

Route Description: Grit Fell and Clougha from Jubilee Tower

1. There is a good car park at Jubilee Tower (SD542574). Leave the car park heading NE up the obvious path alongside the wire fence, the gradient is steady, interrupted by short excursions to avoid the wettest ground and to negotiate the cloughs, particularly the upper reaches of Castle Syke - but it gets much better as we ascend. Remember to take time to admire the view behind, Lancashire's river estuaries can be seen; from The Ribble in the south; sandbanks mark the Wyre whilst the Lune dominates the scene. The River Lune can be seen winding its way between Glasson Dock and Overton as it silently slips by Sunderland Point and Plover Scar Lighthouse into the Irish Sea. As our eyes sweep north we can see the distinct mass of Black Combe and the Kent Estuary. Pass the carved Boundary Stone (SD54908 58090) on the ascent to Shooters Pile, the carefully constructed marker dominates the skyline.
2. Shooters Pile (SD555588) is placed at the entrance to the moorland plateau. Skilfully constructed and robust, it appears on maps from the 1890's. From Shooters, follow the path over rocks to a stile where the fence takes a distinct turn. Cross the stile (noting the 2nd carved boundary stone and benchmark (SD 557589)), Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-Y-Ghent are now in view, it's a short walk to Grit Fell summit (SD558588).
3. From the summit, a short excursion may be made to the Castle of Cold Comfort (SD55716 58561), there's no path so take care through the heather and rocks. It appears to be an elegant 'grouse butt', carefully located on the fringe of the plateau and overlooking a huge expanse of moorland. Frankly, the name is more intriguing than the structure, it first appeared on maps from the 1850's but it's location was 1km E. Return to the summit.
4. From the summit, head E towards Cabin Flat, the path passes a post and a 'lonesome pine' tree that offers little shade or shelter. It's a joy to walk across the soft springy peat towards the estate road at Cabin Flat, marked by a large wooden post (SD56481 58840).
5. Turn L (NW) along the estate road, it passes a green steel-clad hut before descending and turning L (W).
6. Further along the road is a disused quarry at (SD55646 59560), a visit to the quarry is rewarding! Enjoy the Andy Goldsworthy Art Installation 'Clougha Pike' commissioned by the Duke of Westminster in 1999-2001. The work is fascinating by one of Britain's best Land Artists. Continue along the road to an interesting outcrop (SD55231 59600), there's a path on the L.
7. Follow the narrow but distinct path heading S towards Plover Moss to meet the main ridge path between Grit Fell and Clougha Pike.
8. Turn R (WNW) to Clougha Pike, cross a fence stile before reaching the summit (SD544595) and trig point. It's a great view point for Lancaster, Morecambe Bay and the coastline.
9. From Clougha Pike, retrace your steps along the path, continuing on to the cairn Shooters Pile. Then descend the path to the car park. There is a more direct route back to the car park across the moorland but alas, there's no path, it's a rough passage and cannot be recommended.