

Heversham Hobble – 20.4 miles 2347ft ascent

Start: Tristams Sports Pavilion, Heversham (GR 504834)

From pavilion cross sports field to stile (compass bearing 105°), through stile and woodland to next stile and road. Left, then take stile on right to top right hand corner of field (compass bearing 198°) passing solitary tree to right. Over stile and ahead, hedge on left to corner then go through gap stile and immediately right along hedge. Over ladder stile, then left following hedge and through further gap stile at side of gate. Continue ahead following path as it swings right to pass Lower Haverflatts on left. Ahead down to double gate and road (GR501824).

Left on road and at junction go right following sign post to Milnthorpe. Continue ahead with St Anthony's Tower on hill to right and at main road go right staying on footpath to traffic lights. Cross to left, then right to pass Cross Keys Pub on left. Keep ahead staying on pavement on left side of road. Pass 'The Strands' then immediately left over bridge signed 'Beetham' (GR 493814).

Through kissing gate, then go right with river on right and keep ahead to go through metal kissing gate. Turn right on road, then at main road, cross with care and through kissing gate continuing ahead river still on right. At 2nd stile go left and follow metal fence on left. Continue following fence as it swings left, to pass life belt. Ahead 50yds to concrete ramp going up under trees to disused railway embankment. Continue ahead over stile, up steps to main road and cross road again with care.

Ahead on minor road to industrial estate, after 40yds take gap in hedge and hidden footpath sign (Haverbrack Lane). In 20yds over step stile in wall and ahead, wall on left. Over next stile, cross gravel lane and over stile to enclosed track, wall still on left. Follow track as it meanders uphill to stile. Cross stile, over track at 2nd stile continuing uphill, wall on left. When slope levels out, ignore 2 gates on left and find small wooden kissing gate with 'Game Wildlife Area sign (GR485808). Follow yellow waymarkers through wood to T Junction with 3 way finger post on right. Turn right (signed Public Road) still following waymarkers to road. Through slip stile and right on road for 150yds to stile on left (SP Slackhead Hazelslack) GR 483799 4.2 miles.

Over stile and steadily uphill on good track. At finger post, just after a small cairn take a right track to Fairy Steps. Keep ahead following yellow waymarkers to 3-way finger post. Turn left and climb Fairy Steps. Turn right at top, following waymarked path around permissive route to return to bottom of steps. Retrace outward route to finger post and ahead (Signed Hazelslack). Continue down track following yellow waymarkers to gate. Go through and continue in same direction with wall on left, over 2 stiles and through farm yard to road.

Straight across and ahead down minor road. After short distance come to a metal gate on left with public footpath sign. Over stile and ahead on farm track. When track divides into 3, take the centre track. At gate go left, wall on right past electric pole. Through new metal gate on right. Ahead, wall on left following path as it drops down embankment across field to stile left of telegraph pole. Over stile, cross road and over another stile following signpost (Arnside 2/3 mile).

Just before metal gate, leave track go right through kissing gate then bear left (bearing 250°). Follow waymarker to re-join original track crossing field to fence and signpost. DO NOT TAKE FOOTPATH TO RIGHT. Go ahead (SP Black Dyke Road) to 2nd footpath over wooden footbridge and ahead along a narrow, enclosed track up to railway. Cross with care and ahead on minor road to larger road.

Turn left for 200yds to #58 Hillside and turn right up signed footpath. Before gates on drive go left through hedge, then immediately right at fingerpost and go steadily uphill (Signed Silverdale Rd). At top, reach tarmac drive, go left on gravel track between houses and on leaving gravel go left on road. Leave Spinney Lane, go left on Silverdale Road walking steadily uphill. Pass cemetery on left and go through large wooden gate on right (GR 460777).

Having entered woodland, immediately turn left on minor track to walk parallel to road.

Go through stile in wall followed by a small wicker gate and then turn right to follow path uphill with wall on right. Continue up to reach wall corner, ahead through small gate and follow path as it bears left uphill. Continue on path going uphill and following line of trees on left to a small wicker gate in wall. Go through to main path and turn right. Continue on this, past bench and the giraffe tree (2 trees knotted) continuing ahead. Take right fork at Y junction, after 75yds go through gate in wall and ahead to view point (GR 452774).

Leave viewpoint on gravel track (compass bearing 238° or left rear of viewpoint if looking forward). After 35yds stay on higher track to left (NOT SCREE TRACK GOING DOWNHILL). Through small wicker gate after 30yds and ahead on track passing 2 small benches on left. Join slightly wider track and continue in same direction. At junction take path to left (Signed Arnside Tower) before wall (GR452771). Continue ahead on good wide track passing through wooden gate and continue ahead. At 2 wooden gates go through and onto road, continuing ahead following footpath sign to Silverdale. Before reaching farm buildings take footpath on right (Signed Cove Rd & Elm Slack). At end of path go through metal gate & straight over main track on path to Arnside Tower (SP Black Dyke & Waterslack Rd).

Pass tower on left and turn right through stile by a metal gate then left through kissing gate towards Eaves Wood & Silverdale. Continue uphill through kissing gate in caravan site. At tarmac road, turn right and follow waymarks leaving road to left just before play area continuing into trees. Stay on track (ignoring paths left or right) until coming to brick wall, go through squeeze stile and ahead in same direction. Through another squeeze stile and ahead with wooden fence on right. Continue ahead when track changes to tarmac with houses on right and at signpost take track on left to Eaves Wood. After short distance at next sign stay ahead on narrow walled enclosure signed car park. Go past tall wall on right with brick structure on left and continue ahead. Keep ahead to track on right with Checkpoint sign then turn right here to Car Park and **Checkpoint** (10.75 miles - GR 471759).

