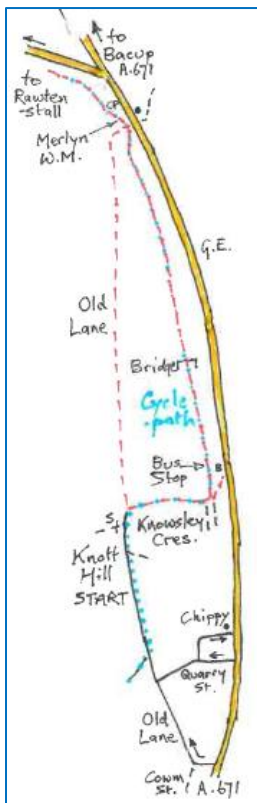


# Strolling Whitworth *Simply lovely little Walks*

## STROLL 10 CYCLEPATH NORTH and OLD LANE

**START** Knott Hill. In Shawforth, turn left off Market Street at Quarry Street, left at top, then right. Park beneath the copper beeches before the houses.

**DISTANCE** Medium      **BUS STOP** Shanter. Then walk up the ramp opposite the stoneyard, to join the route at \*.



**NATURE OF WALK** Simple navigation. First half is a long steadily shallow rise – second half begins with a steeper up, then has a long dip to finish. Super views, especially on the second half. Terrain – one puddly section, if it's rained; otherwise most footwear will be fine.

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Walk up the road, then turn right at the [Cycle Route 92](#) sign, because the first half of this walk consists of Whitworth's splendid cyclepath, used every bit as much by walkers, runners, horse-riders, mobility scooters and swegways. As most of those will be going faster than you, be prepared to give way: most will thank you, which is a small triumph for civilisation over automobile arrogance.

Shortly you'll leave houses behind, guided by a second [CR 92](#) sign\* - the only help you'll need for a while: relax and enjoy the hassle-free surface and the views. Originally, this was the railway line when it was extended from Facit up

to Britannia and into Bacup. You'll pass under a now derelict footbridge

and later you'll see the monumental stonework that protected the line from landslip. Down below, similarly monumental stone stops the railway line from slipping onto the main road! On your right, across the road, spot



the chimney of the old Peel Mill, soaring out of a field; and, further on, the crenellated top of Gormless End.

*Footbridge by Linda Parker.  
Don't be tempted to cross it  
– unsafe!*

You're approaching Britannia, where the station was once the highest on the Lancashire and Yorkshire network. It was substantial, being the place where stone was transferred from the quarry tramways onto trains. The station closed in the 1940s but Britannia took a kind of revenge: the last train couldn't depart for five whole days, so bad was the snow. At the top of the cyclepath, beyond the floral bike and the boulder gateway, you can see that the line once went under a bridge, since filled in.

Here you turn left, over the ex-bridge, and back on yourself, on Old Lane. This roadway is a bit rough, and puddles tend to gather at the crest. Up to your right you'll spot the television booster. Beyond the little forest on your left, the views of Shawforth open up. On the opposite horizon is a long moor wall, lining the ancient Limers Gate trail, where drovers led their packhorses before the coming of the turnpike road: all sorts of goods were carried, but principally lime from the north and salt from the south.

At the junction at the bottom, cars straight on, buses left.

#### POSSIBLE WALK EXTENSION

The cyclepath continues beyond Britannia, to a pond, with ducks, 400m. down New Line, a decent place for a picnic. But note that it's an out-and-back, and returning will be uphill. JF

