

Lostock Hall

Heritage Trail

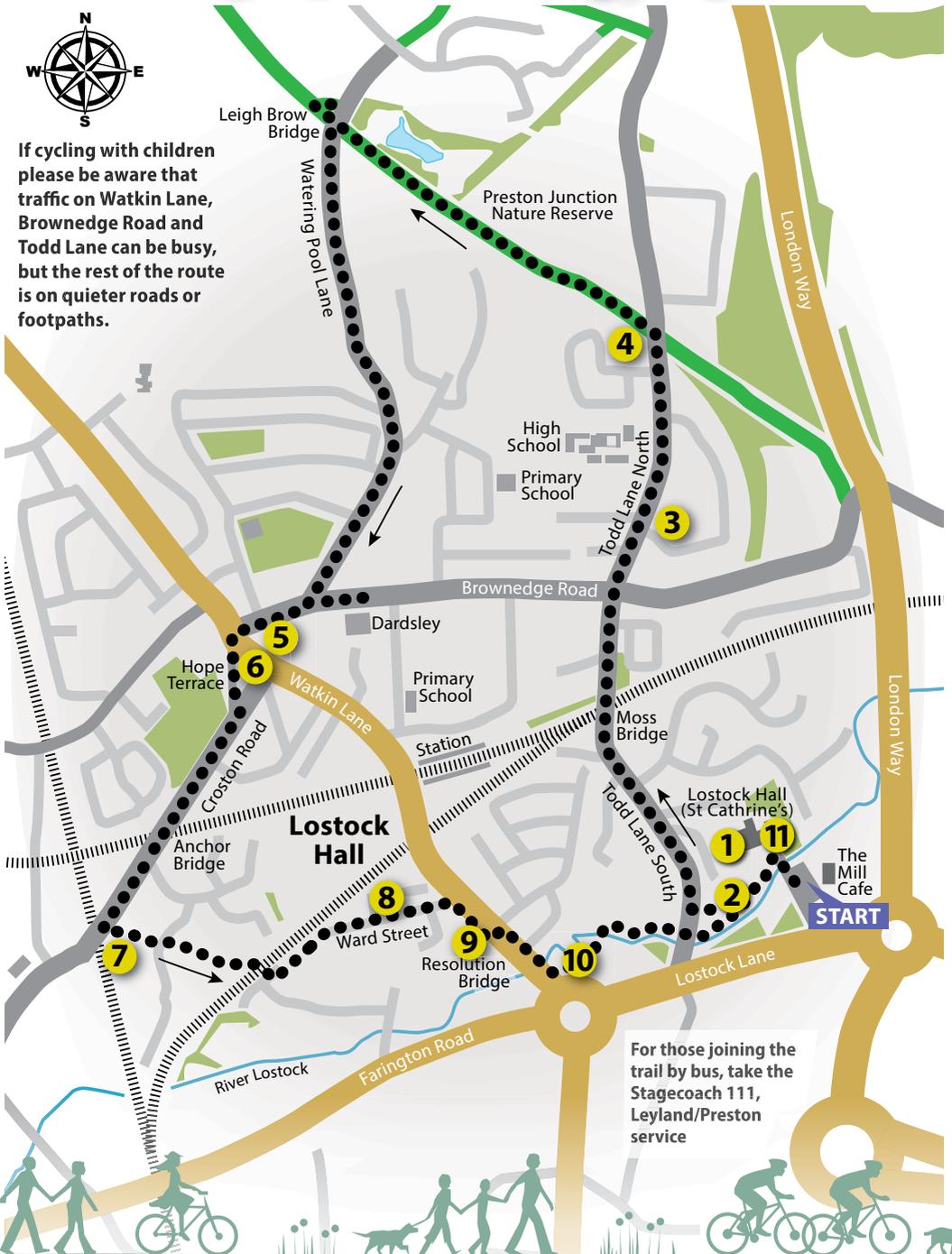
***Discover Lostock Hall's
Hidden Histories on this
3.5 mile Circular Walk***



Finding Your Way Round



If cycling with children please be aware that traffic on Watkin Lane, Brownedge Road and Todd Lane can be busy, but the rest of the route is on quieter roads or footpaths.



For those joining the trail by bus, take the Stagecoach 111, Leyland/Preston service



The walk starts and finishes on the car park at the Mill, St Catherine's Park PR5 5XU. Proceed over the bridge at the top left hand corner and into the grounds of the hospice admiring Lostock Hall (St Catherine's) which is on your right at the top of a small incline.

1 Lostock Hall (St Catherine's Hospice Building)



The original Lostock Hall was built by James de Lostock during the reign of Edward II (1154 - 1179). The grounds which surrounded Lostock Hall were renamed as Lostock Hall, after the death of James by his daughter Magote. A banker from Preston, William Clayton, purchased the site and the Hall. He re-built it in 1764 following a fire. It stayed within his family until the late 1840s. Following the growth of the cotton industry in Lancashire in the 19th century, the building and its grounds were owned by a succession of powerful mill owners, the last of which, Harry Dewhurst donated the Hall and its 6.5 acres of grounds, to Preston Royal Infirmary. Following six years of alteration works, the Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital opened in June 1922. It operated in this form until 1982, when the Lancashire Area Health Authority ceased to exist. On 7th December 1981 a group of Trustees established

'St Catherine's Hospice (Lancashire) Limited' as a charity. Soon after, they purchased the house and grounds from the NHS and embarked on a programme of renovation which saw the hospice open its doors to patients from the boroughs of Preston, Chorley, and South Ribble in 1984, with the first Day Care service taking place soon after in April 1985.

