

# The Askham Fell & Ullswater Circular Walking Route

**Distance:** 15.29 km

**Difficulty:** Moderate

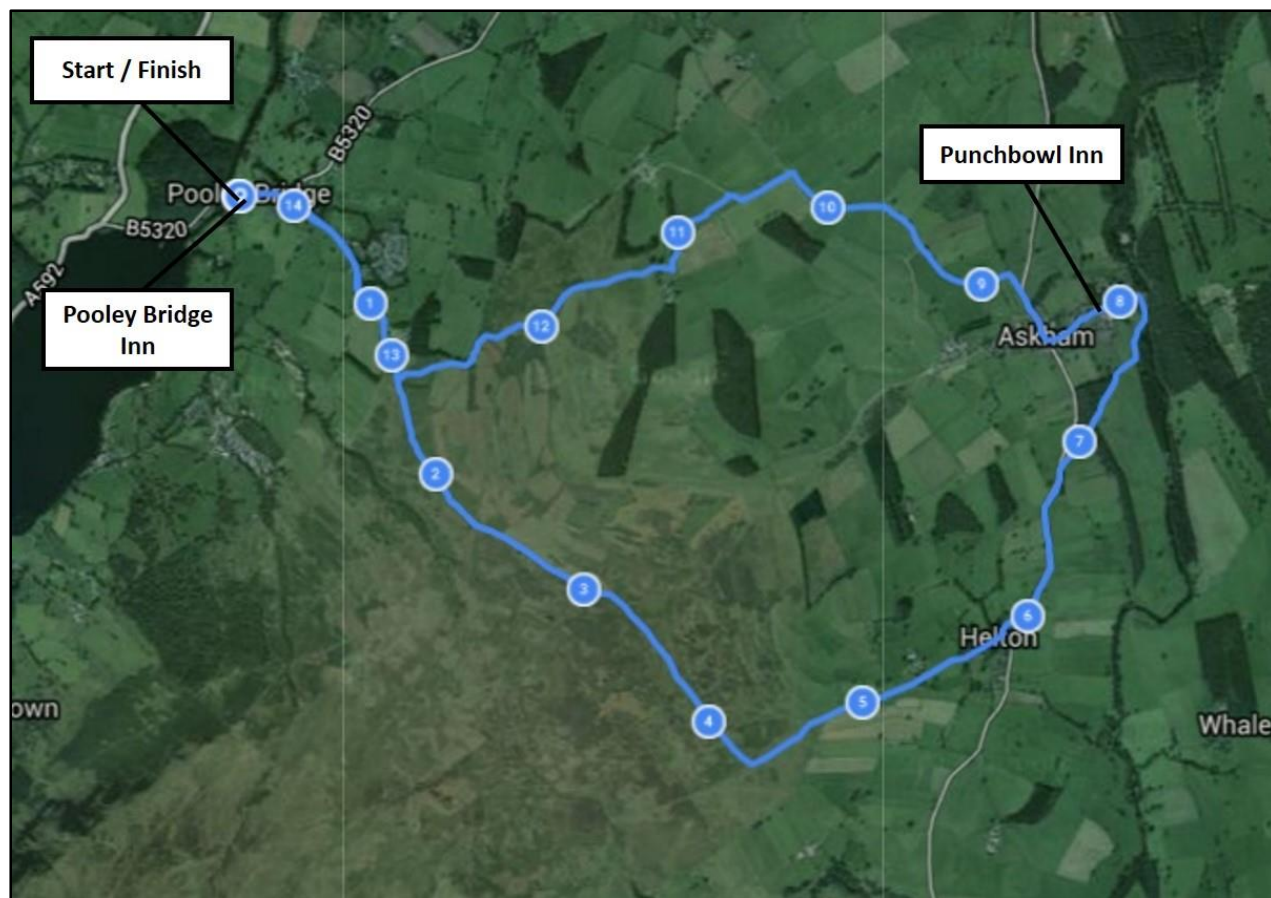
**Dog Friendly:** Yes (some sections require a lead)

**Ascent/Descent:** Moderate (+/- 356 metres)

**Toilets:** In the pubs and Pooley Bridge village centre

**Wildlife:** Red Grouse

**Endomondo route:** [Download here](#)



*Askham Fell & Ullswater circular walking route*

**Starting location:** the village square in Pooley Bridge (satnav: CA10 2NN). Parking is free and plentiful during the off-season.

