

# The Viewpoints Over Windermere

A short walk of one hour around Post Knott and Biskey Howe, or an extended walk of three to four hours including Post Knott, School Knott and Biskey Howe.



1. From the piers at Bowness make your way into the village and go past the roundabout to the top of the hill (Crag Brow). Opposite the entrance to the Beatrix Potter Centre look for Langrigg Drive. Walk along Langrigg Drive (it's only about 400 metres) and when you reach the end turn left up a steep hill. This road comes to an end in about 150 metres where you pass through a small iron gate and proceed up past the "Dalesway" sign to join a well defined path where you turn right. (Towards the end of the walk you will return to this point and take the path in the opposite direction.) The path right is marked "Footpath Post Knott" and you follow this until you reach a wooden gate. Go through and ascend 100 metres to the viewpoint immediately in front. This is Post Knott, and from here you will see the lake spread below. Looking directly down to Bowness, pick out the Round House on Belle Isle and directly above and beyond Claife Heights you should also be able to see the mountain known as Coniston Old Man. Away to the left is the best view of the southern reaches of Windermere to Lakeside at the far end.

2. When you are ready to carry on turn around and, with your back to the lake, you will see a stone wall with a copse on the other side. Make your way to the left hand corner of this wall and cross the first stile. Ignoring the second stile, turn right and walk up between the wall and the copse to the top, crossing the wall to the left by another stone stile. The path marked by a yellow arrow leads down to a lane at the bottom. You are now some 30-45 minutes into the walk and the short version turns left at this point, in which event miss out paragraphs 3-6
3. For the main walk pass through the gate on the right, cross the farm drive, and go through the wooden gate into the field. Keep close to the wall on the right until you reach an iron gate. Go through and take the left fork in the path, continuing in the same general direction as before. You are on the Dalesway path and yellow arrows point the way. You will come to a road but as you approach you should see the path to the left on the other side. When you come to a farm lane you will need to cross by wooden gates and proceed upward through the field alongside the fence on the right. Cross the road and carry on over a small beck, straight on over a rise and along the lane until you reach the main road. You are going to turn left, but **do not** walk on the road as it is very dangerous. Just by the entrance you will find a stone stile and 300 metres of newly constructed safe pathway alongside the road. When you reach the end of this section to rejoin the road, you are immediately onto a surfaced lane going left. The Dalesway sign is now marked with a red arrow. Walk on past High Cleabarrow and after 200 metres the surfaced lane becomes a track. Go through the gate and a further three wooden gates, you will probably find it quite muddy. After crossing a small stream walk a further 200 metres and you will see the Dalesway sign (now yellow again) going right. The path is clearly marked and, although upwards, it is not steep and it is only half a mile to School Knott Tarn; a small stream is crossed on the way.
4. This is an ideal picnic spot, usually sheltered and peaceful and if time permits why not rest up? You should be two and a half hours into the walk with a further one and a half to go.
5. The path continues to the left of the tarn and half way along takes a sharp turn to the left. Go through the gate in the wall and straight on to the highest point. This is School Knott and from here look down on Windermere Village. The mountains dominate the view but it is the northern half of the lake, up to Waterhead, which takes the eye. To the right of the village you should be just able to see the traffic on the A591, Windermere - Kendal road and just beyond the mountains over the Troutbeck Valley, High Street and further right Kentmere.

6. The way is not clear from here, but head down towards the nearest group of houses. Just beyond a wooden gate the path forks. Take the left hand fork continuing towards the houses, just visible through the trees. When you come to the track turn left through another wooden gate past “Old Droomer” cottage on the left. Thirty metres further on turn right down some stone steps, cross the river and carry straight on for Lickbarrow. After crossing fields make for the corner of the wall and straight on over to join the road. The path continues straight across the road and through an iron gate, clearly marked “Public Footpath”. Carry on past some houses, through a wooden gate, descend to reach the “Public Footpath Bowness” and turn left. You will come to 2 stiles, ignore the one straight ahead and take the one on the left again marked “public footpath”. After about 300 metres go through a wooden gate with a farm just ahead. Pass the farm and follow the yellow arrows through two further gates. Look for the yellow arrow on the wall corner 50 metres ahead, and follow this across to another gate. Turn left onto the road and follow the markers through two more gates until you come to a track. Carry on through the gate and cross the farm lane again. You are now back at the junction where you joined earlier at paragraph 2.
7. Carry on for about 100 metres and you reach the path that leads up from the village, but this time turn right to follow the footpath marked “Bowness”. In a short distance you come to the end of the path from Post Knott. Here turn left along the driveway and at the road junction go straight ahead for the viewpoint. After 100 metres follow the wheelchair accessible path which will take you to Biskey Howe. As you approach the large rock, bear right and you will find some stone steps under a large beech tree. Climb the steps, taking care as the rock can be very slippery. The view across Windermere is now dominated by the Langdale Pikes and just in front of the rock you will find a stone pedestal carrying a relief map to help you identify the various peaks.
8. Bowness village is just below you, with the whole 10½ miles of the lake spread out from Lakeside to Waterhead. We recommend that you savour the view, but after resting and refreshing yourselves can we suggest a cruise. as the perfect way to relax is to board one of our steamers or launches, enjoy a drink on board, and effortlessly take in those wonderful views from a different perspective.
9. To drag yourself away from this beautiful vantage point simply walk forward toward the seats and you will find a path on the left which meanders down through the rhododendrons and trees to join the road leading back to Crag Brow and the main road left back to the piers.