

Cunswick Scar and Lords Lot

Description

A long walk that could be boggy through the pastures between the two heights. For this reason I would avoid doing in Winter. Instead make a day of it in decent weather. It is varied, needs your attention in choosing paths and around 13 miles long. Allow a leisurely 7 hours and take a picnic to have around the cairn of Cunswick Scar.

I would advise downloading the route and taking a GPS with you.

This is a great walk and one where you need your wits about you to choose the right paths. Nothing untoward will happen if you don't but you really want to get to the correct side of dry stone walls or hedges to avoid retracing your steps.

Possibly this walk belongs more to Underbarrow than Crosthwaite and if you fancy it but are short of time or energy it's perfectly possible to park a car near the Black Labrador and do the Cunswick Scar circuit from there missing out the return to Lords Lot.

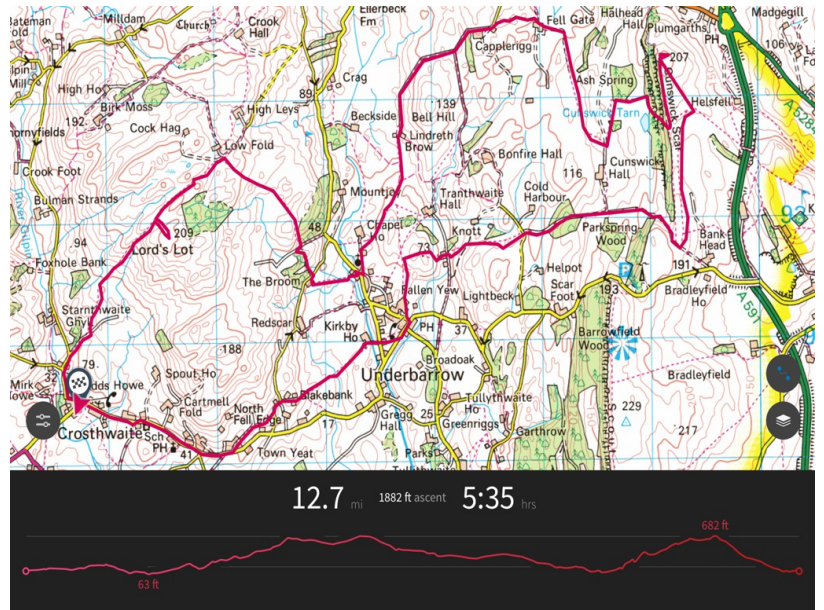
Most people would view the walk as typical of this part of south Lakeland. The two heights are not great, but offer different and magnificent views. The walking between them is through pastoral lands with rocky limestone outcrops breaking through the hilly paddocks that are enclosed by stone walls. Smaller hills are bypassed using old farm cart tracks and the magnificent pack horse route of Gamblesmire Lane. Above us is not only sky, but superb bird life too. Hedges are full of berries and birds nests and the whole area exudes plenty.

Route

Make your way through our lovely village towards Underbarrow until you get to the Blacksmiths beyond the Punchbowl. Take the little road here and then right onto the public footpath. Left at Broom Lane until Blakebank where the path takes you through this pretty garden and down to Underbarrow. Take the path in the village which goes through Nook Farm and then take care to choose the right turnings as you aim for the foot of Gamblesmire Lane.



Lush pastures Provide fodder for the healthiest of farm livestock.



This lane used to be a main route down from The Scars into the valleys and is a delight to walk up. Eventually you pass a limekiln on your left and meet the delightful, springy path up to the cairn of Cunswick Scar. Here you can rest and enjoy the incredible views across and down the Lyth Valley. Once you have taken this all in then make your way back along the scar using the path adjacent until reaching a wooden gate that takes you through woods to the bottom of the cliff.

The path emerges just north of Cunswick Tarn and you should make your way on the path towards Cunswick Hall before turning sharply north taking footpaths that emerge after a mile at the gate of Cappelrigg Lane. This wonderful old road takes a route around Bell Hill which is easy walking and a delight. When you reach the junction at the

end of this you should aim for Chapel Lane which takes you back to All Saints Church in Underbarrow.

Walk alongside the beck a short while now before turning right at the old mill back to Broom Lane.

You now have a choice. You've done the bulk of a good walk and so could cut and run to The Punchbowl for a well deserved pint. If it's a good day and you feel up to it then by turning right you can take the path before Mountjoy Wood that eventually takes you up to Low Fold Farm. A left turn at the crossroads leads you towards Lords Lot which is the second height objective of this walk. You need to deviate from the path left to get to the little summit which offers a great view down to Crosthwaite and beyond to Whitbarrow and the Winster Valley. When you've taken this all in the rejoin the main path which takes you to Hardriggs and home.

You know you've done a full days walk. Well done.

Things to see on the walk.

The views from the two heights of Cunswick Scar and Lords Lot are the real glories on this walk. From here you can look down to the 'Auld Grey' town of Kendal and beyond it to the Howgills. Looking down the scar you see the full scale of Scout Scar, the pretty farmland around Underbarrow and the full extent of the Lyth Valley. From Lords Lot you see the twin valley of Winster and the inviting hulk of Whitbarrow, beyond them Morecambe Bay.

In between you walk through wonderful, rich pastures feeding grand looking cattle and sheep. Sadly the dairies are mostly gone. The lanes connecting the fields and farms are ancient and make interesting and straightforward walking.

You can ponder who walked here before you when leisure was not the main purpose, but they genuinely connected communities.



Views From Cunswick Scar



The Woods below Cunswick Scar