

# Owens Walks

Route Description: Around Rydal Water and Grasmere from White Moss Common, near Ambleside

1. There's a car park at White Moss Common, between Rydal and Grasmere.

By a postbox on the main road, follow the adjacent public footpath up hill, passing a small waterfall (Dunney Beck) on the left. There's a gate halfway up the raspberry lined footpath. On reaching the T-junction with the bridlepath, this is the 'coffin road', turn right (east) for Rydal.

Through woodland, the imposing crags of Nab Scar look down on us but there are many glimpses across Rydal Water to Loughrigg, Rydal Caves can be seen across the valley.

This is a delightful track, it is reasonable to assume Wordsworth walked this route throughout his time at Rydal Mount and Dove Cottage.

Continue along the bridlepath to reach Rydal Mount.

2. Descend the road passing St Mary's church at Rydal to reach the main road. Turn right along the A591 for about 100m, cross the busy road to the footpath and bridge over the River Rothay.

Cross the river following the excellent footpath alongside the river to reach the shore of Rydal Water. Through an iron kissing-gate, follow the path through Rydal Woods. Leave the woodland by a second iron kissing-gate on the lake shore path.

Take a left branch climbing the slope to reach an excellent level stony path, turn right along this path, this is Loughrigg Terrace.

Continue along Loughrigg Terrace to reach first the lower Rydal Caves, climb the spoil heap to reach the mouth of the upper Rydal Cave.

3. Leave Rydal Cave on Loughrigg Terrace, cross the top of the spoil heap as Helm Crag dominates the view. Stay on the level path to reach a junction of paths with our first glimpse of Grasmere (Lake).

Note: at the junction of paths, a path descends through woodland to the footbridge over the Rothay to reach the car park at White Moss Common. We ignore this option as we head to Grasmere.

4. At the junction of paths, follow the left path staying high above the river, traverse the north flank of Loughrigg Fell with elevated views of Grasmere (Lake), beyond is Steel Fell, Helm Crag, Blea Rigg and the Easedales.

High above the outlet (Rothay) of Grasmere, the path crosses a stream and a small waterfall.

Go through the iron Kissing gate, taking the path into High Close Estate and National Trust Deerbutts Woods.

# Owens Walks

5. Follow the estate road through the woodland to reach a stone house (on Red Bank). Follow the switch-back on the footpath (signposted Grasmere Village) all the way to the lake shore.

Turn left along the lake shore path, eventually to reach the road.

6. Turn right along the road to reach Grasmere village.

7. At the tee junction by St Oswalds Church, turn right, over the river, leave the village along Stock Lane to reach the roundabout at Town End on the A591.

8. Bear right crossing the A591, then follow the narrow road on the left, up the hill passing Dove Cottage.

There's a road junction after the farm buildings (opposite a small pond), bear left along the 'coffin route' to Rydal. Follow the road passing a second roadside tarn (Whitemoss Tarn). Continue along the 'coffin route' to reach the junction with the path returning to White Moss Common. Descend the path to finish.