1. Leave the car park, and facing towards the Pooley Bridge Inn, head left along the B5320. At the fork in the road, head right and then crossing straight over the crossroads. Follow the road uphill, passing a lodge/camping site on your left, as it snakes along uphill until you reach a gate. Pass through the gate and you will join a path leading out onto the moorlands of Elder Beck offering stunning views of Ullswater if you look back.

**2.** On this path, it is important not to take any paths leading off to the left or the right. The path (pictured right) begins heading in a southerly direction, but over the course of the next 2km will bear very slightly left. Stick to the well-worn path and you won't go wrong. It was along



this stretch we encountered the elusive red grouse. Eventually, you will come to an intersection with a tarmacked road and a small signpost (pictured left). Here, turn left and follow the road along, which soon begins to descend (pictured right) and you will head into the village of Helton. At the fork/T-junction, head left.



The road bears slightly to the right and then merges with a busier road. Head left again, taking care along this stretch of road. After approximately 600 metres, the road will pass a small patch of woodland on your right. Immediately after this will be a marked path off to the right; take this path, heading diagonally ahead and left across the sheep field aiming for the gap (stile/gate) in the hedgerow. Cross directly over the road, heading through the gate/stile



directly opposite and through some woodland. Continue to follow the path until the trees to your left end and a farm is visible. At this point, the track bears right, following the stone wall perimeter of a cow field, then bears left again. At this point, woodland will be on your right along with the River Lowther. Follow this path, keeping the woodland on your right and the farm fields on your right, until you enter a church and graveyard (pictured left).

**3.** Pass through the graveyard and turn left onto the road, heading uphill into the village of Askham. A short way uphill and the Punchbowl Inn will be on your left. Continue on uphill for another 350 metres and you will come to a road junction. Head right, past the Queens Head pub (closed for renovation at the time of writing) and out of the village. Go another 150 metres and a lesser used track forks off to the left; take this and follow the road uphill and around to the left after a further 100 metres. Follow the road for 1.5km, until you come to the turning on your left for the High Winder Cottages. This road will turn to the right, then you will need to head left almost immediately after, heading uphill and towards the cottages. Approximately 60 metres before the cottages, turn right onto a signposted, worn-grass path on your right between some scattered tress and a more populated woodland off to the right. Keep following this path and you will see what looks like a summit marker on your right, but is actually an electricity box. Pass by this, keeping it on your left. After following the worn path for 500 metres, you will come to a junction of worn paths and a stone wall should be visible off towards your right

approximately 400 metres away. Here, turn right and head towards this stone wall which can be seen in the picture on the right (there are many paths, some more worn than others. Just head for the wall and you will be fine).



4. Just before reaching the wall, you will find a path running left/right, parallel with the wall. Go left, following the wall, which then turns 90 degrees to the right. Follow the path around this 90 degree turn. You will join a downhill path with two deep tyre grooves. Descend carefully and you will come out onto the Elder Beck path from stage one. At this point, turn right, go back through the gate and simply retrace your steps back to the Pooley Bridge Inn and your start point.

### **Pub 1: The Punchbowl Inn**

The Punchbowl Inn is a restaurant, pub and B&B located in the village of Askham. The building dates back to the 18th century and has previously seen use as part of a farm and an orchard. The beams in the pub have



splits in them and it is said that coins should be pushed into these splits for good luck. The bar is very traditional with open fires and serving home-cooked food, complimented with a selection of local ales, wines and whiskies. Well worth a refreshment pit-stop while out on this walk. The pub is also dog friendly. You can view their website [here](#).



### **Pub 2: The Pooley Bridge Inn**

The Pooley Bridge Inn, one of three pubs in the village of Pooley Bridge, is arguably the most iconic. The exterior resembles a Mississippi-style steamer boat while the indoors offers



comfortable and cosy seating around a grand fireplace and inviting bar area. The food menu is superb, offering a range of hearty classics as well as a smaller 'light bites' menu, with both options being very reasonable. The minted mutton stew with olive bread (£6.95) was the perfect lunch after a morning on the Fells. The ale selection, while slightly limited at just two, does offer the delicious and locally-brewed Cumbria Way. You can view the menus and additional info [here](#).



There are a lot of different paths criss-crossing Askham Fell. We recommend using the completely free Endomondo app to follow our GPS track and ensure you stay on-route.