

## The Green Lanes and Canal to Capernwray Circular

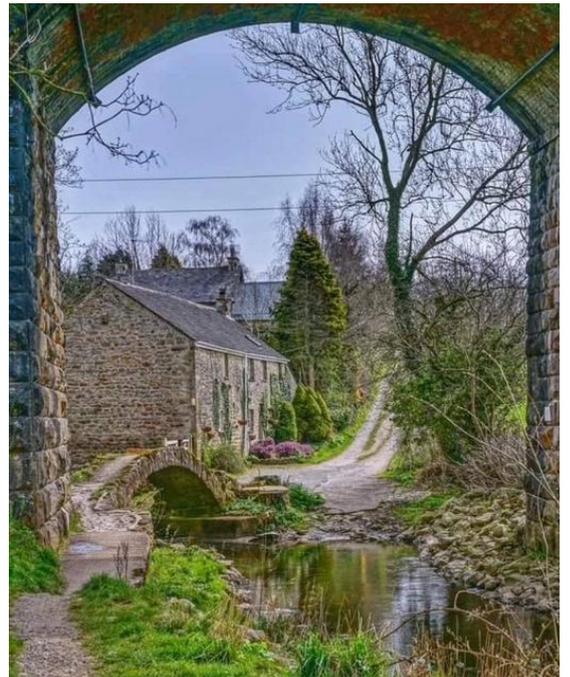
Length 4 miles

Duration: 1 hours 30 mins

Map: OS Explorer, Sheet OL 7, 'The English Lakes, South-Eastern Area'.

**Difficulty: Moderate. Some of the lanes and the canal towpath can get muddy in places after heavy rain. Suitable walking footwear/wellies recommended.**

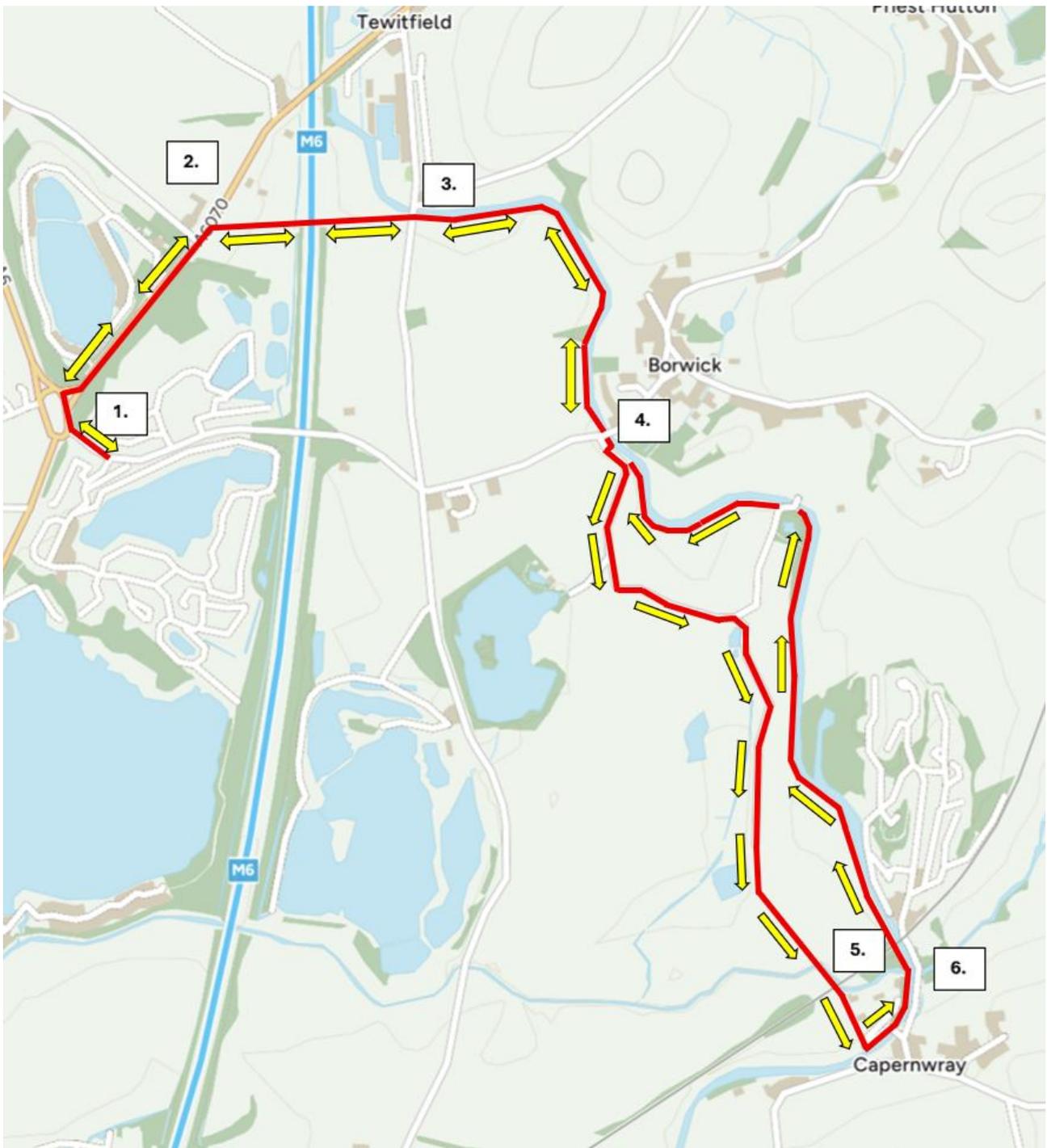
This is another of our most regular walks conveniently starting and finishing at South Lakeland Leisure Village. We call this the 'Lanes Walk' as it largely follows a series of pleasant green lanes out to the ancient hamlet of Capernwray before looping back along the quiet and picturesque Lancaster Canal. What makes this walk particularly interesting is the opportunity to experience the bridge building abilities from both the medieval period as well as Victorian times in just one location.



