

Downham Circular Walk 2

OS Explorer
OL41



Start Point



Downham Visitor Car Park

★ SD 7846 4411

Distance/Time



4 Miles
2-3 hrs

Terrain

Tracks, fields and roads. Gates and stiles.
Can be wet/muddy underfoot in places.
Expect livestock and keep dogs under effective control. "Walking safely" information available at www.forestofbowland.com/Walking-Information

Public transport

For public transport information please go to www.lancashire.gov.uk or www.traveline.info

Key to Facilities

Pubs, Cafés,
 Toilets, Bus Stop

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

- ★ SD 7846 4411
- ② SD 7873 4402
- ③ SD 7942 4368
- ④ SD 8011 4343
- ⑤ SD 8036 4348
- ⑥ SD 8035 4404
- ⑦ SD 8062 4441
- ⑧ SD 7945 4462



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About This Walk

Along the course of the walk you will pass Twiston Mill. This was originally a corn mill for the parish but it was converted to a cotton mill in the early 1800s. The mill was owned by the Assheton family, with William Assheton constructing the upper dam to create the reservoir in 1851. Whilst producing cotton the mill employed twenty men, seven women and twenty-two children. The children were employed as cotton pickers, a highly dangerous job which involved working under the machinery. Accidents were frequent with some children being badly injured after a moment's lapse of concentration.

The area was obviously a hive of activity at one time with many more buildings, including workers' cottages, occupying the site than its current sleepy atmosphere would suggest.

The mill was described by its owner as 'more plague than profit' and eventually it was burned down in 1882.



Walk Description

1 **GPS:** SD 7846 4411
Leave the car park via the gate near the toilets and keep ahead, passing through two more kissing gates, towards the road bridge. Do not cross the road bridge but follow the road straight ahead and then bear left to follow Downham Beck upstream. Pass the cottages right to the end of the lane and then cross into the field through a narrow stone squeeze stile or a kissing gate.

2 **GPS:** SD 7873 4402
Continue to follow the beck upstream for about 200 metres before bearing right at the wooden waymark post. Cross this field to where the fence line meets the beck and then go through the kissing gate. Keeping the beck on your left cross a stone stile and then follow the waymarker to cross a wooden footbridge. (N.B. This section of path has been officially diverted in recent years and the route here differs to that shown on older maps). Follow this path through the trees and cross the farm track by way of two stiles.

3 **GPS:** SD 7942 4368
Continue uphill keeping to the edge of the field, eventually reaching a small stone outbarn after crossing two more stiles. Turn left in front of this barn, cross a small gully, and then follow the signed route towards Hecklin Farm.

4 **GPS:** SD 8011 4343
Climb the wall stile and cross the farm track. Continue straight ahead and cross a further stone stile down in the dip and then follow the fence round past the farm buildings of Nutshaw on your left. Head towards Hecklin Farm but turn left at the end of the wall 50 metres before reaching the farmyard.

5 **GPS:** SD 8036 4348
Cross over the stone stile ahead and, keeping to the edge of the field, cross over a further stone stile and head for another stile crossing the wall ahead of you at the top of the hill. From this stile follow the faint line of the ancient track across Haysett Hill, waymarked with small limestone boulders. On reaching the dry stone wall at the foot of the hill turn right and cross a stile next to a field gate. Keeping to the edge of the field follow the fence line and then over a stile onto an old green lane.

6 **GPS:** SD 8035 4404
Follow this track for approximately 100m and turn sharp right where it opens out into a meadow. Keep to the edge of the field and follow the hedgeline downhill, crossing a further stile. Just before reaching Twiston Beck turn right and follow the beck upstream to cross by a wooden footbridge. On crossing the beck turn immediately left towards Twiston Mill pond and cross a stile to reach Twiston Lane by a small gate. Turn right and follow the road downhill (care here as road is narrow and bendy and has no pavement) until a stone stile is reached on the left, just before the farm buildings.

7 **GPS:** SD 8062 4441
Pass through this stile and head downstream along Twiston Beck, passing through a stone squeeze stile and a kissing gate until you reach a wooden footbridge on your left. Cross the beck and head uphill, keeping the wall on your right, then bear left to cross the stile in the fence in front of Springs Farmhouse. Pass between the house and the buildings on the main track and then turn immediately right to cross two stiles before bearing slightly left uphill towards a group of mature trees. Cross the stone stile in the wall ahead and continue along the line of the old trackway. On reaching a small disused quarry on your left, cross the stone stile and bear diagonally right across the meadow, aiming for a stone stile in the wall 50 metres to the left of Hey House.

8 **GPS:** SD 7945 4462
Cross the stile, bear right and on reaching the fence/hedge line, follow it straight ahead passing over two stone stiles. After the second stile, continue straight on, following the ridge to a kissing gate in the fence ahead. Cross and pass the wood to a wide ridge (the route of the old Roman road). On reaching the walled boundary of the wood at the end of the ridge, turn left and head down towards the village, passing through a kissing gate or stone squeeze stile. On reaching a small wooden gate turn right and follow the road past the Assheton Arms to the car park.