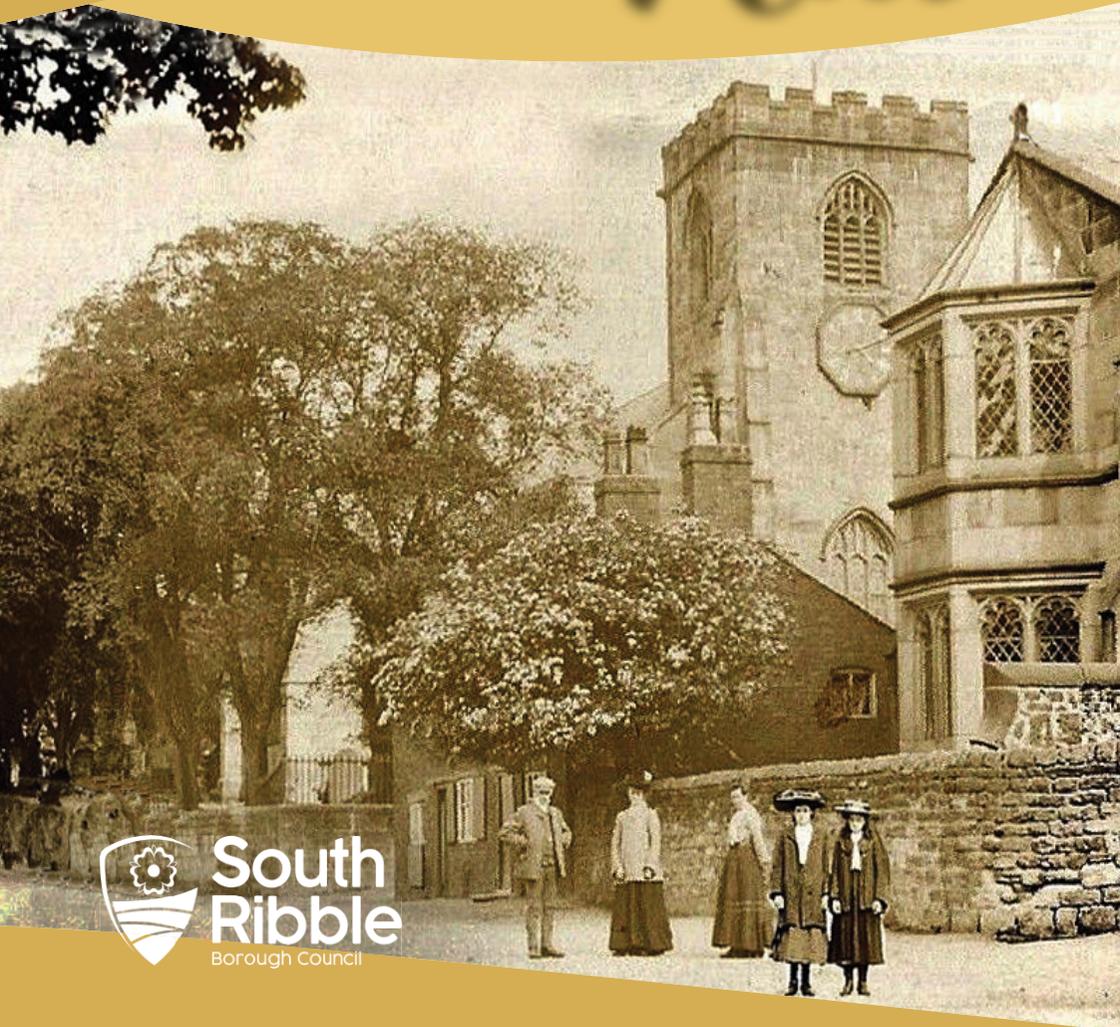


CUERDALE

Heritage Trail

***Discover Cuerdale's
Hidden Histories on this
3.4 mile Circular Walk***



**South
Ribble**
Borough Council

Finding Your Way Round

The Cuerdale Heritage Trail is 3.4 miles (5.4 kilometres) long and takes about 1 hour and 30 minutes.

For those joining the trail by bus, take the 125 Stagecoach service from Preston.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in preparing the trail - the Council cannot accept any liability and people using the route do so at their own risk.

Start



The trail starts and finishes at St Leonard's Church car park, 6 Church Brow, Walton-le-Dale, Preston PR5 4BH (number 1 on the Trail). It is on tarmaced footpaths, roads and across fields. There are some inclines. **SPECIAL CARE** should be taken alongside

roads in the countryside where there is no footpath. Follow the Country Code, keep to the paths and close gates. Please keep dogs under control and clean up after them. Please do not leave any litter.