Viaduct and Packhorse Bridge, Capernwray

This outing initially follows the same route as our 'Priest Hutton, Borwick Circular' walk as far as the canal. Also, as with that walk you have the choice to slightly extend the route on the finishing section to visit the nearby excellent Longlands Pub & Restaurant.

Route Map:



## Directions:

1. Leave the entrance to South Lakeland Leisure Village and turn left to walk the short distance to the road junction. Cross over the road to the right and walk onto Burton Road (A6070) following the signs for 'Tewitfield'.

Walk along the footpath on the left of the road passing the entrance to Twin Lakes Country Club after about 200 meters. A short distance later, Burton Road bends round to the left, at this point look across the road to your right and you will see a gap in the hedge with a gate, there is usually a wagon parked up behind the gate. This is the start of the first green lane section of the walk.



Entrance to the green lane from  
Burton Road

2. Cross over Burton Road to the gate (**Note- be very careful here, this is a fast section of road**), the footpath stile is at the lefthand side of the gate. The lane continues as a hedged lined track and shortly arrives at a wooden bridge over a beck, and then a less attractive concrete footbridge over the M6 motorway. Cross the bridges and then continue along the lane until you arrive at a road junction by a bridge over the Lancaster Canal (bridge number 138).
3. Cross directly over the road and descend to the canal towpath. The canal should be on your left-hand side. Walk along the pleasant canal passing under the next three bridges (bridge numbers 137, 136 and 135). Please note that all the canal bridges have an identification number that is clearly shown on a plaque usually situated high up and to the side of the archway.
4. After passing under Bridge 135, you will notice a large decking area on the opposite bank, this is the canoe launching point for Borwick Hall which is now an outdoor education centre owned by Lancashire County Council. During the summer months this area of canal is often busy with canoes and over excited wet suit clad youths annoying the ducks whilst trying to avoid passing barges.

A few meters after the bridge you will see a wooden footpath gate on the right that leads out onto a road. Go through this gate and turn immediately left and follow the lane that initially drops down and then turns sharply to the right.



This road now continues straight ahead for a short while and has a babbling brook to its right-hand side, very useful for thirsty dogs!

You will shortly come to a junction where a lane leads off to the right signposted to 'Birchwood House'. Continue straight ahead here and follow the lane as it turns sharply to the left and becomes more of a green track. You are now on the green lane that makes up a large part of the walk.

Simply follow this 'lane' (track) for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile as it winds its way between hedgerows through the countryside towards Capernwray. The track is actually running largely parallel to the canal which is above and to the left of you. Ignore any other tracks and gates leading off the lane until you eventually arrive at the River Keer and its associated bridges.

5. The first bridge, actually it's a viaduct, that you walk under was constructed in the 1860s to carry a railway line of the then named Furness and Midland Railway over the river. Then, immediately after the viaduct, and almost nested beneath it is a fantastic example of a medieval period packhorse bridge also spanning the river.

Walk carefully over the packhorse bridge and then follow the lane that climbs up straight ahead of you alongside a dwelling house. This is Mill House and is on the site of a former water wheel powered mill that stood here alongside the River Keer.



Capernwray Packhorse Bridge

At the top of the lane there is a T-junction, cross this and then go through the wooden gate that leads back out onto the canal towpath.

Alternatively, if you are ready for some refreshments, there is the option of rather than going through the gate, turn left at the T-junction and follow the road as it turns right over the canal and then bends left into the New England Caravan Park. Here you will find the New England Tea Room and Shop that describes itself as a 'vintage tea room' serving breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. At the time of writing, the tea room is open daily apart from Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm and is dog friendly.

Returning to the main walk, go through the gate at the T-junction and turn left along the canal towpath.

6. After a short distance, a plaque on the wall to the left of the towpath indicates that you are passing over the 'Keer Aqueduct'.

Looking over the wall here, be careful it's a long way down, you will be able to marvel at this impressive piece of Victorian engineering that solved the problem of how to allow the Lancaster Canal to pass over a deep ravine through which flows the River Keer. The aqueduct enables the canal to stand 36 feet above the river and was finished in 1797. The plaque tells us that the engineer was John Rennie who was a pioneering Scottish civil engineer who created a wealth of iconic canals, bridges and locks in the late 1700s.



To complete the walk, simply continue along this picturesque section of canal towpath until you finally arrive back at bridge number 138. Here you just return back along the route taken earlier by taking the track back up to the road, crossing this and then returning to the motorway footbridge and then onto Burton Road which is followed back to the start point.

Alternatively, once you arrive back at canal bridge 138, there is the option to continue the short distance along the canal in order to visit the excellent Longlands Pub for a drink/food. Longlands is a very welcoming and dog friendly hostelry with an excellent range of drinks and food on offer. So, continue along the towpath passing the Tewitfield

Marina to your right until you reach the abrupt end of this section of the canal. At the end of the canal, follow the footpath round to your right and the pub will appear in front of you. Having taken the detour, you have the return options of walking back along the canal to bridge number 138 and then regain the path to the motorway footbridge. Or, for a slight quicker route home, just walk up to the main road at the front of the hotel, turn left (the footpath is on the righthand side (again, careful when crossing this road), and then follow Burton Road back for about half a mile until you reach the road junction close to the site entrance.