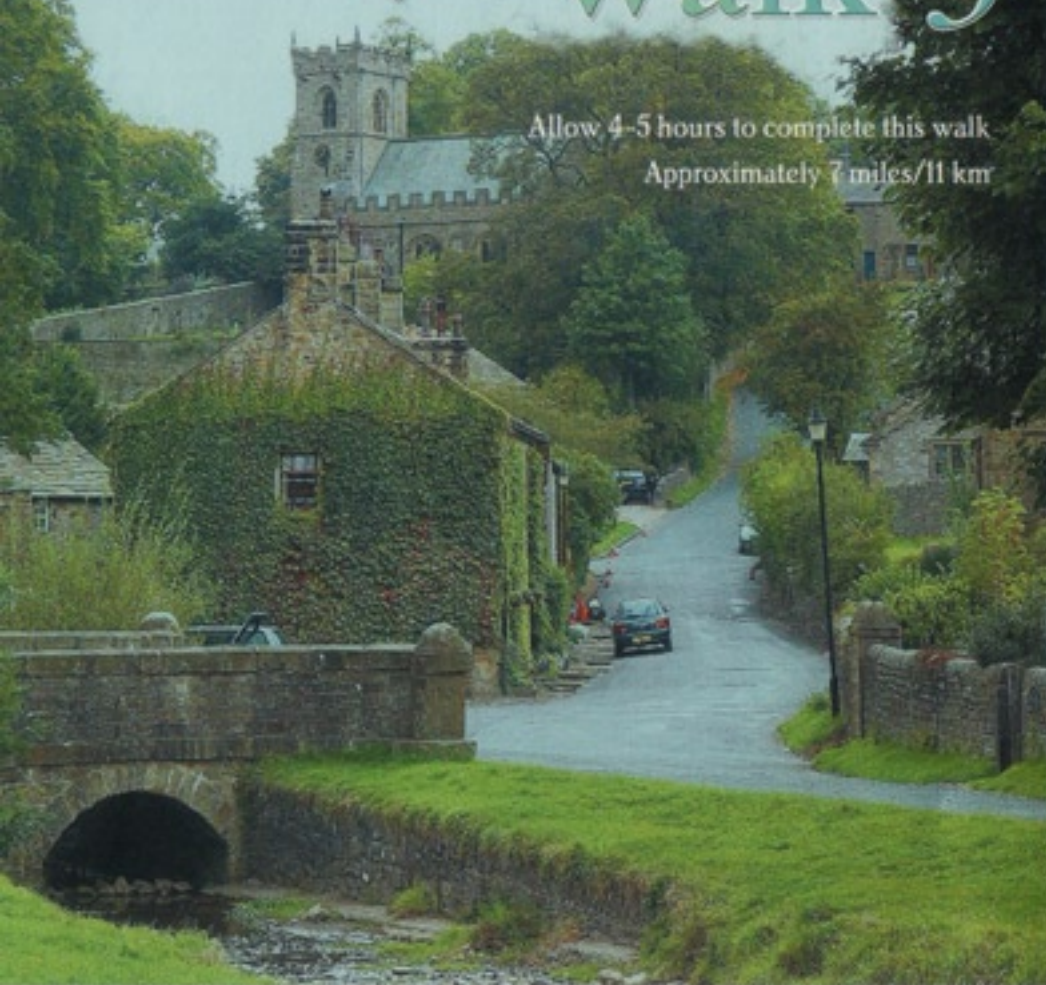




# Downham Circular Walk 3

Allow 4-5 hours to complete this walk  
Approximately 7 miles/11 km



## The Downham Circular Walks III

This circular walk takes you from the intimacy of Downham's village, fields and woodlands to the wild and windswept summit of Pendle, and back again via a network of public footpaths and additional "concessionary" routes agreed with the landowners and farmers along the way.

The walk involves a steady climb and a descent that is relatively steep in parts and a reasonable level of fitness will be required to enjoy the walk in safety.

At 557 metres above sea level Pendle 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 point for the walk.

The walk is over working farmland so please observe the countryside code and in particular, **KEEP DOGS UNDER CLOSE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES**. Thank you, enjoy the walk!

Always:

- Inform somebody of your route and approximate return time.
- Wear good, well fitting and supportive walking boots.
- Carry spare warm clothing, waterproofs, food and drink, torch and whistle.
- Carry a map and compass and know how to use them.

Conditions on Pendle can change very quickly and visibility can become very poor, especially on the summit, so always be prepared to turn back if necessary.

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



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 another squeeze stile then bear left 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.

7. Follow the old Drove Lane down to where it becomes metalled, and follow it to the road junction, follow the sign towards Downham. Being careful of traffic, 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.

6. Continue along the northern ridge of Pendle, passing a stone shelter on your left (a good place for a break on a wet and windy day), until you reach a tall stone cairn built by 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 Brast 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 in the field corner to your right.



1. 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.

2. Follow the brook upstream for about 100 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 cross the timber stile. 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 out-barn 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 roadside.

4. Cross the road (take care!) 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 (up to the next stone stile) 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 en 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 step and recross 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.