FURNESS HAEMATITE TRAIL

Section 4: Lindal to Askam via Ireleth

These instructions are for the 4 mile Section 4 of the full Furness Haematite Trail, and can also be used in conjunction with the separate 4 mile Section 4 Loop Route instructions to return to Lindal from Ireleth.

A map and .gpx of the route is available to download from the Facebook group Furness Haematite Trail - Maps & Guides **or our website, QR code and link on reverse.**

After visiting St. Peter's church and the lovely model of the mine, with your back to the church, look to your right at the Old Vicarage.

This was once the residence of Edward Wadham, the agent for the Duke of Buccleuch in 1866 known then as Lindal Mount.

Walk left from the church, downhill, and follow the road to the right, to the A590. Turn left and walk along the pavement.

Take the next turning left signed to Loppergarth, called Pennington Lane. Follow this lane, enjoying the colourful farming implements in the garden of one of the houses, and continue to the crossroads.

At the crossroads, iron ore from No.17 pit and Gillbrow Mine was carried on a tramroad to join the Furness mainline. To your right, on the opposite side of the crossroads was the site of the Diamond Pit and further over Gillbrow Pit. The owners, 1863-1913 were Harrison, Ainslie & Co. On the left were workshops, offices and a sawmill.

At the crossroads turn left signed Marton.

Walking a little more up the road the building on your left was the engine shed.

Take the next tarmac lane on your right signed Whinfield.

As you proceed up the lane and before you come to the houses-which used to be a farm and outbuildings- the area to your right was the site of the Whinfield Pit. The small valley to your left was the main vein where many shafts were sunk to extract the ore. In the mid 1800's, once it was realised that money could be made from mining iron ore, landowners and farmers leased out their land to the mining companies but usually had little to do with the mining of the ore.

Take the first track left signed Carr Kettle.

As you ascend you will see fine views over the Lindal Moor mining area to your left. Out of sight but below was the Old Hills tramway, the brick supports of which can still be seen just beyond the primary school in Lindal. This tramway subsequently joined the Lindal Moor tramway. Also in the village is Lindal Primary School which was provided by Harrison, Ainslie and Company on behalf of the Duke of Buccleuch in 1854. Due to the influx of immigrant miners, the original school was inadequate and augmented in 1860.

When you reach a couple of cottages on the left take the right of way between Crest Cottage and Ridgemont, climb the first stile and walk downhill. Cross a second stile, walk alongside a fence to a third stile and cross.

The area below and downhill to your left was known as The Waste which was an area of uneven ground populated with vegetation. To your right, below the reservoir, the remains of miner's cottages can still be seen.

Continuing downhill, keeping to a wall on your right, pass a fourth stile and walk further downhill, crossing a small beck, aiming for a gate and a stile beside it to reach a road. Turn left downhill on the road to a T junction.

As you walk down this lane, above you and out of sight to the right were the Poaka Open Workings, another area of iron ore mining with an incline, a mine shaft sunk at an angle to the vertical – the angle would have been determined by the slope of the hill.

At the road junction note the reconstruction of an ore carrying bogie behind a fence on your left which was used to transport the iron ore. Turn right here.

Just after the junction the double gate on your left was the line of the mineral tramway to Lindal from the Poaka workings you have just walked past. Walk past the telephone box/information point on your right and the recreation area on your left which is an ideal place for your refreshments. Continue past the recreation area bearing right at a road junction signposted for Ireleth.

After Marton Hall and a finger post at High Farm on before the village ends, turn left into a farmyard but do not take the wooden gate ahead. Instead,

bear right towards the front door of High Farm, past an outbuilding with a sloping roof and a way marker. Immediately ahead, take the metal kissing gate into the field where there may be horses. Go ahead through a metal farm gate and head for the bottom right-hand corner of the field. Through another metal kissing gate, down the 44 concrete steps to cross a concrete bridge, over Poaka Beck immediately followed by a stile. Walk uphill going through a Victorian metal gate, preceded by a few steps then immediately bear left to a large metal farm gate. Following the direction of the way markers head diagonally right uphill and cross a double stile in the far corner of the field. Continue in a straight line uphill, aiming just to the left of the second wind turbine from the right. This will reveal a stile onto Rake Lane. Cross the lane, and another stile, then look downhill to locate two gates and aim for the stile between them.

