

Horse Riding Routes in Arnside/Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



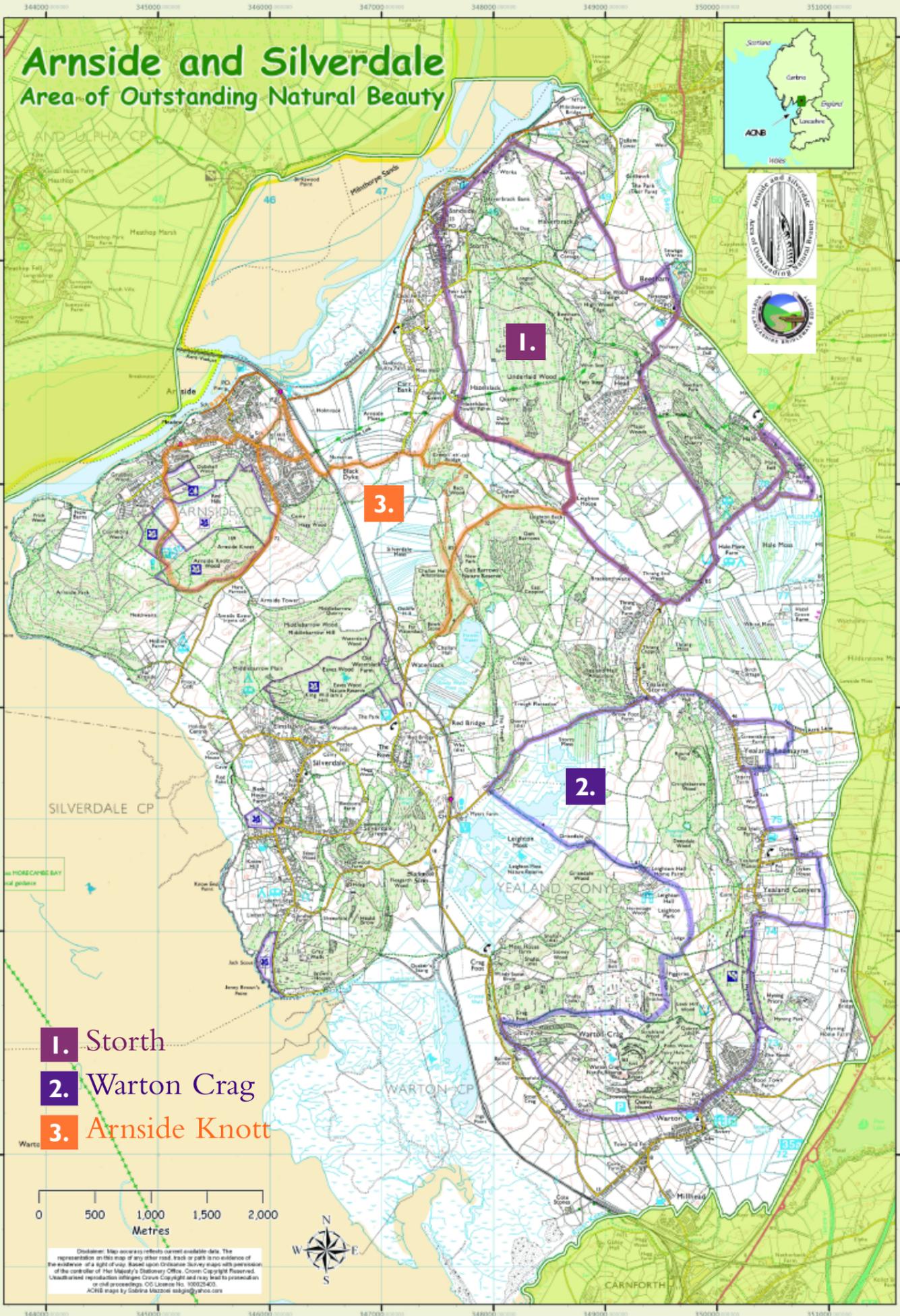
North Lancashire Bridleways Society



An area to explore and enjoy

Storth • Warton Crag • Arnside Knott





Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



- 1. Storth
- 2. Warton Crag
- 3. Arnside Knott

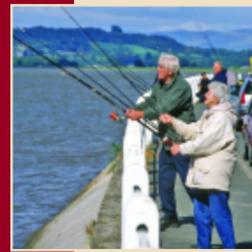
Storth

The name Storth comes from an old Norse name signifying a woody place. Storth is an area with an estuary (anglers can often be seen fishing for fluke), surrounded mainly by woodland and limestone. Ash, Yew and Hazel all grow well over the limestone. In the Spring can be seen an abundance of damson and apple blossom. Wild species of plants, such as rockrose, thyme, cowslip and primrose can be found. One old road from north to south through Storth village was probably used for carting iron ore from the pier at Sandy Bank to the Leighton Furnace.

1.
Storth
Length of Ride
Approx 16km (10 miles)
(2.25 hours)



Terrain:- Easy – quiet country lanes, bridleways and byways. No gates to open. Spectacular views over the Kent Estuary.



Anglers fishing for fluke

Warton Crag

Warton Crag is a prominent limestone hill which lies on the southern edge of the Arnside/Silverdale AONB. The limestone habitats of Warton Crag are amongst the most important in the area and several nationally rare species are found here.

