



The Chorley Circular walk

The route to ramble on about

A 10 mile walk linking Chorley town to its countryside

Chorley
Council

LANCASHIRE
ENVIRONMENTAL
FUND



LOTTERY FUNDED



ramblers
at the heart of walking

Lancashire
County
Council



Yarrow Valley Park

In the 1980's Chorley Council obtained land grants to create the Park which now extends 50 hectares around the visitors centre. Yarrow Valley Park is a broad area of woodland containing open grassy picnic sites, lodges and remnants of former industrial activity.

After years of industrial pollution, the River Yarrow now supports salmon and trout which in turn provide food for otter, kingfisher and heron. The weir and fish pass provide stunning views for visitors.

A children's play area is located near to the visitor centre which has toilets and café facilities.



Leeds and Liverpool Canal

The Chorley Circular Walk includes 2 ¼ miles of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Stretching a total of 127 miles the canal took 46 years to build. Grain, cotton and coal were all transported to and from Chorley by canal.

Look out for groove marks on canal bridges. These were left by tow ropes many years ago when shire horses pulled huge barges along the canal.



Duxbury Woods

In spring this ancient woodland is a riot of colour and carpeted with flora such as bluebell, wild garlic and wood anemone. Amongst the deciduous trees are stands of exotic pines, probably some of the tallest in the town. Birds such as woodpecker, nuthatch and tree creeper are readily seen on trees while heron and dipper hunt in the River Yarrow which meanders through the woodland.

Located next to the woodland is Duxbury Park Golf Course which winds its way through the former parkland of Duxbury Hall. The Hall was demolished in the 1950's but gardens and several other buildings are still evident.



Astley Hall and Park

Astley Park covers an area equivalent to 40 football pitches. At its heart lies Astley Hall, built during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. For centuries it was home to aristocratic families such as the Charnocks, the Brookes and the Towneley Parkers. It is rumoured that Oliver Cromwell stayed at the house in 1648 at the time of the Battle of Preston.

The Hall and its grounds are situated within beautiful surroundings comprising glades of ancient woodland, a lake and a fully renovated Victorian walled garden.

Today the Hall functions as a museum and art gallery and is open to the public.

In 1922 the park was acquired by Chorley Council as a memorial to the dead of the First World War. Facilities include toilets, café, play area, pets corner and kiosk.

The Chorley Circular

On 17th April 1993 the Chorley Circular was officially opened by the Mayor of Chorley. Twenty one years later after heavy use, path furniture and footpaths were showing signs of wear.

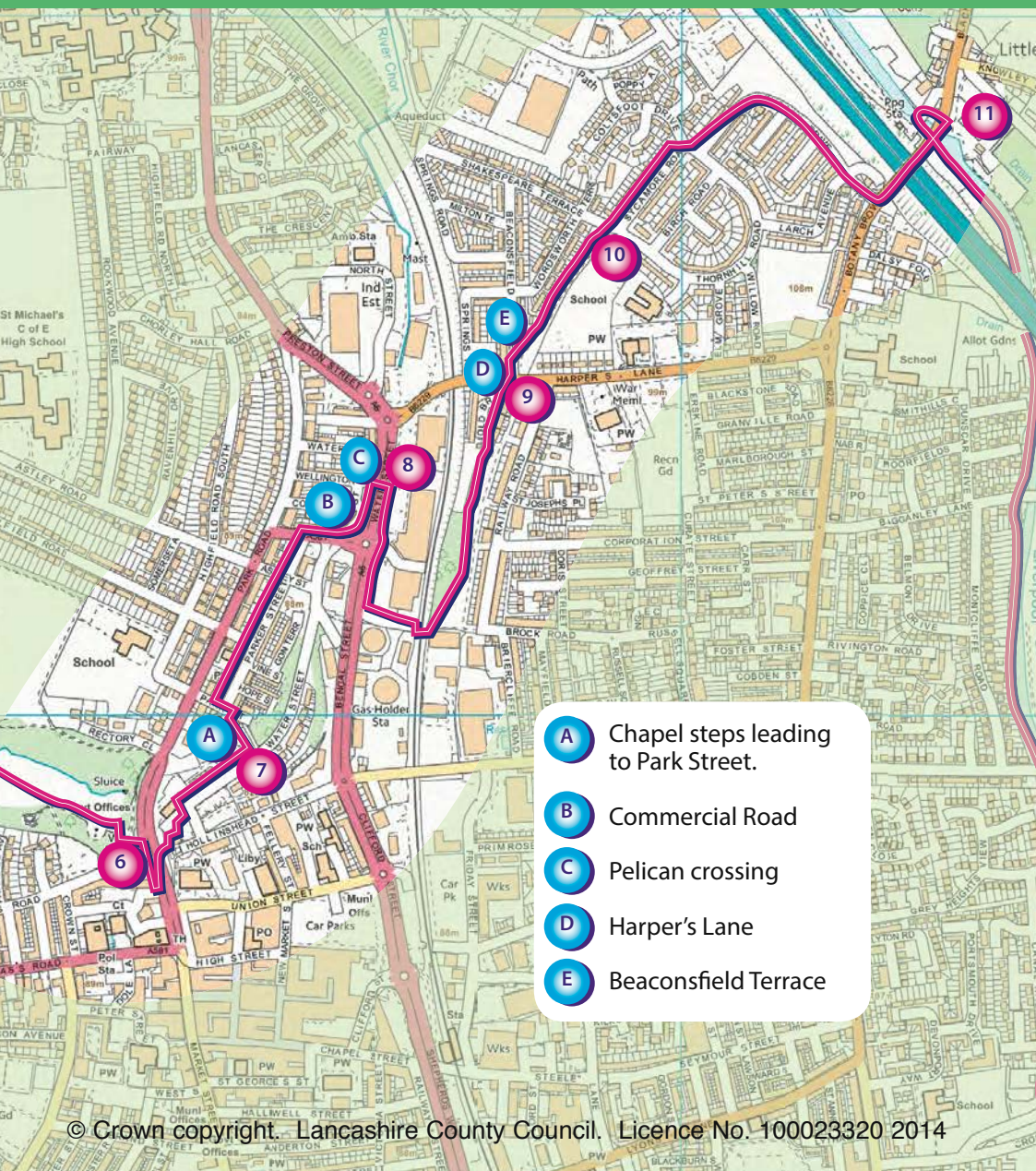
As a result, Lancashire County Council, Chorley Council, Ramblers' Association Chorley Group and The Conservation Volunteers worked in partnership to secure funding to improve access along the route by replacing stiles with kissing gates, resurfacing footpaths and installing new way marking.

