

Route Description: Great Hill and Round Loaf

1. There's roadside parking by the start/finish of the walk at the bottom of the steep hill on Moor Road (SD61568 17891). Walk along the pleasant footpath beneath Stronstrey Bank to White Coppice, cross the bridge (SD62015 18963).
2. Continue along the path uphill, the path switches back (SD62104 19123) and climbs the side of the fell above the quarry. Keep ascending on a good path, passing a ruin (SD63197 19099) on the R before meeting a good wide path (SD63394 19166) with a RA signpost (Thomas Lockerby Fund). Turn R along the ascending path, past a small plantation to the ruined Drinkwaters (SD63650 19110). Continue on the ascending path, the summit is obvious & the shelter (SD64590 19064) provides protection. There's a signpost for Darwen Tower, Winter Hill & White Coppice, our direction is along the paved path towards Winter Hill. The view from Great Hill summit is excellent, on the horizons are the Three Peaks, Tottridge to Fair Snape Fell, Black Combe across Morecambe Bay, Crosby & Liverpool Bay to the Welsh Hills.
3. It's important to be accurate with this section of navigation for a good passage across a wet moor. Descend the paved path (south) to reach a stile (SD64773 18886), cross the fence and continue along the paved path, descending slightly to cross a clough. Immediately after the stream (SD64788 18823), leave the paved path (before the steps going up) to the R (SW) and walk along the side of the clough, the path is indistinct. Keep following the clough on its S bank along a faint path, cross a tributary (SD64573 18750) to join a wider path to the L. The path is wet underfoot but good progress can be made as it snakes across the moor. Pass a wooden stake (SD64347 18540) near the top of another clough. Continue along the obvious path to Round Loaf (SD63798 18216).
4. Round Loaf is an intriguing place & very atmospheric. We leave by the SSW path, head for the reservoir to meet another path (SD63539 17721) & we descend towards Limestone Brook (SD63586 17493), turning R to descend Limestone Clough. The path becomes a mine road (SD63371 17263), descend the road, past a footbridge (SD63277 17132), but don't cross it! Continue along the 'green road' to a kissing gate (SD63206 17000) on the L, it leads into woodland. Follow the path through the woodland to reach the memorial (SD62983 16525) to the aircrew of the Wellington Bomber.
5. Behind the benches and slightly uphill is a gate, follow it to the pasture, over a stile (SD62846 16525) to a bridleway leading to the road (SD62341 16943) at Jepson's Gate. Turn L down the road for 250m to a stile (SD62204 16859) on the R over a wall. Cross the farmland, over a stile (SD62145 17033) to meet the road at Manor Farm (SD62103 17162). Continue down the road for 30m to a gate on the L.
6. Descend the steep path into woodland, cross the rushing stream over a bridge to reach High Bullough Reservoir. Continue beneath the dam wall to a junction of paths. Turn R & descend gently before leaving the woodland. Cross the meadow overlooking Anglezarke Reservoir, over a FB & continue to Moor Road and finish.