

Furness Haematite Trail (FHT)

Loop 2 - Anticlockwise loop from Furness Abbey via Little Urswick - 8 miles

Thank you for downloading this guide.

The guide is in 3 sections.

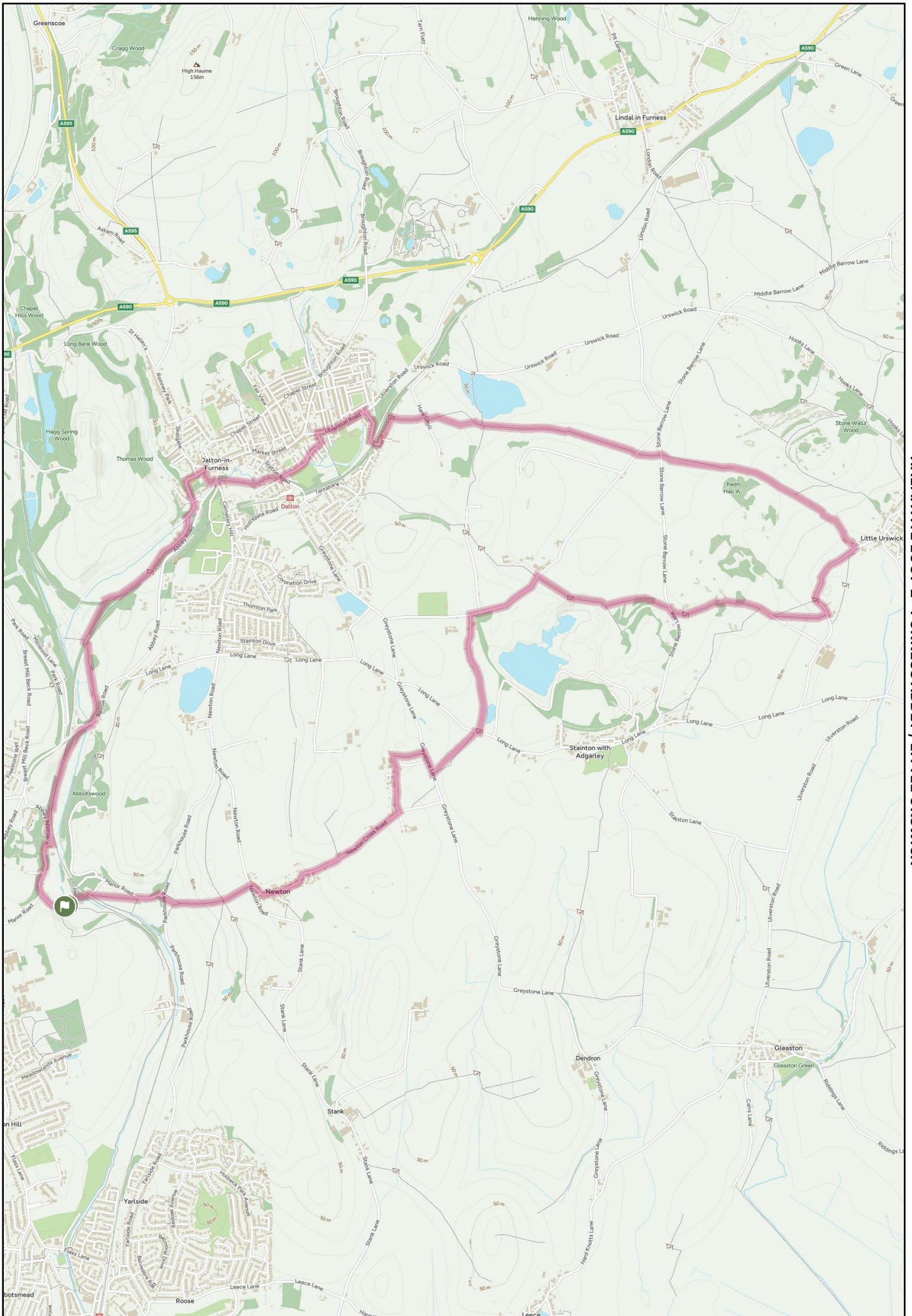


- A map showing the FHT Loop 2 route.
- Walk Instructions - Furness Abbey to Little Urswick – which follows Section 2 of the full FHT.
- Walk Instructions – Returning from Little Urswick to Furness Abbey – the Loop 2 return route.

