

Windermere Club Site – Ratherheath Tarn

Camping and Caravanning



Route Summary



A strenuous circuit that takes you quickly into wild and remote countryside with great views. The walk follows a track to pass through Ashes Coppice before following field paths to a road. The way continues by visiting Ratherheath Tarn and returning via woodland tracks and some lane walking.

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Length: 5.460 km / 3.41 mi
Last Modified: 12th September 2017
Difficulty: Medium
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Moderate
Date Published: 12th September 2017

Description



RATHERHEATH TARN FROM WINDERMERE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB



WALKING NEAR RATHERHEATH TARN

This walk makes a nice circuit from Windermere Club Site. The GPS gives a distance of 3.5 miles and you will need to take along Ordnance Survey Map 'Outdoor Leisure 7 - The English Lakes South East Area'. You should wear boots and take a stick along in high summer in case there are overgrown areas. The walk follows rough tracks with great views to The Lakeland Fells and passes through woodland on paths and tracks (which can get muddy if it has rained). The going is straightforward but can be rough and undulating in places over trackless ground. The route follows the B5284 for a short way and this can be busy so you should keep children and dogs well supervised on this section, particularly the point where the walk crosses the road to take Ratherheath Lane. There are some other areas of lane walking but these are much quieter. The walk passes close by Ratherheath Tarn, which is a delightful and hidden water. This route should take no more than two to two and a half hours but note there are no refreshments on the way.

THE WALK



HEADING UP THE TRACK FROM THE SITE

From the reception of Windermere Club Site exit to the approach road and as this bends right, go left taking a track running alongside the camping field (this track can also be reached from the site itself – check with the site team). Follow the undulating track, which is bush- and wall-lined in the early stages. Continue to pass through a kissing gate by a gate after which the track opens out giving great Lakeland views.



TYPICAL VIEW FROM THE TRACK

After the walls left and right end, continue to rise through rocky outcrops in open ground. The track continues to pick up a wall right again. Follow the track towards the buildings of Ashes ahead to reach a footpath junction left as the track bends right near a wall and gate.

2 - Go sharp left taking a vague path by the wall right (this is signposted for 'Ashes Coppice and B5284'). Follow the wall to cross a stile by a gate into Ashes Coppice. Take the track ahead through the woods. Follow the track which soon becomes a path. At the end of the woods cross a large stile to an open field. Follow the path with a wall left through a field of rock outcrops. Pass through a marshy hollow and continue by the wall now leaving the woods behind. Follow the path as it rises over a raised mound with gorse bushes and continue beyond it.



WALKING BEYOND ASHES COPPICE

Follow the path when the wall left becomes a fence and wind a way through gorse bushes and keep the fence across left leaving it slightly to skirt a boggy area and pass through a gate. Follow the path left of a grassy bump ahead and continue to curve left after passing a solitary tree. After this curve left to follow the wall on the right and cross a stile in a wall corner. Follow the wall (left) down the next field. Cross a stile left of a solitary tree and continue to cross another stile by a gate. Continue down the left side of the next field crossing odd wet areas. Cross a stile by a gate to reach a road (B5284).

3 - Go left down the road carefully (this section can be busy) to pass a lane right signposted for 'Capplerigg'. Continue to a lane junction left and cross over very carefully to take it. This is Ratherheath Lane and it is signposted for 'Burnside'. Follow this quieter lane curving right past a caravan site. Follow the lane uphill and when the caravan site ends continue past the next field and after the next wall left, reach a stile and footpath left signposted for 'A591'.



SIGNPOST AT THE STILE

Cross the stile following the indicated path and using marker posts to guide you. The path is intermittent but further on aim to keep a wall right to descend and cross a stile right in a wall before a wall and fence corner.



PASSING MARKER POSTS ON THIS SECTION

Follow the path ahead keeping a fence left and walking beside a forest. Continue on the path to join a better one at a fence corner. Soon pass Ratherheath Tarn on the right.



WALKING BY THE FOREST



RATHERHEATH TARN

Follow the path to just before a gate marked 'private no access' and here go left through a gate. Follow the woodland path by a fence continuing to pass through a gate to a lane.

4 - Cross the lane to go ahead following a footpath sign into the woods. Continue over a bridge and rise up to follow a path and exit to a lane by a footpath sign. Go right to go right again at the Club Site sign. Follow Ashes Lane back to the site and your camping accommodation.

Waypoints

