

Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge

White Hill, Cold Moor, Cringle Moor, and Carlton Bank

Visit my website for full details: <https://www.paulbeal.com/cleveland-4-peaks>

Introduction to the Walk

This rewarding circular walk in the North York Moors takes in the four summits of White Hill, Cold Moor, Cringle Moor, and Carlton Bank. Starting from the Forestry England Clay Bank car park on the B1257 between Great Broughton and Chop Gate, the route follows the Cleveland Way across a mix of steep climbs, rocky outcrops, open moorland, and woodland edges. Along the way, you'll pass landmarks such as Wain Stones, Green Bank, Lordstones Country Park, and Drake Howe cairn, before returning to your starting point at Clay Bank.

Highlights of the Walk

Highlights of the Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge include the rocky drama of Wain Stones, the sweeping views from Cringle Moor's Drake Howe cairn, and the stone bench viewpoint overlooking Teesside and the North Sea. Each summit offers its own reward, from the open plateau of Cold Moor to the triangulation pillar atop Carlton Bank. The route combines steep ascents with flatter moorland stretches, making it both challenging and scenic, with plenty of opportunities to pause and enjoy views of the surrounding valleys, villages, and distant coast.

The Cleveland Hills form part of the north-western edge of the North York Moors, overlooking Teesside. They rise steeply from the flat Tees Valley and are entirely within the National Park. The hills are rich in history, with Bronze Age burial mounds, cairns, and stone circles, as well as traces of the ironstone mining industry that once fuelled Middlesbrough's growth.

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Additional Information

- **Distance:** 9 miles (14 kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 4¾ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate to challenging, with several steep ascents, uneven ground, and a demanding total ascent of 636 metres.
- **Trail Conditions:** The route follows a mix of stone paths, cobbled sections, and moorland tracks. The descent of Carlton Bank is steep and can be slippery, especially in wet conditions, while the return section after Lordstones is prone to muddy stretches.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL26 – North York Moors Western Area.
- **Parking:** Forestry England Clay Bank car park, beside the B1257 between Great Broughton and Chop Gate.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Sxr1W6PuPDg9R1na9>
 - **What3Words:** ///irony.cornfield.occupiers

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Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Begin your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge at the **Forestry England Clay Bank car park (1)**, located beside the B1257 at the top of Clay Bank, between Great Broughton and Chop Gate. From the car park, turn left and walk alongside the road in the direction of Helmsley. After a short distance, cross the road and turn right onto the **public footpath signposted Cleveland Way (2)** to Carlton Bank. Follow the stone steps as the trail climbs steeply uphill. The path alternates between large stone slabs and cobbled sections, zigzagging its way up the hillside. As you reach the top, the ground levels out, marking your arrival at **White Hill (3)**, the first peak of your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge.

As you follow the level path across the top of White Hill, you'll pass two raised mounds on the right, marking its highest points at approximately 398 metres. Continue along the Cleveland Way as it descends towards a striking rocky outcrop known as **Wain Stones (4)**. Follow the path through the rocks, using the acorn-symbol waymarkers to stay on the Cleveland Way. Once through the boulders, continue along the stone path as it descends to the **valley floor (5)**. You have now completed both the ascent and descent of White Hill, the first of your Cleveland 4 Peaks.

At the bottom of the hill, stay on the Cleveland Way and begin your ascent of Cold Moor, the second peak in your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge. Follow the cobbled stone path as it climbs steadily upwards. The path leads to a level plateau, marking the summit of **Cold Moor (6)**, which stands at 402 metres. From here, continue along the stone path and begin your descent into the valley below, completing the ascent and descent of your second Cleveland 4 Peaks summit.

At the **base of the hill (7)**, follow the Cleveland Way towards Carlton Bank. After the fourth Cleveland Way signpost, **the path splits (8)**. Take the left-hand fork and follow the stone slabbed path uphill to begin your climb up Cringle Moor. As you ascend, the path eventually levels out. A small, narrow footpath on your left leads across the moorland to a large pile of stones, marking the highest point of Cringle Moor. Marked on the map as **Drake Howe (9)**, this cairn stands at 432 metres, making it the highest of your Cleveland 4 Peaks.

Retrace your steps along the moorland path, then turn left to continue along the Cleveland Way. The stone path curves around to a viewpoint featuring a **stone seat and a toposcope (10)**. From here, follow the cobbled path downhill, keeping the dry stone wall to your right. The descent is straightforward—continue all the way to the **valley floor (11)**, completing the third of your Cleveland 4 Peaks.

Stay on the Cleveland Way as it skirts the edge of a woodland. In front of a section of trees, you will notice three benches. At this point, you have the option to take a short detour along a grassy path on your right, leading to **Green Bank (12)**, where a modern stone semicircle and benches offer stunning views towards Teesside. Retrace your steps and turn right to rejoin the Cleveland Way, following the path through the woods. As you pass the café at Lordstones, continue straight ahead. When the trail splits, take the left-hand path, go through a gate, and **cross the road (13)**. Follow the footpath ahead, signposted Cleveland Way to Huthwaite Green.

At the next junction, continue straight on, following the Cleveland Way as it begins the ascent of Carlton Bank, the fourth and final peak of your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge. Climb the stone steps all the way to the top, where you'll reach a triangulation pillar and an ancient stone post. Standing at 408 metres, this marks the highest point of **Carlton Bank (14)**.

From the summit, turn right and follow the narrow path downhill. The descent is initially very steep and can be slippery, so take care. As you continue, the gradient eases, and you will pass a large area of grey land, a former quarry. After the quarry, continue a little further downhill to meet another path—turn right here. You have now completed the ascent and descent of Carlton Bank, the final peak of your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge.

At the bottom, follow the path alongside the fence until it meets the **road at Lordstones (15)**. Walk straight ahead along the road for a short distance before turning left, following the signposted Cleveland Way to Clay Bank. Continue along the path past the café at Lordstones and through the woodland once more. Slightly further on, instead of reascending Cringle Moor, take the **left-hand footpath into the trees (16)**. When this path splits into three, take the middle path. Follow it as it gradually ascends, eventually emerging into open countryside.

The path now becomes a bridleway. Continue straight ahead for almost a mile, avoiding any left or right turns. This section is relatively flat, winding around the slopes of Kirby Bank. Eventually, the bridleway **rejoins the Cleveland Way (17)**, retracing your earlier steps between Cringle Moor and Cold Moor. Walk briefly along this familiar path, then take a left at the fork, following the sign for Great Broughton. Pass two large concrete posts, descend into a dip, then climb back up and walk through a gate. Continue straight ahead along the **dry stone wall (18)**.

Follow the path along the inside edge of the woods for just under a mile. The path then begins to rise again, skirting the **left-hand side of Wain Stones (19)**, which will be visible above you. Continue along the woodland track, passing the **steep slopes of White Hill (20)**, also on your right. After about a mile, the track gradually descends to rejoin the Cleveland Way. From here, follow the trail downhill towards the B1257. Turn left and walk alongside the road back to Clay Bank car park, where your Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge concludes.

Map of the Walk

