

# Ullswater and Place Fell

We start at Deepdale Bridge, using roadside parking just to the South of the bridge. Deepdale Bridge is on the A592 – the Kirkstone Pass – running between Windermere and Patterdale. If you are using Satnav to get to the start, the postcode CA11 0NS relates to a holiday let at the start of the route, or you might try Bridgend or Deepdale Bridge as addresses. If you prefer What-3-Words, then the tag is **departure.changed.steeped**, or for paper map users, the grid reference is SD56788065. Whichever tool you use to get to the start, look out for the phone box, and you will usually find roadside parking available.

From the parking place, we start out by heading North along the roadside for just a few metres to cross the bridge over Deepdale Beck - there is no pavement here so take care. We keep an eye open for a lane leaving the main road on the right just after the bridge – signed for Yew Tree Cottages, and we head down that lane, noticing the particularly attractive Beckside studio, now a holiday let.

We follow the lane for a short distance to enter a field via a kissing gate, and from there head out across surprisingly flat fields toward Dubhow Crag along an obvious footpath until we merge with a gravel track. We continue (left) on the track, still with Dubhow Crag ahead of us, and cross a small stream - this is Goldrill Beck.

Beyond the beck, the track bends left and heads slightly uphill and we follow it to a way marker post showing three routes; Deepdale bridge, the direction we have just come from, and then to the left a footpath to Patterdale, and on the right a Bridleway that is part of our return route later in the day. We take the footpath to Patterdale which takes a gentle and generally flat route along the base of the valley.

We soon pass a farmhouse at Beckstones – it's worth remembering what this looks like, so that we can use it as a landmark later in the day when we pick our return paths. Beyond this, the path passes below an area of woodland before arriving at a cluster of houses at the delightfully named Crookabeck. The route remains clear and well signed as we thread through the houses and then head out right along a clear lane. We follow this lane for a while now, with the going remaining easy and quite flat, with small cottages every now and again along the lane side.

After while we reach a junction with a minor road – a key landmark is the whitewashed house directly ahead. We turn right here following the sign for Side Farm and Boredale Hause. This takes us to a gate where we head onto the base of the Fells and after a brief climb, we meet a T junction in the path – we go left here.

The path continues North for a good while now – with intermittent views across Ullswater on the left, and the steep fellside slopes to the right. We have been walking on fairly flat paths so far, but ahead of we eventually see a saddle shape formed by Silver Crag (on the left) and Birk Fell (on the right). We start to climb here and head for the pass between the two high points where a great view of Ullswater toward Pooley Bridge opens up.

The path continues down the far side of the saddle shaped gap as if heading to the lakeside, but before we get that far, our path meets the Ullswater Way. When we meet this popular route, we head right and follow it through woodland heading generally Northwest. The Ullswater Way eventually bends round to the right, and we start to head inland, to cross a footbridge over Scalehow Beck. Over to our right at this point is Scalehow Force, a waterfall that is impressive when in full flow, but easy to miss during prolonged dry spells.

The bridge and Scalehow force are important landmarks for us, because soon after we cross the bridge, we need to pick up a path on the right which heads back at quite a sharp angle to climb steeply up to High Knott. The continuing Ullswater Way is more heavily used, so the path is easy to miss. If you find your path ending at a minor road you have gone slightly too far, so backtrack and try again.

This is the point in the walk where the steep climbing begins. We are now heading Southwest to follow the course of Scalehow Beck toward High Knott, a rocky outcrop with great views of the lake and where you may wish to take a short break. Continuing on, the path bears left so that we are heading South and climbing steeply to a disused quarry building at High Dodd.

As we move beyond the old quarry, we have good views of Place Fell – the peak over to our right. This is our next target, but we need to follow the path around High Dodd for a little while until we meet the path heading up Place Fell. When we find this path, we head sharp right and begin the ascent of the Fell. We are heading for the cairn at the top of Place Fell – it's not always visible, at least not in the early stages of the climb, but the path is clear and given that the cairn is right at the top, then heading to the highest point you can see will always work.

A useful landmark on the way up is the restored sheepfold at Low Moss – this is found at the point where the path heads to the right up Place Fell, so if your path does not pass directly in front of the fold, you may have missed the turn and therefore need to retrace.

The route up to the cairn at the top of Place Fell is relentless, but the views back over Ullswater and to the left over The Nab and the Deer Forest make the hard work worthwhile. As we climb, the cairn and trig point (675m) at the top of Place Fell become clear, and the final scramble to the flatish top is soon over.

From the cairn, we look to the South to see a clear path meandering down toward Boredale Hause and Chapel in the Hause.

From the Hause we head downhill. There are a number of paths which intersect here, and it would be easy to take the wrong one, so the best guide is to look for the farmhouse we noted at the start of the walk (Beckstones) or the hamlet at Deepdale bridge and take the path that heads directly toward them.

This takes us steeply downhill until the route levels out and meets the path we started on - at the way marker with three options.

As we are now on the return leg, we take the route to Deepdale Bridge where we parked the cars.

- **Total distance 16.1 km (10.0 miles)**
- **Total ascent 921 m**
- **Challenging walk**