There is a version of these instructions for printing on our [Facebook Group](#) page.

May 2026.

HAEMATITE LOOP 2 - FURNESS ABBEY / LITTLE URSWICK



FURNESS HAEMATITE TRAIL



Section 2: Furness Abbey to Little Urswick

These instructions for the 4 mile Section 2 of the full Furness Haematite Trail can also be used in conjunction with the separate 4 mile Section 2 Loop Route instructions to return to Furness Abbey.

A map and .gpx of the route is available to download from the Facebook group [Furness Haematite Trail - Maps & Guides](#)

From the Abbey car park turn right uphill on the blocked-off lane for about 50 metres turning right at the finger post. Follow this footpath to the level crossing over the rail track, through a kissing gate and into the field noting the crossing keeper's cottage on the left. In the field walk uphill past some gorse on the left to trees and a kissing gate adjacent to the lane. A view of Bow Bridge is below on your right at the bottom of the field. The broken-down wall to your right is part of the ancient perimeter wall of the abbey. Turn right onto the lane and, at the grassy triangle at the junction, fork right and go through a kissing gate opposite.

Walk uphill in a straight line heading for the left-hand power line. Halfway up the field head for a four-finger finger post coming into view. Here look back at the fine views of Barrow and the Irish Sea. Go through the kissing gate and into the field.

At this point, in the diagonal left-hand corner of the field is a slight depression in the ground. This was where the West Newton mine (Stank Buccleuch Royalty) also known as San

Domingo pit was situated. There was a drift/mine level, known as the long drag, connecting this mine to Yarlside mine to your right. The term 'royalty' indicates the right of the landowner, in this case, the Duke of Buccleuch to receive payment (often as a share of the iron extracted) from the mining operations conducted on their land. Another major player in the Furness haematite industry was the Duke of Devonshire. Income from land not owned by these two went to the landowner, often a nearby farmer, upon who's land the ore was being extracted.

Keeping the boundary on your right, walk to another kissing gate and onto the road at the outskirts of Newton village. Walk straight down the road opposite, past the Village Inn, noting the iron mining illustrations on the pub sign, past the village hall and the Farmer's Arms. Walk on the right-hand side of the road uphill to face oncoming traffic on this narrow lane.

Do not be tempted by any lanes on the left but continue as far as a gravel and partially tarmacked farm road on your left opposite an entrance to North Stank Farm on your right. This lane is known as Occupation Lane. Take this track on the left and keep straight ahead. On reaching a gate with a 'No Entry' sign (applies to vehicles) squeeze past the side of the gate. On your left you will see a chimney. This is Woodbine Pit also known as Dickie Pink's.

Newton Mines were worked as early as 1855, and the chimney is one of the few remaining surface structures to do with the iron ore mining industry. The chimney was likely part of the steam engine house used to power the mine's operations such as the winding gear at the pit head. The building on your right as you approach a metal gate was the foreman's office and changing room for the miners.

From the gate go straight ahead until you come to a metal gate on your right with a footpath waymark. Go through and, as you make your way uphill, aim for the left of the buildings where you will find another gate. Notice the remains of a former pit in the little valley to your left.

At the lane turn right. This is quite a busy lane so walk on the right to face oncoming traffic. After about 200m go through a stone stile on your left, with a finger post signed to Long Lane. Walk towards the boundary on your left passing through a stone stile and a wooden stile in the hedge. Walk diagonally to the right, down through the field, aiming for two pylons close to each other. This field may contain a crop but, you are entitled to walk through the crop on the Public Right of Way if the farmer has not made a path for you.

Over these two fields was an aerial ropeway where ore in tubs (kibbles) were transported from Woodbine pit to a railway siding at Stainton. If you are lucky, you might be able to find samples of iron ore which had spilled from the overloaded kibbles. On one occasion a kibble was overloaded and swung so low a cow in the field was struck and killed. In the next field you may find shards of domestic pottery. These may have been thrown into the “night soil” collected from people’s houses and spread on the field to fertilise the ground.

Maintain a diagonal line to a double stile and then over another stile onto Long Lane. Again, this lane can be busy so care should be taken on crossing. Turn right, then take the bridleway on the left at the 30mph sign, eventually walking past Minikin Hall Farm.

