

Some comments on the first edition

"This is not a walking book although it does give 24 descriptions of walks and it's not a history book - and does give more history of the area than most of us dreamt of. *The Land of the Lune* is best described as a book of the Lune landscape. It uses the language and stories of people who live there now and in past centuries, but I am left with a more powerful impression of the hills, valleys and rivers that will outlast us all. John Self has clearly explored the Lune Valley thoroughly. His love for the landscape comes through in his words complemented by his colour photography." (*Lancaster Guardian, in describing its "Books of 2008"*)

"... 230 extremely interesting pages on the areas of the Lakes, Yorkshire Dales and Lancashire through which the Lune makes its way to the sea via Morecambe Bay." (*The Dalesman Magazine*)

"The Land of the Lune is a guide to the region within the Lune watershed ... areas of England we know and love for reasons which become obvious as you flick through this glossy paperback and see some of the stunning images captured on camera ... Well-known peaks, pathways, becks and bridges litter the 230 pages and the author visits man-made features of interest as well as exploring the way the landscape has developed over the centuries ... It is well-researched and comprehensive." (Westmorland Gazette)

"The Lune is one of Cumbria's overlooked rivers, perhaps because the county has to share it with Yorkshire and Lancashire ... Yet between its birth in the Howgill Fells and its end in Morecambe Bay its sixty-six miles drain a vast area of hill country, claiming parts of Mallerstang, Whernside, Ingleborough and the Forest of Bowland in its domain. John Self traces the course of the river and its tributaries with a collection of walks to help readers explore this unfairly neglected watercourse." (Cumbria Magazine)

"... a quality guide to the region of northwest England that lies within the Lune watershed. Filled with detail and colour photographs." (Carnforth Books)

"I would like to offer my congratulations on a fascinating and masterly piece of work. The range of your study is vast, and I have learnt a great deal about an area which I thought, mistakenly, I knew something about!" (JS, Caton)

"If you have produced and published this beautiful book 'all by yourself' then I am amazed!!" (JH, Stockport)

"My wife recently gave me your book which I have enjoyed immensely. It is the first one where the author has delved into the furthest reaches of the tributaries." (JT, Kirkby Lonsdale)

"An extremely interesting and well produced book with a lot of information for anyone interested in visiting that area of Cumbria and Lancashire." (A review on Amazon)

"The book is well written by someone with a sense of humour and provides the keen walker and those just seeking information about the Howgill hills a great reference book ... A real good read." (Another review on Amazon)

"... a very nice book, obviously loads of research, good pictures and well written." (LS, Preston)

"... attractive and helpful to a rambler like myself." (JI, Lancaster)

"I enjoyed every page, and it won't be long before I start all over again - as you do with excellent books." (RH, Bangor)

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The Land of the Lune

A guide to the region within the Lune Watershed





















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The Land of the Lune – and its tributaries

A guide to the region within the Lune Watershed

John Self

Drakkar Press











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Additional photographs:

Front cover: *The Lune at the Crook o'Lune* Back cover: *Carlin Gill from Grayrigg*

The twenty-five bridges shown in these front pages are in the order they would be met on the journey described in this book. They are (with grid references):

Page 3: Rayne Bridge over the River Lune (645055); bridge over Langdale Beck (648026); Wasdale Old Bridge over Wasdale Beck (565084); M6 bridge over the River Lune near Tebay (612044); bridge over Borrow Beck (588011).

Page 4: Salterwath Bridge over the River Lune (612009); Carlingill Bridge over Carlingill Beck (624996); Lincoln's Inn Bridge over the River Lune (632923); Rawthey Bridge over the River Rawthey (714979); Double Hole Bridge over Stony Gill (775923).

Page 5: bridge over Clough River at Garsdale (745896); Middleton Bridge over the River Rawthey (630898); Rigmaden Bridge over the River Lune (617849); Hodge Bridge over Barbon Beck (623826); Stanley Bridge over the River Lune (615781).

Page 6: bridge over Ease Gill (675805); bridge over the River Greta at Burton-in-Lonsdale (653720); Flascoe Bridge over Austwick Beck (774686); Tatham Bridge over the River Wenning (610692); Furnessford Bridge over the River Hindburn (635669).

Page 7: suspension bridge over the River Roeburn (611650); bridge over Artle Beck (532655); Penny Bridge over the River Lune (522647); bridge over the River Lune at Halton (503647); Skerton Bridge over the River Lune (480623).











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Two views from the Crook o'Lune



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The Land of the Lune - and its tributaries

Introduction

The view from the Crook o'Lune at Caton is tranguil. The River Lune, nestled deep within its **L** banks, meanders toward us from the hazy hills in the distance. But on a few days each year the scene is very different. The Lune then is a muddy torrent, raging halfway up Penny Bridge and stretching wide across the floodplain. An obvious question on such a day is: where does all this water come from?

