

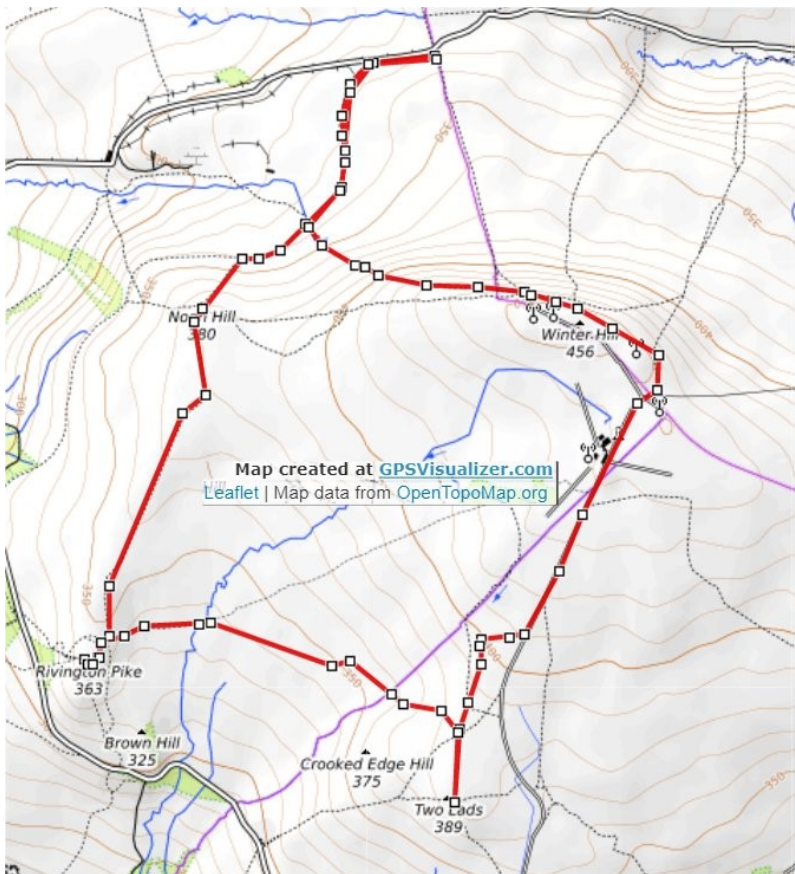
## Winter Hill 4

This is a approximately 5.2 mile walk on Winter Hill which minimises the time spent on managed roads while covering key locations on the hill.

It can be started from either of two nearby locations near the Rivington Road/Belmont Road junction.

Initially it follows the Belmont road to reach a moor access leading to Noon Hill and from there heads directly across the moor towards the Pike, optionally visiting the Pike. From the Pike the route crosses the moor to Two Lads and from there heads towards the mast plateau. From the plateau it follows a fence that passes the trig point to find either of the two routes that return to the start area.

The start points are either; the junction of Rivington and Belmont Roads at SD653159 (no meaningful post code); OR the small parking space a little north east of that on the Rivington Road at SD655159



***It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.***

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**1: SD 655159** If starting from the parking area note the kissing gate across the road from it. This is one of the return routes. Head up the road for 300yds(270m) to find the junction of Rivington and Belmont Roads.



**2: SD 653159** This is the alternative start point. Head up the Belmont Road, passing through a kissing gate, onto a solid if rather rocky track. After about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> mile(550m) notice a footbridge/style on the left.



**3: SD 651152** This is the second return route and the one assumed here. Continue along Belmont Road for another 300yds(270m) to find a style with a visible path heading towards Noon Hill. Cross the style and follow the path up to Noon Hill. The path is narrow and not heavily used but quite clear.  
(there is a more significant path to Noon Hill from a style ¼ mile(400m) further on.)



**4: SD 647150** From the cairn on Noon Hill you can see the Pike in the distance and the mast plateau. The path wanted can just be discerned in the distance heading to the left of the Pike but it's start is less clear.. Head a few yards towards the Pike onto a wide obvious track and walk a short distance to the right. Find the unclear start of the path to the Pike. Follow this to the Pike. It becomes more obvious and wider and later bends towards the Pike.

**5: SD 644139** After 1/2 mile(800m) a gate/kissing gate is reached below the Pike. To visit the Pike, go through the gate, then either up the short steep path to the track to the Pike, or go a bit right on the track to meet the upward track.



**6: SD 643138** If visiting the Pike enjoy the wide ranging view over the Lancashire plains to the west, Pike Cottage south east and look at the tracks towards the masts and in particular roughly east towards Two Lads, your route ahead. To continue return to the gate in **Point 5** above. Pass through it and head down the managed (collapsing) path towards the masts



**7: SD 647139** After some board walk and steps up a few feet, there is a messy area. The obvious track is towards the masts but look for the path heading diagonally right towards the left of Two Lads. The path becomes obvious and easy to follow. After more than a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> mile(550m) a wall is reached leading to a split in the path. Bear left to a crossing path.



**8: SD 653136** (This path appears to contour around the hill.) Bear left then right to continue curving upwards to the left of the hill. The path curves round to meet a path from the masts to Two Lads (but is unclear approaching that crossing path). Turn right and head up to Two Lads.





**9: SD 656133** The Two Lads cairn gets knocked down by the council every now and again and rebuilt by locals. Again there are good views and paths in all directions. To continue, head back down the path you came up to where you joined it. Look ahead for a split in the track with a footbridge to the right.



**10: SD 656136** The path over the bridge heads towards the Rotary Way (road) and onto the main mast. If you would like to avoid tarmac, notice the route to the left which eventually joins the main track from the Pike to the masts. The minor path shortly meets a vehicle track.



**11: SD 656136** The track to the right joins the Rotary Way. To the left it eventually joins the Pike/Mast track. You can also continue on the very minor path straight ahead. It becomes a vehicle track but eventually peters out requiring you to head right onto Rotary Way.



**12: SD 656136** Whenever way Rotary Way is met, turn left and head towards the main mast. If you followed the Pike-Masts path it meets Rotary way just before the fence around the main mast. At times the route past the mast is closed and you need to walk around the fence (or can do so to avoid the road). Whichever route, go beyond the mast to find a gate at the end of the road. (watch for memorial plaques)

**13: SD 663146** Just before this gate you could head left on the tarmac to find the trig point. Or to avoid the tarmac go through the gate and turn left on an obvious path beside the fence. Follow this for a bit less than 1/4mile(400m) as it curves around fenced areas to meet a style, and a little further a kissing gate, both leading to the trig point.



**14: SD 660150** You can continue on either side of this fence but best to stay on the downhill side. In about 230 yds (210m) at a (2<sup>nd</sup>) kissing gate, a choice is needed. The path on the downward side heads very steeply downhill and then on the level and finally down to the parking area (**Point 1** above).



**15: SD 65151** For the alternate and much less steep route, go through the gate (or the previous one) and follow the path on the right. It gently descends for about 230yds(210m) and then heads down a bit more steeply. In 1/3<sup>rd</sup> mile(550m) it reaches the Belmont Road.



**16: SD 651153** This is the access point mentioned at **Point 3** above. Turn right along the Belmont Road (track) to meet the Rivington Road at one of the starting points.





**17: SD 653159** If starting from the parking space continue to the right some 300yds(270m) to find the start.

**The End**  
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