

Downham

Traditional

Boundaries Walk

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route Summary

Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer map OL41. - Surface:- Tracks, fields and roads. Kissing gates and stiles. Can be wet underfoot. - Transport - Bus 66 & 67 (Mon - Sat) - Dogs on a lead. Must be able to get over wooden and stone stiles - Parking and Toilets - Downham Carpark

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Length: 7.000 km / 4.38 mi
Last Modified: 8th January 2020
Difficulty: Medium
Rating: ★★★★★
Surface: Moderate
Date Published: 28th June 2019

Description

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 piecers, 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.

Waypoints

1 SD 7849 4411

(53.89257; -2.32880)

Leave the car park through the kissing gate near the toilets and bear right off the tarmac passing over a narrow bridge over a small stream and through two kissing gates. Continue on 100m, do not cross the stone road bridge and take the road forking left following Downham Beck upstream. Go through the kissing gate at the end of the road.

2 SD 7873 4404

(53.89220; -2.32534)

Follow the beck up stream passing the two waymarker posts. Continue straight across the field and go through the kissing gate in the fence line, keeping the beck on your left. After 200m go through the kissing gate into the field. Follow the waymarker posts up the fence line and cross over the wooden footbridge.

3 SD 7925 4376

(53.88960; -2.31724)

The path runs along the fence, just inside the wood. Go through the kissing gate, cross the farm track and through the kissing gate on the other side into the sloping field. Continue uphill keeping to the edge of the field crossing two stone stiles to the barn.

4 SD 7975 4331

(53.88565; -2.30944)

Turn left, cross a small gully and continue across the field signposted Hecklin (Do not bear right into the wood or you will head up Pendle!). Follow the waymarkers across this large pasture and cross over the stone stile and the track, continuing straight along the fence line until another stone stile next to a wood. Cross and continue following the fence line passing Nutshaw barn on your left. Follow the waymarker heading towards Hecklin Farm, but just before it turn left at the wall and cross the stone stile (Do not go into the farm yard).

5 SD 8036 4349

(53.88687; -2.30012)

Keeping to the left hand edge of the field, cross over a stone stile and head up the hill crossing over the stone stile ahead. From this stile follow the faint line of the ancient cart track across Haysett Hill, waymarked with small limestone boulders. On reaching the dry stone wall at the foot of the hill turn sharp right and cross the stile next to the field gate. Keeping to the edge of the field follow the fence line till the end of the field and cross the stile on your left onto old an 'green lane'.

6 SD 8036 4404

(53.89204; -2.30040)

Follow this track for approximately 100m and go through the gate. Turn sharp right in the meadow keeping to the edge and follow the hedge downhill and cross the stile. Head down the hill towards Twiston Beck and turn right just before it, crossing over the wooden footbridge. Turn sharp left following the fence line and stream. Pass through the kissing gate into a small coppice woodland, (the old Mill pond is behind the hedge on your right) continuing 50m until reaching the road. Turn right and follow the road downhill 200m until a kissing gate is reached on the left, just before the farm buildings (the old Twiston Mill).

7 SD 8062 4441

(53.89555; -2.29632)

Go through the gate and walk parallel to the stream along the field keeping to the fence line on the left. Pass through the kissing gate and continue with the fence line on the left passing through another kissing gate. Continue straight, pass through the gate and cross over the footbridge on your left (avoid using the wider cattle bridge adjoining). Head uphill, keeping the wall on your right, then bear left and go through the kissing gates behind Springs Farmhouse. Pass between the house and stone barn on the main track and then turn immediately right into the field next to the black metal barn. Continue up the field crossing a stile and bearing slightly left uphill towards a group of mature trees and the wall, crossing over the stone stile. Continue along the line of the old trackway on the ridge until you reach a wall. Cross the stone stile and bear gently right across the field aiming for the stile next to the metal gate about 200m away. Cross over, turn right immediately and cross over the stone stile on the left.

8 SD 7944 4462

(53.89726; -2.31427)

Continue straight ahead passing over two stone stiles. After the second stile, continue straight on, along the ridge until you reach the woodland edge and after 50m, a kissing gate. Pass through keeping the wood on your right. When the wood ends continue to follow the contours heading for the large wood straight ahead. Upon reaching the walled boundary of the wood, turn left and go through the kissing gate, keep to the right and go through another kissing gate turning immediately right into the village. Follow the road downhill past the Assheton Arms on your left and take the road on the right opposite Downham Pre School, this will lead back to the car park.

