

FINDS FROM THE BLEASDALE CIRCLE

The Harris Museum and Art Gallery on the Market Square in Preston houses the artefacts collected from the Bleasdale Circle excavations. They are on permanent display. The museum is open Monday - Friday 10am until 5pm and Sundays 11am until 4pm, except Bank Holidays when the museum is closed. The museum can be contacted on 01772 258248.



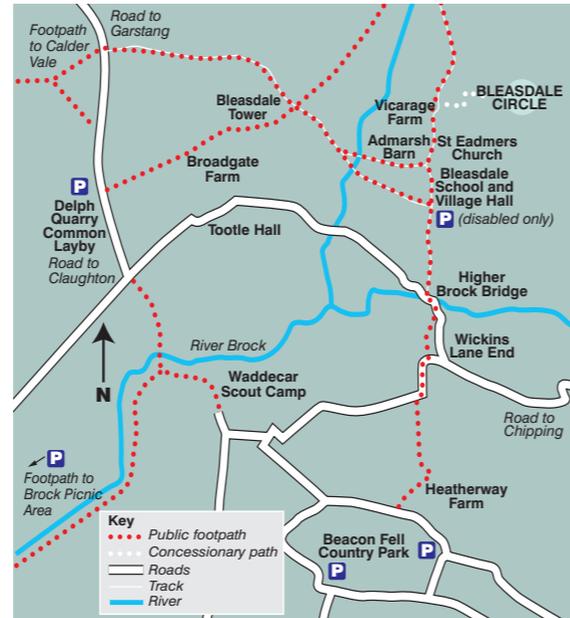
Norwyn, Preston

ACCESS TO THE CIRCLE AND CAR PARKING

Access to the circle is across private land on a concessionary footpath. Please look out for the waymarks and keep to the route. There is an information point next to the village hall and one at the circle.

A footpath runs through Bleasdale Estate from the main road at Higher Brock Bridge. Car parking is available at nearby Beacon Fell or Delph Quarry Common Layby. If you wish to park in the estate on either the shared village hall and school car park or the church car park you will need to obtain permission. Please avoid school start and finish times and church service days. As access to the circle is across fields through 3 kissing gates on a concessionary path. It can be very muddy; wellingtons or boots are recommended.

ACCESS TO THE CIRCLE ON FOOT



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More details of walk routes from Delph Quarry Common Layby and Beacon Fell are available from the following websites.

www.wyrebc.gov.uk
www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/index.asp
www.forestofbowland.com

If you need to use a disabled only car park please ring the estate office (Mon-Fri)

Bleasdale Estate Office 01995 61492

At weekends please ring

Bowland Visitor Centre 01995 640557

Wyre Countryside Ranger Service at

Garstang Discovery Centre 01995 606654

This leaflet will be available from the above places on request and also at St. Eadmer's Church and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery.

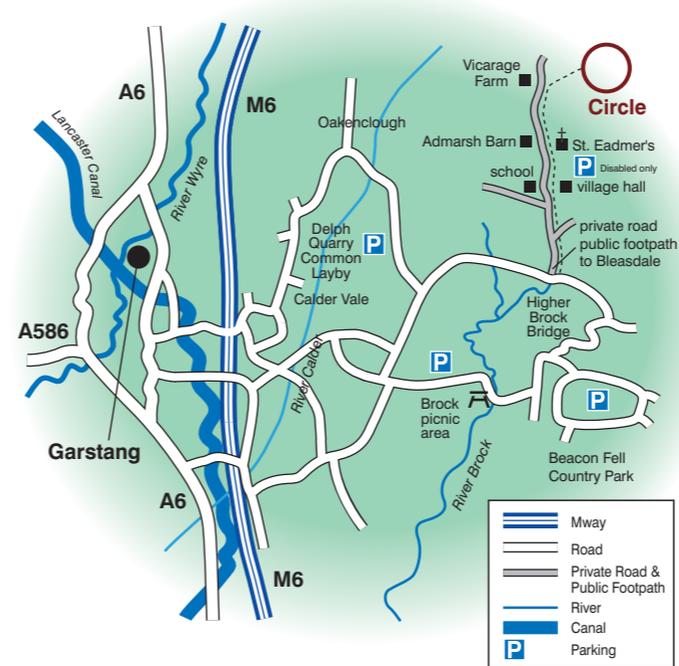
More Contact Information: www.wyrebc.gov.uk

Please use an Ordnance Survey map to find your route:

Explorer OL41 - Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale available from Garstang Tourist Information Centre and Bowland Visitor Centre.



HOW TO FIND THE CIRCLE



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OBSERVE THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in the production of this leaflet.

Wyre Borough Council



Cover illustration: Based on an illustration by Terry Rushworth, commissioned by the Harris Museum and Art Gallery.



A BRONZE AGE TIMBER CIRCLE



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCLE AND OTHER HERITAGE IN BLEASDALE

Bleasdale Circle is a Bronze Age timber structure consisting of two circles set within one another. The Circle was discovered in 1898 by Shadrach Jackson and Thomas Kelsall. Excavation of the inner circle revealed posts, poles and a grave. In 1924 the site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument but it was not until 1935 that the outer circle and the area between the circles were excavated. At this time the inner circle posts were replaced by concrete ones. Four of the posts were moved to the Harris Museum.

