

# Bolton by Bowland

We start at the public car park in the village centre – this is easy to find and is at the western end of the village right next to the road bridge over the Skirden Beck. If you are using Satnav to get to the start then the address is Main St, Bolton by Bowland, Clitheroe **BB7 4NW** - if you prefer using What-3-Words then the tag is **volume.fidgeting.audibly** which corresponds to OS map reference SD78404932

The walk starts by crossing the road bridge next to the car park and then takes the stile on the right hand side of the road into the fields next to the beck. We follow the beck upstream for about 1km – the path is clear, and navigation will not be a problem. When we arrive at Oak Trees Nursery we exit onto the road and turn right to walk up the road for a little while. Care is needed here as there is no pavement. The road however is reasonably wide and there is good visibility.

Soon, the road bends round to the right and we arrive at Forest Becks where we note a Grade II listed bridge, and an old schoolhouse. We need to leave the road just after the bridge and take the lane up past the cottages to find a wooden footbridge over the stream.

Beyond the bridge there is a gate on the left hand side, and we take this to access the western end of Monubent Lane. This would once have been a green lane running from Monubent Head to Forest Becks. The eastern end is still used and is metalled, but the start at Forest Becks is now quite overgrown and definitely passable only on foot – even then you may notice from the GPX data on our route that we deviated from the “official” public right of way by a few metres to find a dry route – as ever use your discretion and be respectful of the landowner’s property.

We progress up the green lane until we find a gate which takes us on to the still extant section of the lane. The path then leads up to Monubent head farm and through the farm yard, and a gap between two barns, to exit onto flat pasture behind the farm – we keep to the right of the pasture as we head towards woodland known as Closes Plantation, and then need to spot the point at which the path crosses into the fields on the right and then heads to the left of the slurry lagoon to a stile onto the farm access lane.

At the lane, you will see a stile directly ahead – but inaccessible behind a new fence complete with lots of barbed wire. Don’t worry – the path has shifted a little to the left and is still accessible. We take the new path, then cross the field heading southeast. At this point the “official” path as marked on the OS Map is difficult to see, and as you will notice from the route marked on the map on our website, we possibly went a little bit too far before we saw the fence line and came back to the route along the field edge south to the minor road at Raygill Moss.

Once at the road, we cross, and take a clearly marked public footpath to the right of the house – we are now on the Ribble Valley Jubilee Trail – and so like all long distance paths, the route from here is well used and generally easier to navigate. The track soon bends slightly to the right, and we follow it so that we are now heading Southwest toward Fooden - which is just 500m after Raygill Moss.

Fooden is a tiny hamlet – essentially the farm – which is where we arrive, a couple of very attractive cottages and the Hall, a grade II\* listed building dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

As we arrive at the farm, we walk in front on the barn and then find a track which heads right and up through the hamlet – we need to be careful not to lose the path here – it continues south so if you find yourself in front of the cottage picture here you have already gone too far – look back toward the farm and you will see some additional signage that will clarify the route.

We now follow the Ribble Valley Jubilee Trail for a while, generally heading southwest until we arrive at a viewpoint above a sweeping bend in the Ribble – this makes a great place to stop for lunch.

We then continue through a stile with a distinctive roundel and a sign for Bolton Hall. We are still on the Ribble Valley Jubilee Trail, and the path follows the woods around the meandering path of the river for a while – so we have woodland to our left and open farmland to our right. Don't worry if you can't see the river - it's out of view for most of this section.

We soon leave the woodland behind and find ourselves walking west through open farmland – keeping to the fence line on our right. The route is generally easy to see here – and once we get to Scott Laith, we are further assisted by a series of markers to identify the right route through the fields as we approach Bolton Hall Farm.

As the farm comes into view, we head for the cluster of buildings and arrive at a well surfaced road that services the estate – we head right here and stick with the road through the private grounds until we arrive back at the village.

Once we arrive at the village at the end of the estate road, we see the church of St Peter and St Paul.

To finish the walk, we head left, past the church and down to the pair of village greens, where we note a well-tended war memorial – complete with poppies still present during our walk, and opposite that the remnants of a more ancient stone cross and a set of stocks.

From here it's just a short stroll past the pub to the car park where the walk ends

Please note that although this is a short and relatively flat walk which we classify as easy, the ground can be very wet in winter, making sections “heavy going” so if you genuinely need an easy walk schedule this one for a dry period! It is also fair to say that navigation will be easier if you take a GPS enabled device with you and use our downloadable trail data.

- **Total distance 10.5 km (6.5 miles)**
- **Total ascent 155 m**
- **Easy walk**