

## Rail Trails

### SILECROFT TO BOOTLE VIA BLACK COMBE

It's hard to ignore the dramatic profile of Black Combe, this shapely coastal peak is a key landmark situated between sea and mountains. Its summit wonderful long distance views 360° panorama, which on a clear day, includes part of Scotland and Wales, the Isle of Man, north Lancashire, the western Pennines and of course most of the Lakeland Peaks.

**Start:** Silecroft Station (GR SD 130 819)

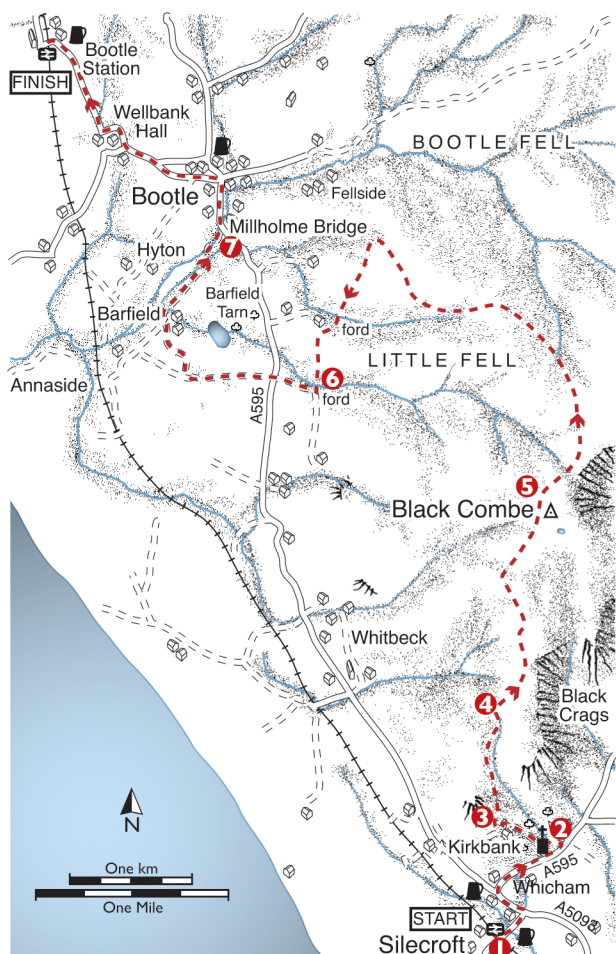
**Finish:** Bootle Station (GR SD 093 893)

**Distance:** 14.5km (9 miles)

**Time:** 6 hours

**Height gain:** 650m

**Maps:** OS Landranger 96, OS Explorer OL6.



1. Turn left out of the station and follow the road through the village and past the Miners' Arms to a junction with the A5093. Turn left and follow the A5093 for 250m to another junction. Turn right and follow the A595 for 700m to then enter the church car park.
2. Take the footpath beside the church north for 500m to a small group of houses. Down the steps turn left and follow the lane to a junction.
3. A bridleway splits off right; follow it as it climbs steeply up by the side of Moorgill Beck. After 1km the track levels for a bit at the top of the gill by Townend Knotts.
4. The track continues and begins to climb; follow it more easily for 2km to the summit of Black Combe (shelter and trig point).
5. From the summit head along the vague path that skirts the top of Blackcombe Screes and then swings round to the north. Continue for 1.6km down the excellent steep grassy slope and past the head of Hentoe Beck to pick up a rough access track. Follow the track across the fellside for 2.5km to a ford. Follow the good track on the other side for 500m to another ford at Holegill Beck.
6. Cross the ford and immediately turn right off the bridleway and on to a path. The path leads through fields to the A595, cross carefully to join the track (path) on the other side. Follow the track for 650m beside the trees to the start of a path on the right. Take the path and follow it round the field edges to Barfield. In front of the buildings turn left then right to follow the path that skirts the trees and joins the A595 at Millholme Bridge.
7. Turn left and follow the A595 N for 250m to the next road on the left. Turn onto it and follow it around the edge of Bootle to a junction. Turn left and follow the road for 200m to another junction. Ignore the left turn; carry on along the road for 1.2km to Bootle Station.