1 St Leonard's Church



The Parish Church of St Leonard's sits on a piece of high ground close to the banks of the River Ribble and River Darwen. It's constructed of stone in the perpendicular style. The oldest parts of the church are the tower and the chancel which date from the 16th century. The nave was replaced in 1795–1798 and the transepts were added in 1815–1816, some restoration work took place in 1856. In 1864 the chancel was restored by E G Paley at the expense of Sir Henry de Hoghton and Richard Assheton; it was re-roofed, re-floored and refitted, and a reredos in Bath stone was added. The nave & transepts were completely rebuilt in 1902–1906 by John Pollard Seddon.

In the chancel, there is a plaster panel from 1634 with the coat of arms of the Assheton family of Cuerdale Hall and a brass memorial from 1770 to the wife of Ralph Assheton. Stained glass in the church includes the east window from 1850 by

Birmingham firm Hardman & Co. and later work by Lancaster firm Shrigley and Hunt. St Leonard's was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1950. The Grade II designation is the second highest of the three grades.

As an active parish church in the Church of England, St Leonard's is part of the diocese of Blackburn, which is in the Province of York. It is in the archdeaconry of Blackburn and the Deanery of Leyland. The church is within the benefice of Samlesbury, St Leonard the Less with Walton-le-Dale St Leonard.

From the Car Park at St Leonard's Church, turn right on to Church Brow. As you reach the end of the churchyard wall, you will pass the old Watch House.

2 Watch House

This building dates back to 1835 and was where people suspected of a crime were held under temporary arrest. It is built on a sloping site, with two storeys to the road and one to the churchyard. Facing the road is a carriage door that has an arched head with a keystone. In the rear wall is a semicircular doorway with a dated keystone.



Safely cross Church Brow and proceed 275 metres until you reach a path that leads downhill and is marked with a green and white 'Public Footpath' fingerpost. Follow the footpath down the hill, keeping the farm buildings on your right. You will then reach the River Ribble

inland than it is now, due to the reclamation of land and the growth of the marshes due to sedimentation over the years.

The Ribble was known in Roman times as the Belisama and the remains of a Roman site were discovered at Walton-le-Dale in the mid-19th century. The medieval silver Mitton Hoard was found close to where the Ribble joins the River Hodder in 2009. The Cuerdale Hoard (see 4) was discovered in 1840, just upstream from where you are now positioned.

3 The River Ribble



The River Ribble has a length of 75 miles and is formed at the confluence of the Gayle and Cam Becks close to Ribbleshead Viaduct in North Yorkshire. It flows between Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent then meanders through Settle, Clitheroe, Ribchester and Preston, before finally reaching the Irish Sea between Lytham and Southport. The normal tidal limit of the river is at Fishwick Bottoms close to where we are positioned now, which is approximately 11 miles from the sea. The River has the third largest tides in England, which run at 4 knots (5 mph; 7 km/h) and a tidal range at the mouth of the river is 26 feet (8m) during spring tides.

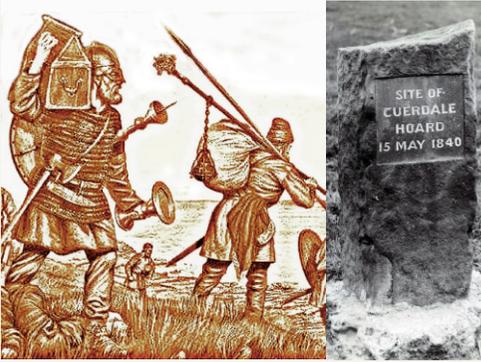
Finds from Neolithic & Saxon times from along the River Ribble have revealed that man has been in the area for a long time. The River Ribble would have looked completely different then, and the coastline is likely to have been much further

As you reach the bottom of the hill, continue to follow the track, keeping the hedge on your right. After approximately 300 metres, follow the track as it moves in-land, keeping the hedgerow on your right. Continue alongside the hedgerow until you reach the gate in the corner of the field with a stile at the left hand side of it. Cross over the stile and walk through the field, keeping the hedgerow with the ditch close to your right-hand side, and cross a further two stiles marked with green and yellow directional arrows. As you cross the second stile you will meet up once more with the River Ribble close to where the Cuerdale Hoard (4) was found.