Head diagonally right to a pylon through one field to a stile. Maintain the line to a second stile. After crossing the stile to the second field, follow the boundary on your right (this is the right of way) to the corner of the field, turn left down the farm track in the direction of the farm buildings. Before you reach the farm buildings, cross a stile by the side of a gate, continue to a gate and stile on your right near the farm.

Go over the stile on your right next to a gate, bear left downhill and head for a way marker post in the middle of the field. Passing a small wood on your right, head to the right-hand corner of the field, over a stile, down some steps to Ireleth Brow. Turn left and walk up to St. Peter's church, an ideal place with beautiful views and seating, for a well-earned break.

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Known locally as the 'Iron Church', St. Peter's was built with funding from the profits of iron ore mining, giving it its nickname and dedicated on June 29th (St. Peter's Day) in 1865. Inside the church is a plaque in memory of Myles Kennedy, one of the mine owners. The church bell was installed by the Kennedy family.

From Ireleth Brow follow the road downhill, past a row of cottages on your right to a 1:8 gradient road sign.

This is the point where Loop Route 4 breaks away from the main trail to return to Lindal. Follow the separate Loop Route 4 instructions to return to Lindal

If continuing on Section 4, from the gradient sign join the main road, Ireleth Road, continue downhill and opposite Pinfold House on your left, turn right into Saves Lane. Continue downhill noting some of the houses mentioned below.

Ireleth village is mentioned in the Domesday Book and remained a small village until the 19th century when the population began to grow because of iron ore mining. This part of Ireleth pre-dates Askam which didn't exist (apart from a few isolated farms) before Askam Steelworks was built. As you wander down the lane note the dates on some of the cottages as early as 1710. The initials above the dates are interesting. The initial at the top is usually the last name of the builder/owner and the two initials underneath are those of the first names of the husband and wife. Note the Temperance Hall on the right and an interesting side wall of the barn fold at Belvedere on the left.

At the left-hand bend at the bottom and after the children's play area, take the next right into Ireleth Court Road to the end and through a narrow ginnel in the left-hand corner between numbers 15 & 14A. This takes you back onto Ireleth Road.

This section finishes at Askam railway station.

Facilities:

Lindal
PT (Bus)

Askam
PT (Train)
PT (Bus) 7/X7
Toilet adjacent to Platform One café
Café open (Thurs – Sun)
Convenience Store

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Information correct - 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-Section4-1-0

FURNESS HAEMATITE TRAIL

Section 4 - Loop Route

Return to Lindal from Ireleth

The Section 4 Loop Route starts by following the separate instructions for the 4 mile Section 4 of the full Furness Haematite Trail from Lindal to Askam (via Ireleth). Then returns using these instructions on a 4 mile Loop Route to Lindal from Ireleth.

A map and .gpx of the route is available to download from the Facebook group Furness Haematite Trail - Maps & Guides **or our website, QR code and link on reverse.**

If you are starting your walk at this point you might first like to go 130m up the steep Ireleth Brow road to St. Peter's Church, an ideal place to enjoy a break with wonderful views over the Duddon Estuary and Black Combe. When refreshed retrace your steps then return down Ireleth Brow to the 1:8 road sign.

From the 1:8 road sign, rather than going down the main road, Loop Route 4 stays close to the wall on your left, into Sun Street. At the bottom of this short street, turn left at the T junction, past a footpath sign, into the front garden of High Riddings and head for a gate ahead.

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Pull the handle of this gate as far back as possible and it should open. The short green lane opens out into a field. Walk straight across the field to the far-right hand corner and go through a stone stile in the hedge to your left. A small wooden bridge at the stile takes you into the next field, head for the taller trees in the treeline to a metal kissing gate and down to a stream.

