

Staveley Tarns

Staveley is just North of the A591 which runs between Kendal and Windermere – signage from the main road is good, and once in the village parking is generally available at Staveley Mill Yard. Satnav users can use Back Lane Staveley, or LA8 9LR as an address, whilst paper map users need grid reference SD66576936, or if what-3-words is your preferred navigation tool, the tag **angers.defected.breaches** will work well.

To start the walk, head down to the pedestrian bridge over the river Kent at the corner of the site furthest from the car park, cross the bridge and then turn left to head upstream. Continue until the path joins a minor road and then walk left along the road – still with the Kent on the left, and still heading upstream. We soon arrive at a cluster of buildings, just before Barley Bridge, and at this point we look out for the footpath leaving the road on the right hand side.

The path is initially a well-made drive giving vehicle access, but before long becomes the track to an attractive white farmhouse, and we take the wooden gate before the farmhouse to give access to the steep footpath up onto the fells.

From here, the path meanders over toward the left and then follows the line of the wall uphill – the slope is quite steep initially, so take the opportunity to stop from time to time and enjoy the view that is unfolding behind us: Hughill Fell sits to the right (North) just outside Staveley, with High Knott at its peak.

We carry on uphill until the path levels out and approaches a large ladder stile. This takes us into a field where cattle usually graze. The path continues ahead, still with the wall on our left, and now with views across the valley toward Brunt Knott.

We now start to head gently downhill, heading toward the buildings at Littlewood Farm. Our direction of travel is Northeast, and we should note that for the last two fields, the wall is now on our right.

When we arrive at Littlewood farm, we find a small, metalled road, and turn right to walk along the road. We continue until the road forks - with the main route going right and a smaller track on the left. We take left – and head East toward a farm at Birk Field.

At the farm buildings, the path is clear, and leads to a small footbridge over a stream – cross and turn right before following the course of the stream for a while. The path branches ahead and we take the (much more obvious) left hand option which takes us up onto the fell via a five bar gate.

From here we head uphill along a clear path heading in an Easterly direction toward Potter Tarn.

From Potter Tarn, we cross the spillway via a series of stepping stones and continue along the path – which remains clear - and onward toward our second Tarn, Gurnal Dubs.

At Gurnal Dubs (also known as Fothergill Tarn) was created by erecting a dam to enclose three smaller natural ponds (or "dubs") to make one larger lake.

We start our return journey by retracing our route back to Potter Tarn – although it is worth noting that there is a path around Gurnal Dubs which may be used to extend the walk a little.

Back at the spillway we note a clear and obvious path heading downstream, and in a Southerly direction. We follow this downhill for a while, and soon see the third tarn of the day become visible on our left – this is Ghyll Pool.

From this final tarn, the path continues downhill and holds a Southerly direction, soon arriving at pleasant woodland where we meet a junction. We take the sharp right turn – which is somewhat overgrown and so may not initially look like a valid route – persevere as this soon improves, exiting into a farm at Hundhowe.

The path continues downhill past an ancient barn with housing over to the right, and we soon meet a minor road, where we turn right.

Ahead, and on the left we see some houses and stables, and just at the far end of this we take the gate on the left to go through the yard before we follow the lane down to a small bridge over the river Kent.

At the Kent, we find a gate on the right which takes us onto a path through the woodland (called Beckmingle Ing) – we head upstream, initially quite close to the water. The path soon meanders right though, and we arrive back at the small road where we exit and turn left for a just a short distance before re-entering the woodland via a gate on the left.

We head back down toward the Kent again, and follow it upstream toward Staveley, until we meet a fence blocking the riverside route: Here we turn right and follow the fence up to a gate back onto the small road. As before, we turn left and follow the road for a short while until we again find a gate on the left. The path heads Northwest through Staveley Park until we see the Kent again, and here we follow the riverside path upstream until we arrive back at Staveley Mill Yard where the walk ends.

- **Total distance 11.3 km (7.0 miles)**
- **Total Ascent 477 m**
- **Easy walk – with a steep start**