



For more information about **Parbold Wildlife Group**, go to:
<http://www.parboldonline.info/local-info/conservation.html>
See us on Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/parboldwildlifegroup>



Produced by Chris and Margaret Abel

Acknowledgements: Jon Hickling. Chris Abel

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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

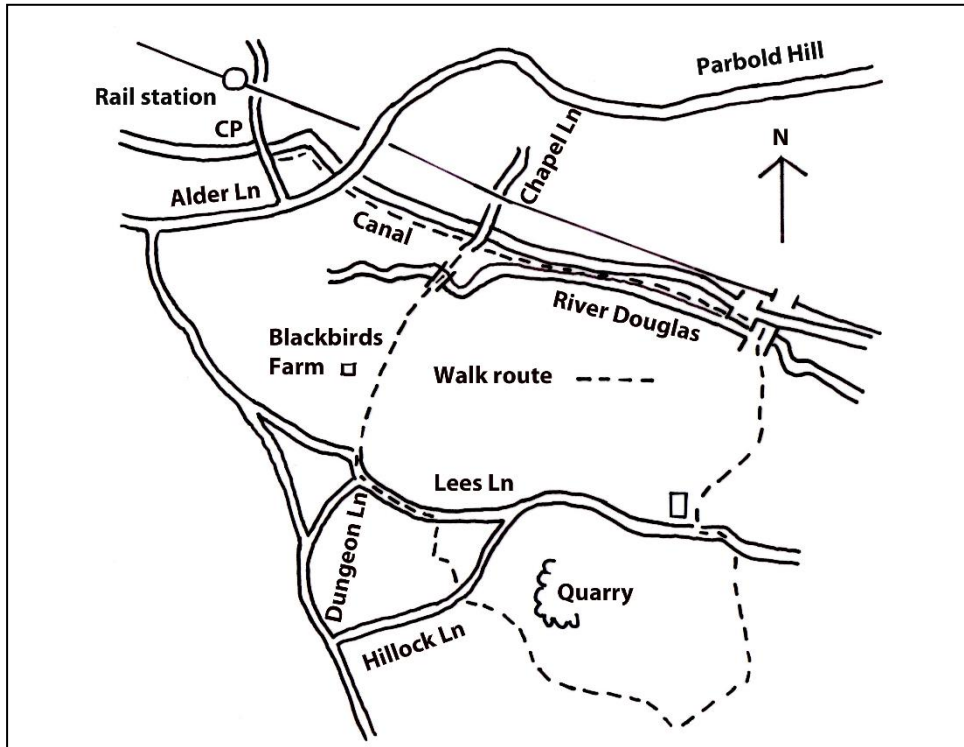
OS maps: Explorer 285 Southport and Chorley (1:25,000)
Landranger 108 Liverpool (1:50,000)

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear; keep to the paths and close gates. Please keep dogs under control and do not leave any litter. There may be livestock in the fields.

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.

The series of 6 walks are posted on <http://www.parboldonline.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, Warblers, 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 on the walk supporting Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, Watermint, Sneezewort, Creeping Buttercup and Ragged Robin.

Just before crossing Hillock Lane look for 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). Go over a waymarked stile on your right and follow the path, across a drive, to another stile.

The large house on the left has a date mark of 1718 and there are good views of the Douglas Valley from here. Cross the stile, turn right and walk straight down the field to the metal gate at the bottom. Go over the 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. The definitive route goes through Blackbird's Farm, but there is an alternative route on the left. Follow the directions for this, and eventually turn left through a gate which take you into another field. At the end of the path, turn left and immediately right crossing the field 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, bearing right to join the towpath. Turn left and follow this back to the car park.