The outer circle, diameter 150 feet, consisted of timber posts set closely together with an entrance on the south western side. The inner circle, diameter 75 feet, consisted of 11 oak posts coming up through a small mound or barrow. This was surrounded by a horseshoe shaped ditch with an entrance to the east. This ditch was lined with birch poles. Within the inner circle a grave was found complete with 2 urns buried inverted and containing charcoal and cremated human bones. In one of the urns a very much smaller cup was found. This would probably have held food and drink for the afterlife. The contents of the grave, decorative urns and cup, were also moved to the Harris Museum in Preston.

Bleasdale Circle has been dated to approximately 1700 BC which makes it Bronze Age. It was probably not a village settlement but possibly a religious centre. The alignment of the circles within the surrounding fells may have been used to follow the sun and stars.

The birch poles in the ditch, the shape of the ditch itself and the relationship between the two circles make Bleasdale unique.

Enjoy your visit to a very special place and please help to keep it that way by treating the monument with respect.

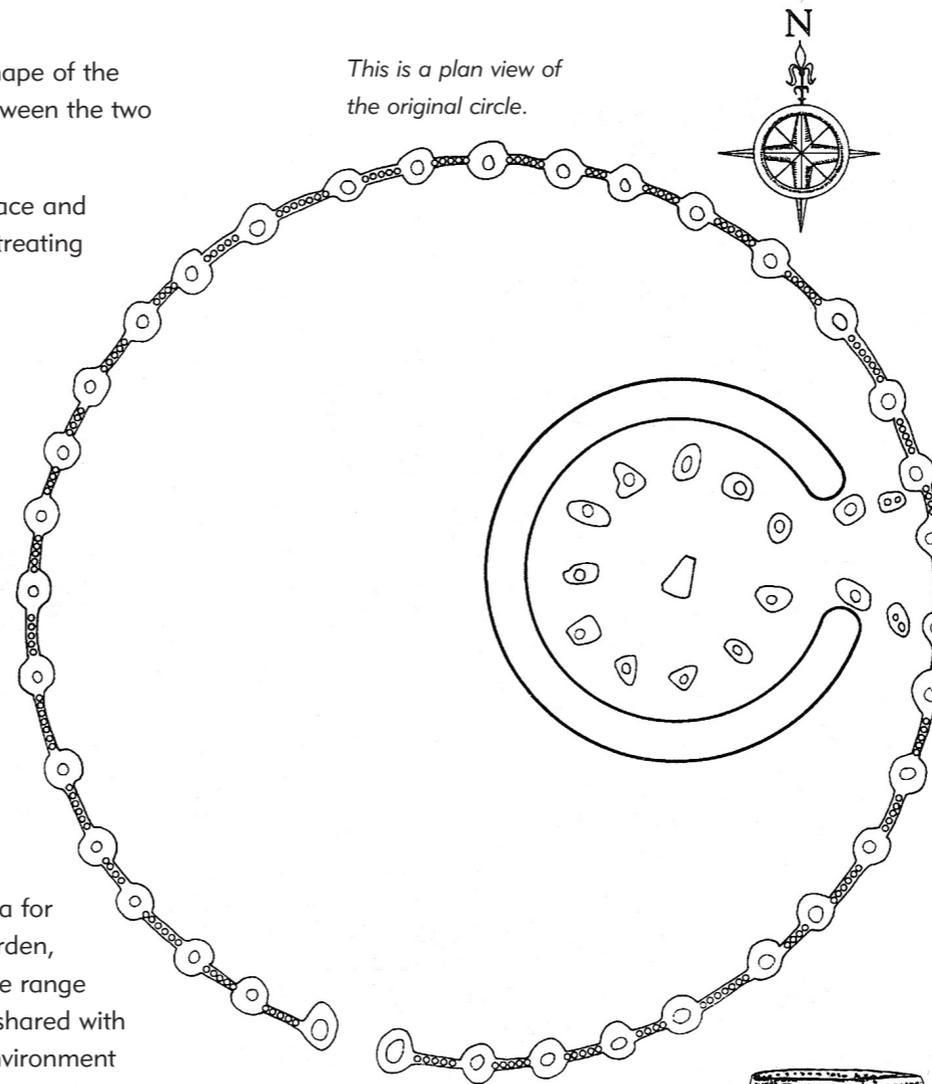
BLEASDALE C.E. SCHOOL

Originally built in 1850 Bleasdale School has served the local community for many generations. High windows were a feature of Victorian schools such as at Bleasdale - children were meant to keep their eyes on their work! In the 1960's the windows were lowered to give the classroom a more cheerful aspect. Today the school offers children individual tuition, a full range of outdoor activities including a woodland area for adventurous activities, a school garden, woodland trail and pond. The wide range of outdoor activities and trails are shared with visiting schools. The quiet rural environment being an added bonus to this educational facility.

ADMARSH BARN

This Georgian building, dated 1720, stands on a lane opposite the church. This lane leads down to the Old Packhorse Bridge which was used by horses transporting wool to the Pennine manufacturing areas.

This is a plan view of the original circle.



What the circle looks like now.



Urn found at the site which can now be seen at the Harris Museum, Preston

ST. EADMER'S CHURCH

The Church is the only one in England dedicated to this Saint whose origin is obscure. There is a possibility that the Parkinson family, who built the original church on the site in 1577, chose Eadmer because of their Northumbrian connections. (Eadmer was a monk whose vision led to the placing of the body of St. Cuthbert on a site which is now Durham Cathedral). The building we see today dates mainly from 1835, though it re-uses earlier decorated stonework and has newer additions.

THE FOREST OF BOWLAND



The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area. For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at www.forestofbowland.com or call 01772 531473.