

Rail Trails

BLACK COMBE WALK

As the train makes its way around the Duddon Estuary the impressive profile of Black Combe dominates the skyline. Between sea and mountains, this modest peak has some of the best long distance views in the country.

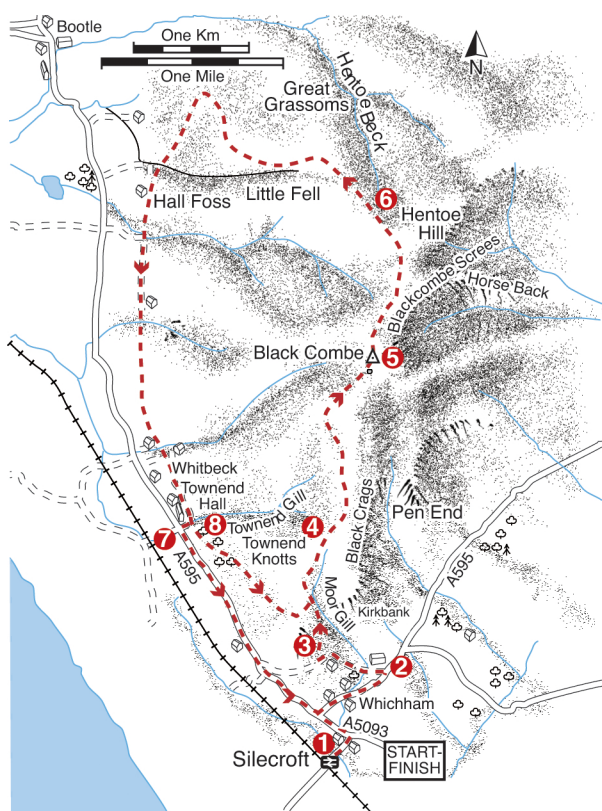
Start/Finish: Silecroft Railway Station (GR SD 130 819)

Distance: 15.2km (9.5 miles)

Time: 5 hours

Height gain: 665m

Maps: OS Landranger 96, OS Outdoor Leisure 6, Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland South & Western Lakeland, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).



1. Turn left out of the station and follow the road through the village and past the Miners' Arms to a junction. Turn left and follow the A5093 for 250m to a junction. Turn right; follow the A595 to a lane on the left for Kirkbank.
2. Take the lane at the side of the church to a small group of houses. Head around the back of the houses to a junction.
3. Follow the bridleway as it climbs steeply up by the side of Moorgill Beck. The track levels at the top of the gill by Townend Knotts.
4. Climb north to the summit of Black Combe (shelter and trig point). For a shorter walk simply retrace your steps back to Silecroft.
5. Descend to the northeast; follow the vague path as it skirts the top of Black Combe Screes and then swings north. Go north then northwest down the steep grassy slope and past the head of Hentoe Beck to pick up a track.
6. Follow this west then north and then southwest across the fellside for 2.5km to cross a ford. Follow the good track south for 3.2km past Whitbeck to join the A595 at Townend Hall.
7. Go southeast for 2.4km to the turn off for Silecroft and back to the station.
8. If the A595 is busy a high level alternative path is available. At Townend Hall turn left and follow the path beside Townend Gill. Above the intake wall the path climbs across the fellside to a level shoulder. Continue southeast across the shoulder then follow the path down a steep hairpin bend to join the Black Combe bridleway. Turn right and retrace your steps to the station.