

BMC North West Area Hill Walk

Friday 10 June 2022

Winter Hill and West Pennine Moors

BMC members are invited to join a peer-led walk delivered by BMC North West Area volunteers.

Thank you for taking an interest in our walk, we're looking forward to enjoying a really good day together! Please read the following carefully. Places are limited, so if you (or a member of your party) later change your mind and decide not to come, please be sure to let us know straight away, so we can release your place to someone else.

This walk is being organised in line with the BMC's current COVID-19 guidelines for groups of outdoor climbers and hill walkers.

Location

West Pennine Moors, start point approximately 1km SE of Belmont walking up and down Winter Hill and incorporating a circular walk over Anglezarke Moor.

Meeting point and start time

Meet at the footpath on the south side of the A675 (OS grid ref. SD680153, nearest postcode BL7 9QT – Lotties Café/San Marino restaurant) at 9.45 am for 10.00am start.

There is no parking at the start point but parking is available on the lower parking area of Lotties Café – behind Lotties/San Marino Restaurant. There are no facilities at the start point but Lotties Café does coffee/breakfast if you are there early and it might be courteous to purchase something if using the parking facilities.

Public transport connections are not good but there is a Bus Route (535) from Bolton <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/routes/535-belmont>. The bus stops outside San Marino restaurant. Do let the leader know if the bus being used in case start time needs to be adjusted.

When exiting the car park at San Marino, turn left along the A675 for approx. 100m and the footpath (OS grid ref. SD680153) for the start point of the walk is across the road.

The route

This will be a circular(ish) walk onto the West Pennine Moors to the NW of Bolton, encompassing parts of Smithills Moor, Winter Hill and Anglezarke Moor, reaching the highpoint of Winter Hill (456m). On a clear day, the views from Winter Hill, and thereafter, Great Hill (381m) stretch to the hills of North Wales, Morecambe Bay, the Lake District and the Forest of Bowland.

From the meeting point (Grid reference SD680153) at the footpath on the south side of the A675, which is approximately 1km SE of the village of Belmont, we will head SW/W to climb Winter Hill (456m) before descending its northern flank and heading

N/NW across open moorland, Rivington Road and following Spitlers Edge to Great Hill (381m). From Great Hill we will head in a SW direction across Anglezarke Moor and, before reaching Yarrow Reservoir, turn in an easterly direction back towards Spitlers Edge before retracing our steps up and down Winter Hill.

The walk is around 18.5km (11.5 miles) with approx. 650m (2150 feet) of ascent, using established paths and tracks with some areas of open moorland and should take around 4-5 hours, including stops. BMC members will be asked to wear usual clothing appropriate for a day walking in the hills and bring their own food and drink for a full hill day.

We should be back at the start point by 2.30 - 3pm.

Lotties Café - <https://www.lotties.cafe/> - close to the start point, is open for refreshments until 4pm.

There is also a pub in Belmont village, The Black Dog, which serves food - <https://www.joseph-holt.com/pubs/black-dog>.

Travelling to and from the event

Participants are asked to note current Coronavirus regulations and guidelines about the use of transport (both public and private) and to adhere to those that are in place at the time.

What to bring

Participants will be expected to wear supportive walking boots/shoes with grippy soles and to wear or carry weather resistant clothing (including gloves and headwear) suitable for the conditions prevailing on the day (remember it can be substantially colder up high than it is in the valley) which could be anywhere between warm and sunny (meaning sun hats, plenty of water and maybe even sun-cream) to cold, wet and windy (meaning warm clothing and waterproofs) and to also carry sufficient food and water (or other suitable drinks) for a full-day hill walk. There will not be any opportunities to buy refreshments during the walk itself, although there is a cafe near to the start/end point.

Although the walk is planned to finish well within the hours of available daylight, participants may like to bring a small torch/head torch in case an emergency results in a very severe delay to the walk.

Who can come

This walk is open to BMC members and accompanying friends, over 18. All participants must book a place in advance.

Dogs are not allowed as we cross Access Land with local restrictions.

You should consider not attending this walk if:

- you have any of the recognised symptoms of respiratory infections including COVID-19, which are:
 - continuous cough
 - high temperature, fever or chills
 - shortness of breath
 - loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
 - unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
 - muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
 - not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
 - headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
 - sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
 - diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick
- you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 recently or have reason to suspect that you are presently suffering from COVID-19.

You MUST let us know you are coming. Names and a contact number for all participants are required prior to the event. If you have not already supplied these then please send to Steve Charles via **stevecharles25@gmail.com** straight away.

Health issues

If you have health issues that you believe might affect your ability to complete the walk safely then please let the leader know in advance. Please remember to carry any medications that you may need and, if appropriate, let the leader know where to find them for you, if that might prove necessary.

BMC Participation Statement

This is an approved BMC event.

The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Any Questions?

Please email Steve Charles on stevecharles25@gmail.com or 07729 257784 on the day.