

Route Description: Barnacre reservoirs and Nicky Nook

1. There is a small car park at Grizedale Bridge (SD53570 49098). From the car park, take the road towards Oakenclough, cross Grizedale Bridge & the cattle grid before ascending the hill. At the top, there is a footpath & a stile (SD53559 48253).
2. Cross the stile and follow the farm track alongside the stone wall, past the pine forest plantations. The aerial masts come into view, as well as the two Barnacre reservoirs, Nicky Nook & Morecambe Bay. Pass the aerials to a gate (SD53098 47554), descend the farm track to a cross roads (SD53020 47335), then turn R (WSW) to a stile (SD52652 47257) at Moor House Farm.
3. Walk a few metres to the road and follow the grassy lane opposite, passing in front of Moor House Farm. This is a delightful section with wonderful views of the coast. Turn sharp R and Jubilee Cairn and the white trig on Nicky Nook dominate the view, then turn L before the farm gate, the grassy lane descends to a brook and a stile (SD52294 47233). Ascend the slope & continue to Burns Farm (SD51714 47252).
4. At Burns Farm, immediately turn R in front of the farmhouse, continue along the road keeping the farm buildings on the L. At the next corner (SD51696 47375), turn R along the concrete road, cross the brook and follow the road L to a pump house, a covered reservoir & a stile (SD51528 47511). Cross the stile, descend to a brook before crossing the pasture, it can be wet underfoot. The route is defined by marker posts & reaches a kissing gate (SD51234 47743). Enter the woodland & descend the steep ground to a footbridge (SD51119 47788) in Grizedale (see Owens Walks LAN003).
5. Cross the bridlepath, over the stile to follow the bridlepath to gate & road at Slean End. Turn R along Higher Lane, past the junction with Tithe Barn Lane (to Scorton) & continue along the level lane, after about 1km, to reach the junction with Snowhill Lane (to Scorton) & The Kennels. After the road junction, there is a stile (SD51157 48967) on the R.
6. The path ascends through gorse, soon to reach a gate (SD51388 48820), a bench seat & a small reservoir. Easy climbing continues up a good path passing the end of a stone wall (SD51543 48805) & trees guarding The Tarn. Swing R on easier ground past a stone wall (SD51845 48544) to reach the summit & trig (SD51975 48558). This is a great viewpoint of the Bowland Hills to the E as well as the views across Morecambe Bay & to the Lake District. Leave the summit on the obvious path heading E, the stone marker structures for the Thirlmere Aqueduct appear to the L and R as the path descends. Its a good path across steepening ground with glimpses of Grizedale reservoir & wonderful views of the hills. The final descent is among heather, bracken and gorse to reach a stone stile & seat (SD52625 48462) at the bridlepath by the reservoir.

Owens Walks

7. Turn L (north) along the bridlepath, in about 300m there is a gate (SD52668 48650) on the R & the Concessionary Path to Grizedale Bridge. Initially, follow the shore of the reservoir, past a seat & among rhododendrons to a gate into Holme Wood. The path follows the cascading Grizedale Brook through this sheltered woodland to reach a gate, cross the stream to a signpost (SD53422 48971). Turn R, its a short walk among stone walls to Grizedale Bridge (SD53570 49098) & the finish.