

# Foxhole Bank Fell

## Description

*Short and comfortable 3.5 mile walk around old parish tracks, delightful hills and to a lovely viewpoint. Two hours allowing for taking in the sights.*

This walk is a perfect introduction to the countryside in this quiet, undulating part of south Lakeland. Ancient tracks, dry stone walls and hillocks with rocky limestone outcrops delight alongside the flora that compliments this landscape. Whilst the walking is gentle, the height achieved on the 'right to roam' land above Foxhole Bank gives magnificent views.



*Deer running on the Foxholes ridge*

## Route

Begin by walking down the road towards Totter Bank and crossing Lords Bridge. A stiff little climb up Totter Bank and a short hop takes you to Head Lane on the right. Older Crosthwaite residents recall being told off for referring to Totter Bank, the schoolmaster preferring 'The Otter Bank'.

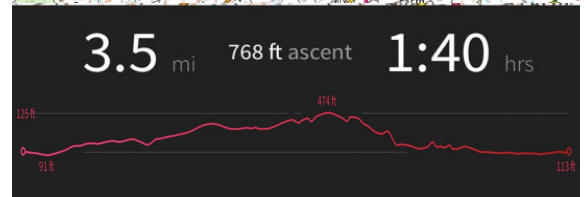
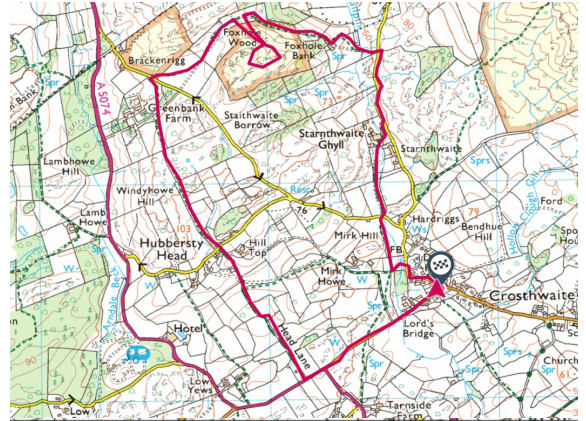
Head Lane leads you up to the beautifully named hamlet of Hubbersty Head at which you cross over the road and along a path on a delightful little dell which can get muddy in winter (this walk is maybe best done in wellies during the wet months). The dell crosses a small beck and rises gently upwards through lovely pastureland with Windyhowe hill on your left. You pass through a couple of dry stone walls and at the top of this path just look over your shoulder at Whitbarrow and see Tarn Hill over to your right.

You now get your first views of the Langdales, before dropping down towards Greenbank Farm. Stone stiles take you over the farm road and across a small hillock before stiles again over the back road to Winster. Keep right here and over the wall into the large pasture field. The path gently takes you uphill to the top of this little ridge. Through a gate you now move right to the elevated fell top and you can now roam to your hearts content in open access land.

This is countryside worth spending a little time wandering around. Views are splendid up to St Mary's church and to Whitbarrow down to the bay. Further away the Furness and Central fells invite braver walks on other days. A lovely spot to sit and contemplate the world.

Having done this you will need to walk down the lovely path (through yellow primulas in the Spring) towards Foxhole Bank Farm and up to the Gilpin valley road.

From here it's either a road walk or riverside walk through Starnthwaite Ghyll back to Crosthwaite Green.



*Head Lane at the top of Totter Bank*





*Water dam at Hubbersty |Head*



*Windyhowe Hill with spring blossom*

## Things to See on the Walk

Lords Bridge is early 18th century and was rebuilt as part of the Kendal to Kirkby Ireliith turnpike.

Head Lane is delightfully lined with pungent wild garlic in the Spring and the incline up to Hubbersty Head is eroded to bare limestone, but it is possible to imagine how this was once a busy thoroughfare with farm carts and families in their Sunday best going down to church.

Hill Top in Hubbersty Head is a large and grand castellated property, the entrance to the garden is a carpet of snowdrops and crocuses in early Spring.

If you look closely around Greenbank Farm you will see natural stone water troughs for sheep and sheep creeps through the dry stone walls to allow passage for the sheep, but deny the cattle.

To get the best views at the top of Foxhole Fell you will need to wander around the rocks and hillocks. Each direction gives pleasure and you can see an almost full view showing Crosthwaite as a linear village.

Foxhole bank has a great show of daffodils and bluebells in their season and if you are a quiet walker you will frequently see deer.