The practical works were eventually funded by Lancashire Environmental Fund, Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council. The route was then relaunched on 24th May 2014.

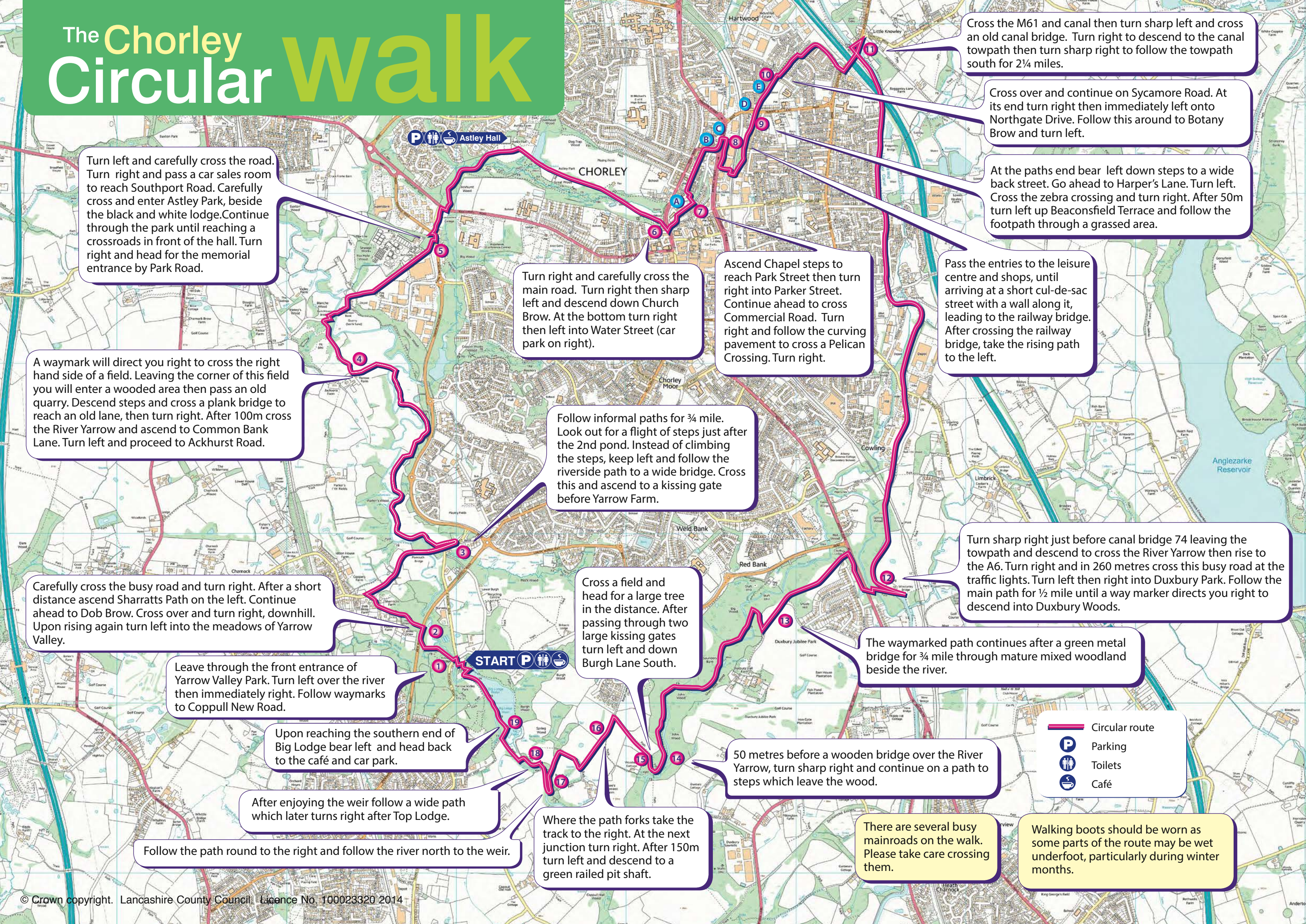
In order to promote the new route the Ramblers Association Chorley Group secured funding from Awards For All (Big Lottery Fund) to pay for a series of promotional events, guided walks and this new map leaflet.



The Town Centre



The Chorley Circular Walk



Turn left and carefully cross the road. Turn right and pass a car sales room to reach Southport Road. Carefully cross and enter Astley Park, beside the black and white lodge. Continue through the park until reaching a crossroads in front of the hall. Turn right and head for the memorial entrance by Park Road.

A waymark will direct you right to cross the right hand side of a field. Leaving the corner of this field you will enter a wooded area then pass an old quarry. Descend steps and cross a plank bridge to reach an old lane, then turn right. After 100m cross the River Yarrow and ascend to Common Bank Lane. Turn left and proceed to Ackhurst Road.

Carefully cross the busy road and turn right. After a short distance ascend Sharratts Path on the left. Continue ahead to Dob Brow. Cross over and turn right, downhill. Upon rising again turn left into the meadows of Yarrow Valley.

Leave through the front entrance of Yarrow Valley Park. Turn left over the river then immediately right. Follow waymarks to Coppull New Road.

Upon reaching the southern end of Big Lodge bear left and head back to the café and car park.

After enjoying the weir follow a wide path which later turns right after Top Lodge.

Follow the path round to the right and follow the river north to the weir.

Turn right and carefully cross the main road. Turn right then sharp left and descend down Church Brow. At the bottom turn right then left into Water Street (car park on right).

Follow informal paths for ¾ mile. Look out for a flight of steps just after the 2nd pond. Instead of climbing the steps, keep left and follow the riverside path to a wide bridge. Cross this and ascend to a kissing gate before Yarrow Farm.

Cross a field and head for a large tree in the distance. After passing through two large kissing gates turn left and down Burgh Lane South.

Where the path forks take the track to the right. At the next junction turn right. After 150m turn left and descend to a green railed pit shaft.

Ascend Chapel steps to reach Park Street then turn right into Parker Street. Continue ahead to cross Commercial Road. Turn right and follow the curving pavement to cross a Pelican Crossing. Turn right.

50 metres before a wooden bridge over the River Yarrow, turn sharp right and continue on a path to steps which leave the wood.

There are several busy mainroads on the walk. Please take care crossing them.

Cross the M61 and canal then turn sharp left and cross an old canal bridge. Turn right to descend to the canal towpath then turn sharp right to follow the towpath south for 2¼ miles.

Cross over and continue on Sycamore Road. At its end turn right then immediately left onto Northgate Drive. Follow this around to Botany Brow and turn left.

At the paths end bear left down steps to a wide back street. Go ahead to Harper's Lane. Turn left. Cross the zebra crossing and turn right. After 50m turn left up Beaconsfield Terrace and follow the footpath through a grassed area.

Pass the entries to the leisure centre and shops, until arriving at a short cul-de-sac street with a wall along it, leading to the railway bridge. After crossing the railway bridge, take the rising path to the left.

Turn sharp right just before canal bridge 74 leaving the towpath and descend to cross the River Yarrow then rise to the A6. Turn right and in 260 metres cross this busy road at the traffic lights. Turn left then right into Duxbury Park. Follow the main path for ½ mile until a way marker directs you right to descend into Duxbury Woods.

The waymarked path continues after a green metal bridge for ¾ mile through mature mixed woodland beside the river.

- Circular route
- Parking
- Toilets
- Café

Walking boots should be worn as some parts of the route may be wet underfoot, particularly during winter months.