




# 27 LANCASHIRE PENDLE HILL

Distance: 6½ miles/10.3km Time: 4-5 hours Grade: Moderate  




## LANCASHIRE LEGEND



**CHOSEN BY...  
DAVID MARSH**

Pendle Hill is both a prominent East Lancashire landmark and a much-loved outdoor resource. Its understandable popularity continues to grow with the numbers visiting the summit now almost double what they were before the pandemic. The majority of these

visitors access the summit via the 'tourist path' on Pendle's eastern side. The route described here, however, tackles the hill from its less-frequented western side. Starting from the impossibly pretty village of Downham, where Whistle Down The Wind was filmed, it savours the wide-open expanses of Pendle's plateau with its views

across the Ribble Valley to Bowland. It also visits Fox's Well named after George Fox, founder of the Quakers who quenched his thirst here after experiencing visions on the summit. The well's crystal-clear waters, sampled via the attached tankard, make for fine refreshment on this, the connoisseur's way of sampling Pendle. 



The Ribble Valley from from the Pendle plateau.





# 27 LANCASHIRE PENDLE HILL

OS Explorer map OL41 Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

## 1 Start

From car park walk back towards West Lane but take public footpath R just before reaching it. Go through gate and keep to R edge of following two fields before cutting across the third to the southern foot of Worsaw Hill. Keep to L of next field then drop L, passing barn, to cross stream and reach road.

## 2 ¾ mile/1.3km

Turn R along road and follow as it turns hard L. As road then bends R, continue straight on up tarmac track. When this turns L, continue ahead on public footpath to gate onto moorland. Turn R and ascend on R side of ravine. At top turn R and follow path as it crosses towards Burst Clough then ascends by a wall. The path

turns R with wall then crosses to climb a slanting groove onto the plateau. As gradient eases take first path L to ascend to Scout Cairn.

## 3 2½ miles/3.7km

Follow path NE to a large, circular wind shelter, beyond which is a new metal gate in wall. On the other side, follow path as it turns E to cross the plateau to another metal gate, meeting the popular path up from Pendle House. Turn R on reinforced path to the summit with its trig point.

## 4 3¼ miles/5.9km

Retrace steps from summit to go through metal gate. Turn R, descending by wall to meet path coming over wall stile. Turn L and follow path down to Fox's Well with metal cover.

## 5 4¼ miles/6.7km

From well continue on thin path that contours around the steep slope to meet a broader, eroded path coming down from L. Descend on this and, after a pronounced zig-zag, head straight down across the boggy moorland to the road.

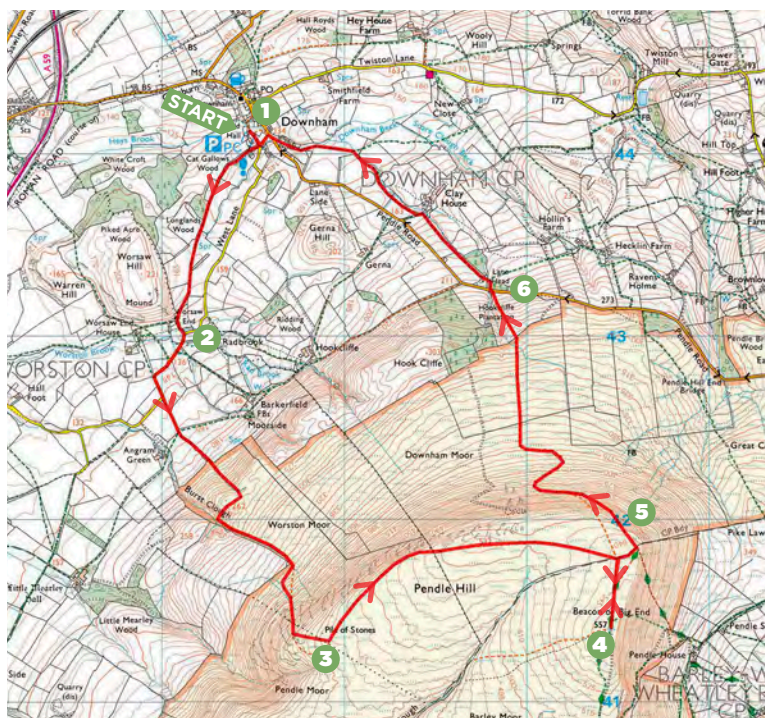
## 6 5½ miles/8.7km

Cross road and follow footpath down steps, turning L at bottom. Go over stile and descend on R side of fields by wooded stream. Cross track by Clay House and continue on path by stream. Nearing Downham, the path swings L to run beside Downham Beck before entering the village. Join the main road, turn L over bridge and return to car park. **CW**



Fox's Well.

PHOTO: DAVID MARSH

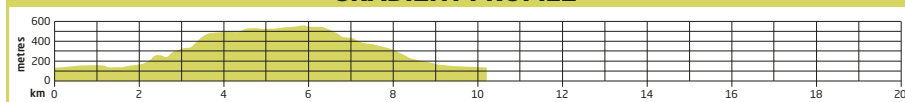


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Looking west from Pendle Hill's summit trig pillar.

## GRADIENT PROFILE



## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Downham village car park (free), grid ref SD785441, postcode BB7 4BS

**Is it for me?** Mainly fields and exposed moorland walking on clear paths with some steep ground and frequent boggy sections

## Stiles 4

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Clitheroe  
**Refreshments** Downham Ice Cream Shop (01200 441613); The Assheton Arms (01200 439699)  
**Public toilets** At start  
**Public transport** Buses 66 and 67 Clitheroe-Nelson ([transdevbus.co.uk/rosso](http://transdevbus.co.uk/rosso))  
**Maps** OS Explorer OL41; Landranger 103

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[walk100miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk100miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING