

Produced by Chris and Margaret Abel.

Acknowledgements: Jon Hickling.

Revised 2018

PARBOLD WALK No 6

**CIRCULAR WALK FROM CAR PARK AT HUNTERS HILL QUARRY, HILLDALE
(One mile north of Parbold) WN6 9QB**

About Parbold - Parbold is a small township in West Lancashire. It is situated 6 Km (4miles) 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 mainly across farmland, with spectacular views on clear days. It passes the ruin of the old windmill on Harrock Hill whilst Hunters Hill quarry is for the most part a nature reserve, and is worth a detour to look for Fern leaf fossils. There are tremendous views of the coast and West Pennines on this walk. **There is one moderately steep ascent, quite a few stiles and some steps.** Refreshments can be obtained at the pubs in the area.

Distance: Approximately 5.5 Km (3.5 miles)

Grade: Moderate

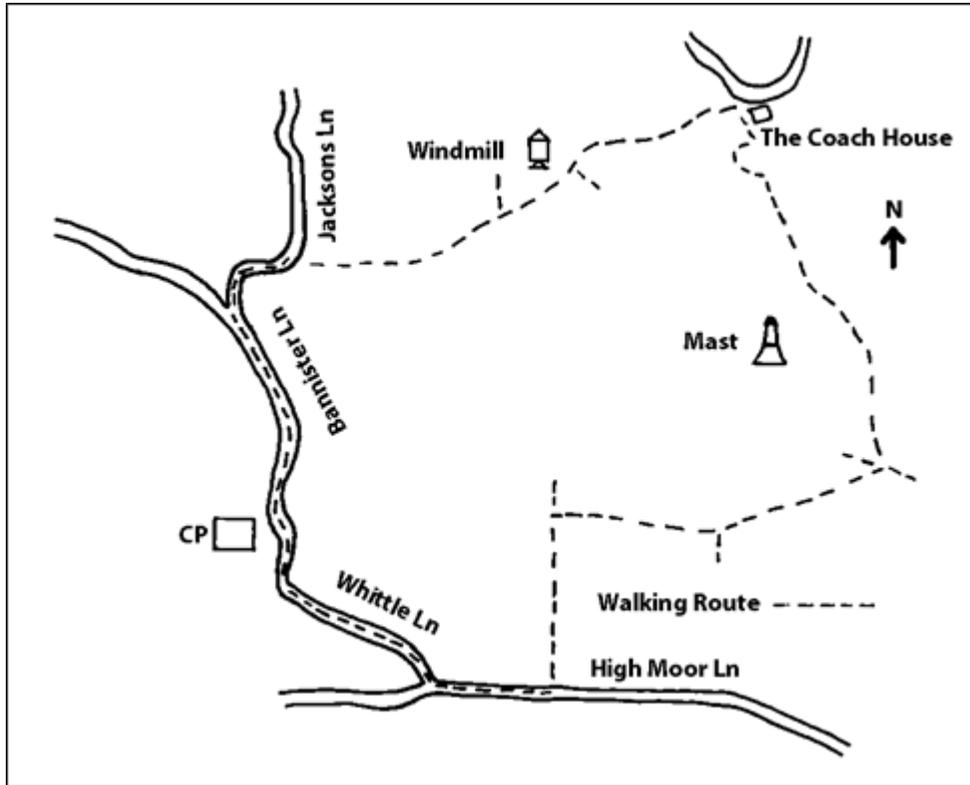
Walk start point: Hunters Hill car park. NGR SD 503 123

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, Walks page.

Walk No. 6



Wildlife notes: This is a very varied walk passing through areas of gorse scrub as well as open fields. The path goes through large areas of gorse where linnets, yellowhammers and willow warblers may be seen, as well as coal tits and goldcrests. In scrubby areas by the windmill on Harrock Hill one may hear blackcap, chiffchaff and common whitethroat during the summer months. Buzzards may be seen flying over large open fields, while lapwings can be seen on the sheep grazed pasture at certain times of the year. Hares may also be seen.

Walk out of the car park at the Quarry, cross the road and turn left. (*There are extensive views of the Lakeland and Bowland Fells and the Ribble Estuary*). This is a busy road (Bannister Lane) so walk downhill with care passing the entrance to Harrock Hall Farm on the right until you come to Jacksons Lane. Turn down this lane and at the grass triangle take the left fork. After about 50 metres turn right on the signposted track (Sign for Bow Wood Barn on shed).

Follow this uphill past some wooden buildings until you come to a gate and stile into a field. Cross the stile and continue uphill, keeping the hedge and the gorse on your right, to a stile at the top of the field from where there are panoramic views of the Ribble estuary, Blackpool Tower, Barrow in Furness, Kirkby Moor and the Wind turbines at Seaforth. Cross the stile, continue uphill, keeping close to the fence and wall on the left. Turn left over a ladder stile in the wall and turn immediately right (ignore the path ahead going downhill). Continue on the path following the wall on your right. This takes you past the remains of the windmill, just visible on the left.

Continue straight ahead with the wall still on your right (ignore path going off to the right at a gate). The path eventually joins a track going downhill between walls and exits through a gate. Go past the farm buildings and just before a house ('The Coach House') turn right, walk down the drive and continue on the narrow path on the right of a house ('Thornclyffe'), up some steps round a large garden and into a field. Turn left, and follow path round the edge of the field to a gap in the trees (ignoring bridge and path to left at the corner). Go through the gap and turn right. (*From here there are panoramic views of Chorley, the West Pennines and beyond*). Follow the track keeping a hedge on your right (notice phone mast on the right) as it crosses a large open field. When the hedge ends, continue across the field under some electricity cables and enter a track through a disused gateway. At the end cross over a track, and then over the stile in the stone wall ahead of you.

Turn right, follow the path marked across a rough field with a woodland on the left, and over another stile into a field. Keeping the hedge on your left continue to the right of a bungalow, over a stile and out onto a tarmac track. Turn left and after about 50 metres where the wooden fencing ends take the path on the right. Go through the kissing gate and keeping the woodland on your left go over a stile in the corner of the field.

Keeping the edge of the wood on your left, exit through a gate onto a concrete road. Turn left and follow it back to the road (High Moor Lane). Turn right and walk along this road eventually passing the Rigby Arms on your left and Whittle Fold Farm with a duck pond on your right. At junction of Whittle Lane/Bannister Lane cross the road and join the footpath running parallel to the road, past the sign for Hunters Hill Quarry, back to the Car Park.

