

## Route Description - pt 2

footpath, turning R along the path leading to the riverbank (SD66670 36155).

3. Pass the disused stile, follow the riverside path, cross the stile & footbridge (SD67149 36451) to enter the cool shaded Haugh Wood. Cross further brooks using the duckboards to a junction of the path, take the L fork. Exit the wood using a stile.

4. Head up the grassy slope (SD67485 36241) & cross the pasture to a saddle (SD67601 36256), the reward is a fantastic view of Pendle Hill and the Dinckley bridge. Descend the pasture to a gate & stile (SD67652 36384), keep L across the next pasture, a signpost marks the route in the field. Continue to the top corner of the field to a stile & gate (SD67727 36607). Cross a small enclosure to meet the bridleway via a gate (SD67750 36709).

5. A short distance down the lane is a gate (SD67765 36705) on the L. Through the gate, follow the wire fence, bearing R at the bottom of the hill to a footbridge (SD68044 36705) in the corner of the pasture. Ascend the short grassy slope & follow the line of the fence (keep it on your R), over some stiles to a five-barred gate (SD67750 36709). A stony track leads to Trough House farm, before the farm we leave the 'Ribble Way', cut back and take the narrow path on the R, over a stile, through trees to the Dinckley Bridge (SD68044 36705). Cross this delightful suspension bridge, it's a superb location.

6. After crossing the bridge, turn R (downstream) & follow a good path along the riverbank to Marles Wood car park.



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# Owens Walks

Route card No: LAN043

## 6000 years of history!

An idyllic walk along a beautiful stretch of the River Ribble

Region: Ribchester, Lancashire

Length: 7 km/ 4.5 miles

Ascent: 45m/ 1540ft

Grade: Easy

Start: Marles Wood, PR3 3XU, SD67590 35629

Public toilets: Ribchester village

Public Transport: Ribchester Service 5, Salesbury Service C25

Suggested Maps:

OS Explorer Sheet 287 (\*Recommended)

OS Landranger Sheet 103



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### IMPORTANT!

Owens Walks are published on the strict understanding that we are not held responsible for the safety or well being of those (or their property) following the routes described. We continue to check the details on a regular basis but the reader must ensure their own safety and comfort.

## The Countryside Code

*Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs  
Leave gates and property as you find them  
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home  
Keep dogs under close control  
Consider other people*

## Route description - pt 1.

### Overtones.

Not only is this a delightful walk alongside the River Ribble through cool shaded areas of woodland, but within this 2 km stretch of the river is evidence of man's presence going back 6000 years!

A little research soon uncovers the 'goings on' of this beautiful unspoilt corner of Lancashire, this place was busy some 6000 years ago during the Mesolithic period (8000 - 4000BC), archaeology has revealed 'finds' of a substantial number of flints that suggest a settlement or work site & close by a dug-out canoe fragment by the riverbank.

And of course we are aware of the Roman occupation of Ribchester and Britain, evidence of roads almost 2000 years old can be found as we imagine soldiers wandering about this place, speaking a foreign language - they stayed for over 300 years!