2.
Warton Crag
Length of Ride
Approx 16km (10 miles)
(2.5 hours)



A special plant of the area is Blue Moor Grass and the light cover of bracken provides an ideal habitat for a rare butterfly, the High Brown Fritillary. The flora and fauna is protected by designation of much of the Crag as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Terrain:- Easy – Mixture of roads and bridleways. Lovely views of Morecambe Bay and Leighton Hall.



View of Leighton Hall

Arnside Knott

This site, owned by the National Trust, is renowned for its outstanding views of the Lake District Fells, the Kent Estuary and Morecambe Bay.

3.
Arnside Knott
Length of Ride
Approx 16km (10 miles)
(2.5 hours)



Covered with limestone grassland and mixed woodland, the site is of national importance for butterflies such as the High Brown Fritillary, Scotch Argus and Northern Brown Argus. At Heathwaite on the western part of the site, in spring and early summer, you will find a magnificent display of Cowslips, Primroses and a variety of orchids including Early Purple, Common Spotted, Green-winged and Autumn Lady's Tresses.

Terrain:- Easy – Country lanes and bridleways. Spectacular views of Morecambe Bay from Arnside Knott. The ride also takes you through part of Arnside Village, which is popular with walkers and other visitors.



Hazelslack Tower

Arnside/Silverdale Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty



The Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a unique landscape of national importance that extends to approximately 75 square kilometres overall, including around 30 square kilometres of inter-tidal sands and mudflats. It is one of the smallest of the 40 AONBs across England and Wales.

Within the AONB there are more than 4,000 hectares of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 121 hectares of National Nature Reserve which together make up almost 55% of the total area.



North Lancs Bridleways Society:

NLBS had its inaugural meeting in May, 1997 when a handful of enthusiastic 'happy hackers' met together with the intention of improving the area's off-road riding. There were many, sometimes frustrating, years of attempting physically to clear overgrown bridleways, which were overgrown again the following year; years of trying to persuade local councils to do their bit in maintaining and developing off-road routes; and years of encouraging landowners that horseriders were not the ogres and vandals which they seemed to expect.

At times we felt we were 'banging our heads against a stone wall'!

However, during these years, membership steadily increased, friendships with like-minded people blossomed and we held many very popular social and fund-raising rides using the very bridleways we were wishing to promote.

After ten years of hard work much of the effort is slowly but surely showing benefits. We have a membership of 300, continually growing, we have contributed money and efforts in establishing multi-user routes in the



Lancaster area and beyond, namely the Lune Valley Millennium track, the Lancaster to Condor Green track and the North Lancashire Bridleway which extends from Lancaster to Chipping in the Ribble Valley, a route of 45km. Our social rides continue to be a very popular and successful aspect of our work.

We now have the experience of those ten years, with many of those initial members still working hard within the Society. We have our aims more clearly defined – with road safety and an encouragement to know and ride the available bridleways at the top of our list – and so we introduce you to riding in the Arnside/Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

If you enjoy these routes, then take a look at our web site: www.nlbs.org.uk where we have routes in adjacent areas which can be downloaded free of charge. You may even be tempted to join us, at only £5 per year, and share in our fun, friendship and the promotion of safe riding routes for all in North Lancashire. If you have any feed-back from these routes, complimentary or otherwise, then please contact us via the web site but please also remember that all of our work is voluntary and we are not infallible!



Riding in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB

The Arnside/Silverdale AONB offers an accessible and varied landscape in which to discover the uniqueness of this very attractive area. As a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty is promoted and managed and by riding through the area on horseback, the rider can enjoy this beauty to the full, with minimal disturbance to nature and wildlife. The horse is at one with the wildlife in an area such as this and it is thrilling to see a deer at close quarters, undisturbed by the passing of the horse and hopefully a soundless rider!

It is an area of historical and archaeological importance and details of this can be found on the AONB web site: www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk

The area is undulating and, after the beauty of the woodlands and pastures, stunning views open up of the Kent estuary or the stretches of Morecambe Bay.

This area is truly an experience for the horse rider.

Disclaimer:

North Lancs. Bridleways Society Officers have checked the venues and routes in this leaflet at time of printing but they cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies which may occur. Please remember that the countryside, and its agricultural uses, is constantly changing.

Insurance:

All riders should hold third party insurance in case your horse injures someone or causes damage.

Parking:

In the area, suitable parking is limited, especially in the summer months. Parking places are indicated with each riding route but these will generally only accommodate one or two 'horse' vehicles. For further possible parking on private land, or for any further information about riding in the area, contact North Lancs. Bridleways Society via the web site, which includes contact numbers. Other information on the area can be obtained from the AONB office during office hours.



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NLBS web site:
www.nlbs.org.uk

Contacts: Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB tel.01524 761034 www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk

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Equestrian Routes only:

Please note that, unfortunately, these routes are not suitable for cyclists because certain landowners have stipulated that the section crossing their land is for equestrian use only.

Ride safely and considerately:

- It is advisable to tell someone where you are going and the approximate time of your return
- Wear suitable clothing, particularly reflective/fluorescent gear as sections of each route are on quiet roads
- Carry a suitable map, mobile phone and some form of identification in case of emergencies
- Check safety of your tack, horse's shoes and transport
- Ride at a safe and controlled pace and show consideration for other users
- Please acknowledge drivers that slow down for horses
- Fasten any gates that you open, keep to the designated route and take your litter home with you
- Respect the life and work of the countryside