

A walk of art

Discover three centuries of landscape art in the Borrowdale Valley



Experience the 'savage grandeur' of the Lake District

Walk in the footsteps of Romantic artists

Find out how this landscape was shaped by ice

Explore a hanging valley, a mountain-top village and tumbling waterfalls

www.discoveringbritain.org

**the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks**





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Cover image: Farm at Watendlath by Dora Carrington (1921) © Tate Britain

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Discover three centuries of landscape art in the Borrowdale Valley

In 1698 Daniel Defoe described the Lake District as 'the wildest, the most barren and frightful place' that he had ever seen. How have people responded to the Lake District since then?

As road maps and the turnpike system allowed people greater accessibility, visitor numbers began to increase gradually.

From the mid eighteenth century the Lake District became popular with poets, artists, and polymaths who travelled for pleasure and stimulation.



View of Watendlath Tarn
© Katy Moore

Unlike Defoe these artistic visitors were interested in the aesthetics of the landscape; they looked for beauty, the 'picturesque' and searched for the 'sublime terrors' of the area's rugged crags and tumbling waterfalls.

This walk not only explores the Lake District's physical geography but also uncovers different attitudes towards this landscape, in particular the ways it has been interpreted, altered and represented over the past 250 years.

Follow in the footsteps of three centuries of artists, from Romantic sketches and engravings of the eighteenth century to abstract paintings of the 1960s. Look at how art has shaped and been shaped by this dramatic, ice-carved landscape.