At the way marker to your right, don't be tempted to follow the sheep track heading off right but instead, aim for the electricity pole and a wooden bridge and stile over a stream. After the stile, aim for the brickworks chimney in the distance. Passing to the right of the United Utilities compound, head for the fence below and follow this to a tarmac lane and a kissing gate.

Turn right onto the lane heading downhill past buildings on your right to a T Junction. Here, turn left, passing the entrance to Greenscoe Quarry (HBP Properties), and follow the old road, now part of a cycle route, uphill to join the busy A595.

The Askam Brick Company has a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1845. Note: you will walk past the brickworks in Section 5 where you will see the date stamped onto some old bricks. It was a family run business that has continued to produce bricks to this day. The company played a significant part in the growth of Askam, with the opening of the Furness Railway station building (mentioned in Section 1 of the trail) in 1868 reflecting the village's development. Today, as Furness Brick and Tile Company Ltd, it produces non-standard, heritage and bespoke bricks with the use of a coal-fired continuous kiln to fire local clay.

Cross here with care and continue slightly uphill on the pavement for about 300m to where it branches away from the A595 and becomes the old road again.

Ascending on the old road, down to your right was a mineral railway carrying iron ore to Dalton.

Walking uphill to a bench enjoy more lovely views of Millom and the Irish Sea and a well-earned break.

Leaving the bench continue up the tarmac lane to a row of cottages on your right.

Behind these cottages, known as Green Haume Cottages, over to the right were the Green Haume Open Iron Ore works. C.S. Kennedy took out a prospecting lease on the mine in 1848, but the ore found was considered to be of poor quality and not viable and was soon sold on.

At Gable Cottage, turn left past the fingerpost and through a kissing gate. Follow the tarmac path down to the A595, cross to a path on the other side which ascends to a gravel track. Turn left onto the track and, by the side of a cattle grid, go over the fence which is may be

missing a stile. Cross this next field, ascending slightly and aiming for a wind turbine and a stile. After this, pass to the right-hand side of the wind turbine then a stile in the corner of the field. Turn left onto the gravel track, which follows the left-hand boundary, to a metal farm gate. Go straight ahead, continuing on the track. The right of way cuts off the corner of this field and leaves the track about 50 metres before the corner. Regain the gravel track and continue downhill, to a gate taking you out of the field and onto another track. Turn right, downhill. Do not take the track on your right. The track bends to the left then right and arrives at a farm gate by a beck. Straight ahead you will see a wooden pedestrian gate saying 'footpath'. Go through this, contour round the wooden shed and into the car park of the Black Dog Inn.

The Black Dog Inn in Holmes Green has a rich history as a former coaching inn. The inn has been a warm welcome for locals and visitors alike and, if open, would be an enjoyable place to rest and refresh.

Walking to the road take the lane opposite signed Martin. (The village of Marton was also called Martin). Walk up the lane and round a right-hand bend.

A mineral line, from Marton to Dalton, carrying the ore went behind the cottages at the top of the road as it bends to the right.

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Also, on your left is a barn the site of which was No.3 pit at Cross Gates Mine/Whitriggs. The modern barn is on the site of the engine house.

The road gradually ascends after the entrance to the yard on your left (Tytup Smallholdings).

The road is raised because the rail track used to go under the road here and has since been filled in. The track then carried on parallel with the road turning off to your right. The site of High Crossgates mine was in the field to your right. You might see a spoil heap also in a field to your right which could have been a pit.

Your route bends to the left, ascends for a while then descends to Henning Cottage and as you pass the entrance to the farm on the right you will see the site of Back Guards mine. Enter Lindal village turning right then left to Lindal Church.

If you were not able to previously get into the church to see the model of a mine and historical information, if the church door is open (usually between 10.00am and 4.00pm) it is highly recommended.

If you have time, it's worth turning left at the village green (a former tarn which was filled in with slag from the steel works because of the smell) and walking to the school mentioned in Section 4 of the full trail.