4 The Cuerdale Hoard

The Cuerdale Hoard is a collection of more than 8,600 items, including silver coins, English and Carolingian jewellery, hacksilver and ingots. It was discovered on 15 May 1840 on the southern bank of a bend of the River Ribble. The Cuerdale Hoard is the largest Viking silver hoard ever found outside Russia, and exceeds in number of pieces and weight any hoard found in Scandinavia or any other western areas settled by the Vikings. It





Courtesy of Ards and North Down Council's Red Rose Collections

is four times larger than its nearest rival in Britain or Ireland, and second only to the Spillings Hoard found on Gotland, Sweden. A stone marks where the Cuerdale Hoard was found.

Cross another stile and follow the main path to the right which takes you between Cuerdale Hall and the farm buildings

5 Cuerdale Hall

This building dates from c1700 and was originally one farmhouse but later divided into two dwellings, it has been much altered and extended and possibly contains earlier material. It is built in brick with stone quoins and is partly rendered, there are two storeys. The windows vary, some being sashes, and other dating from later. The



House was once the a seat of the Assheton family of Downham & Cuerdale and was listed 1952.

The Carhouse and stable building is probably c1700. It has a stone plinth, with sandstone front wall, others parts are brick and it has a slate roof.



It has a long rectangular plan, with chimney stack and external steps to a loft at the right end. The front wall is of coursed roughly squared red sandstone with larger quoins. The right half of the ground floor is a continuous opening, there is a re-used lintel a bridging beam supported by 2 tapered hexagonal stone columns.

The barn is probably c1700 (or earlier) It is timber-framed with weatherboard cladding



on a stone plinth and has a slate roof. It has a rectangular plan with six bays, and contains a large wagon entrance. This is a structure of high quality and has been little altered.



Continue along the main path up the steep hill through the woodland until you reach the junction with Cuerdale Lane.

Turn right on to Cuerdale Lane and proceed along it for approximately 280 metres (great care should be taken when walking along this section of the route as this is a busy road with no footpath). You will reach a track on the left-hand side which is marked with a green and white footpath fingerpost and a sign for Silverhome.

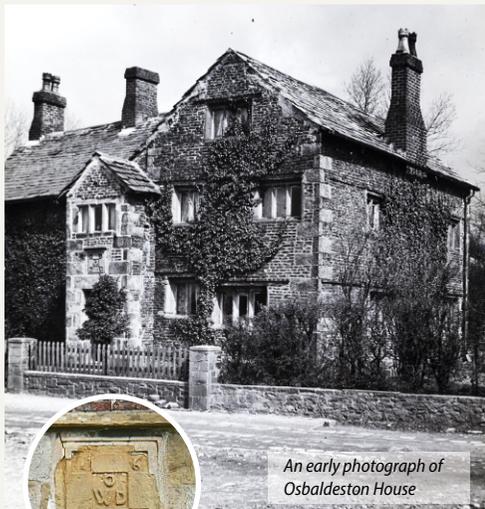
Follow this footpath for 100 metres until you reach Swains Fold Farm where you turn right following the yellow arrows which take you over a stile and into a field.

Walk through the field keeping the hedgerow close to your left then follow the hedgerow as it veers left and runs down the hill. Cross over the stile and then continue on your course until you reach a stile situated in the hedgerow, around three quarters of the way down.

Cross over the stile and follow the path through the woodland until you reach the farmyard. Follow the path through the farmyard keeping the farm buildings on your right. Osbaldeston House is on your left.

6 Osbaldeston House

This splendid grade II* listed Farmhouse dates from 1661, and even though the rumbling of the M6 motorway can be heard not far away it is like stepping back in time seeing this isolated building. It is built in brick on a stone plinth with stone dressings and has a slate roof.



An early photograph of Osbaldeston House



The front is formed by a 2½ storey gable with a 2 storey later addition to the left; at the junction, and rising only to the eaves, is a 2 storey gabled porch, the front of which is stone. Above the doorway is a stone tablet (protected by a straight dripstone), the 4 corners and the centre of which are lettered in relief: 1 6/ O/ WD/ 6 1 this refers to William and Dorothy Osbaldeston. At the 1st floor is a 3-light moulded stone mullion window. Right of the porch the c17 house has stone quoins, single-course brick bands on 2 levels, and double chamfered stone mullion windows in all walls. The extension to the left of the porch has sashed



windows with segmental brick heads in the 1st bay and low sashed windows in the 2nd bay. The rear has a lean-to and sashed windows with glazing bars in the first bay. Inside the c17 part has ovolo moulded beams on both floors, a diamond-pattern stone flagged floor in the entrance hall and cross-corner fireplaces in both ground floor rooms. There is an original dog leg staircase with turned balusters, and a purlin roof. The interior detail has survived remarkably complete for this period.