Take the path on the left and follow it along the River Lostock until you reach the ornate gate which you will pass through

2 St Catherine's Park (Ornate Gate)

The ornate gate was installed in the summer of 2016 to open up the grounds for St Catherine's Hospice and link them with the council owned Dandy Brook Park to create St Catherine's Park, South Ribble's first new park for forty years. The project also included the installation of a series of new paths, a bluebell wood, an arts trail and a new natural play area.



Follow the central path through the woodland area of St Catherine's Park until you reach Todd Lane South. Now turn right, passing the Townsway estate (formerly 'Daisy Field'). Continue over Moss Bridge, which crosses the East Lancashire railway line. (At one time a signal box was sited at the northern side of the bridge. It measured over 25 feet in height which allowed the signalman an unrestricted view that covered both sides of the bridge). Proceed along Todd Lane South crossing over at the junction with Brownedge Road where it becomes Todd Lane North. About 200 yards further along, on the right hand side of the road you will see . . .

3 Todd Hall



This Grade II listed building which dates back to 1630, makes it the oldest building in the area, it was restored in 1938 by A.C.M. Lillie after lying derelict for ten years. It is a brick structure built on a stone plinth, with stone quoins and dressings, rendered mullion windows, and a stone slate roof. It boasts three chimneys, three bays with projecting wings, and a short rear

extension. The house also boasts a spiral newel staircase and features a cavity to rear of the fireplace in an inglenook that was said to be a priest hole. The house also features a primitive ornamental painting of a crucifixion, in 17th century style on the first floor.

Continue along Todd Lane North until you turn left into the Preston Junction Nature Reserve. It used to be the railway track bed and the site of the Todd Lane Junction Station.

4 Todd Lane (Preston) Junction Station



The station at Todd Lane, had an island platform with a short bay adjacent to the Preston line. There was also a siding on the junction curve and a loop to the south of the station. Facilities for newspapers and parcels existed, but not for goods. The name was changed from Preston



Junction to Todd Lane Junction in 1952 due to passengers alighting by mistake thinking it was 'Preston Station'. Access to the platform was by way of a steep staircase from the three arched Todd Lane Road Bridge. It was built of brick with sandstone steps and a half-way landing. The station buildings, which were completed in 1885, comprised four separate blocks; a booking office, with a room for the station master; a general waiting room and porter's office; a ladies waiting room with wash room facilities; and a gentlemen's lavatory. The Station was eventually closed on 7th October 1968 although the line which carried trains from Preston through to East Lancashire via Bamber Bridge remained open until 1972.

Continue along the path until you reach Leigh Brow Bridge (known locally as Gasworks Bridge). Cross over the bridge then turn right down the slope and turn under the bridge. You will emerge onto Wateringpool Lane. Continue along Wateringpool Lane until its end, where it meets Brownedge Road at the mini roundabout. Cross the road at this point, and continue left for roughly 100 metres along Brownedge Road until you reach Dardsley, an imposing Victorian building set back from the road. The property, which now houses Lostock Hall Medical Centre, has for most of its life had strong links with supporting the health of the local community, as it has acted as a doctor's surgery and as the base for the Prescription Pricing Authority. After viewing the house, re-trace your steps along Brownedge Road for approximately 200 metres when you will reach . . .

5 Lostock Hall War Memorial (Brownedge Road)

This War Memorial was rescued and re-sited in the memorial garden at the corner of Watkin Lane and Brownedge Road. It originally stood outside Lostock Hall Methodist Church until the church was closed and turned into offices (see 9). The First World War Memorial contains 79 names (surname followed by forename). This total is made up of the 11 men who died in action, the 66 men who served and returned from battle, and unusually for a memorial of this nature, the names of 2 nurses who served, Jessie True and Ethel Calleley.



Proceed along Brownedge Road until you reach the T-Junction with Watkin Lane at its end. Cross over the road and enter the pedestrianised area on Hope Terrace where you will find . . .

6 Lostock Hall War Memorial (Hope Terrace)

The memorial was installed in 1921 and originally stood just to the left of its present position (where the bus shelter is now sited) at the junction of Croston Road and Watkin Lane. It was moved in the 1980s when the area was pedestrianised and Hope Terrace was created. The memorial is a figure of



'Peace' mounted on a pedestal of granite, it stands 15ft 6in high and occupies a prominent position at the crossroads of Lostock Hall, Tardy Gate and Farington. It commemorates 83 servicemen who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

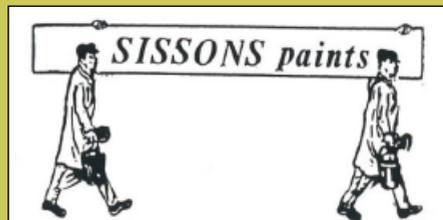
Proceed to the end of Hope Terrace and turn right on to Croston Road. Proceed along Croston Road, passing under Anchor Bridge, which carries trains along the East Lancashire Line from Preston to Colne. You will soon reach the next railway bridge which straddles the West Coast Main Line. Farington Station stood on the right hand side of the Croston Road over bridge between what is now Kellett Acre and the Campbell's Caravan Site. The station had an island platform and two outer platforms.

