Piling and Knott End

The Lancashire Coastal Way is a 137 mile long distance footpath that follows the coastline of Lancashire from Freckleton in the south to the Arnside/Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the north.

On this stretch of the Coastal Way you will be given wide views across Morecambe Bay towards the Lake District fells and inland towards Bowland.

Distance: 13 Km or 8 miles
Time: 3½ - 4½ hours
Terrain: Flat and easy with one surprising ascent.

Start: Car Park, Fluke Hall Lane, Pilling.
From junction 3 M55 take the A585 towards Fleetwood. At Little Singleton turn right onto A588 to cross the Wyre at Shard Bridge. Keep on the A588 as it turns right at Preesall Park into Burned House Lane and then right into Head Dyke Lane. Turn into Carr Lane towards Pilling and follow signs for village centre. After the church on left turn into Fluke Hall Lane, just before the Golden Ball. The car park is a short distance beyond Fluke Hall on the left side of the lane.

1. Car park to Knott End (8 Km or 5 miles: 2 hours)
To begin with walk back towards Fluke Hall and turn right onto footpath just beyond the car park. (Pic 1) Cross the field to a metal gate and keep ahead in the next field until an extensive ruin is reached. (Marked "Old Ridge" on the map.) Here waymark arrows will direct you slightly to the left but ahead past a small pond. Crossing a footbridge into the next field keep the hedge on your left to reach a second footbridge. After crossing it turn right and walk down to the corner of the field to a stile. After crossing it you will soon come to another, which will bring you out by Beech House. (Pic 2)
On reaching the lane by Beech House turn left and then at the T junction turn right. This places you on Wheel Lane. Walk past the Springfield House Hotel and down to the next junction. Here turn right into Hooles Lane and follow it as it doglegs to a slight bend in the road. Here turn right into Ned's Lane, a farm track. Keep ahead until the next junction of tracks is reached. (Do not put off by a forbidding "No access" sign that applies to road traffic.) (Pic 3)
Turn left and after passing Grange Cottages soon reach another lane. Keep ahead to the next bend (200m) and enter a large arable field. Cross on an obvious path to a gate in the hedge. (Pic 4)
Here turn left and again crossing an arable field where the right of way has been helpfully made clear by the farmer, reach a stile close to some out buildings.
(Pics 5&6)
However it may be that the field is like this! (Pic 7)
Admittedly this makes the task of route finding more difficult. From lane keep ahead on track until you come to a gate. Beyond it turn left and initially follow fence. When the fence disappears keep ahead along a narrow row between stalks until you arrive at the edge of the field with the stile before you. Remember you are on a right of way.
Keep ahead and after a second wooden kissing gate turn right towards the main farm buildings (Bourbles Farm). (Pics 8&9)
After passing the farm continue along a track that will quickly bring you to the first of two fishing ponds. After passing the first look for a footpath sign on the left. (Pic 10)
This takes a course between the ponds. With the second pond on your right look for a very obscure stile in the field boundary a little way over on the left.
(In high summer when this route was checked we found this easy to overlook) (Pic 11)
Across the field there is a small footbridge and maintaining the same direction after crossing it, reach a stile. Cross to follow a very overgrown path onto the end of a residential lane. Turn right and walk down to road (B5270 Lancaster Road) Turn left and then right onto a footpath across a field. (Pics 12&13)
By now you may be impressed with the hill before you, which seems completely out of character with the rest of the walk. And since it is there...you must climb it. Turn left as you enter the next field and then after a stile bear right on a more obvious path that begins to scale the heights of Preesall after crossing a footbridge. Aim for the school that surmounts the top of the hill. Though a little over 30m high the view over the way you came will impress. Before the school turn right onto a footpath that skirts the school grounds and will bring you out on Mill Lane. Keep ahead and descend to the main road (B5377). Here turn right to walk through the village past the Saracen's Head and the Black Bull taking care awhile since the pavement has a habit of disappearing. A little beyond the confines of the village cross a bridge looking for a footpath sign on the left.
(again in summer this might easily be obscured by foliage) (Pic 14)
Take the footpath, which will put you on the line of a disused railway. Keep on the track for almost 1000m and at a point where it is about to enter a wooded section turn left onto a broad track. (Whinney Lane) Follow this as it takes to the complex of Hackensall Hall where you join the Wyre Way. You will now follow this long distance path to its end, (or beginning) a little under a Kilometre away. Soon it crosses a fairway of Knot End Golf Club to reach the promenade before Knot End Ferry. (Pic 15)
Across the Wyre estuary lies Fleetwood.

2. Knott End - Car park (5 Km or 3 miles: 1½ hours)

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