

Route Description: Around Abbeystead

1. There's car parking in Abbeystead by Stoops Bridge (SD56360 54351). Cross the road & follow the footpath (Wyre Way) heading E, the muddy estate track then crosses a meadow, keep L of the wire enclosure for a first glimpse of Abbeystead House. Cross the river by a footbridge (SD56641 54344) & ascend the short slope into the pasture. By a Ww stone marker post (SD57092 54339), leave the Wyre Way and head N for 100m, descending the slope to Marshaw Wyre & a footbridge (SD57084 54387). Ascend the slope alongside the estate wall to emerge on pastureland, the path crosses a tree-lined estate road using two ladder stiles (SD57122 54575). From here, there are wonderful views to Jubilee Tower on the skyline, Grit Fell and Wards Stone to the N whilst behind is the south flank of Over Wyresdale topped by Hawthornthwaite Fell Top. Cross the pasture to another Ww stone marker post (SD57160 54746), Higher Emmetts Farm is close by to the R.

2. We turn L (heading W), along the Wyre Way, crossing the field to a gate (SD56698 54641), walk through the garden of the stone cottage to emerge on the road. Descend Strait Lane & cross Stoops Bridge.

3. On the R is a footpath, cross the wall & follow the estate track between the river & Larpet Wood, then continue through fields to Grizedale Bridge (SD56579 55294) at Lower Lee.

4. Cross the stile to the road, then immediately enter the adjacent field using a stile on the L, ascend the slope to a small footbridge (SD56539 55262), continue on the higher ground to cross a stile (SD56152 55082) & a brook, then follow the hedge line. Pass the tiny mere (SD55924 54927) to a stile (SD55869 54894) crossing the fence before the brook. Continue along a faint path to a farm gate (SD55597 54797) by Abbeystead Lane. Cross the lane & stile then head towards the church to reach a gate (SD55393 54711) at the road. Turn R & walk along the road to 'The Shepherds Church', (est. in 1570), (SD55142 54519). Carved above the door is "O ye Shepherds hear the word of the Lord".

5. A stile (SD55068 54525) leaves the road just W of the church, after 100m, cross the brook & a stile, walk to the S side of the churchyard, (there is a churchyard gate that reaches this point). Descend the pasture to a small footbridge & two stiles (SD55078 54274), ascend the short slope to a stone Lentworth Hall. There's a gate (SD54677 54247) at the farm but don't go through it, turn L, past the corner of the barns towards a stile (SD54657 54086) near Long Wood. Descend the slope, cross the farm track and enter Long Wood for the final descent to a substantial footbridge (SD54495 53834) over the River Wyre.

6. Don't cross the river, turn L (east) and head upstream, past another footbridge, to arrive at the pumping station & the memorial. Continue to a stone walled enclosure (SD55556 53832) and cross the river by the footbridge.

Owens Walks

7. Immediately turn L and walk along the riverbank to the curved weir wall and the reservoir. Continue along the concessionary path through the woodland, to emerge at the road. Turn L, cross the river to return to Stoops Bridge & the end of the walk. The last section along the river & reservoir is very interesting with much wildlife, it represents a much changed landscape!