

Downham Circular Walk 1

Allow 2 hours to complete this walk
Approximately 3 miles/5 km

The Downham Circular Walks I The Circular Walk

The walk begins and ends at Downham Visitors Car Park and is approximately 3 miles (5km) in length. You should allow around 2 hours to complete the walk. Account for changes in the weather, and sturdy footwear is advised as you may encounter wet conditions underfoot. This walk may not be suitable for dogs, due to the number of stiles to be crossed.

Downham Village

A traditional agricultural village, Downham has changed little in appearance during the last three centuries.

The village school (at the bottom of the hill on the right) was built by William Assheton in 1839, the last replacement of the original sixteenth century school, to provide free education for local children.

As you walk up the hill you will see the Parish Church of St. Leonard's, rebuilt in 1910, incorporating the late 14th century bell tower.

Another building to look for is the Assheton Arms Public House from the 18th Century, originally known as 'The George and Dragon'.

Views

The walk offers excellent views of the surrounding countryside particularly as you walk along the Roman Road. Use the insert diagram as a guide to the views seen (weather conditions permitting).



The Assheton name is one of great importance in the village as the family has been associated with Downham since Medieval times and has been responsible for the preservation (and creation) of many of the village's buildings. Look out for the remains of the old Village Stocks in front of the Post Office.

5. Walk down the hollow bearing right over the stile towards a footbridge which you should cross. Take the path ahead which leads diagonally uphill until you reach a stone stile. Squeeze through and continue in the same direction uphill, crossing a number of stiles.

6. Just after cresting the rise you will cross the original path. At this point choose to return the way which you came (via the Roman Road) or via Twiston Lane to see the lime kiln. Please note that there is no path on Twiston lane so keep to the right and take care. To return via the lane continue straight ahead along the length of the field then cross the stile and turn right into Twiston lane (which will bring you back to Downham).

4. Bear right, heading downhill and follow the stone wall to a footbridge. Cross over then turn left. Walk straight ahead, keeping parallel first to the beck, then the fence when the beck curves away, cross the footbridge ahead. Turn left following the beck until you reach a fence on your left which you should follow for 100 yards until you reach a stile. Cross over the stile and stream before heading half left up the hill following the direction of the waymark arrow. Follow the fence line left at the top of the hill until you reach a hollow just before a gate way.



1. Leave the car park through the small gate near to the toilets and walk over the footbridge. Pass through two kissing gates, then cross the stone road bridge. Turn left and walk up Pendle Road. Go past the pub and turn right, passing between the small car park and the end of the row of cottages. Pass through the gate ahead and turn immediately left through a wicket gate. Walk straight up the path, quietly passing the house, as you enter a field. Keeping to the left edge of the field proceed to the squeeze stile.

3. Do not enter the farm but cross the stile in the wall to the right of the farm buildings. Bear slightly right across the field to another wall stile next to a gateway in the opposite boundary. Cross over and, keeping to the edge of the field, go straight ahead to a second stile from which you should walk ahead towards a farm. Cross two stiles keeping to the right of the farm shed. Turn left at the track and pass between the farm building before crossing the stile ahead.

2. Squeeze through and follow the wall straight ahead to a waymarker post next to a gate with a 'Private' sign. Turn right and walk along the ridge towards the right hand side of the wood ahead. On reaching it walk towards the wooden stile in the fence ahead. Cross over and walk straight ahead along the ridge to the stone stile. Cross and proceed ahead keeping to the edge of the field and continue, passing over another stile, until you reach a farm.