

SUGGESTED START: Edisford Road car park, BB7 3LA (SD 7282 4143)

DISTANCE: 10.3 km / 6.4 miles

TIME: 4 hrs (plus sightseeing)

TERRAIN: Mostly farmland and some on-road sections. Please take care along the roads on this route, traffic can be fast moving.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

OS MAP: OS Explorer OL41

-  Regular buses and trains to Clitheroe town centre, which is 1 mile from the walk start point. The Edisford Hall bus stop is located at the walk start point.
-  Edisford Road car park (pay and display)
-  Edisford (by the riverbank)
-  Bashall Barn, Waddington Post Office & Village Store, Spar (Low Moor, Edisford)
-  Edisford Bridge (Edisford)
Lower Buck, Higher Buck & Waddington Arms (Waddington)
-  Bashall Barn

THE RIVERS: **Bashall Brook** starts up on Browsholme Moor, flowing down through Bashall, joining the River Ribble near Edisford. The name Bashall means ‘hill by the brooks’.

Bashall Brook is home to many species including; brown trout, stone loach, bullhead and European eel. Invertebrates such as caddisfly, stonefly and mayfly are also found in the brook in their larval form.

Ribble Rivers Trust has undertaken a number of projects along Bashall Brook to help improve the quality of habitat for fish and other riverine species. *For more details of the work completed, see overleaf.*

**WILDLIFE:** Water-loving birds such as oystercatchers, grey wagtails, sand martins and herons are frequently seen along Bashall Brook.


 Otters are occasionally spotted near the River Ribble in Clitheroe and the surrounding area. A goldcrest was spotted whilst trialling this route.


 Bashall Eaves lies within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is a good location for wildlife spotting. Bashall Eaves is also home to Moor Piece Nature Reserve where pied flycatchers, redstarts and tree pipits are often seen.


 Grey wagtail

WHAT TO EXPECT: Starting near Edisford Bridge, the route heads out through farmland towards Bashall Eaves before looping round to the village of Waddington. The walk then follows the River Ribble to return back to Clitheroe. Mainly farmland with some on-road sections. Involving numerous stiles, this route is suited to those with good mobility. Please be aware of traffic when walking on the road. Livestock are present in some of the fields on this route. Please keep dogs on a lead. If cattle get too close or become excitable, let the dog off the lead.

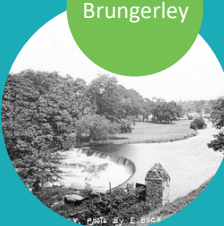
 **LOOK OUT FOR:** (see points on the map)


 **1. Edisford Bridge** - this was an important crossing on the River Ribble even before the first bridge was constructed here. The water can be reasonably shallow, so was seen as an ideal place to ford the river, allowing transport between Clitheroe and Lancaster. The original bridge was built in 1339, and was widened in the 1800s. Medieval masonry marks can still be seen on the underside.


 **2. Bashall Hall** - the current building is thought to date back to the 1600s when it was home to the Talbot family. In 1806 the estate passed to the Taylor family, with much of Bashall Eaves still belonging to the Worsley-Taylors.

 **3.** Legend has it that **Fairy Bridge**, also known as Saddle Bridge, which spans Bashall Brook, was built one night by fairies to help an old woodcutter who was being pursued by witches.

 **4.** The **Coronation Gardens** in Waddington were created to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The land was donated to the Parish Council by the owners of Waddington Hall on the condition that the Parish Council maintained it in keeping with its surroundings. The garden is predominantly looked after by volunteers.





 **5. Brungerley Bridge and weir** - previously there were just stepping stones at Brungerley, but the construction of the weir in the 1780s caused the water to back up, making the river impassable. In 1801, a wooden bridge was constructed; however it was neglected and became unsafe. The current stone bridge was completed in 1816. The weir provided power to Garnetts’ mill in Low Moor, Clitheroe which closed in 1930.

 **6.** Built in Tudor times, **Waddow Hall** was originally a dower house for the Tempest family, but later became their main seat in the area. The oldest part of the building, once the front of the house, is at the back of the current building. In 1928, the Girl Guide Association purchased the hall and estate, which is now used for residential trips and Guide activities.



The Ribble Catchment

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River Walks Bashall Brook



A scenic, rural route crossing Bashall Brook and its tributaries before joining the River Ribble at Clitheroe.

Distance: 10.3 km / 6.4 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Ribble Life Together is working to create a healthier river system for people and wildlife. The project celebrates the heritage of the rivers, improving access and using the river to inspire and educate. Through practical environmental action, based on science, we aim to leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Nearby trails

- Up Hill and Down Dale Around Lancashire's Prettiest Village (Walks with Taste in Ribble Valley)
- Bashall Eaves to Clitheroe (Visit Ribble Valley)

Enjoy safely

- Wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for forecast conditions
- Take a charged mobile phone, first aid kit, map and compass
- Carry spare food and drinks
- Follow the Countryside Code: consider wildlife and other users

This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project. To find all the River Walk routes, visit: www.ribbletrust.org.uk

Thank you!