This book answers this question as a pretext for providing a guide to a part of northwest England that is generally overlooked. As we will see, the region within the Lune watershed includes parts of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Forest of Bowland and the Howgills, and all of what lies between them. Our region, however, gets little attention. For example, the National Trust, whose mission is to preserve "places of historic interest or natural beauty", owns about 350 sq km in the Lake District and 60 sq km in the Yorkshire Dales but within the Lune watershed only one public house, and that it did not actively acquire but gained through a bequest.

Perhaps this is understandable because the region within the Lune watershed has none of England's greatest buildings, no major historic events happened here, none of England's greatest men or women were born or lived here, and there are no sites of international ecological importance. Even so, if we approach the region without great expectations, we will find a great deal of interest and appeal – not on the majestic scale of the best of the Lake District but certainly not deserving of complete neglect. There have been thousands of books written on the Lakes but hardly a handful on the Lune region.

The reputation of the region suffers from it being hurried through by people on their way to the Lakes and the Dales. It has long been regarded as a kind of consolation for those unable to reach their intended destination. For example, The Pictorial History of the County of Lancaster, published in 1854, said "The vale of the Lune may now be visited from London in a day, thanks to railroads; and if the stranger go not as far as Furness or Westmoreland, he may still say he has entered the portal of the northern scenery of England, and found

that alone has repaid his visit, especially if he prefer the tranquil in nature to the severe and grand – to pore over the bubbling brook, rather than listen to the thunders of the cataract".

We will follow the waters of the Lune and all its tributaries as they make their way from the fells to the estuary. This will take us through a variety of landscapes - fells, moors, crags, valleys, pastures, floodplains and estuary – but all the while, in our mind's ear, we will be accompanied by the comforting sounds of the beck and river. The Lune itself is not a long river, a mere 105km, but it drains 1285 sq km of varied terrain that fortunately remains in a condition relatively unaffected by so-called development. The Lune valley is a fine one but much more of interest is added if we widen our scope to include its tributaries.

A Word on Terminology

The phrase "the region within the Lune watershed" is cumbersome. I will co-opt the old, now largely disused, word 'Loyne' as shorthand for this phrase. 'Lunesdale' or 'Lonsdale' will not serve my purpose because they are usually taken to refer narrowly to the valley of the Lune itself. The few authors who have written on Lunesdale have some difficulty in deciding how far to creep up the tributaries - Sedbergh?, Bentham?, Ingleton? ... My rule is simple: if rain falling on an area makes its way to the Lune estuary then the area is within my scope.

Loyne may seem an artificial construct compared with the familiar counties and National Parks. In fact, it is the administrative boundaries that are arbitrary – witness the 1974 creation of the boundaries of Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire, with the loss of Cumberland and Westmorland, and the on-going debate about changing the National Park boundaries. The Lake District includes the Shap Fells but not the similar Birkbeck Fells across the A6, although many regard both as not really part of the Lakes. The Yorkshire Dales National Park includes the southern half of the Howgills but not the similar northern half. Many consider that the Howgills should not be part of the Dales and would rather include, say, Wild Boar Fell.

To anyone looking from the Crook o'Lune, Loyne seems perfectly coherent. Everything we see is within Loyne, and a great deal of Loyne can be seen. Ingleborough and Whernside, for example, seem clearly to belong to Loyne.



Lancaster's "Luck to Loyne" crest

The Aim of this Book

The implicit aim of most guides is to encourage readers to visit that which is described. My aim is the opposite. I intend to describe a virtual, vicarious journey that may be enjoyed in an armchair by the fireside, thereby saving you time, energy and expense and protecting the serenity and loneliness of Loyne for those who enjoy that sort of thing, like me. (Reviewers of a draft manuscript have warned me that readers cannot see the tongue in my cheek, so I will henceforth do my best to remove it.)

A Note about the Walks

There are outlines of 24 walks in this book. It is strongly advised that the suggested route be traced on the appropriate 1:25000 Ordnance Survey (OS) map before you embark on any of the walks. The descriptions given here are not adequate unless used in conjunction with the OS map. The region is covered by maps OL19 (Howgill Fells and Upper Eden Valley), OL7 (The English Lakes, south-eastern area), OL2 (Yorkshire Dales, southern and western areas), OL41 (Forest of Bowland and

Ribblesdale) and Explorer 296 (Lancaster, Morecambe and Fleetwood).

The outlines do not give step-by-step instructions as in specialist walking books. The idea is that, once you have traced the proposed route, you should adapt it as necessary to suit your own needs. Each route passes points of interest mentioned in the pages preceding the walk description. Always bear in mind that the walk details, such as they are, are provided in good faith but their continued correctness cannot be guaranteed.