7 Farington Station



The station which opened on 31 October 1838 was originally named Farrington. In October 1857 one of the 'r's was dropped & it was renamed Farington. The station was closed by the British Transport Commission on 7 March 1960, (before the Beeching Axe fell in 1963) and was subsequently demolished. West Coast Main Line trains run through Farington and carry many inter-city and semi-local services. The East Lancashire Line crosses over the line close by.

Cross over the road at this point and take the narrow footpath between the houses. Before the houses were constructed there stood a three road carriage shed which during WW2 housed the 'Royal Train' and the 'Coronation Scott'. It is interesting to note that on the right hand side of the



path, stood the 'Painters Sign', a large advertising hoarding on the bank of the old railway. Perhaps in memory of this, some of the streets on the estate that now sit on this site are named after famous painters such as Turner, Lowry, Constable and Gainsborough. Continue along the path until you reach the elevated footbridge over the railway line. Cross over the bridge and continue to follow the footpath until it meets Ward Street at its end.

8 Ward Street

Lostock Hall fell victim to a number of bomb attacks during the Second World War. The most devastating took place at around 6pm on 27th October 1940 when three bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Ward Street by a Dornier Do 17z Luftwaffe Bomber. 27 people died and many terraced homes were destroyed. After the war a dance-hall was built on the site, which was subsequently used by the Bacup Shoe Factory. After its closure in 1982, the Calvary Christian Fellowship bought and





Courtesy of Lancashire County Council; Reef Rose Collectors

in the grounds of the church was rescued and re-sited in a memorial garden on the corner of Watkin Lane and Browndedge Road (see 5).



developed the building and established a centre of worship and community activity on the site. A lasting reminder can be found at nearby Lostock Court, where a memorial plaque in honour of the 27 victims and their families lies.

Continue along Ward Street until you reach its end. At this point, turn right on to Watkin Lane and proceed along it for approximately 200 yards until you reach ...

Cross over the road continuing in the same direction along Watkin Lane, crossing over Resolution Bridge which straddles the River Lostock, until you reach the large roundabout which forms the road junction with Lostock Lane. At this point you will see the imposing ...

9 Lostock Hall Methodist Church

Following the rise of the Methodist movement in the 19th century, particularly among the working classes, a whole raft of churches began to spring up in the mill towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. In 1866 local mill owner Joseph Ward (who had the street on which his mill was sited named in his honour) erected a Methodist Church on nearby Watkin Lane to provide a place of worship for a substantial number of his workforce who had converted to Methodism. Up until this time, his workers had worshiped in the school building adjacent to this site. The church eventually closed in August 2000 and was converted to storage space with offices sited on a mezzanine floor. It was around this time that the WW1 Memorial that had stood

10 WW1 Memorial



The memorial which commemorates the 682 fallen soldiers from South Ribble is installed at the roundabout at the end of Watkin Lane. The 40ft monument depicting a cut out figure of a World War One soldier, constructed by Dave Palmer of DP Structures in Nelson, also features a poppy and the dates '1914' & '1918'. The names of fallen soldiers from South Ribble are embossed in steel on the rear of the memorial. A plaque containing the names, service numbers and dates they fell is sited on the trench structure behind the monument along with a peace garden where visitors can reflect.

Proceed along the footpath which takes you behind the memorial and into the Peace Garden. Follow this path into St Catherine's Park where you will find a new structure, the Inglis Bridge which now provides visitors with a new crossing over the River Lostock.



Katherine McCreath

The bridge is based on a structure invented by the Scottish Engineer Charles Inglis at the turn of the 20th century. The portable bridge was specifically developed for the British Army during WW1. It was designed to enable troops, artillery and tanks to continue to advance, and to be sustained with supplies. This type of bridge played a strategically important role in 1918, enabling the Allies' sustained momentum for the advance which ended the war. Speed was vital

in preventing the Germans from regrouping and forming a new front line.

After crossing the bridge, continue along the path which runs alongside the River Lostock, taking care when crossing Todd Lane South. Follow the path back through the ornamental gate (see 2) and proceed back through the grounds of the hospice until you reach the end of the trail at . . .

11 The Mill, St Catherine's Park



The original Mill building dates back to the nineteenth century when it served as a barn for Lostock Fold Farm which later became, Catterall's Farm. The farm buildings were erected on the site of Lostock Mill and it is possible that the barn would have been constructed from bricks and stone that were salvaged from the original structure. The ground floor of the barn (now the downstairs of 'The Mill' Cafe) was made up of a bull pen, a cow shed, a dairy and a threshing floor with a hayloft sitting above it. There were also cottages and houses with outdoor toilets on the site.

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