

Route Description: Over Nicky Nook returning by Grizedale Valley

1. There is a small car park at Grizedale Bridge (SD53570 49098). From the car park, take the bridleway heading W towards Holme Wood. Descend gently amongst the dry-stone walls to a signpost (SD53422 48971).
2. Leave the bridleway & follow the Concessionary Path to Holme Wood. A stroll through the cool woodland is a joy, continue on the obvious path following the brook cascading towards Grizedale reservoir, then alongside the reservoir to meet a Bridlepath (SD52668 48650).
3. Turn L (S) along the wide stone covered Bridlepath for a few hundred metres to a footpath leading to Nicky Nook, there is a delightful small stone seat & steps leading to the fellside above (SD52625 48462).
4. Up the steps & through the wall, follow the steep climb through bracken, heather & gorse. Glimpses of Grizedale reservoir & a seat halfway up help the ascent. Onwards & upwards, the summit plateau (SD52286 48524) is soon reached. Take a short detour to the stone marker structure (it marks the Thirlmere Aqueduct) before following the path to the summit & trig (SD51975 48558). Immediately, our attention turns to the Lancashire coast, Morecambe Bay & beyond to the Lakes. But it's also a great spot to admire the Bowland Fells, behind you!
5. Descend the gentle western slope on a good path, passing a wall (SD51845 48544) toward the trees that guard The Tarn, the path passes a wall end (SD51543 48805), then swings L descending to a small reservoir, a seat & gate (SD51388 48820). The final descent leads to the Lane at The Kennels (SD51157 48967).
6. From The Kennels, follow the level road past Quarry Wood to Slean End (SD50975 47887) passing two roadside seats and the junction with Tithe Barn Lane.
7. At Slean End, take the footpath into Pedders Wood, across the edge of the pasture before a stile & the Bridlepath (SD51119 47788). Turn L and follow the bridlepath alongside Grizedale Brook. It's cool & fresh in the woodland but soon the valley opens, the steep vegetated sides are more apparent as the gradient increases to reach Grizedale reservoir dam (SD52358 48373).

Owens Walks

8. Continue along the Bridlepath, soon to reach the path up to Nicky Nook (SD52625 48462). Continue to the junction with the Concessionary Path (SD52668 48650), through the gate re-tracing our earlier steps through the rhododendrons to Holme Wood & back to Grizedale Bridge (SD53570 49098).