Art in the landscape
© Caroline Millar

Route overview

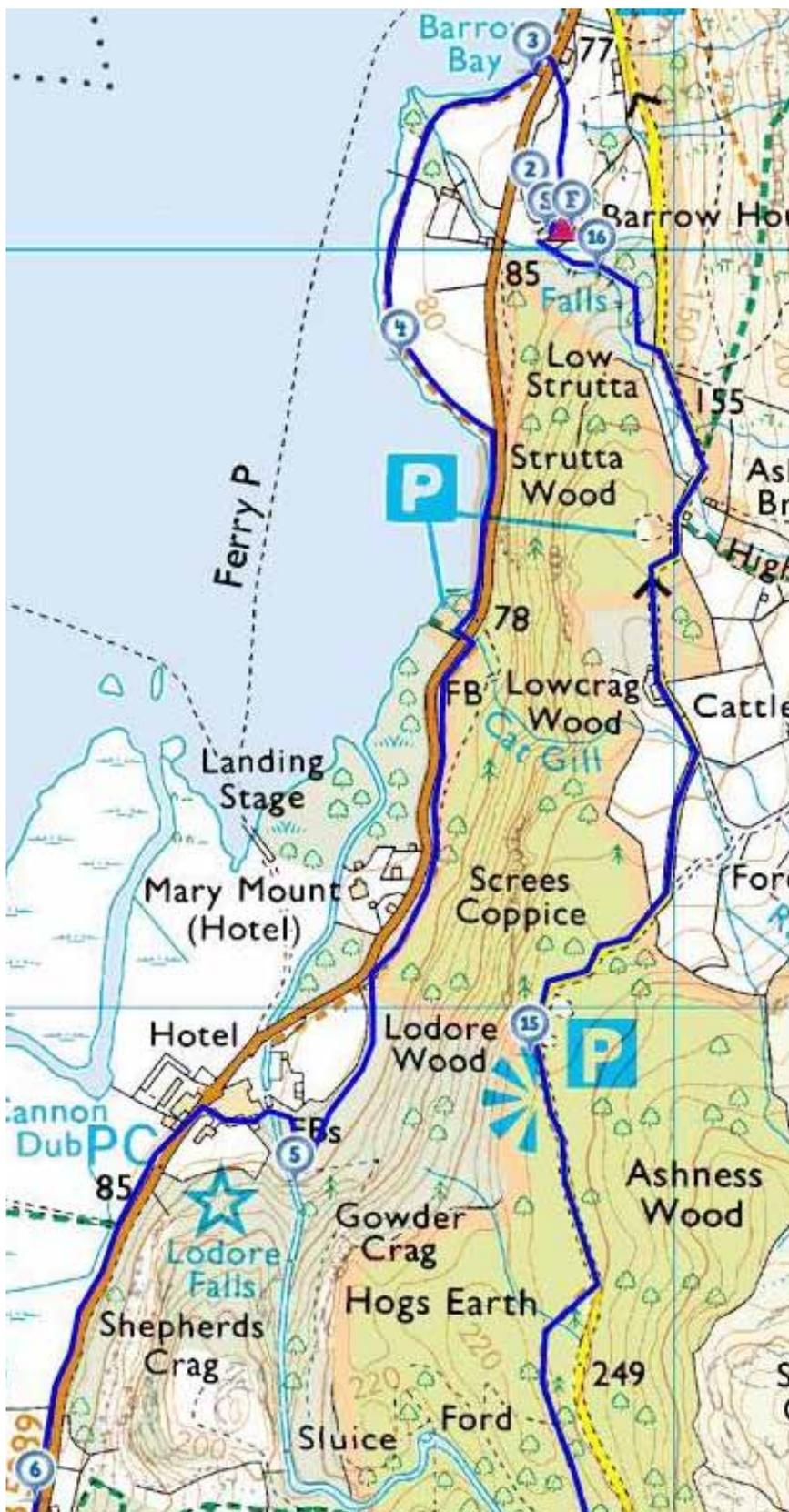


Practical information

Location	Borrowdale, near Keswick, Cumbria
Start & finish point	Derwentwater Independent Hostel (Barrow House), Borrowdale, Keswick CA12 5UR
Walk distance	8 miles
Getting there	<p>Car - Derwentwater Hostel is 2 ½ miles south of Keswick on the B5289 Borrowdale Road. Discovering Britain walkers are welcome to use the Derwentwater Hostel car park. The car park is normally for residents only so please report to reception when you arrive. As you enter the hostel you will have a chance to see some of its original Georgian features.</p> <p>Train - Penrith and Windermere are the nearest stations (the bus journey from both of these stations takes about an hour).</p> <p>Bus - There is a bus stop at the bottom of the Derwentwater Hostel driveway. The 78 provides a daily hourly bus service all year round (more buses in Summer). The journey from Keswick takes about 5 minutes.</p> <p>Keswick is easily accessible using the 555 route (between Lancaster and Windermere), the X4/X5 (between Penrith and Workington), and services from Carlisle.</p> <p>Bicycle - National Cycle Route Number 71 is a family-friendly ride from Threlkeld to Keswick. There is no cycle path for the 2 ½ mile journey from Keswick to Derwentwater Hostel so take care cycling along the Borrowdale Road. Bicycles can be locked securely in a bike shed at Derwentwater Hostel.</p> <p>Boat - Catch the Keswick Launch from Keswick and ask for Ashness Gate. This jetty nearest Derwentwater Hostel is the first stop on the clockwise circuit of Derwent Water. The journey takes about 10 minutes. http://www.keswick-launch.co.uk/</p>

Level	Challenging - Suited to experienced walkers with good fitness levels.
Terrain	The paths are firm and clear but there are uneven patches and some steep gradients. Wear suitable shoes. Take care after rain when paths may be slippery.
Suitable for	Reasonably fit walkers. There is one steep climb!
Refreshments	Derwentwater Hostel offers homemade cakes accompanied by hot or cold drinks, ice cream, and confectionery (open all year). There is a café in Watendlath - Caffle House Tea Room (normally open from Easter to October, 5 miles into the route). A small café is open in the Summer season at High Lodore Farm .
Toilets	Discovering Britain walkers are welcome to use the Derwentwater Hostel toilets. Also public toilets 2, 3 and 5 miles along the route at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lodore (normally open all year) - Grange (open from Easter to October) - Watendlath (normally open all year)
Places to visit	Castlerigg Stone Circle on the outskirts of Keswick is managed by English Heritage. Free to visit, open all year round. Honister Slate Mine museum and adventurous activities. Mine tours available. Open daily 9am to 5pm. Tel: 017687 77230 Theatre by the Lake, Keswick Box office: 017687 74411
Family-friendly activities	You can also walk the lake-shore path around Derwent Water , taking in Friar's Crag and Brandlehow Woods. Boat hire on Derwent Water is available from Platty+ or Derwentwater Marina.
Tourist information	Keswick Tourist Information Centre , Moot Hall, Keswick, CA12 5JR Tel: 017687 72645 Web: www.lake-district.gov.uk

