



David Turner

2 Clitheroe and Pendleton

START: Clitheroe Castle, Clitheroe (GPS waypoint SD 742 416)

DISTANCE: 5 miles (8km)

DIFFICULTY: 🏃 **HEIGHT GAIN:** ⬆️

APPROX. TIME: 2 hours

PARKING: Available in the town centre

ROUTE TERRAIN: Farmland, country lanes, tarmac roads, tracks

FACILITIES: Café at Clitheroe Castle Museum, places in Clitheroe town centre

SUITABILITY: Not accessible, dogs should be kept under control during farmland sections

OS MAPS: Landranger 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), Explorer OL41 (Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale)

Discover the bustling market town of Clitheroe and the village of Pendleton on this five-mile route.

We travelled to the area after a stretch of wet weather and parts of the route were a bit boggy, so please bear this in mind and opt for sturdy footwear if you're trying this walk after it's rained.



2 Clitheroe and Pendleton

A circular, two-hour walk from Clitheroe Castle and out into the countryside to the quaint village of Pendleton.

This isn't one of our accessible walks unfortunately, due to the terrain and number of stiles along the route. Dogs are permitted though, but please keep to the Countryside Code and ensure four-legged friends are on a lead during farmland sections.

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HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Clitheroe is a bustling market town lying within Lancashire's beautiful Ribble Valley. There are records of a town named 'Cliderhou' or 'Clyderhow', as early as 1175, and the name is thought to come from the Anglo-Saxon description for a rocky hill.

Perched atop a 35-metre outcrop of limestone is Clitheroe's landmark and one of the oldest buildings in Lancashire, Clitheroe Castle. The impressive Norman castle keep has dominated Clitheroe's skyline for more than 800 years.



You certainly get a bird's eye view when you climb to the top. It's a spectacular sight to take in the rolling landscape over to Pendle Hill and the panorama of the Ribble Valley stretching out around you.

The remains of the keep are a scheduled ancient monument and grade I listed. Around the Clitheroe Castle grounds, there are 16 acres of formal gardens to explore, including a rose garden leading to the only labyrinth in Lancashire.

The thriving market town developed around the castle, and 17th century church records document a wide variety of trades, including shoemakers, textile dealers, tanners, hatters, blacksmiths, saddlers, carpenters, joiners and tailors. The town retains many historic properties and listed buildings. Clitheroe library, an imposing building in the town is grade II listed. It was built in 1905 on the site of the old Moot Hall (courthouse), originally constructed around 1600. Convicted local people were locked in dungeons hewn out of solid rock, located underneath the building. These dungeons still exist next to the library workroom.

There are some fine examples of Victorian shops in the town. Wine merchants D. Byrne and Co. have been trading here for more than 130 years and the shop is fascinating. With its towering shelves and a warren of underground cellars it's worth a visit, even for the teetotaller! The Victorian premises of the Exchange Coffee Company on Wellgate are equally atmospheric, and a former Methodist chapel, now the Emporium shop and bistro is worth a visit at Moor Lane.

The walker's view

Sine Fleet explores Clitheroe on this five-mile route

“The Ribble Valley is a part of the county I've loved for a long time, and an area I thought knew pretty well. However, I'd never visited Pendleton and had no idea that this beautiful little village lay quietly tucked away, just off the A59 – it really is a hidden gem.

I started the walk from the centre of Clitheroe after taking a tour of the Norman castle keep, and marvelling at the panoramic views around Lancashire from the very top.

Not long into the walk, it struck me that one minute you're amid the hustle and bustle of this busy little market town, the next, you turn a corner and suddenly you're surrounded by fields as far as the eye can see.

This particular corner led me from a housing estate into a farm's field. In Clitheroe, as soon as there's a view clear of buildings you can't miss Pendle Hill looming in the distance, which is handy as the hill itself helps to navigate the walk, as Pendleton lies at the foot of Pendle Hill.

I wound my way through country lanes in its direction, the views becoming more impressive the closer you get to the hill and the more you ascend. Along the walk I spotted a couple of mad March hares rampaging around a field, as they like to do at this time of year - a sure sign that spring is finally here. The weather was warm for the first time this year and crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils could be seen springing up all over the place.

As you near Pendleton village, the views of Pendle Hill may hold your attention,

but be sure not to miss the view to your right over to Longridge Fell.

The village itself is really worth setting aside some time for. It's one of the most untouched you'll see, with many buildings dating back to the 17th century. Pendleton Brook runs through the centre of the main street too and makes the whole scene very photogenic.



