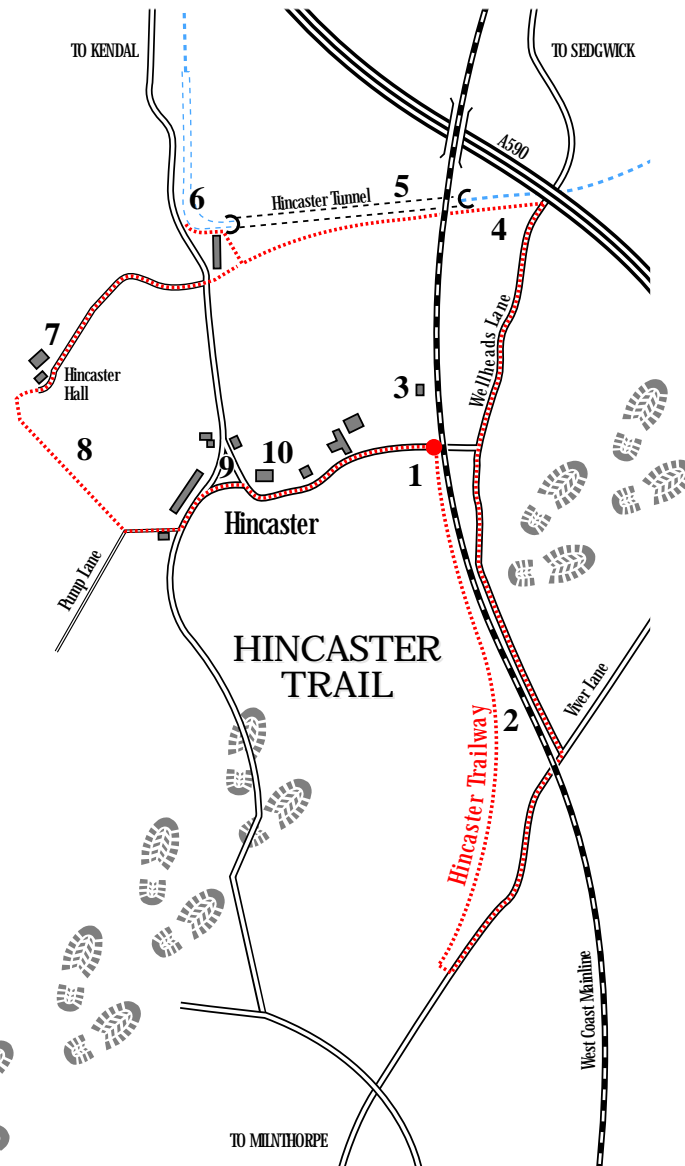





- ⌘ Plan your route and dress for the British weather
- ⌘ Leave gates as you find them. All bridle gates should be closed.
- ⌘ Please keep dogs under control at all times.
- ⌘ Protect animals and plants and take your litter home.
- ⌘ Take care crossing roads and walking along verges.
- ⌘ Respect other people.



- 1 Hincaster Trailway Northern access
- 2 Views to Farleton Knott
- 3 Railway Warehouse
- 4 Lancaster Canal Trail
- 5 Hincaster Tunnel
- 6 Sweet Chestnut trees
- 7 Hincaster Hall
- 8 Views over Hincaster Parish
- 9 Hincaster Village Green
- 10 Hincaster House



A  
2½ Mile  
amble through  
the Parish  
of  
Hincaster



Welcome to the Hincaster Trail, a 2 1/2 mile amble through the Parish of Hincaster. The hamlet was listed in the Domesday Book and the name is of Roman origin, although no trace of fort or encampment has ever been found.



Our walk begins at the northern end of the proposed Hincaster Trailway (1). This area of mature woodland is carpeted with bluebells in late May. The railway line on the left is the Main West Coast line between London and Glasgow. The section from Lancaster to Carlisle was completed in 1846. The Signal Box for Hincaster Junction was sited at the top of the embankment. The Trailway follows the route of the Hincaster Branch line which connected to Arnside.

As you leave the woodland via the bridlegate, the countryside opens out before you. On a clear day, to the left, you will see Farleton Knott (2) and the distinctive Westmorland landscape with rolling hills called drumlins.



Continue through another bridlegate, turn left at the tarmac drive, and left again onto Viver Lane. Under the railway bridge, turn left onto Wellheads Lane and continue with the West Coast railway line on your left. Keep right at the T junction.

Across the field on the left are 2 original Railway Workers Cottages and on the far side of the railway line the slate building is the old Railway Warehouse (3) used as a store for gunpowder from the works at Sedgwick. Proceed towards the Dual Carriageway which was opened in 1974 to help speed traffic into the Lake District.



Turn left onto the Lancaster Canal Trail (4). This section of the Lancaster Canal was opened in 1819. The route taken through Hincaster was to serve the Wakefield Gunpowder Works at Sedgwick. As a prelude to the industrial revolution coal was brought up from Wigan to Kendal and limestone was taken south. Hence the canal was known as the "black and white canal". This section is famous for the Hincaster Tunnel (5) which was completed on Christmas Day 1817.

Faced with limestone and lined with 4 million locally made bricks, it is 377 yards long and for a short time was the largest brick built structure in the north west of England. It was cheaper to build the tunnel without a towpath. The boatmen would "leg" their boats through the tunnel whilst the horses would be led over the hill along the Horsepath. The tunnel portals are listed buildings and the horsepath is classified as an ancient monument. After the advent of the railways in the mid 19th century the canal fell into decline.



At the end of the horsepath, take a short detour to the right to view the Western end of the Canal Tunnel. The canal worker who lived at the cottage measured the water level every day before sending word with the postman to Killington Reservoir if the canal needed topping up. The 7 Sweet Chestnut trees (6) growing between the canal and the road were planted in memory of brave Hincastrians who lost their lives in the 1st World War. Retrace your steps to the end of the horsepath and cross over the road.



Follow the tarmac lane up the hill to Hincaster Hall (7). This 16c farmhouse was judged the 2nd prettiest in a competition in 1910 and features in A Wainwright's "Westmorland Heritage". Continue past the farmhouse and follow the footpath to the left through the gate, pausing to enjoy the views across Hincaster Parish (8) and beyond before descending the hill to the stile by the gate and turn left along Pump Lane. This was where the villagers drew their water before mains was supplied.

Turn left at the tarmac road and bear right at the Village Green (9). In contrast to the local limestone, the rock at the centre of the green is a glacial erratic, a granite boulder washed down from Shap at the end of the last ice age.



Continue along the lane past Hincaster House (10). Rebuilt in 1860 by Henry Swinglehurst, owner of the gunpowder works at Sedgwick, more recently it was used as a distribution point for evacuees from South Shields during the Second World War. The next properties you pass were the original laundry and carriage house to Hincaster House.

Continue along the lane past Bradley Farm to complete the circuit.

We hope you enjoy exploring the Parish of Hincaster. For more detailed walks around the area refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL7.