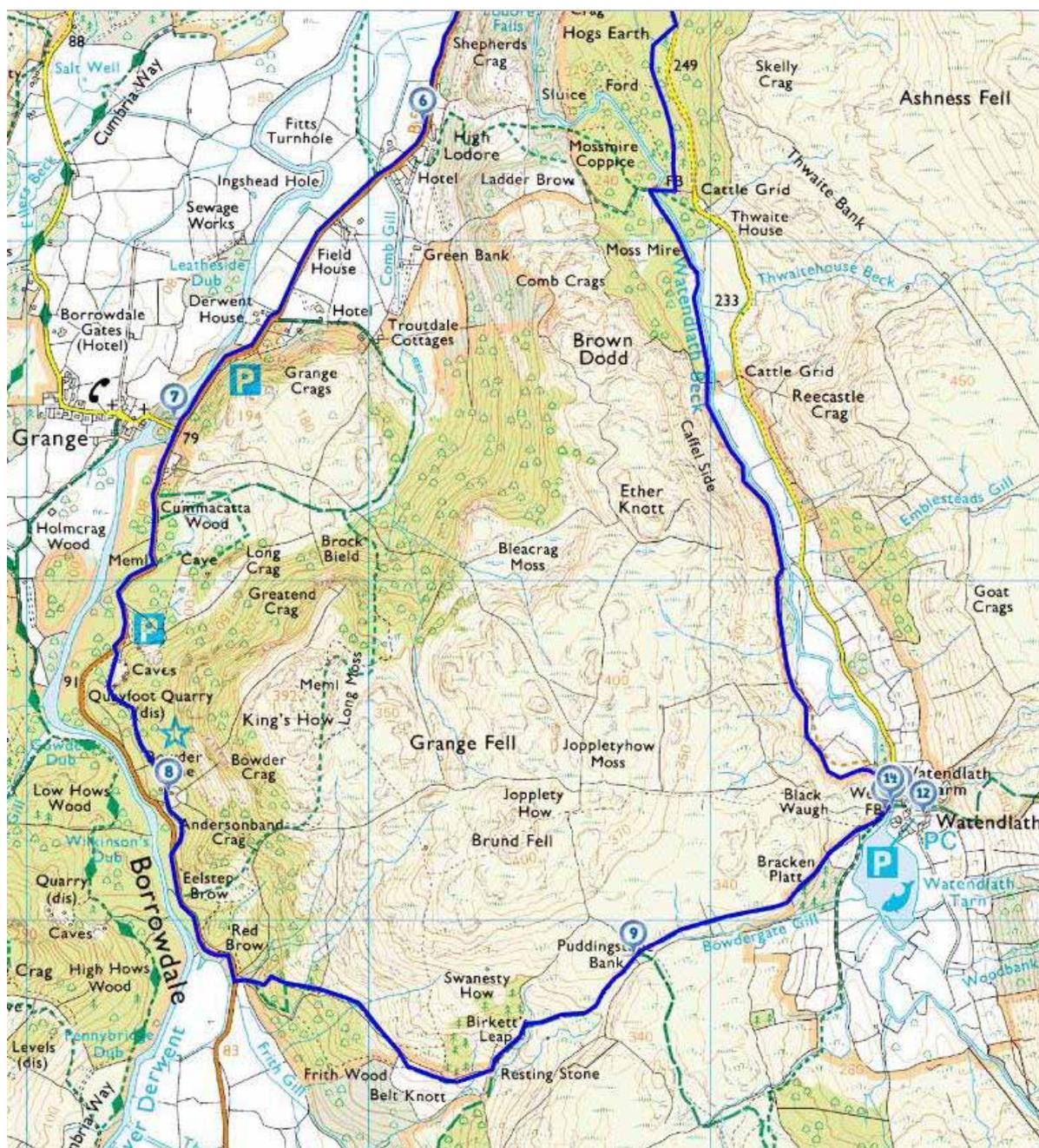
Detail of the start and end of the route



Stopping points

- S.** View from Barrow House, across Derwent Water
- 2.** Barrow House front lawn
- 3.** View of Derwent Island from Barrow Bay
- 4.** View of the southern end of Derwent Water
- 5.** Lodore Falls
-
- 15.** Surprise View viewpoint, Watendlath Road
- 16.** Barrow Falls
- F.** Barrow House, Borrowdale Road