The Swan with Two Necks pub is the hub of the village, and well worth a detour. In fact it's been in the headlines this year, having beaten 57,000 other pubs and inns to be crowned the 2014 best in the UK by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Heading out of the village, do take care crossing the A59, as it is a particularly busy stretch here. There were more obvious signs of spring among the sun-dappled trees of Oak Wood and plenty of lambs in the fields as I crossed them, heading back towards the busy centre of town once more.”

David Turner



Don't miss...

Where to visit

Clitheroe Castle Museum

Castle Hill, Castle Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1BA

Part of the town's unique character is Clitheroe castle, the imposing historic landmark that towers over the town, as it has done for more than 800 years.

The museum and galleries opened 2009 and are designed to take you on a journey through 350 million years of the history, heritage and geology of the local area.

Once you arrive at the top of Castle Hill to the castle keep, the views over Lancashire and the Ribble Valley can't be ignored, and the museum is designed to make the most of them. Inside the museum there are permanent collections, interactive elements and changing exhibitions for all ages throughout the year, and children can have fun in the creative outdoor play zone.

The castle and museum are surrounded by 16 acres of formal gardens including a rose garden, the first labyrinth in Lancashire, a traditional bandstand, playground and a state-of-the-art skate park.

Visitors can also stop off at The Atrium, the museum's contemporary café and shop with courtyard overlooking the castle. The café serves locally sourced foods, and you can try out some of the area's treats and specialities, such as Clitheroe Castle sausage or one of Mrs Dowson's ice creams.

Clitheroe Castle and Museum is open from 11am to 4pm from 1st April until 2nd November. For more detailed opening hours and pricing, go to www.visitlancashire.com



Wildlife watch

Nearby Salthill Quarry is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its geological formations and is also of great botanical interest, with a mixture of vegetation from limestone grassland, which is rare in Lancashire, through to woodland.

The site has many interesting wildflowers blooming throughout the year, including a colourful display of plants such as bird's foot-trefoil, wild strawberry, common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, scabious, agrimony and wild roses in summer. Wildlife also makes good use of Salthill, with butterflies and moths, insects, bats, birds, small mammals and birds of prey all regularly spotted here.