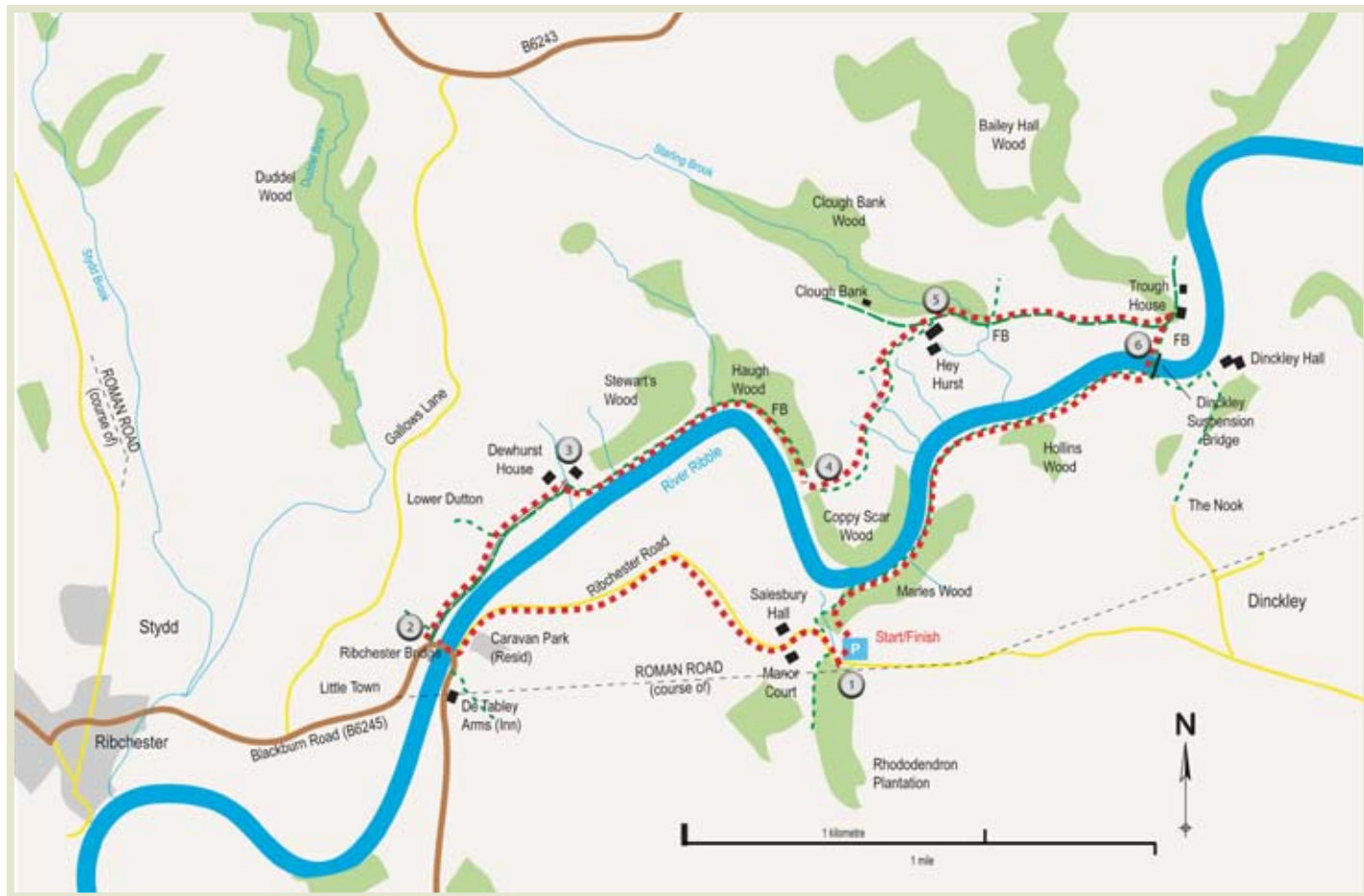
Since the Roman occupation, Norman architecture and Saxon communities have fashioned this landscape developing the patchwork fields we see today. And of course during the last 300 years or so, we have evidence of the recent stone buildings, manor houses and bridges as well as today's developments such as Manor Court and the re-built Salesbury Hall. But let's not forget the ferryman at Dinckley, according to the Post-Lady of Hurst Green, Cecily Holden recalls "... at Trough House Farm lived an Italian family called Corella who operated the Dinckley Ferry in the 1930's". The ferry was replaced in 1951 by the wonderful Dinckley suspension bridge, which must be one of the best examples of LCC architecture.

This is a wonderful short walk through a lot of history, if history isn't your bag, then it's a wonderful walk through some of Lancashire's best river valley scenery - it's just beautiful!

### The route.

1. There's a car park at Marles Wood (SD67590 35629). From the car park, head downhill on the road to Ribchester Bridge, passing Manor Court, Salesbury Hall & the entrance to the Royal Lancs Showground (SD67025 35960). Cross the three stone arches of Ribchester Bridge (SD66224 35646).
2. Immediately turn R along the 'Private Road', it's a bridleway and 'The Ribble Way' path. The narrow road leaves the river and heads toward the buildings at Dewhurst House, follow the signs for the

fold here



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