

Caton Moor – Trumper Trail

Start Point

Quarry Road car park and information point, Caton
 SD 5708 6439

Distance/Time

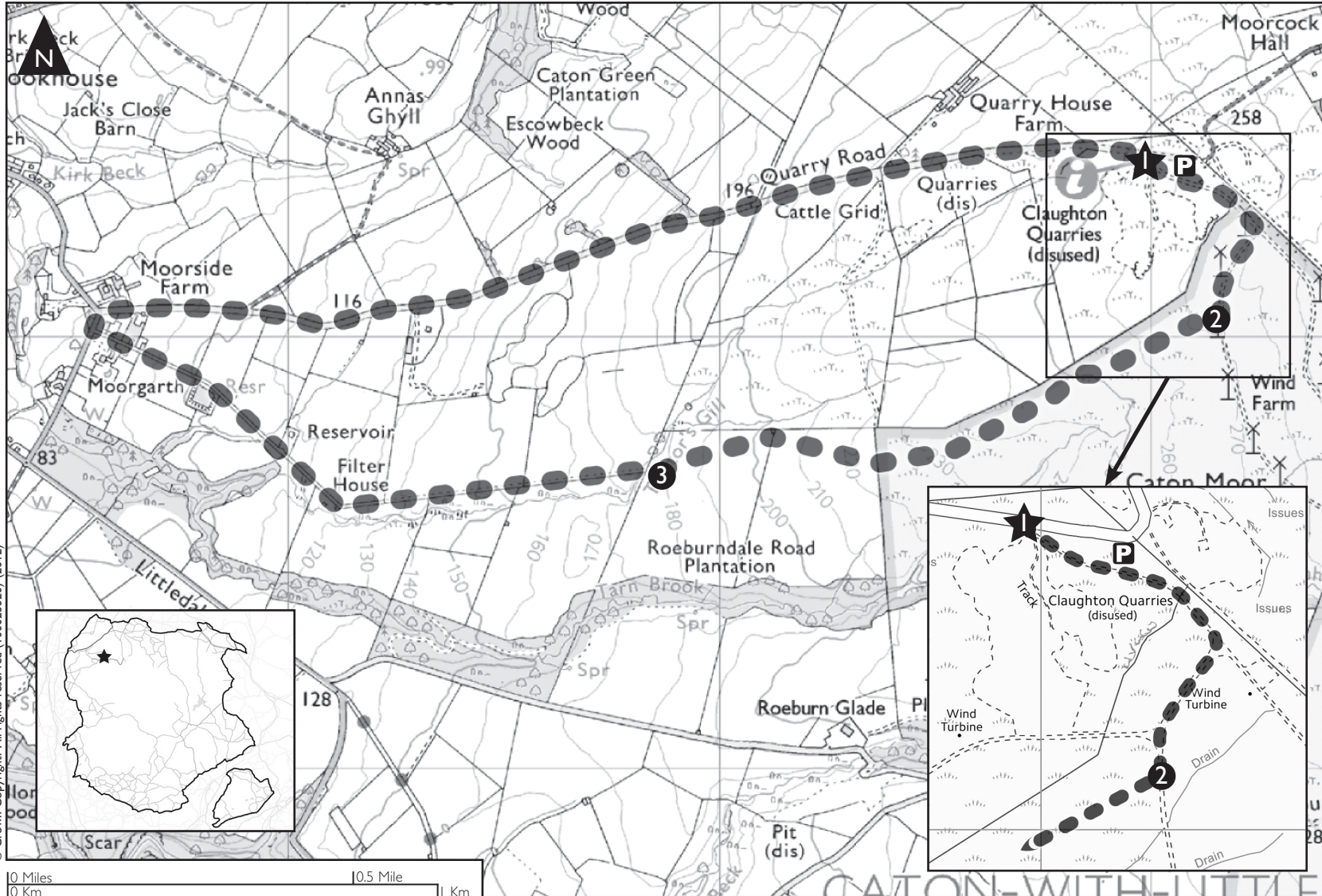


Loop 3.8 miles
2 hours

Terrain

A combination of stone track followed by wet, soft, tussocky moorland progressing to soft grass pasture. Longer stretches of rough going with some ruts, cambers and cross falls. The return loop is along the tarmacked Quarry Road. The route has one radar operated gate, **Please ensure this gate remains locked.**

