



Caton Wind Farm – Tramper Trail

OS Explorer
OL41



Start Point

Quarry Road car park and information point, Caton

SD 5708 6439

Distance/Time

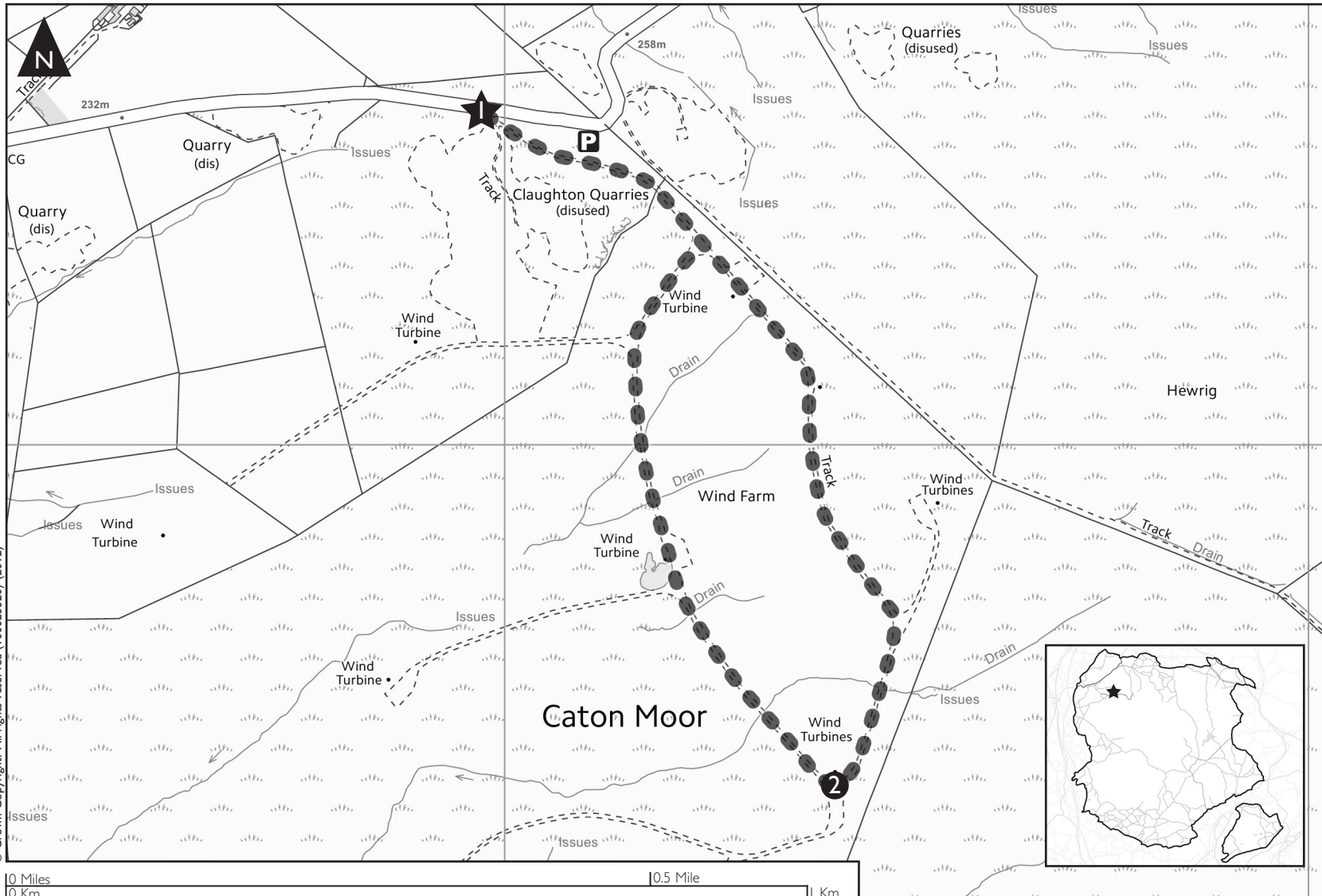
Short loop 1.4 miles

50 Mins

Terrain

High quality compacted aggregate with a small stretch of compressed earth. The path is vehicle width except for a short link to the car park. The route has one radar operated gate, **Please ensure this gate remains locked.**

There are no hills and height climbed during the ramble does not exceed 30 metres, cross slopes are minimal. The trail surface is classed as easy {**Disabled Ramblers category 1**}; however, the route sits at an altitude of 300 metres (1,000 feet) and is very exposed; please ensure that you carry warm / waterproof clothing.



Key to Facilities

Parking

To book a tramper please telephone
01524 793429

GPS Waypoints (OS grid refs)

SD 5708 6439

SD 5741 6357



www.forestofbowland.com



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Walk Description

★GPS: SD 5708 6439

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

Please leave this gate locked.

From the gate bear left at the first opportunity. The route continues downhill in an anticlockwise direction and passes directly underneath a wind turbine named `Barn Owl`. Views directly ahead look out across the isolated farming community in Roeburndale valley toward the north western Bowland fells including Blanch Fell and Black Fell. Continue to the next turbine named `Whinchat`

② GPS: SD 5741 6357

On passing below `Whinchat` turn sharp left, double back and uphill - turn left again after 220 metres. Continue uphill to the highest point before dropping to pass under a third turbine named `Willow`. 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 are the southern fells of the Lake District. North West reveals the wooded hills of Arnside 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. After passing `Willow` you return to the radar gate and back to the car park

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 practising 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.