Lady's bedstraw

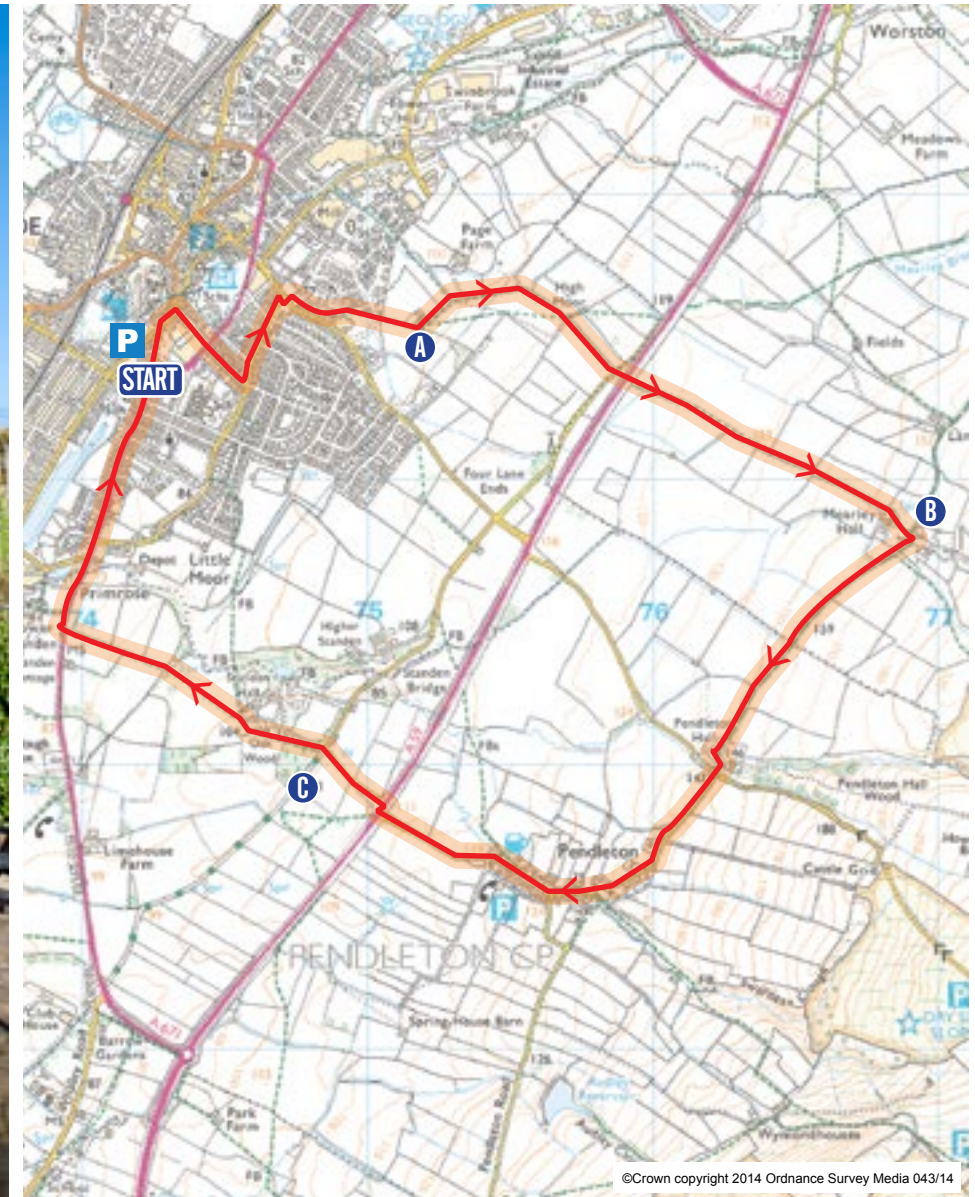


Prehistoric sites

There are two known prehistoric sites around Clitheroe, both with Bronze Age finds in the Salthill area, and the nearby Salthill Quarry - now managed by the Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve - is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with fossilised rocks abundant in several areas of the reserve.

The quarry has 330 million-year-old limestone deposits, with fascinating fossils to see including marine animals brachiopods, crinoids and sea urchins.

Cut out this page and take with you...



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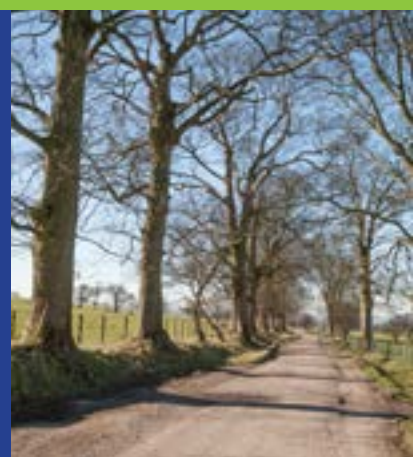
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2 Your walk, step-by-step

START Exit the castle grounds onto Moor Lane. From here, turn immediately left and ahead of you the road forks left and right uphill. Take the right, and then take the first street on the right, Highfield Road.



When Highfield Road meets Peel Street, cross over and continue straight ahead following Highfield Road.

At the next junction, turn left onto Hayhurst Street. Follow the road until the end. Cross over the road and follow the path ahead, leading around the stone wall opposite and going towards some modern houses.



As you head towards these houses, the path forks left and right, take the right, heading towards a field. You'll cross a road that leads into the estate on your left, but keep going straight on, following the track ahead and the green public footpath sign.

Next you will pass a farmhouse, **A** follow the track round this to the left and round the edge of the field. Keep going around the curve of the edge of the field, which will take you back over to the right, heading towards Pendle Hill in the distance.



At the end of the field, pass through the kissing gate. You'll now be heading slightly uphill, and towards Pendle Hill and the A59 road. Carry straight on and you'll come to another kissing gate, go through to emerge onto an unnamed road. Continue through the gate opposite and then over the stile to arrive beside the A59. Carefully cross over the road and go over the stile into the field opposite. Make your way up the right hand side of the field to the farmhouse at the very top. **B**



Turn right along the track and make your way up the incline to a junction of paths. Take the right hand track and follow it all the way along to emerge onto the road beside a large sign for Pendleton.



Follow the sign, which will take you into Pendleton village. Take a tour of the village's picturesque main street, Eastview Terrace, and when ready - with the Swan with Two Necks pub on your right, head out of the village on the unnamed road ahead of you.



The end of this road meets the A59. Take care crossing this busy road. Then take the road that is almost opposite the road out of Pendleton. At the end of this road, you will see a public footpath sign into Oak Wood slightly to your left – follow the path. **C**

The path will take you alongside some woods and a stone wall before bending to the right. Go through a metal kissing gate on the left and out into the field beyond. Bear slightly right over the field towards a group of trees and make your way through the wooden kissing gate.



Follow the fence line on your right to eventually arrive at another gate leading out onto Whalley Road. Turn right onto Whalley Road, and head uphill towards the town centre.

Continue in this direction until you meet Moor Lane again – carry on up Moor Lane, to bring you back to the entrance to the Castle grounds.



Walk images provided by David Turner

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