To the National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting Ribble Life Together and to Waddington Parish Council for their support in developing and trialling the route.

Photography: M. Sutcliffe, S. Davidson and H. Smith.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

A. Edisford

Please be aware of traffic on this section of the walk.

From the car park at Edisford, turn left and follow the pavement to cross the bridge and head up the road past the Edisford Bridge pub. After the pub, turn into the road on the right, pass the entrance to the campsite and take the footpath through the hedge on the right. Head diagonally left, towards the copse of trees, crossing the stile in the corner of the field, keep the fence on your right. Go over the stile and into the next field, keeping the fence on your left. Go through the wooden gate onto the farm track and cross over to the wooden gate opposite. Continue straight on through the field, descending to a wooden gate in the middle of the hedge. Cross the next field and head to the left of the pumping station to find the stile under the pylons. Head straight on, keeping the pumping station on your right. Cross over the track and through the copse to climb to a gate in the hedge. Head slightly left across Twitter Lane (beware of traffic) to the stile and fingerpost opposite.



Views of Lon-gridge Fell

B. Bashall Hall

Take the faint footpath diagonally left across the field and through the wooden gate. Turn right onto the track past Bashall Hall. Go over the bridge and take the path straight on, follow this track to Cow Hey Farm. At the end of the farmyard, look out for a footpath on the right, between the two dwellings. Go over the stile and follow this path along the field boundary, keeping the fence to your right. Head over the stile and into the next field, turn left, keeping the line of trees on your left. Follow the stream up to Saddle Bridge. Continue past the bridge and through the gate.



Bashall Brook

C. To Lower New House

Turn left into the lane and continue for 75 m before taking the path off to the right past the barns and around the copse to a stile. Follow the field round to the right. Cross the stile and go left along the gravel track for 400 m, where the track dips downhill, head over to the right, towards a small metal gate (picture inset).



Ford the stream and go through the metal gate, then continue straight on and follow the left-hand field boundary to cross two footbridges and reach a gate onto a driveway. Once through the gate, head right, over the stile, then left down the ginnel. Turn right at the gate and through another gate into a narrow, wooded path. Continue down the path until it opens out into the fields. Here, turn immediate left and follow the faint path along the left-hand field boundaries to the yard at Lower New House Farm.

D. Through Waddington

Follow this track round to the right (at the cottage) and then left over the bridge. Continue through the gate and then another gate and over the field. At this point, look out for the



Stone barn

young trees planted by Ribble Rivers Trust along Hollins Clough. Go through a third gate beside the stone barn. Stay on the track, over the cattle grid and through the last gate and into the edge of the village of Waddington.



Views of Pendle Hill

Taking care on the road, turn left and continue past the church to the crossroads by the bridge. Turn right and walk beside the brook to the edge of the village, then follow the road on the pavement for just under a mile. Cross the Ribble via Brungerley Bridge and on the far side of the bridge, head through the stile on the right and take the steep steps down to the riverbank.



River Ribble at Brungerley

E. Return to Clitheroe

Follow the river into the woodland upstream of the weir, then take the steps up to the left. Once in the field, head diagonally across and then keep the fence on your left, bringing you to a stables. Go through two kissing gates and follow the path past the allotments and another stables before bringing you out into a housing estate. Continue along the road until it turns sharp left at St Ann's Court, then cross the road to take the short driveway into the playing fields. Follow the path around the right-hand perimeter of the playing fields to join the road between the tennis courts and swimming pool. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and return to the car park.



Waddow Hall



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Ribble Rivers Trust Projects (see points on map)

Since 2010, several projects have been undertaken along Bashall Brook to reduce erosion, improve access upstream for migratory fish, aid natural flood management and improve the area as habitat for riverine species.



In 2020, 0.4 hectares of new woodland were planted along Hollins Clough with 320 native trees. In addition to this, just under 1 km of fencing was installed to protect the riverbank and the young trees from damage by livestock. The scheme along Hollins Clough aims to reduce erosion along the banks of the stream. The trees will help to stabilise the riverbank with their roots and the fencing will prevent livestock from accessing the stream and eroding the banks. The new woodland should also aid natural flood management by slowing the flow of water from the land and taking up water from the soil. The new trees will also provide habitat for a variety of wildlife along the watercourse and will provide shade along the stream, allowing fish refuge in cooler areas during hot weather.



Between 2010 and 2018, 4.8 hectares of native woodland were planted along Bashall Brook. The new woodland is complemented by the work undertaken along nearby Hollins Clough.



In 2018, a small weir was removed along Cow Hey Brook. Migratory fish species such as salmon and trout travel upstream to spawn and the weir was creating a barrier to their movement upstream. A rock ramp easement was installed in its place. The rock ramp will allow the stream to return to a more natural state, and will restore the natural river processes of erosion, and the transportation and deposition of sediment, as well as improving access upstream for fish. The project has opened up a further 15 km of watercourses.



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