Continue along the cobbled path until you reach its end at the junction with Higher Walton Road. Turn Right and proceed along Higher Walton Road for approximately 900 metres (It is advisable when walking this part of the route to cross over and use the pavement on the left side of the road as it is wider and has a firmer surface. You can then cross over when you reach the school)

7 St Patrick's RC Primary School



In May 1857 the foundation stone for the new chapel-cum-school was laid and it opened 1858. In 1870 the Elementary Education Act made education compulsory for children thus the school numbers were greatly swollen not only

by this heightened focus but also as a result of the booming local textile industry. Soon, over 150 pupils were in attendance and in 1874 the building was enlarged to help accommodate these pupils.

The late introduction of electricity at St Patrick's was in 1953 and delivered school dinners were from 1945. It is interesting to note that pupils either went home or were collected for the hour's lunch break prior to this point.

A new playground was laid from LEA and parish funds in 1950. School trips, notably to the seaside, became a regular event in the calendar. New technology like a wireless and a gramophone were introduced into classrooms in 1958. After the inspectors' criticism of the levels of physical education in 1959 the emphasis on recreation was significantly increased with great effect.

Migration into Walton-le-Dale and the surrounding area in the late 1960s and early 1970s gave rise to a huge increase in numbers wishing to attend the schools, and St Patrick's alone peaked at just over 200 pupils.

St Patrick's was extended to cope with the new infant influx but just as suddenly as numbers had risen, they dramatically fell in the face of post-industrial migration away from the economically depressed north-west. By 1983 pupils numbered eighty; a spectacular fall in roll. The period of assimilation, aside from this and the effects of the 'winter of discontent' in 1979 when oil strikes forced the closure of the school for the first time in decades. 1983 saw the introduction of computers in the school for the first time. Numbers were again on the rise and the Diocese agreed to fund a school hall (the first dedicated hall in over a century and a quarter of schooling)

In 2004, the school was ranked second in the county's key stage 2 league tables. Since then numbers have continued to increase resulting, since 2002, in single aged classes and an extended school hall.



8 St Patrick's RC Church



The Roman Catholic church of Our Lady and St Patrick was originally formed in 1855 by the Benedictines. A mission was formally established and a school-chapel was constructed. Rising congregations led to the need for a larger church, and on 24 August 1879 the foundation stone for the present building was laid, designed by Peter Paul Pugin (1851-1904) and constructed by Mr Hothersall of Preston. The church opened on 19 October 1880 at a cost of £5,225 and could seat 500. The attached presbytery was built in 1887 and it too is considered to be by Pugin. In 1907 the Pugin designed high altar was installed as were the Sacred Heart and the Lady altars (probably by Boulton) and the Stations of the Cross. The baptistry was added in 1930. Other fittings dating from this time include the hanging crucifix, stone pulpit and the altar rails of Derbyshire granite. In 1954 it was redecorated and some of the original stencil drawing to the sanctuary over painted. In 2005-9 a more radical transformation of the interior was undertaken; this involved repair and redecoration, the forward extension of the sanctuary and the re-siting of the communion rails, extension of the west gallery to create a large social area and conversion of the former baptistry to toilets.

At the public footpath sign with a green and white fingerpost situated on the right hand side, between St Patrick's Primary School and St Patrick's Church. Follow the footpath up the hill, through the Graveyard

9 St Leonard's Graveyard

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission pledge to clean and maintain commonwealth war graves. St Leonard's Graveyard contains the war graves of seven servicemen from both World Wars; **can you find them?**

FRANCIS ASHWORTH Private, Service Number: 2938773
Pioneer Corps, Died 19 June 1944, 32 years old

GEORGE BERRY Guardsman, Service Number: 2620731, 4th Bn. Grenadier Guards, Died 29 June 1942, 31 years old

FRED WILSON Leading Aircraftman, Service Number: 1425168
Royal Air Force Vol Reserve, Died 31 May 1943, 22 years old

THOMAS EDWARD SNAPE Driver, Service Number: 14340145, Royal Engineers, Died 18 March 1943, 22 years old

NORMAN WHITTAM Serjeant, Service Number: 844
2nd West Lancs Bde. Ammunition Col. Royal Field Artillery
Died 06 February 1916

S R IDDON Flight Cadet, Service Number: 128018
9th Training Depot Royal Air Force, Died 06 September 1918
18 years old

G B MARGERISON Private, Service Number: 201075, 1st/4th Bn. The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, Died 12 April 1920
24 years old



Proceed back to the car park at St Leonard's Church where the walk ends

This Heritage Trail is funded by the Eastern Parishes Community Hub

