

Downham Circular Walk 3

Start Point

Downham Visitor Car Park,
SD 7846 4411

Bus Service

5 - Clitheroe to Chatburn &
Downham (Mon to Sat)
70/71 - From Nelson & Clitheroe
(Summer Suns & Bank Hols)

Distance/Time



7 miles
4 - 5 hrs

Terrain

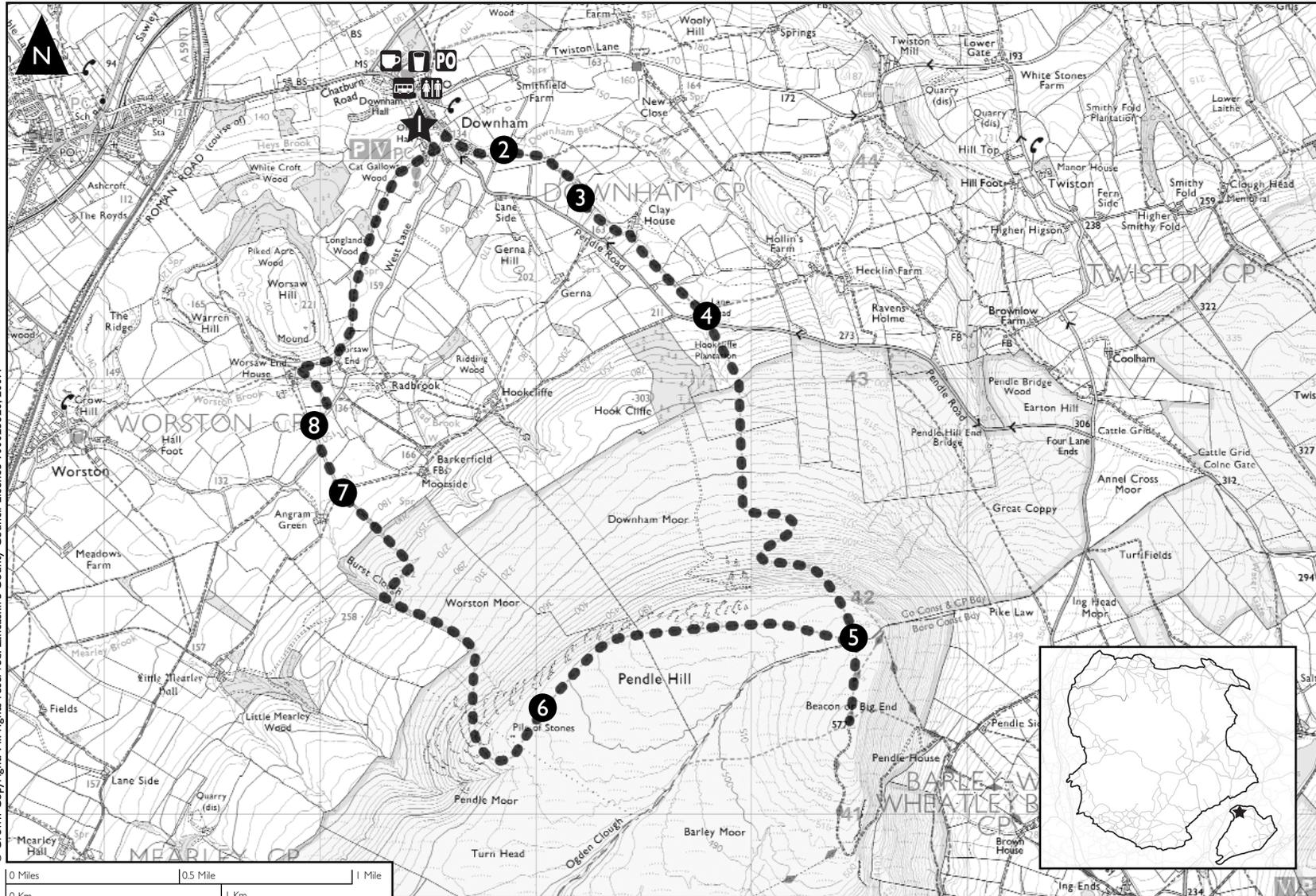
Tracks, fields and roads.
Gates and some stiles.
Very steep and exposed sections
and can be wet underfoot

