

Newchurch Short Circular (1hr)

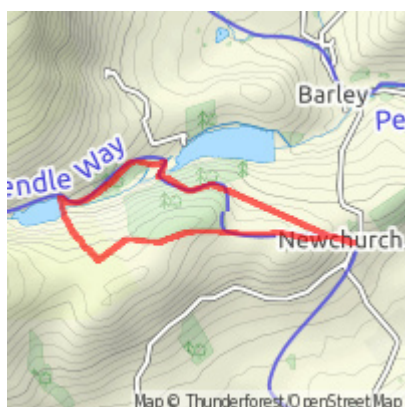
Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route Summary

This route utilises numerous footpaths on surfaced tracks and through fields. Steeper sections can be wet underfoot so appropriate footwear is advised particular during or following wet weather.

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Length: 3.910 km / 2.44 mi
Last Modified: 8th October 2020
Difficulty: Medium
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Moderate
Date Published: 8th October 2020

Description

This route, beginning and ending in the historic village of Newchurch, offers views of Pendle Hill, the Pennines and the extensive valleys inbetween. The village itself is well-known nationally for being linked to the notorious Lancashire Witch Trials in the early 17th Century. If you have time to look around the yard at St Mary's Church you may well find, in addition to the Eye of God on the building itself, a gravestone with an unusual engraving marking the rumoured resting place of one of the alleged Pendle Witches.

From the high-point of this circular, just above Newchurch, be sure to pause and look towards north for a clear sight of Pendle Hill in the distance and the mosaic of fields, drystone walls and reservoirs in the foreground.

Waypoints

Start - SD 82289 39424

(53.85097; -2.27052)

Beginning in Newchurch, look for a set of steps climbing away to your left as you look at the bus stop just down the hill from Witches Galore. Following the steps through a gate, look for another kissing gate on your left. Heading through this gate proceed up the small brow in front of you and then onto the waymarker post in the middle of the field. From here you will see a fingerpost by a stone wall; approach it and cross the stone stile. Follow the waymarker downhill towards Lower Ogden reservoir and cross another stone stile in the dry stone wall on your left, about halfway down the boundary. Continue north-east towards Fell Wood across a crumbled wall and head towards the right-angle where the plantation dog-legs (you will see a marker indicating access to the woods).

Waypoint 1 - SD 81576 39791

(53.85370; -2.28155)

Once in Fell Wood follow the well-trodden path west and then north-west, gradually downhill towards the top end of Lower Ogden reservoir. Once out of the woods and at the top end use a metal field gate to the north to access the tarmac track running parallel to the reservoir. Turn left and follow the track uphill with a woodland to your left and plantation to the right. As you climb you will spot the dam below Upper Ogden reservoir; approach it and cross the dam wall to your left then proceed across the stile on the far-side of the dam (with Pendle Hill now behind you).

Waypoint 2 - SD 80674 39615

(53.85230; -2.29531)

Climb the well-used path up towards Driver Height until you reach a crossroads of footpaths. Turn left here and trace the path due east across the southern-edge of Fell Wood, keeping close to the fence. When the woodland immediately to your left ends, continue east crossing the point where the woodland fence intersects with a stone wall.

Waypoint 3 - SD 81572 39527

(53.85153; -2.28146)

Head straight towards the fingerpost ahead of you and then through a small timber gate on the same path. Continue ahead towards a utilities building (if you are keen-eyed you will also spot the waymarker in the middle of the field from the beginning of the walk). From here, head downhill slightly towards the wooded area ahead of you and back through the kissing gate and down the steps to return to Newchurch.

