



16 CUMBRIA BLACK COMBE

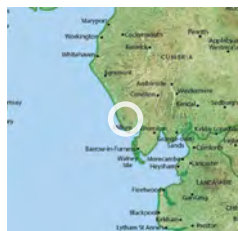
▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.7km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



Climbing Black Combe with the Irish Sea beyond.

PHOTO: STEVE GOODIER

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Small parking area nr Beckside Farm on the A595 facing 'Rallis House and Cottage' grid ref SD152846

Is it for me? Mostly good paths/tracks. Some trackless sections where careful navigation needed. Some steep rough ascents/descents – avoid in mist/bad weather

Stiles 1

PLANNING

Nearest towns Millom/Broughton-in-Furness

Refreshments Millom/Broughton-in-Furness

Public toilets

None on route

Public transport

None to start

Maps OS Explorer OL6; Landranger 96



CHOSEN BY...

STEVE GOODIER

The outlying fell of Black Combe lies in

Cumbria's south west near the sea, and was once believed to be the highest *hill* in England – it being not far off the 2000 foot definition of a mountain. Reaching a round height of 600m (or 1968ft), it's still a popular climb. This route ascends the Horse Back Ridge to reach the summit, where you're granted awesome sea views. The return is made via White Combe and a descent of Whitecombe Beck.

1 Start

Cross the road taking the footpath past 'Rallis House/Cottage' sign. Follow drive to

go R of Rallis House/Cottage. Follow track staying R at next junction passing Whicham Mill. Climb through a gate (stile). Follow track with beck L staying L at next fork. Pass through gate to cross bridge over beck near fording point. Follow track beyond (beck R). Follow rising track up the valley rounding a corner and crossing Blackcombe Beck to reach a path junction L.

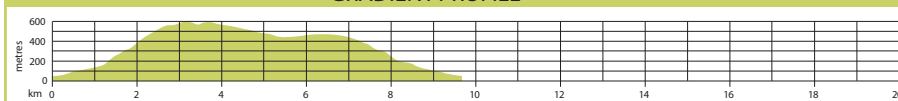
2 ¾ mile/1.2 km

Leave track going half L rising steeply with Blackcombe Beck L. As angle levels with crags ahead, fork R. Rise to continue at an easier angle to curve R to top of rocks on lower section of Horse Back Ridge. By the rocks stay ahead

as a path forks L. Follow path curving L past small fenced off area. Continue to the track/path end. Go R on trackless



GRADIENT PROFILE



16 CUMBRIA
BLACK COMBE► OS Explorer map OL6 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

ground heading towards rock outcrops. Soon cut R underneath the outcrops keeping ahead towards the head of Whitecombe Beck. Watch for a gap up L passing through the crags and continue to shortly reach a path. Go L taking the path to climb through the gap and curve L following the path through more outcrops. Keep with the improving path winding a way up Horse Back Ridge. Higher up, after crags, path rises with crags (Blackcombe Screens) dropping L. Follow path soon drawing R away from crags to reach junction with a good path. Go L climbing to summit of Black Combe.

3 2¼ miles/3.6km

From summit head south picking up path that descends, goes L of a tarn and rises up to reach a large cairn overlooking the sea. Re-trace your steps back to Black Combe summit. Continue downhill on your outbound route. When your outbound route leaves R, stay ahead descending all the way to a grassy col above Whitecombe Beck. Cross the col staying L at a fork in marshy ground. Rise up staying ahead at a prominent path crossroads. As the angle levels go over another crossroads. At the next crossroads go L following a path over a crossroads to climb to the cairn on Whitecombe summit.

**4** 4½ miles/7.2km

Re-trace steps over crossroads to go R at next crossroads. Descend over crossroads to go L at large crossroads passed earlier. Go L staying ahead when path joins R shortly. Stay ahead descending to cut back R and L. Descend valley towards beck cutting back R to drop to bridge.

5 5½ miles/8.95km

Cross bridge going L on path with beck L. Continue to

pick up outbound route near Blackcombe Beck. Follow outbound route over bridge and through two gates to Whicham Mill. Follow track beyond back to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING