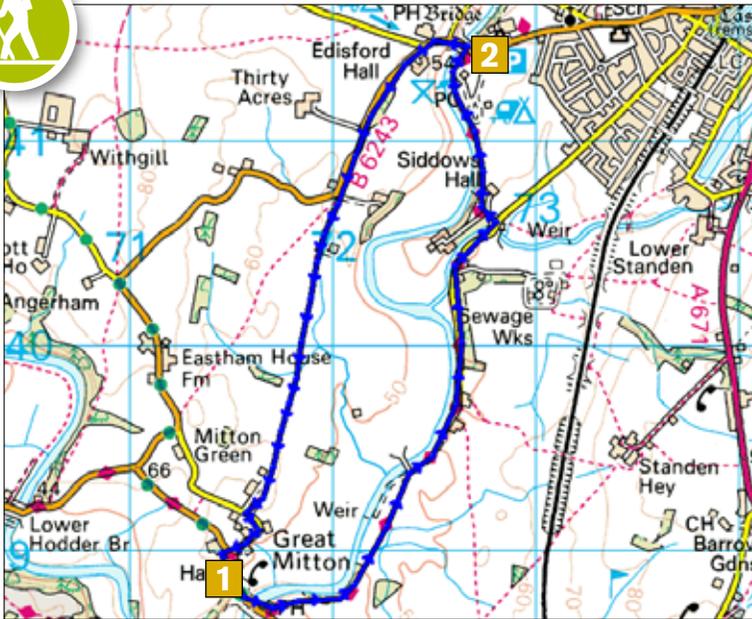


# Great Mitton - The Three Fishes

The Ribble Valley is a part of Lancashire that is almost unknown by people living outside of the county. In its middle section it is dominated by the huge bulk of Pendle Hill. This short walk will introduce you to a lovely reach of the river - with the great hill as a backdrop, returning by quiet meadows with scattered woods.

EASY



**START:** The Three Fishes, BB7 9PQ **DISTANCE:** 4½ miles (9km) **TIME:** 2 - 3 hours

**SUMMARY:** Flat and easy with a short climb away from the river at Mitton and Edisford Bridge. After Edisford Bridge there is a road walk section of approximately 1000 yards. Please walk on the right and face the oncoming traffic.

**MAP:** OS Explorer 287 West Pennine Moors.

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## START:

**1** From the Three Fishes, turn right and walk slightly downhill passing the church and the Old Hall opposite.

## The church and hall have histories stretching back to antiquity.

The road leads down to Mitton Bridge which crosses the River Ribble and offers stunning views. On the far side, turn left onto a footpath through a wooden kissing gate. Close to this spot there is a sign showing that from the start of the walk you have been on the Ribble Way.

This seventy mile Long Distance Path follows the Ribble from its source in the Yorkshire Dales to its estuary near Longton to the west of Preston. Of all the major rivers that

have their source in the Yorkshire Dales, the Ribble is the only one to flow west. For the first part of the walk to Edisford Bridge you follow the Ribble Way. For most of it the great bulk of Pendle will be in sight. (Clear weather permitting).

The footpath follows a fence on the left and soon offers a splendid view of the church and hall across the river. Follow the field boundary as it leads gently uphill to a stile in a wooden fence. Over this, bear left and then after a kissing gate enter a large riverside pasture. Return to the riverside.

Beyond a small service building, join a track leading up to a utility bridge spanning the river. Here continue through a wooden gate on a track that soon brings you to Shuttleworth Farm. After passing outbuildings on the right, go through a kissing

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gate to diagonally cross a small meadow to a second kissing gate in its far corner. Turn left onto the farm road.

After the river bends away, left keep ahead for another 500 yards to reach a lane junction immediately beyond woods on the left. Here, turn left and then right onto a track a short distance from the junction. Almost immediately go through the kissing gate onto enclosed path. This soon reunites you with the river.

The path passes close to a camping and caravanning site to enter the Riverside Park before Edisford Bridge. This is an attractive and popular amenity, especially in the summer. Keep ahead through the playground and car park to join Edisford Road (B6243). Turn left and cross the bridge.

**2** There is no pavement over the bridge so be aware of traffic - advice all the harder to follow if admiring the charming riverscape on both sides of the bridge. Now keep firmly to the right side of the road as it climbs up past the Edisford Bridge Inn.

Continue on the main road past the junction for Bashall and carry on for another 800 yards. The prominent height to the right is Longridge Fell. Where the road bends sharply right, cross to the drive of Far Lands

Hall Farm. Turn right onto a farm road (in the direction of holiday cottages). After crossing a stile next to a metal gate, continue on the Tarmac to the next gate.

From here bear slightly right to cross a stile leading into a large field. Follow the hedge to your left as its leads you across fields by a series of wooden stiles.

After the way crosses a culvert, the next stile leads into a vast field. Keeping the hedge on your left, keep walking ahead and then a short distance beyond a small enclosed pond turn left, over a stile onto a narrow path known as Malkin Lane.

After the vast open fields Malkin Lane is very much enclosed. Keep on it for 300 yards until it brings you onto a quiet lane opposite a house. This is in Church Lane.

Turn left and you'll soon arrive at your destination - Great Mitton.

