

## *Finsthwaite - High Dam - Steam Railway*

*A walk from Lakeside through pleasant woodlands and meadows to Finsthwaite - High Dam and Newby Bridge and Steam Railway. (ask for timetable). Walking Time 2½ hours*



1. Start this walk from Lakeside Steamer Pier. From the car park walk past Lakeside Hotel to main road and turn right. Walk 400 metres towards Hawkshead and you will find the public footpath on the left opposite the property signed “Buck Yeats North”. It is a very rough track through coppiced woodland, ignore any forks left. Pass over a stone stile and head straight across two fields towards Finsthwaite Church clearly seen ahead. Follow the path onto a road to the left of the church and when

you are opposite the church take the first road left. This meets the village road in 50 metres. Turn right and your path is 20 metres on the left through the gates and driveway of the cottage "Plum Green". Walk straight through, noting yellow arrows directing you through a field to a small gate on the other side. As you come through the gate the path veers at a 45° angle right past a blue static caravan, look for white arrow painted on rock. It now heads straight for bridge over stream by the edge of deciduous woodland. Cross the bridge. You are now in a special conservation area managed by the National Park Authority.

2. The quick way is to walk left up the path to the tarns, do a circular tour and return the same way retracing your path to Lakeside, the total time taken would be no more than 1½ hours.
3. We recommend you turn right and descend 200 metres to entrance gates from car park. Go through and turn left into car park and you will see a kissing gate at the far end.
4. This path meanders amongst deciduous woodland, through a gap in a stone wall, through a kissing gate, sometimes rising and then descending until after 10 minutes it meets an old bridle path. Join the bridle path by rustic steps and turn left, it now climbs steadily between moss-covered walls until you reach two old and redundant gate stoops, where it becomes more open but still clearly defined. Another path coming up from the right joins by a wooden gate. Turn left and continue, steadily rising until you reach the access area to High Dam.
5. You enter the access area through a kissing gate and turn immediately right to follow the path around the tarn anti-clockwise. Don't worry if the path seems distant from the Tarn at first, it crosses open ground and then rises via a footbridge to reach a fine view point. To carry on you now descend and go over a small bridge (ignore the public footpath to Rusland), cross over a similar bridge and now meander along the edge of the tarn until you reach the walled dam itself, walk along the dam.
6. The actual circuit around the tarn, surprisingly, need only take twenty minutes. However we have not come across an area with so many peaceful resting places and you are well advised to allow time for this.
7. After walking across the dam descend by the path until you come to the wooden footbridge and cross the river again from where you entered this conservation area.
8. Retrace your steps through the field heading to the left of the isolated blue caravan, through gate and on into Finsthwaite and back to the

church. Carry straight on the way you came if you want the shortest route to Lakeside.

9. Alternative route to include a short ride on the steam railway if its running (ask for timetable on the day). Now look for footpath for Newby Bridge through iron kissing gate on the right into field. Walk straight up the middle of the longest part of the field towards a gap in the trees on the distant skyline. Cross by stile and keep going straight on following yellow arrows and crossing two more fields by stiles until you come to a wood at the end, now look for a stile at the right-hand corner of the field.
10. Cross into woodland and follow path left. It is very clear and soon descends to a drive which leads direct to the main Newby Bridge to Lakeside road. The Swan Hotel is 50 metres to the right. Check your watch! Check your train times! If you're going to stop for refreshments you will need to allow time to walk the 250 metres down the road opposite the hotel, following river on your left to Newby Bridge Halt, where you will board your steam train back to Lakeside.

## *Finsthwaite - Stott Park Bobbin Mill*

**Walk 1A**

*The first part of this walk is described in walk 1, paragraph 1.*

1. After entering the special conservation area, turn right and descend 200 metres to car park. Carry on down the driveway and join the main road. Turn left for 50 metres and look for off-road footpath on the right. Follow this path and it leads to the entrance to Stott Park Bobbin Mill. See Page 40.
2. After visiting the bobbin mill you will find the main road back to Lakeside further along where you turn right and it is approximately half a mile. It is a very busy road and you need to take great care if you choose to return this way.
3. You may retrace your steps via Finsthwaite, or pick up the walk to High Dam, in which case retrace your steps to the car park for High Dam. Look for the kissing gate at the far end and read now from Walk 1, paragraph 4.