

Heversham

The walk starts in Heversham, with on-road parking available near Dallam School on what was once the A6 until the by-pass opened in the 1920s. Driving from Bentham, take the A65 West as far as the Crooklands roundabout just before the M6. From there it's a matter of debate as to whether it's better to cross the M6 and then take the A590 and A6 Southbound, or whether to go right toward Kendal and then take left at the Crooklands Hotel to take the B6385 to Milnthorpe then the A6 North. Take your pick - then Heversham is just off the A6 and well signed from either direction. The map reference you are aiming for is SD49688314. If you use satnav for navigation, then postcode LA7 7EH, and the road name Dugg Hill will help. If What-3-Words is your preferred tool, then the tag is **whom.campfires.model**

Having parked, head back out along the main road in the direction of Milnthorpe, past the impressive buildings of Dallam School on your left. As you head back toward Milnthorpe you soon find yourself back on the A6 – this is a busy road, but we are on it for no more than 50m before we see a stile and a clear way marker, both on the left, taking us diagonally across a field toward a house where a small kissing gate gives access to a path to the right which takes us up to a small metalled road.

We take the road to the left (away from the A6) and as it climbs it almost immediately crosses a bridge over what was clearly a railway line at one time. After crossing the bridge, you will see a large house to the left, and a footpath sign taking us up through fields on the right. Once in the field – head uphill and generally Southeast toward St Anthony's tower, which only comes fully into view as you crest the hill. Then head down to the far corner where a stile gives us access onto a very minor road.

At the road we turn left and follow the lane for a while, ignoring signed footpaths on the left, until we come to an offset crossroads. We take the "straight" route – so we should have an unexplored lane on both our right and left hand side as we carry on. The lane continues for a while, but we need to be careful not to miss a stile on the left taking us onto a path that crosses the fields as we approach Ackenthwaite. We head for a gate between houses as we approach Ackenthwaite – it may feel like we are entering a private drive, but this is the correct route.

We arrive at the road through Ackenthwaite and turn left, and head Northeast along the quiet road which leads out of Ackenthwaite toward Woodhouse. We ignore a path on the left at Cragg Yeat and just a little further on take a signed path up a lane on the right before a bungalow. At the top of here, we cross a stile then bear left behind the bungalow contouring around the side of the hill for a while.

The path is clear and soon heads down to a minor road which we join and turn right to cross over the West Coast Main Line at Rowell. We continue along the lane for a short while passing a cattery on the right before arriving at a farm on the left where the path continues between farm buildings and then round to the left. Here it passes between two livestock sheds and then goes under the railway line to a gate into a somewhat muddy field.

Once in the field, the published right of way shown on the OS map hugs the bottom of the slope next to the railway embankment. In practice, this may be quite wet, so a more secure route may well be to the top of the field. Either way, we are heading to the opposite corner where we find a gate.

Through the gate we look to our left and see another gate – we go through here and head to the top of the field and exit onto a narrow lane where we head right. We follow this round until we arrive at the metalled road where we again turn right and head downhill – back toward the railway.

Almost immediately (and well before we get as far as the railway) we see a road junction with White Lane on our left – we take this and follow it down to a crossroads where we go straight ahead toward Hincaster.

After no more than 100m, the road bears round to the right, and continues into Hincaster on Harry Brow – take care as there is no pavement – until we see a signposted path between houses on the left. This takes us up Pump Lane to a -we take the path on the right heading uphill.

We head steeply uphill, and then as we reach the crest, we see a gate in the far corner of the field. This takes us onto a short lane which approaches Hincaster Hall. As we arrive at the lane behind the hall, we head left and almost immediately see a gate accessing a track that leads up around the hill toward High Barns. We follow this, and as we rise, we start (weather permitting) to gain excellent views over toward Kendal and the Howgills. Given the view, and the fact that we are now at the furthest point of the walk, this may be a good place to take a break.

We continue along the lane and follow it down to a gate behind the farm. The path continues just to the left of the large barn, and we head downhill hugging the field boundary until we arrive at a stile in the bottom right hand corner. Over the stile, we head sharp left along a clear lane and enter open fields just below some woodland. There are a number of stiles entering the woodland, but we ignore all of these and follow the path along the bottom of the treeline, until we find a stile out onto a lane where we head left.

We follow the lane for a while now – ignoring tempting footpaths on both sides - until we arrive at a minor road and Mabbin Hall where we turn left and head downhill with the dense woodland of Heversham Plantation on our right.

We are now looking for a lane on the right as we head downhill. We don't take that lane though – the waymarked footpath is just a few metres beyond it and runs below to come up to a stile where we enter the open land of Heversham Head.

We now head uphill keeping within about 50m of the drystone wall that borders the plantation, until we see a metal gate. Beyond this we continue climbing, passing the trig point (123m) on our right, and then as a huge view of the estuary and the Lakeland fells opens up, we find the toposcope and a convenient bench, where we may well pause for a while.

From here we head downhill – steep and potentially slippery – toward Heversham village – using the church as a landmark. We find a kissing gate and then follow the same line down to the far right hand corner of the field where we enter some woodland. There is a clear but muddy track which heads downhill through the woods and emerges onto a small, metalled lane. We take a left turn at the lane and head uphill toward a building that appears to be a dead end – in fact there is a squeeze stile on the right just before the entrance gate, and we take this to head downhill to the church of St Peter's.

We exit the church grounds onto the main road and head left back to the start.

- **Total distance 10.5 km (6.5 miles)**
- **Total ascent 312 m**
- **Easy walk**