

The Aspinall Arms and Ribble Valley, Great Mitton, Lancashire



Moderate Terrain

3 miles
Circular
1.5 hours

280514



Access Notes



1. There are several steady climbs and descents throughout.
2. The paths are a mixture of pavements, stone tracks and grass paths across pastures, the latter of which can be very muddy after rain so good boots are a must.
3. You will need to negotiate several kissing gates and four stiles. Some of the kissing gates are quite tight (be prepared to breath in!) and the stiles are quite enclosed (small/medium dogs should be able to squeeze through the gaps but larger dogs may need a lift over).
4. You will be sharing some of the pastures with cattle and/or sheep so take care with dogs.

The Aspinall Arms is a coaching inn believed to date from the 17th century and offers lovely views over the river, the perfect lunch stop before or after your walk.

A 3 mile circular pub walk from the Aspinall Arms in Little Mitton, Lancashire. The walking route takes in the glorious Ribble Valley following a mixture of riverside paths, grazing pastures, ancient lanes and wild moorland with excellent views throughout.

Getting there

Great Mitton and Little Mitton are located on the B6246, about one mile north of Whalley and a couple of miles south-west of Clitheroe in Lancashire. The walk starts and finishes at the Aspinall Arms, which has its own car park and is on the B6246 Mitton Road, just south of the bridge over the River Ribble.

Approximate post code **BB7 9PQ**.

Walk Sections



Start to Footbridge



Leave the pub car park via the vehicle entrance. Turn left for a few paces and then left again through a wooden kissing gate to join the signed footpath, the Ribble Way. (Note: you may come across cattle in any of the fields so take care with dogs). Follow the left-hand edge of this large grass field passing a derelict barn and then the pub's overflow car park on the left. Beyond this, the views to the left open up. You'll see the River Ribble below and the church at Great Mitton sitting high on the banks on the opposite side.

The River Ribble actually rises in neighbouring Yorkshire and flows west before emptying into the Irish Sea. It is a haven for wildlife (including being a key breeding ground for Atlantic Salmon) and has acted as an important historic

You'll find this and many more walks at iFootpath.com. All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at walks@ifootpath.com



boundary. It once marked the northernmost extent of the ancient kingdom of Mercia, and later was the county boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Continue on the field edge path as it swings steadily right and then left to reach a stile. Cross this into the next pasture and continue staying close to the fence on the left. Take time to enjoy the views across the hills to the right. Pass through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead through the centre of the next grass pasture. At the far side you'll come to a footbridge over a stream.

1 → 2 Footbridge to Shuttleworth Farm



Cross the footbridge (which has low stiles each end) to reach the next large open field. Cross this field heading for the small brick building alongside the river, a river flow measurement station. As you reach this, simply continue on the riverside grass track, heading for the concrete bridge visible ahead. This section of the river is particularly picturesque, with shallow clear water flowing over the rocky bed. If you take a close look you may see evidence of its healthy fish population.

When you draw level with the concrete bridge, you'll be able to see that it is an aqueduct carrying water pipes across the river. Simply keep ahead on the riverside stone farm track. Continue into the farm yard, passing the farm buildings to the right. Beyond the barns, pass through the wooden kissing gate and cross the small grass field diagonally to emerge via another kissing gate onto the access lane for Shuttleworth Farm.

2 → 3 Shuttleworth Farm to Mitton Road



Turn right here (going back on yourself) and then swing left, passing the old stone barn to the right. Pass through the gate heading directly for the cottage in front of you. As you reach the cottage, turn right through the next gate and then swing left (passing a timber barn on the right) to join a wide surfaced track between hedgerows. Follow this stone track as it swings right and then continues straight for some distance.

A little way along the hedge on the right ends and the track continues along the left-hand edge of another large open pasture. Where the stone track fades out (probably with some piles of spoil ahead), simply skirt round these to continue ahead on the grass path running close to the hedge on the left. Continue down to the bottom left-hand corner of the field, where a kissing gate leads you to a path through a small belt of trees.

Cross the sleeper bridge and pass through the next gate to reach the corner of a large rough moorland pasture. Keep straight ahead (close to the right-hand fence) passing under the boughs of an ancient oak tree. Continue for just a few yards and you'll see an old stone trough on the left, marking a T-junction of paths. In fact, the stone trough is the base of an ancient stone cross which was probably used to mark a boundary. Turn right at this T-junction.

Continue along the moorland path. Step over the stream and then bear a little right to join the path following the right-hand fence. As you reach the field corner, follow the boundary left for a few yards and then turn right over the footbridge (via stile and gate) across Barrow Brook. Follow the path ahead through a small section of woodland and you will emerge via a gate to Mitton Road.

3 → 4 Mitton Road to End



Cross over with care and then turn right along the pavement. The pavement is fairly narrow so take care with children and dogs. Follow the road past Laneside Farm, Little Mitton Farm and then Mitton Hall on the left. The present hall dates from the 15th century, during the reign of Henry VII. It passed through the hands of many families including the Aspinall family (hence the name of the pub).

Continue just a little further along to reach the Aspinall Arms on the right for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