Go through carpark, left on road, continue ahead at junction and after 75yds cross stile on left (Signed Challon Hall). Ahead with wall on left, over next stile to cross railway with care. Over another stile and continue ahead on grassy path following finger posts to reach waymarker, continuing to Challon Hall.

Go through squeeze stile in wall and turn right on good gravel track. Follow wall on your right and stay with track as it turns right and changes to footpath. Ahead over small wooden bridge, cross duck boarding, through gate and back on to gravel track. After 30yds go through double gates on left and on to open field. Take path half right and steadily up hill (compass bearing 110°) Continue through gap in old wall and ahead to large green sign with kissing gate and squeeze stile behind. Through both and ahead in same direction (Yealand Hall Allotment & Yealand Storrs) Go through squeeze stile at side of metal gate and right on gravel track. Continue on this good track to gate, through kissing gate, out on to road then straight on at junction and through Yealand Storrs.

After ½ mile at right hand bend see sign to Thrang Moss on left. Go through gate and ahead wire fence on right through small wooden gate and ahead through larger gate and ahead with wooden fence on left. Through kissing gate, down grassy track with woodland either side and at cross-path continue ahead with deer fence on right. Stay on track as it swings 90 right then in 100yds ignoring small gate on right, follow path as it turns left. Continue to go through large wooden gate and then in 5yds find faint track on right entering woods. Follow and in 20yds join larger track, turn right and cross small wooden bridge into open field.

Go ahead keeping hillock to left and continue on to gate with caravans on left. Keep ahead on track to join another track then turn left and go ahead uphill to road. Turn right, ignore next junction on left and keep ahead on same road. Approximately 50yds before next junction and by large wooden sign on left (Fell End Caravan Park) take gap in wall (NB THIS IS NOT A RIGHT OF WAY – WE HAVE OBTAINED PERMISSION TO USE THIS ON DATE OF EVENT ONLY) Through gap and onto wide track going uphill. Follow as track goes right with wall, then caravans on left. Where track goes left, between caravans continue ahead on narrow track with hedge on left. Ignore next turning left keeping on minor track with caravans to left.

Eventually come onto a wide gravel track in caravan site and follow this ahead for 40yds, turn left at lamp post, then right taking narrow path between first 2 caravans.

This leads to stone wall with gap stile, go through this & out of site into woods.

Follow yellow waymarkers, turning right onto wider track.

Continue following waymarkers as they go uphill, at the top go through gap in old wall.

Then down the other side, still following waymarkers. At 3-way fingerpost go ahead (SP Hale).

At the next junction ignore footpath to right and continue ahead.

At next sign post go left on path (Signed Beetham) with wall on right.

Ahead over awkward stile then down banking, keeping wall to right.

When you see fingerpost and stile in wall, take faint track over field on left to Beetham.

At next wall, go through stile and ahead (woods on left and wall on right) to next stile.

Go through, onto open field taking faint track (compass bearing 340) towards houses and reaching gate in left corner.

Up narrow track at side of house, and turn left along road (GR 497795).

At T junction turn right and pass Wheatsheaf Hotel on left and war memorial on right then take side road on left (SP Bridleway).

Walk on road to Heron Mill carpark and go straight ahead, through stile next to wooden gate (Signed Dallam Park Milnthorpe).

Continue uphill on grassy track following waymarks.

Ahead, through kissing gate, then keep following waymarkers past small cairn and onwards to reach stone bridge.

Over bridge, going through metal kissing gate and onto road.

Turn right, staying on right side footpath for 50yds then left (Cross with caution) to take farm track with flood sign at entrance.

In 50yds take narrow footpath (Signed Public Bridleway Church St)

When track goes 90 right, go ahead using stile to left of wooden gate

Continue in same direction with hedge on left to field corner.

Ahead through squeeze stile to open field and continue ahead, houses on right.

Go to top right-hand corner of field and over stile in stone wall.

Turn immediately right to follow track to steps, gate, stile and 3 more steps to road and pavement

Cross road with care and head left on footpath to road junction on right (Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles).

Ahead on minor road until it turns right, with wooden gate directly in front.

Go up to BUT NOT THROUGH gate and turn left to go over hidden stile (SP Heversham).

Take path going uphill and at top of brow, pass right of 2 electric poles with hedge on right.

Go to field corner and through kissing gate onto tarmac drive.

Turn left, go over bridge and follow drive as it turns left after bridge.

After garden on right, take footpath going diagonally across field to road.

Go right on road, then right again into Heversham.

Continue on road to pass Woodhouse Road on right and to Lynch Gate of Church.

Go in to church grounds, ahead then right following gravel track as it goes behind church then through graveyard to wall.

Go through small metal gate on to obvious track going uphill ahead, through another stile & ahead with large stone wall on left.

At end of wall continue on with wire fence on left, through another stile and ahead on enclosed track.

Through wooden kissing gate, on to open field and turn half right to go through metal gate.

Go half left (compass bearing 112°) to pass a telegraph pole on right and shortly after look for small copse well ahead.

Head for this and go along wall with commemorative seat to another copse then down to field corner and small wooden gate.

Through this to playing fields, then turn right to pavilion and finish.

Congratulations... you've completed the Heversham Hobble!