

Lancashire Walks

Thieveley Pike



The New Year is a time of resolutions and if climbing a hill is one of yours then try this walk close to Burnley. It starts at Coal Clough Wind Farm which when it was first opened in 1992 was the largest in the UK. It then follows the Burnley Way to its highest point Thieveley Pike (449m/1474ft).

Start: Maidens Cross car park, Long Causeway. From M65 junction 10 follow signs for Turf Moor, home of Burnley FC. Passing the ground on your left continue on Brunshaw Road. This runs into Red Lees Road. At Mereclough turn left in the direction of Heptonstall. In a little under 2 miles you will arrive at the car park on the left side of the road, immediately before the wind farm.

Distance: 11½ Km or 7 miles

Time: 3-4 hours

Terrain: This is a strenuous walk. After wet weather some sections will be very boggy under foot.

Map: OS Explorer OL 21 South Pennines

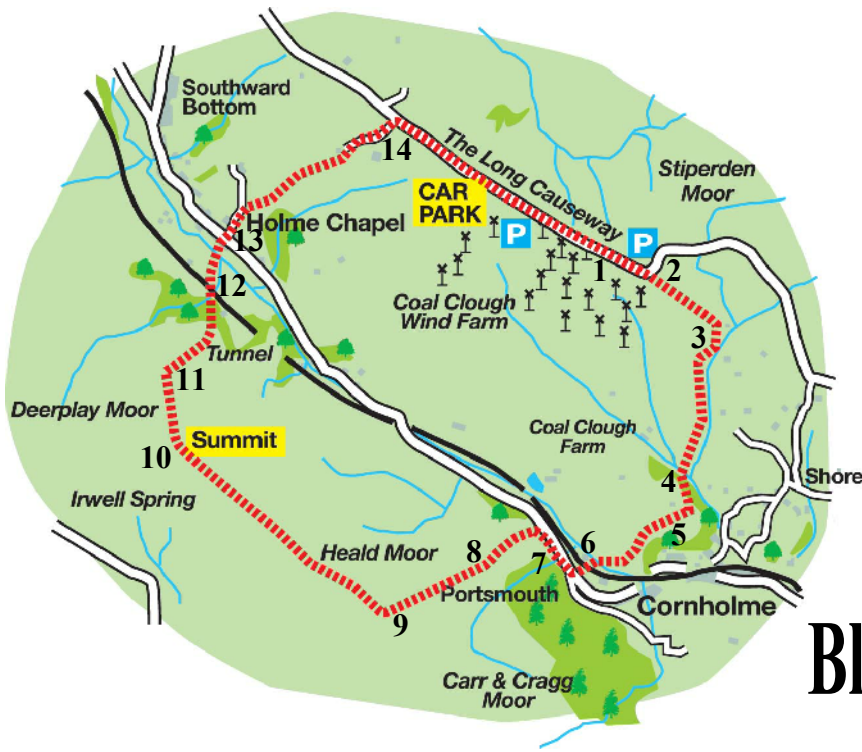
1. Coal Clough to Portsmouth 4 Km or 2½ miles

From the car park walk past the wind farm (**Pic 1**) along the Long Causeway. You are soon on the Burnley Way and will stay on it for the next 9k. [See sign] Where the road turns sharply to the left take a footpath slightly to the left of the farm track leading down to Stiperden House Farm. (**Pic 2**) The path soon crosses the track and then follows it on a parallel course crossing a gully to a ruin and then arriving at a stile close by the farm. (**Pic 3**) After crossing it bear right and enter a steep sided valley. The path drops to a bridge. Do not cross it but keep on the way with the stream on your left. The route follows the stream as it maintains an undulating course. After 20 minutes of not altogether easy descent the path enters a plantation – Pudsey Wood. (**Pic 4**) Here it is best to keep close to the fence. On exiting the wood follow a track that leads to a farm road. Turn right and then at the next junction bear left. Climbing out of the valley follow the track as it bends round to the right to reach two large properties. (**Pic 5**) The route goes between them and then swings to the left. A short way ahead the track divides. Your way is the left fork. Follow the path as it contours above a wood to drop through pasture bringing you to a stile close by a house. Follow the lane down to the railway. (**Pic 6**) Cross with care and quickly reach the A646.

2. Portsmouth to Holme Chapel 5 Km or 3 miles

Turn right on the A646. Pass the Roebuck Inn (**Pic 7**) and cross to a track opposite. This begins to zigzag its way through woods to reach the open fell. (**Pic 8**) Keep on the track past a farm and then when it divides bear right, cross a stile (**Pic 9**) and keep ahead over moorland. Bear right when you reach the ridge and continue along the path for almost 2 Km or 1½ miles 30 mins. After crossing a wall follow the path to another. Over this the trig. point is a short distance away. (**Pic 10**) After admiring the view bear right away from the trig. point descending into Dean Scout. Waymark signs will continue to help as you drop towards Buckley Wood. (**Pic 11**) At a junction of paths fork left to arrive in woodland where the path continues a steep descent to reach a track. Bear left and then right to pass under the railway line. (**Pic 12**) Just beyond the Burnley Way turns left but you keep ahead to Holme Chapel, now on the Pennine Bridleway (which in fact will take you nearly all the way back to the car park.)

Holme Chapel to the car park. 2 Km or 1½ miles. On reaching the A646 turn right and then cross the road to enter a lane adjacent to the primary school. (**Pic 13**) Follow it as it begins to climb steadily. At 200m from the main road take the right fork and continue to climb along a track. After 400m keep ahead at the next junction but then turn right away from the wall. The path dips down to cross a gully and then bears left through a gate. Keep ahead with Green Clough on your right. Still upward the path passes through another gate and then just before reaching the road turns right. When the bridleway finally crosses the road (**Pic 14**) turn right to reach the car park.



Map by
Chris Wyatt
at The
Blackpool Gazette

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



Pic 8



Pic 9



Pic 10



Pic 11



Pic 12



Pic 13



Pic 14



Pic 15



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