

Owens Walks

Route Description: A circular tour of Whitbarrow from Mill Side

1. There's roadside parking at the cross-roads near Mill Side, just off the A590. Walk up the road to Mill Side, bear right ignoring the road to Beck Head. Climb the tarmac road to reach the bridleway. Pass the junction (left) to Beck Head, continue along the bridleway through woodland.

Beyond the first sweeping left-hand bend, there is a Permissive Path on the left.
2. Follow the Permissive Path uphill through woodland. The path levels out; by a large pine (on right) there are open views across the Kent Estuary, follow the footpath on the left, it's a switchback. Climb through woodland to a gap in a wall, turn right through a gate to reach the plateau.

From the plateau, there are extensive views of the Kent Estuary with glimpses of Ingleborough to the south-east and the Howgills. Continue on a good path, it bears left to follow the high ground. As height is gained, the view opens to a panorama of South Lakeland: from the Coniston Fells to Bowfell and the Langdales then High Street and the Kentmere Fells, it is very impressive. Reach the first high spot marked by a cairn, followed by a second high spot, a small depression leads the path by a limestone outcrop to reach a stile in the wall.
3. Over the wall is the Hervey Memorial Reserve (SSSI). Cross the stile then follow a delightful path among limestone outcrops to the high spot of Lords Seat with a magnificent cairn marking the summit. There are lots of small outcrops for shelter from any wind.
4. Leave the summit on a well defined track heading west, descend the cairned path as it swings to the south, parallel with a stone wall protecting the top of Whitbarrow Scar (a steep cliff). The path descends into woodland, a rake follows a breach in the cliffs, it's a safe path to the valley bottom below. Leave Hervey Memorial Reserve over a wooden stile, a break in the wall leads to a good path descending through woodland. Care is needed descending the steep section but the natural rake is a terrific route to the valley.

Follow the edge of the school playing field and cross a stile. Turn right along the track to a kissing gate by a building to reach the road junction by the entrance to Witherslack Oversands School.
5. Turn left along the road for about 700 metres to a bridleway on the left signposted Beck Head.
6. Follow the bridleway to Beck Head, continue on the quiet road to Mill Side village and finish.