLD WN8 7NU

**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 circular walk following the canal towpath and then climbing quite steeply to Dalton Lees, returning back across the fields via Chapel House and the site of the old Douglas Chapel. It includes bluebell woodlands and spectacular views on clear days. **There are stiles and hills and some areas are very boggy.** Refreshments can be obtained at the pubs and cafes in Parbold.

The Car Park is approximately five minutes walk from Parbold Railway Station and a bus stop.

*The canal is the longest in Britain at 127 miles and is the only navigable trans-Pennine route - providing a route to the Yorkshire Dales. The first section was opened in 1774.*

**Distance:** Approximately 7.25 Km (4.75miles)

**GRADE:** Moderate

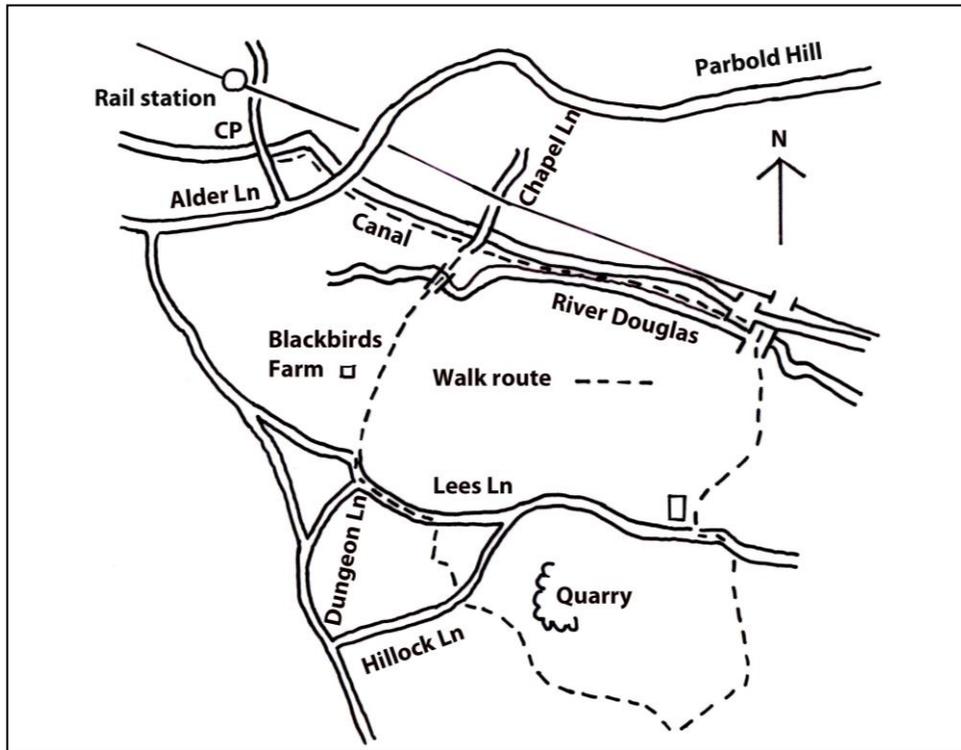
**Walk start point:** Canal bank car park. NGR SD 491 105

**OS maps:** 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 2018. The series of 6 walks are posted on [www.parbold.info](http://www.parbold.info), Walks page.

## Walk No. 5



**Wildlife notes:** This is a varied walk with oak and alder woodlands where bluebells and wild garlic can be seen flowering in spring. Kingfishers are frequently seen on the canal and river Douglas. Flocks of fieldfares and redwings can be seen in winter feeding on hawthorn berries in the many hedgerows. Buzzard, barn owl, little owl, warbler, common whitethroat, bullfinch and lesser redpoll all frequent the area at various times of the year, as there are large areas of scrub, reeds and sedges.

There are a number of boggy areas enroute supporting greater birdsfoot trefoil, watermint, sneezewort, creeping buttercup and ragged robin.

Just before crossing Hillock Lane look for a herb rich pasture on the right which attracts many butterflies in summer due to large areas of knapweed.

**Walk out of the car park**, cross the road and turn right and then turn left down the towpath towards Wigan. Follow the towpath for approximately 2 kilometres. At the third bridge, No 40, follow the track branching right and cross over the river Douglas. Continue on this farm track going straight on as it continues uphill until it passes some houses on the right and meets a road (Lees Lane). Turn left and after approximately 100 metres turn right at the signposted footpath opposite Lower House Farm.

Follow this path as it climbs steeply uphill with woodland on your right. At the very top where the main track turns sharply left, turn right and follow the path down into the woodland, crossing a small wooden bridge and stile into a field. Walk straight across the field towards a line of trees and a fence. **This area can be very wet, but there are spectacular views of the Lancashire Coastal Plain, Blackpool Tower and the West Pennines.** Cross the small wooden bridge and turn left along the track, keeping the fence on your left, until you reach a small gate. Go through the gate and keep straight on through some trees until you reach the woodland on the far side. Go over the stile and turn immediately right following the track downhill until you reach a tarmac lane (Hillock Lane).

Turn left here and immediately right at a large house; walk down the tarmac drive (sign for Rookery Cottage on wall). Ignoring the stile on your right continue to the end of the drive, through the end of the garden with a hedge on your right, to a gap in the hedge with a waymarked stile. The large house on the left has a date mark of 1718. *There are good views of the Douglas Valley from here.* Cross the stile, turn right and walk straight down to the metal gate at the bottom of the field. Cross a stile and turn left on a tarmac lane (Lees Lane).

Continue on this lane, passing Dungeon Lane on the left, and take the next footpath right at the entrance to Blackbird's Farm/Lees Lane Nursery. The definitive route goes through the gate and past the farmhouse, but there is an optional diversion to the right which runs parallel to the drive. Go past the greenhouses and after passing wooden buildings on the left, follow the path to the left with a stream on the right. Turn right and over a stile into a field. Go straight down the field to another stile. Go over this and follow the line of site to the Church on the hill, ahead of you, to the metal bridge over the river Douglas.

Cross the bridge and walk straight across the next field to another stile and gate. Follow the path as it bears right between the houses passing the site of the old Douglas Chapel on your right and then bearing right walk back onto the towpath. Turn left and walk back to the car park.