Disabled Ramblers category 3 - challenging. Please note: this route begins at an altitude of 300 metres (1,000 feet) and is very exposed. Please ensure that you carry suitable warm/waterproof clothing. **To prevent mixing or loss of livestock – it is essential that if you open a gate, it must be closed behind you, thank you**



Key to Facilities

 Parking

To book a trumper please telephone 01524 793429

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

-  SD 5708 6439
-  SD 5716 6408
-  SD 5582 6369

Between points  and  follow the white painted boulders





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Walk Description

★ GPS: SD 5708 6439

Start at the car park; navigate along a gravel path between picnic benches and an interpretation panel to join a vehicle width stone track. Turn left heading uphill to a radar operated gate.

Please leave the gate locked.

Head uphill and bear left at the first opportunity. Continue on the wide track for 200 metres (avoiding a turbine access road on the right) turn off the track down a stone ramp marked by a white painted boulder onto a grassed moorland.

The route is now marked at intervals by large white painted stones.

② GPS: SD 5716 6408

Follow the marker stones circumventing a wet hollow anticlockwise (to the right). Note the difference in vegetation with land to the right. Into the 1970s this area was also moorland. However, the drive for greater production brought about drainage, fencing and lime application to reduce acidity. Continue to a field gate the wall delineates between moorland (Open Access land) and improved pasture.

Follow the marker stones diagonally across two fields through a gate and down to a gated bridge over `Traitors Gill`.

③ GPS: SD 5582 6369

The `gill` and land above are water gathering grounds for the villages of Caton and Brookhouse. Cross the bridge and follow the track eventually passing a filter house and underground reservoir. This hedged and walled track exits onto Moorside Road, turn right and right again onto Quarry Road to make the steady ascent back to the car park. This section offers terrific views when clear; look north east into the Yorkshire Dales for glimpses of the famous `three peaks`. Northward across the Lune valley onto the southern fells of the Lake District. North West reveals the wooded hills of Arncliffe and Silverdale across to the seaside towns of Grange over Sands and Kents Bank and finally westward out into Morecambe Bay where many wind turbines capture Irish Sea gusts.

About This Walk

Caton Moor wind farm hosts eight turbines, each 55 metres in height with rotor diameters of 70 metres, each turbine has been given a name by local primary school pupils. First established in the mid-1990s, in recent years the power generation of these turbines has been amongst the best of their type in the UK producing energy for the equivalent of 10,000 homes.

Caton Moor was at one time common or waste ground and became subject to a parliamentary enclosure act in the 17th/18th century. Parcels of land were allotted to local people and at this time many of the walls, quick-set hedges, barns, farmhouses and tracks were put in place as allotment holders moved onto the land from Caton and surrounding villages to begin practicing the beginnings of modern farming.

Each holding or allotment had its own sheep and unique sheep marks. The Littledale township also had distinctive ear and wool marks to distinguish between fourteen other townships comprising the counties of Lancaster and York.

These days the land below the wind farm is farmed by one family primarily for the production of meat. Swaledale sheep are the base breed crossed with more prolific breeds such as the `Lley` (from the North Wales peninsula) to produce stock best suited to high rainfall conditions. Cross breeding is adapted to meet market trends and needs.

A secondary income comes from the fleece.

Much of this land sits within a government sponsored `stewardship` scheme; working with farmers to preserve and improve habitats and species particularly for ground nesting birds such as lapwing, curlew and snipe. Conditions favoured range from short grazed pasture for nesting lapwing to wet, tussocky moorland for the snipe, each holding good reserves of insects for the probing beak of the curlew.