All the suggested walks are full-day** (five or six hour) loops from a car-parking spot. If you can reach the starting point by bicycle or public transport please do so. Unfortunately, the details of public transport are too changeable to be given here.

The walks require a good standard of fitness but there is no need for the heroic scrambling of some Lakeland walks. However, some walks do venture into wild, remote areas and accidents can happen anywhere. To be on the safe side, here is a list of items that you should take (created by merging the lists in half a dozen serious walking books on my shelf): map, compass, food, drink, waterproofs, hat, gloves, survival bag, whistle, torch with spare batteries, mobile phone, a GPS (global positioning system) and three people. The last are to help carry all the clobber, or you, if you should have that accident. Always leave information or tell someone about your intended route and estimated time of return, check weather conditions and forecasts before setting out, and wear appropriate clothes and footwear. (To avoid being hypocritical, I admit that some of my reconnoitring involved running around with only a map stuffed in my shorts. Very foolish.)

Walking on the fells had been accepted (except in the Bowland Fells) even where there was no right of way. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has provided official access to what I will refer to as 'CRoW land'. Always enter CRoW land by public footpaths or official entry points, where there is generally a 'welcome' sign or a brown 'walking man' sign.

The 24 walks are listed in the Index (page 262).

** In this second edition I have, in response to popular request, added a short walk (about three hours) variation, wherever possible from the same starting point as the long walk.

Acknowledgements

Writing a general guide such as this is a humbling experience. I found that every topic, however obscure - be it within history, botany, geology, or whatever - on which I needed to write a sentence or two has been the subject of a lifetime's devoted study by somebody. In a non-academic book, extensive references and footnotes are not appropriate but I am nonetheless very grateful for their unacknowledged work and hope that they will not pounce upon me for my superficial misrepresentation of it

I will, however, name with gratitude those brave friends who commented upon a draft manuscript: Jim Foster, Lesley Jordan, Bob Lauder, Michael Mumford and Clare Napier. I have done my best to respond to their views – even though it wasn't always easy to reconcile them! Overall, I much appreciated that they found time for this. As is traditional, I claim full responsibility for all the errors and faults that remain.

I am particularly grateful for the comments and encouragement of my son Martin and daughter Pamela, and for their advice on matters of technology and design. Without their enthusiasm the project might never have got underway.

Most of all, I'm grateful to my wife Ruth for being much more of a partner in producing this book than it appears from the text. Apart from giving opinions and encouragement and overseeing overall 'quality control', she accompanied me on many of the exploratory expeditions. I have mainly used the first person singular in the text because the reviewers found it disconcerting to keep switching between "we" and "I", depending on whether Ruth happened to be there or not, and it seemed odd for me to write "we" for those occasions when Ruth was not present. On all occasions, Ruth was there in spirit if not in reality.

Feedback

All feedback – comments, suggestions, questions, corrections and updates – will be gratefully received. I have tried to ensure that the content is factually reliable (but inevitably there will be misunderstandings and mistakes) and up-to-date (but Loyne covers a large area and although it may not seem to change much it does change a little, without telling me). Therefore, all help in maintaining this on-line second edition will be very welcome. Please send all comments to the publisher, Drakkar Press, at the address given in the front pages.

The Flow of the Book

The flow of the book is determined by the flow of the becks and rivers that eventually reach the Lune estuary. We will take an imaginary journey in which we follow the Lune from its source, surveying points of interest nearby, and whenever we meet a significant tributary we will be magically transported to the source of that tributary and will begin a journey from there, eventually to continue the journey down the Lune. If we meet a significant subtributary, we will similarly be transported to its source. So, for example, when, travelling down the Lune, we meet the River Rawthey, we will be transported to its source on West Baugh Fell – and in due course when we meet Clough River, a tributary of the Rawthey, we will be transported to its source on East Baugh Fell – before eventually resuming our journey on the Rawthey and later the Lune.

In this way, we will systematically cover every part of Lovne. The emphasis on the watercourses is partly a structural device but serves also to highlight their importance in shaping the character of the region and to bring to the fore some of its more attractive features. The imagined flight to the source of the tributaries will take us from the valleys, where habitation and its consequent changes are concentrated, to the fells, which change little from one generation to the next. Throughout Loyne, the fells provide a reassuring background, supporting a quiet reflection on the heritage and attractiveness of the region.

For those who wish to follow the narrative closely. the next two pages give a more detailed list of the book's contents, followed by a map of Loyne. Twenty-two tributaries of the Lune (from Bowderdale Beck to Broad Fleet) are given section headings. These have single indents in the list below. Some of the tributaries have sub-tributaries that have been given section headings. For example, the River Rawthey has sub-tributaries of Sally Beck, Clough River and the River Dee. Sub-tributaries have double indents. A "..." in a section heading means that the description of that river is continued in a later section. For example, the Rawthey is described in four sections, separated by the three sub-tributaries.

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