In the field to your right immediately after Minikin Farm are four concrete pads which may have been part of the aerial ropeway, mentioned earlier, leading to the mine beyond the treeline. At Longlands Farm in front of the barn to your right was a branch line from the Furness Railway line to Longlands mine.

At the end of the track note the football club to your left, then turn right onto the lane.

A few years ago, an old shaft opened in the football club grounds and had to be filled in. The slight rise in the lane was where a rail tunnel went under the road which has been filled in. The railway was the branch line from Dalton to Stainton quarry.

Continue uphill until you reach a farm on your left and Liam's Spray Shop sign and a stile opposite on your right in a hedge. Go over the stile and through a metal gate ahead. Go straight across the field to a stile, and then immediately over a second one the other side of the 'green' lane. This lane is an ancient right of way called Slop Lane shortened due to the ingress of Stainton Quarry to your right.

Stainton Quarry has a rich history, originally formed from extensive iron ore mining in the Low Furness area. The quarry has been in existence for over 150 years and was originally two quarries now worked as one, producing high purity limestone for export and the local construction industry.

Follow the boundary on your right to a broken-down stone wall and a squeeze stile.

This area is known as Stone Closes and the right of way passes the remains of a pit, depression in the ground near the wall, in the left-hand corner of the field. There were also remains of an engine house (not evident) and foundations of a building which may have been a gunpowder store.

Turn left after the broken-down wall and follow the right of way close to the stone wall. Note the piece of narrow-gauge rail track on the wall. At a waymark on a post by the wall head over to a limestone outcrop and walk along a narrow path between the rocks to access an open area. Here, bear right to a squeeze stile in the wall ahead and turn right onto the lane. A few yards further, go through a metal gate on your left. Keep right to the corner, through a makeshift gate and stile, and onto Bolton Heads.

The raised track you are on was a mineral line. Head for the spoil heap ahead, passing to the left. Head to rocks and a large tree and continue on the grassy track. Aim for the corner of a dry-stone wall and metal farm gate. Through another metal gate and aim for a line of three trees. FHT marker on first tree. Follow the tree line and head for the buildings and a stile. This field may contain a crop but, you are entitled to walk through the crop on the Public Right of Way if the farmer has not made a path for you. At the next gate turn left at the lane and continue to the end of the road.

(Before you reach the end of the lane, on your left is a bridleway. This is the start of the Section 2 Loop Route).

Now...

Either use the Section 2 Loop Route to return to Furness Abbey.

Or To continue on to Section 3 of the full Haematite Trail, turn left onto the main street through the village. The old grammar school was on your left. Past the bus shelter and info board on your left.

Section 2 finishes at the finger post to Dimple Holes Lane footpath and connects with Section 3. Now use the Section 3 trail guide (which starts from Dimple Holes Lane footpath to Lindal in Furness)

Furness Abbey P/T/C/PT

- P Parking
- T Toilets
- C Café/Convenience store
- PT Public Transport

Disclaimer: The publishers of this trail have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the historical information used in this trail. The information has been obtained from sources that are considered to be reliable and presented in good faith and is provided purely for information. The publisher disclaims all liability arising from negligence or otherwise in respect of such information.

May 2026

For the latest information, and the most up to date instructions for all Furness Haematite Trail walks please follow this link or scan the QR code. <https://tinyurl.com/FHT-Section2-1-0>



FURNESS HAEMATITE TRAIL



Section 2 - Loop Route –

Return from Little Urswick to Furness Abbey

This Loop Route starts by following the separate instructions for the first 4 miles of Section 2 of the full Furness Haematite Trail from Furness Abbey to the edge of Little Urswick. Then returns on a 4-mile route to Furness Abbey using this guide. The Loop Route connects with Section 2 of the full trail before you enter Little Urswick village.

A map and .gpx of the route is available to download from the Facebook group [Furness Haematite Trail - Maps & Guides](#)

On your left is an ancient bridleway. Walking uphill you will see evidence of the historic craft of hedge laying and Redman Hall Wood on your left.

The green lane is about half a mile long. At the end of the green lane go through a gate into a field, walk straight on to a squeeze stile into another field and follow the boundary on your left to another stile and onto a lane.

At the other side of the lane go through the narrow squeeze stile, walk straight across this field aiming for a gap and a finger post in the hedge at the other side of the field. You may encounter the use of electric fences here to contain horses. If necessary, you can use the coloured hand grips in places on the electric

fence to un-hook a section, and replace it after use, to get through safely. Make your way to a stile in the hedge to the left of the metal farm gate. Take the stile across the lane and into another field.

