

Scout Scar and Underbarrow

The walk starts from the free car park for Scout and Cunswick Scars. This is found within an old quarry, on the right hand side of the road about 1.5 miles out of Kendal on the Underbarrow road. If you are using what-3-words to get to the quarry, then the tag is **clap.link.format**. This corresponds to OS map reference SD 4885 9239. If satnav is being used, then use the address Underbarrow Road, LA8 8JS, and then look out for Gamblesmire Lane on the right. When you find that, continue for a short while using the communications mast at the top of the quarry as a landmark. The car park is on the right.

From the car park, we head out on a footpath toward Cunswick Scar – in effect this is the ridge of rock that the old quarry takes a bite out of, so the route is initially through the trees and back toward Kendal, for a very short distance before taking a sharp left to pick up the path to the scar.

We head along a woodland path for a short while and then arrive at stile where we head right into a more open field – weather permitting we have views toward the Shap fells directly ahead of at this point. The path tracks North along the line of the drystone wall at first, with the wall on our left, but after a short while we strike out to the right - still following the field boundary – and head down to a small lane. This is Gamblesmire Lane that we noted earlier, and the woodland of Cunswick Scar is now directly behind us.

At Gamblesmire Lane, which despite the name is not a metalled road – just a muddy track, there are a number of paths which come together in a quite a small area – so we need to be careful. Our path goes sharp left at Gamblesmire Lane, heading in a North-westerly direction. The road bends to the right and then back to the left – and at this point, over on the right, we find a very well preserved Lime Kiln.

We carry on past the lime kiln and the lane turns gently to the left hugging the edge of the woodland. We follow it round and soon see the buildings of Cunswick Hall over to the right. Gamblesmire lane takes a sharp right turn to head over to the hall, but our path continues onward, heading west toward the corner of the woodland which we now see ahead of us.

We follow the path through the woodland, and soon come across a minor road with the footpath continuing on the far side. The road we cross has the delightfully odd name of Cold Harbour Lane, soon becoming Bonfire Hall Lane. Walking past rocky outcrops we weave our way through fields down to a kissing gate, which gives us access onto the driveway for Tranthwaite Hall.

Here we turn left and walk south down the lane for a little while, until we get to a T-junction where we meet Thorns Lane. Directly opposite is a byway which takes us to the Brigsteer/Underbarrow road. We follow this for a short while, but soon leave the road at another kissing gate to enter a field.

We walk up the field then turn right through a gate onto a path which takes us past gardens and onto a minor lane where we turn left. We walk past Tullythwaite House and continue along the minor road until we turn right through a stone squeeze stile back into the fields. Using a stone step stile, we access & cross a stone bridge over Tanyard Beck – perhaps strolling downstream a short distance to view some minor waterfalls - before continuing over to another stone stile into another field which we cross diagonally aiming for the far left hand corner gaining access to Garth Row Lane.

We turn left at the lane, but almost immediately pick up a footpath/driveway on the right. This takes us past a house and onto a track which we follow for a short distance until we pass a gate with a signpost for the footpath on the left.

The path goes uphill, initially following a wall before heading east to another gate where we enter the woodland of Barrowfield Lot.

Our path soon meets a forestry road, where we head right for a short while before taking a steepish path on the left which leads us to another stone stile. From here we cross a large field – effectively an elongated clearing in the forest, and across the field we re-enter the forested area to follow the path uphill to reach Barrowfield Farm, which nestles beneath Scout Scar.

In front of the farm is a track, which we cross to follow the footpath signs up a field, with a concrete track for farm vehicles. This leads to a gate which gives us access to a winding path through gorse and scrubby woodland up to the top of Scout Scar.

The path upward is steep, so we use admiring the views (which weather permitting can be spectacular) as an excuse for a brief rest, before we turn left at the top of Scout Scar to take any of the many paths along the top, taking care not to get too close to the edge.

An easy & short diversion takes us to the 'mushroom' shelter. This was built in 1912 as a memorial to King George V, and restored, first in 1969, and then again in 2003. The structure includes a toposcope indicating the Central Lakeland Fells and other landmarks.

From there it is an easy walk along the Scar to the footpath leading down to the Underbarrow road & back to the car park – again using the communication tower as a landmark.

- **Total distance 9.1 km (5.7 miles)**
- **Total ascent 255 m**
- **Easy walk**