

Silverdale

The walk

From the car park exit at the RSPB centre, turn right and head uphill to the main road and turn right passing Silverdale Station on your right. As the road starts to veer left and away from the railway, look out for a path across the golf course on the left hand side of the road.

Take the path across the golf course – sticking to the clearly marked route which heads uphill to a stone wall - and then join a minor road and turn right.

We follow this minor road for a short while – until on the left we reach open fields and a clearly signposted path toward Silverdale village. We take this path – and note as we do so that the woodland in the distance ahead is Eaves Wood – we walk through the wood later in the day.

The first part of the path toward Silverdale takes us along the edge of Hagg Wood, to meet a minor road where we turn right, to see the next section of the path on the opposite side of the road almost immediately. As we enter the fields to head toward Silverdale, notice that the path forks: Ignore the route up the other side of Hagg Wood and head straight on toward the white painted houses at Silverdale.

The path passes behind a cottage – the path is clear but may not be visible until you are nearly upon it – so aim for the right hand side of the house. Once past the house turn left and head up the track – this takes you along the back of the houses at the edge of the village and eventually to Stankelt Road where we turn left.

We now head West into Silverdale passing Scout Wood on the left. Stankelt road turns right in the village, but we head straight on and then veer left along Lindeth Road keeping an eye open for the steps up to the path over the headland to The Cove.

Views across the Bay and the Kent Estuary now open up as we head Northwest to the Cove – a good spot for a break. Note that if you want a more adventurous route from Silverdale Village to the Cove you can carry on past the path we took, take Shore Road down to the beach, and then take the Lancashire Coastal Path along the beach to The Cove. BUT . . . This can be tricky in wet conditions so take care.

From The Cove, we head Northeast up the lane to the minor road and turn right along the road for a short while to reach Elmslack, where we find a narrow path rising up from the road on the left and heading toward Eaves Wood.

At the edge of Eaves Wood, a number of paths come together at a convenient bench. We turn right and walk gently uphill with newly coppiced trees on our left.

Ignore signs to The Pepperpot monument – although that could be added if you are feeling energetic – and carry on along a fairly flat path through the base of the woods – we are following the contour lines at this point, so the going is easy. Note that the Pepperpot monument *is* included in another BFG walk – search the website for details: www.benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk

You may notice a path down through fields on the right to return to Silverdale. Ignore this and press on. Similarly, ignore the next set of signs suggesting a path down to a car park, also on the right.

Our path continues Northeast, crossing the railway – obviously taking care and respecting the lights – to meet a minor road, where we turn left. Almost immediately we see a footpath sign on the right hand side of the road, and we take the path which rises steeply for a short distance before levelling out and approaching a small road.

We cross the road and take the clearly signed path around the back of Challan Hall – noting good views over Hawes Water to our right. We enter the Woodland of the Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve, passing the “fairy house” on the right before meeting a junction of three paths. Here we turn sharp right and continue to follow the route around Hawes Water.

We soon reach an open area where trees have been felled and long trunks left to provide convenient seating. This is a good spot for lunch.

As we continue, we leave Hawes Water, and take the path through the fields in a Southeast direction, heading for the woodland at Yealand Hall Allotment. At the woodland the path merges into a track and we soon find ourselves at the road junction at Yealand Storrs, where we turn gently right (not the sharp right which doubles back).

We follow the road round to a left hand bend, and on the apex of the bend we find a clearly marked path between houses and into open fields – we are now heading South.

We follow this route – which widens to become a track for good while, until we arrive at a small road at Leighton Hall Home Farm. Here we turn sharp right and follow the quite road gently downhill toward the corner of Grisedale wood.

The road veers left and becomes to a farm track. Just past a buttressed barn on the left our route takes a sharp right to head over Leighton Moss, through the causeway at the RSPB reserve.

At the end of the causeway, turn left on the minor road and walk a short distance to find the carpark and the end of the walk on the right.

- **Total distance 13.1 km (8.2 miles)**
- **Total Ascent 351 m**
- **Moderate walk**