Follow the boundary on your right to a wooden stile. Cross this next field, aiming for a stile in the fence line to the left of a tree. After this stile, walk straight ahead, aiming for a row of trees in the distance, past a Hawthorn bush on your right, and keeping well to the left of Standing Tarn to find a stone stile in a hedge. After going straight through this, walk uphill and as you head downhill towards the next stile beside a gate at the furthest top right-hand corner of the field, you will contour round a small hill in the field with trees on top.

This was the site of No.4 Pit belonging to Dalton Iron Ore Mines. The heap of stones and earth is the spoil heap left over when the pit was filled in when the pit closed. There were quite a few quarries and pits sunk in the surrounding fields where you are walking but the main site of the mine is near Hare Gill Cottage, a few fields away to the left.

After going through the stile and onto a lane, (this was the main access road to Dalton Iron Mines), turn right briefly along the lane to another stile and finger post on your left. In this field, keeping the boundary on your right, and with Dalton Church tower in the distance, drop down to a stile and track below.

This area was an iron ore depot with a weigh house, a tannery, and several rail tracks. One going under the bridge where you will walk next.

Turn left onto the track and follow it under the railway to the main street through Dalton.

Turn left onto Ulverston Road, past a chapel on your left and into Tudor Square on your right, a nice place for a break with benches, public toilets, bus stop, pubs and shops.

When ready to return to the Loop Route, go past the Golden Ball pub on your left, take the next right into Dale Terrace and the next right into Beckside Road. At the end of the road take a riverside footpath opposite, called Little Fields, which exits onto Abbey Road. Cross with care and take the footpath opposite which ascends, between dwellings. Turn left at the top to reach Dalton Castle and St. Mary's Church.

Dalton Castle is run by the National Trust and has a website for opening hours. In the church graveyard lie the remains of George Romney, the painter.

The church that you see was built in 1883 on the site of a medieval church. The stone to build it was most probably quarried from Hawcoat quarry in Ormsgill, Barrow. Money towards the cost of building the church was provided mostly by the Dukes of Devonshire and Buccleuch who owned much of the land where iron ore was mined. There are windows dedicated to the 5th Duke of Buccleuch, another to Lord Henry Cavendish, the son of the then Duke of Devonshire and a window in memory of Henry Schneider's wife, Augusta. Also, there is a plaque above the font dedicated to Edward Wadham who, amongst other accolades, was the Duke of Buccleuch's mineral agent and a Mayor of Barrow.

After Dalton Castle and the church take the one-way narrow street downhill at the side of the church tower. At the bottom of the hill turn to your left and you will find an ancient pinfold behind Dory's Cottage.

There is information about the use of the pinfold on its wall in Goose Green.

Return towards the Brown Cow Inn and bear left towards a small Goose Green car park. Turn right along a road beside it, then turn left over Poaka Beck and follow a track past the Goose Green Memorial Garden, a nice, tranquil place to rest. The footpath upon which you are now walking is part of the Cistercian Way, and it will take you through the Vale of Nightshade towards Furness Abbey.

The Cistercian Way was created in 1998 and is a long-distance pilgrimage route linking historical Cistercian Order abbeys around Britain. The Cumbria section starts at Piel Island and ends at Cartmel Priory (or Grange-over-Sands).

Continue along the track past the information boards about Tommy Pigeon, through a tunnel under the railway and you will see where Little Mill was sited.

Continue on the track past a footpath on your right, under a second tunnel, where you will find an audio guide attached to a pole. Pressing the right-hand button will tell you about Furness Abbey's Little Mill.

Continue along the Cistercian Way past Rose Cottage to Abbey Road. Take care crossing and take the broad track opposite. Soon, the railway line will run parallel with your track. Go into a small tunnel under the track and continue to the narrow approach road to Furness Abbey. Here you will find another audio presentation about Abbey House Hotel.

Here turn left, past Abbey Manor and the abbey visitor centre (containing amongst other things the Viking Hoard found in Furness). Bear left at the mini roundabout to the amphitheatre car park where Section 2 Loop Route ends.

For your information:

Dalton (Tudor Square) P/T/C/PT

Furness Abbey P/T/C/PT

- P Parking
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