Facilities:

Lindal
PT (Bus)

Askam (is 500m west of the start of these instructions)
PT (Train)
PT (Bus) 7/X7
Toilet adjacent to Platform One café
Café open (Thurs – Sun)
Convenience Store

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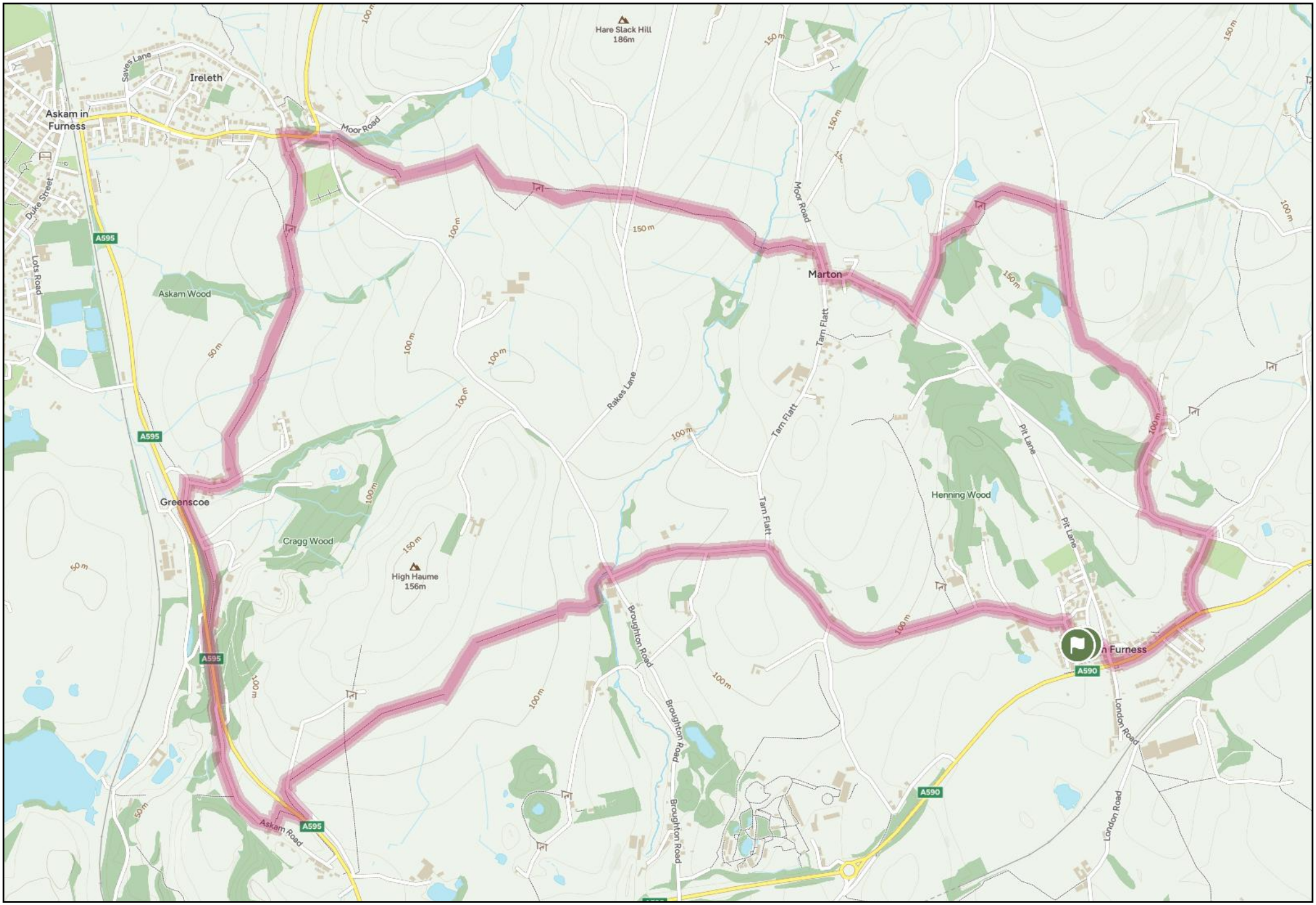
HIKING: HAEMATITE LOOP 4 LINDAL - IRELETH



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