

Owens Walks

Route Description: Loughrigg Fell from Skelwith Bridge, via Elterwater village

1. There's roadside parking at Skelwith Bridge. Leave Skelwith Bridge on the Cumbrian Way, passing Skelwith Force, take a closer look at the waterfall where the Brathay cascades over a five metre step with a colossal force, particularly after heavy rain. The riverside path is excellent, stay on the north-east side of the Brathay, (don't cross the Trevor Woodburn bridge) to pass through meadows, before us are splendid views of The Langdale Pikes (Harrison Stickle and Pavey Ark) as Loughrigg Fell watches over us from the right. Continue to Elterwater village.

Note, Elterwater village can be an alternative start to this circular tour, there is a car park in the village.

2. Turn right in Elterwater village, pass in front of The Britannia Inn, keep right to the outskirts of the village to Elterwater Common. Leave the road on the left by an obvious grassy path. Cross the unfenced road (it's the road up the Langdale valley), continue on a path equidistant between the fell road to the left and the stone walled enclosure on the right.

Continue uphill, follow the course of the 'old road' eventually to reach the tarmac road (to Grasmere). Continue on the quiet road, over a cattle grid, pass the YHA to reach a road junction at the top of Red Bank.

3. At the road junction (top of Red Bank), opposite is a wooden farm gate into the NT Deerbolts Wood, signposted 'Bridleway Loughrigg Terrace/ Rydal'. Follow the bridleway through woodland. Leave Deerbolts Wood by an iron-kissing gate, now Loughrigg Terrace. In 50m, beyond the woodland, is a small stream cascading over rocks then flowing beneath a small stone bridge. The outlet of Grasmere (lake) comes into view as the River Rothay flows toward White Moss. Follow the obvious, well constructed stone covered path on the right, uphill to reach the summit of Loughrigg Fell. The path is steep (ish) in places but the climb is only about 200m to the top. A stone pillar (trig point) on the highest rocks marks the summit of Loughrigg.

4. Leave the summit on an obvious path heading about south-east, descend to a small depression then continue on a wide grassy path. Stay on the obvious path, gradually descending, Black Crag is on the right and the tree covered Latterbarrow on the western shores of Lake Windermere is directly ahead. Stay on the obvious main path as it wends between the small hillocks that litter Loughrigg Fell top. A stone wall appears on the right, parallel to the path as we reach a tee junction by a small tarn. Turn right (west), Black Fell is directly ahead. Continue on the obvious path, a large cairn marks higher ground to our right, (take the small detour for excellent views of Loughrigg Tarn), continue descending the obvious path to reach a junction with the bridleway, left for Ambleside and right for Skelwith Bridge. According to AW, this is close by the amphitheatre that was used as a rifle range many years ago (pre 1960), see his Central Fells Book 3.

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5. Turn right onto the bridleway, it skirts around Ivy Crag (to our right). It's easy walking with glimpses of Pike O'Stickle and the Langdale Pikes, all the way to the gravel road and hamlet of Tarn Foot.

6. At Tarn Foot turn left along the gravel road to reach the tarmac road, turn right to reach the road junction signposted Neaum Crag. Turn left, follow the quiet road descending a steep hill to reach Skelwith Bridge.