

Downham Circular Walk I

Start Point

Bus Service

Distance/Time

Terrain

Key to Facilities

Downham Visitor Car Park,
SD 7846 4411

5 - Clitheroe to Chatburn &
Downham (Mon to Sat)
70/71 - From Nelson & Clitheroe
(Summer Suns & Bank Hols)



3 miles
2 hrs

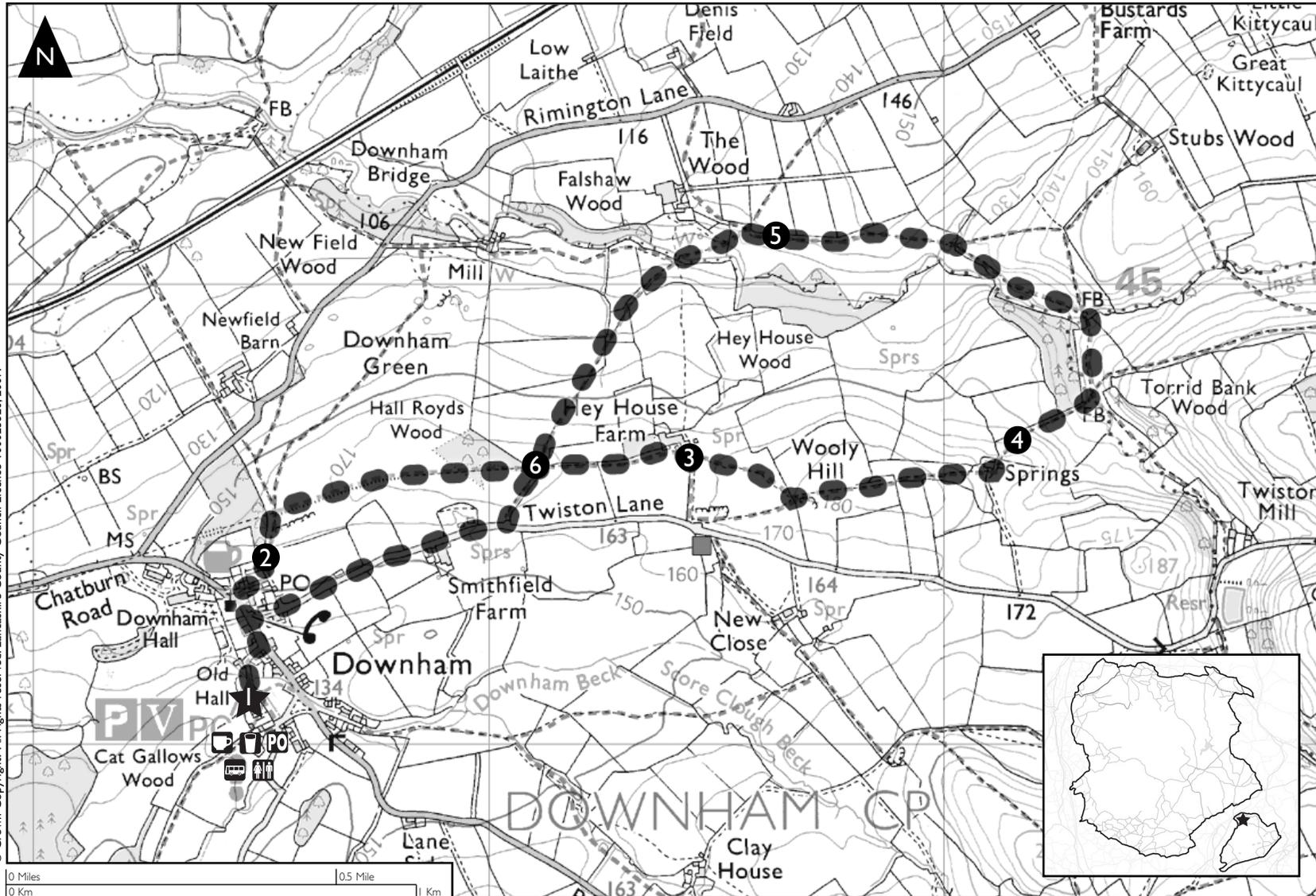
Tracks, fields and roads.
Gates and some stiles.
Steep sections and can be
wet underfoot

Downham:

 Post Office,  Café,
 Pub,  Toilets,  Bus stop

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

-  SD 7846 4411
-  SD 7853 4447
-  SD 7942 4463
-  SD 8014 4465
-  SD 7955 4510
-  SD 7911 4461



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About This Walk

The village of Downham has hardly changed over the past two centuries. It boasts Elizabethan weavers' cottages of fine honey-coloured gritstone. Of special interest are the stone carved window frames and the attractive overhanging stone slab porches. The traditional appearance of the village owes itself to the work of the manorial family of Downham, the Asshetons.

It is claimed that a 'great stone' lies within the walls of Downham Hall, which turns over completely when it hears the church clock strike midnight.

From Twiston Lane it is possible to see a disused Lime Kiln and behind it the quarry where limestone was obtained. Limestone quarrying was an important industry in the area and many farms had lime kilns where local limestone would be burnt, reducing it to lime which could be used to treat acid soil or as building mortar.

Walk Description

★ Leave the car park through the gate near the toilets and turn left to join Pendle Road opposite the old school house. Turn left and walk up through the village and past the pub to turn right, passing between the car park and the end of the row of cottages. Pass through the gate ahead and turn immediately left through a wicket gate. Walk straight up the path, quietly passing the house, before entering a field. Keep to the left of the field and proceed to the kissing gate.

② Pass through the kissing gate and follow the wall straight ahead to a waymarker post next to a gate with a 'Private' sign. Turn right and walk along the ridge to the right of the wood ahead. On reaching it, head towards the kissing gate in the fence. Cross over and walk straight ahead along the ridge to the stone stile. Cross and proceed ahead keeping to the edge of the field and continue, over another stile, until you reach Hey House Farm.

③ Bear right past the house, cross the stile in the wall and bear slightly right across the field to another wall stile next to a gateway in the opposite boundary. Cross over and

continue along the line of the old track to a second stone stile. Cross two timber stiles, keeping to the right of the farm shed, and then turn left at the track and pass between the farm buildings before crossing the stile ahead.

④ Bear right, heading downhill and follow the stone wall to a footbridge. Cross over, then turn left. Walk straight ahead and when the beck curves away, cross the footbridge ahead. Turn left following the beck until you reach a fence on your left, follow until you reach a stile. Cross over the stile and stream before heading right up the hill in the direction of the waymark. Follow the fence line left at the top of the hill until you reach a hollow just before a gate way.

⑤ Walk down the hollow bearing right over the stile towards a footbridge which you should cross. Turn immediately right and follow the path downstream towards Downham Mill. Bear left up the alternative route above the mill house, pass through a kissing gate and follow the path to the right along the fenceside. Bear left, following the waymarker posts to

pass between the limestone outcrops of the "Fairy Rocks" and continue diagonally up across the large pasture to rejoin the line of the old Roman road at Wood End Croft Wood.

⑥ On reaching the wood, the return path follows the route taken at the start of the walk.