

Claughton

We start from the Bull Beck car park on the A683, on the main road between Caton and Hornby – it is clearly signposted, but if you are not familiar with the area, and are using satnav to get there then try postcode LA2 9QR, or LA2 9JN, but ignore any directions to leave the A683 other than to park at Bull Beck. If you are using a paper map, then the grid reference is SD54216499, and for fans of what-3-words, the tag is **fidgeting.truly.feasting**. Parking at Bull Beck is free, and there are public toilets.

From the car park, we return to the main road. We are heading right to pick up a path on the right hand side of the main road just to the east of the car park. Unfortunately there is no pavement on the road, so take care and consider using the far side of the road for the first part of this on-road section as it may be safer.

Keep an eye open for the stile at the side of the A683, and from there head uphill toward the line of houses at Brookhouse. The path up through the fields should be clear but if in doubt head to the top right hand corner where we see a small metal gate – this takes us through to a passageway between gardens and then onto a residential street (Kirkbeck Close) where we turn left.

At the end of this street is Caton Green Road where we turn right and head into the centre of the village: Continuing past the church we pass the Black Bull pub and then turn left to head up Littledale Road. After no more than 100m, we take another left turn crossing a bridge over Bull Beck, to follow Moorside Road up past St Paul's Primary School.

We carry on up Moorside road for a little while, leaving the housing behind, to enter farmland. We soon arrive at a junction where Moorside Road bears right and a road up onto the moors presents itself on the left. This is Quarry Road, although you will see no signage indicate this.

We head up quarry road, passing a farm on the left and some housing on the right before the road becomes steeper and much more rural. From here on, we start to get great views over the Lune valley and back to Morecambe Bay.

The next part of the walk takes us past the quarries where the shale for Claughton Brickworks is sourced. We start by continuing along Quarry Road until we get to a metal gate across the road. This is usually closed, but there is a pedestrian access gate to the left – we take this and follow the road round a series of bends and then past a farm (Moorcock Hall Farm), before heading downhill toward the quarry.

We follow the track downhill initially on much the same line as the ropeway, pausing to avoid walking directly under the loaded buckets as they pass overhead.

Eventually the track arrives back down at the A683 opposite the Fenwick Arms, where we cross the road and continue down the lane adjacent to the pub – this takes us down past housing to cross the track of the old railway at the delightful crossing cottage.

Just beyond here we look for a stile on the left and take that to strike out across fields to take a path along the Banks of the Lune back to Bull Beck.

We cross the first field and see a footbridge over a small stream – this takes us into a large meadow where we enjoyed a break.

We continue along the right hand edge of the field, looking for a gate in the fence opposite about 100m away from the right hand edge. We cross at the gate and continue in much the same direction

until we get to the Lune, where we head left to follow the river downstream for a while – swans, egrets and geese and may be visible on the river, and hares are often found in the fields.

We follow the river for a little while, and as it swings to the left as part of a large meander, we see a raised footbridge over a minor beck. Our path continues over this and heads up to Bull Beck. The bridge itself is something of a climb – and it might look odd on a pleasant dry day that the bridge is so elevated – the reason of course is that this very flat land is prone to inundation in wet weather, and this elevated design prevent the bridge being damaged in times of flood.

It is worth mentioning at this point that anyone looking at an OS map or using the OS App will see green dotted path lines crossing the Lune – there is no safe crossing along this section, quite why the maps are marked this way is unclear, but the advice is: stick to the obvious path on the left of the river.

We soon arrive back at the track of the old railway line – now The Lune Millennium Park path - a smooth, hard surfaced path which covers a distance of 10km (6 miles) from Lancaster to Caton. We head right and back toward the car park.

We stay on the path for no more than 250 m until we see Bull Beck car park across the main road on the left, where the walk ends.

- **Total distance 12.1 km (7.5 miles)**
- **Total ascent 274 m**
- **Moderate walk**