Key to Facilities

Downham:
 Post Office,  Café,
 Pub,  Toilets,  Bus stop

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

-  SD 7846 4411
-  SD 7875 4403
-  SD 7922 4382
-  SD 7980 4325
-  SD 8039 4200
-  SD 7901 4144
-  SD 7810 4247
-  SD 7803 4289



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0 Miles | 0.5 Mile | 1 Mile
0 Km | 1 Km

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About This Walk

At 557 metres above sea level Pendle Hill does not quite qualify for 'mountain' status but nevertheless deserves to be treated with respect and normal sensible precautions should be taken before attempting the walk. The summit of Pendle is a very exposed place and is invariably much colder and often wetter than the starting part of the walk.

On some sections of the walk you will come across waymarker arrows carved in stone and set in the path-side walls. Local people carved these during workshop sessions held in Downham village and these carvings are a feature of the local area.

Walk Description

★ Leave the car park through the small gate near to the public toilets and head towards the stone road bridge, passing through two more small gates. Do not cross the bridge but follow the road straight ahead and then bear left to follow Downham Brook upstream. Pass the cottages to the end of the lane and then cross into the field through a narrow stone squeeze stile or adjacent kissing gate.

Walk Description (continued)

② Follow the brook upstream for about 200 metres before bearing right at the wooden waymarker post. Following the direction of the arrow, cross this field to where the fence line meets the brook and then go through the kissing gate. Keeping the beck on your left, cross a stone stile and then follow the waymarkers to 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).

③ Follow this path through the trees and cross the farm track by way of a stone and then timber stile. Continue uphill keeping to the edge of the meadow and after crossing two further stone stiles you will reach the small stone outbarn known as Jubilee Barn. Turn left here and cross a gully before taking a stile on your right and heading up to the kissing gate at the road side.

④ Cross the road and follow the path opposite to pass through another kissing gate and onto the concessionary path up to Pendle. This first section of the climb is the steepest of the walk so pace yourself and it will get easier! Follow the well defined route over Downham Moor

to cross a timber stile and head for the 'zig-zag' path up the main flank of Pendle. (Please keep to the waymarked route here in order to help prevent soil erosion).

⑤ Follow this path up to the plateau and head for the stile and gate in the boundary wall on route to the summit. To reach the summit triangulation pillar and to enjoy the best views from Pendle Hill, cross this stile and follow the well worn path for approximately 400 metres. After a well earned rest retrace your steps to the stile in the boundary wall and then bear left along a well defined old trackway. This is good level walking and after about 1 km another boundary wall is crossed by a stile from where there are magnificent views over Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley.

⑥ Continue along the northern ridge of Pendle, passing a stone shelter on your left until you reach a tall stone cairn built by the local Scouts. To the right of the cairn take the path which descends to the edge of Mearley Clough and then bear right again to follow the old track which descends at an angle downhill. Head down towards the wall corner on your right and then turn left to follow the wall down

towards Burst Clough. Do not descend this Clough but follow the stone waymarker posts across the first gully and then descend steeply down the left hand side of the second to cross a stile (may soon be a kissing gate) in the field corner to your right.

⑦ Follow the old Drove Lane down to where it becomes metalled and, at the road junction, follow the sign towards Downham. Follow the road for 150 metres, past a sharp right hand turn, and then turn left up the farm track towards Worsaw Hill End Farm.

⑧ Walk up the farm track for approximately 120 metres and, on crossing the small stone bridge, leave the track and carry straight on across the narrow meadow and then through a gate in the wall at the foot of Worsaw Hill. Turn immediately right and follow the wall for approximately 150 metres before leaving it to go through two kissing gates. After leaving the hedge line bear right and follow this field path, aiming to the right side of Langland Hall Wood up ahead. Squeeze through another stile and follow the path down the right hand side of the wood before following the waymarked route back to the village.