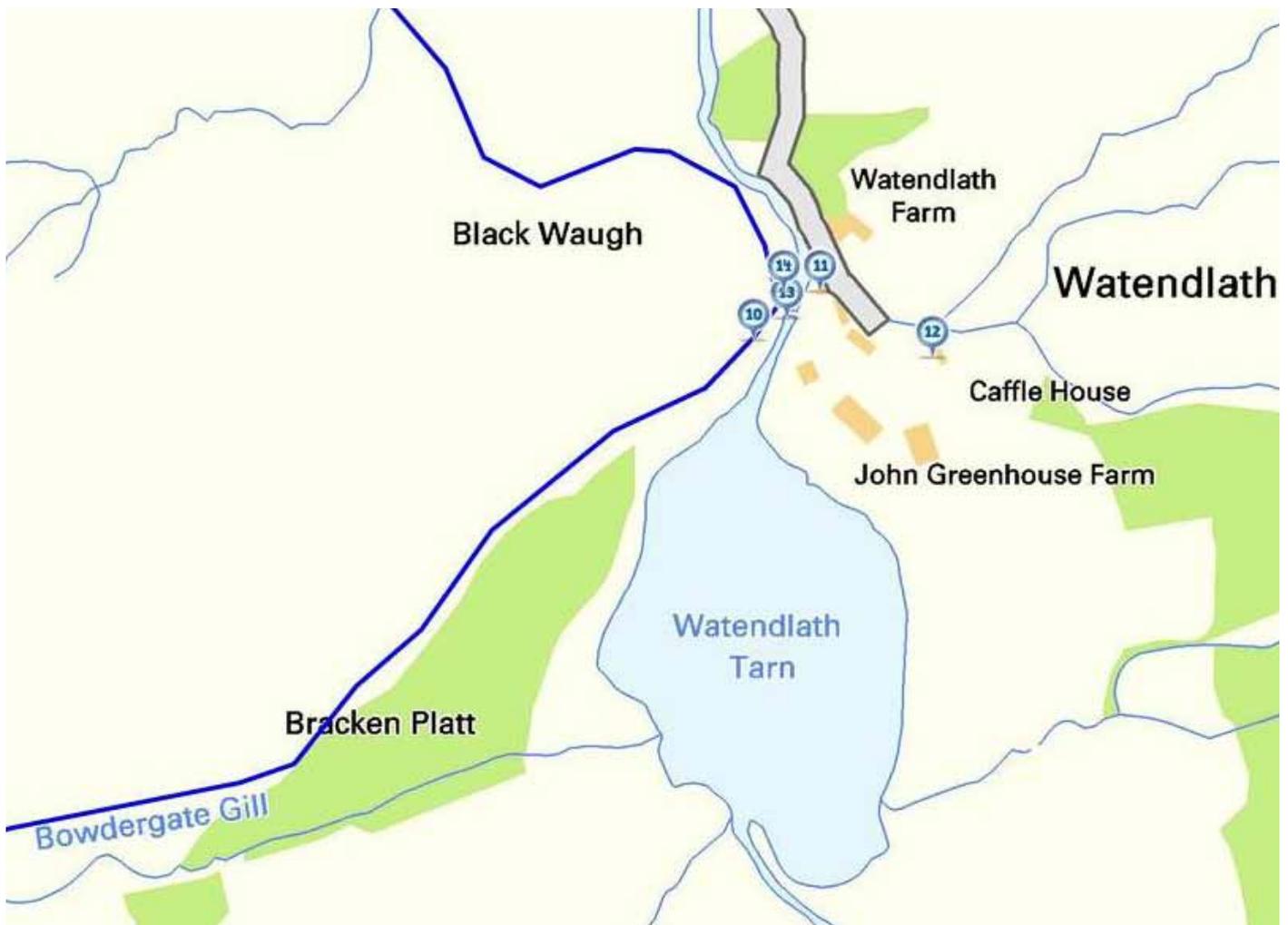
Detail of the middle of the route



Stopping points

6. View of Skiddaw from near High Lodore Farm
7. Grange Bridge
8. The Bowder Stone
9. View of Puddingstone Bank
- 10-14. See next page for detailed map of Watendlath

Detailed map of Watendlath



Stopping points

- 10.** View of Watendlath Tarn from tarn neck
- 11.** Lane in front of Steps End Farm
- 12.** Fold Head Farm
- 13.** View of Watendlath Tarn from Packhorse Bridge
- 14.** View of Packhorse Bridge before Watendlath Tarn

Directions

Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

Start point

Start the walk at Barrow House. Stand on the terrace in front of the blue double doors. Look across the lawn at the view ahead and listen to Track 1.

1. As pretty as a picture?

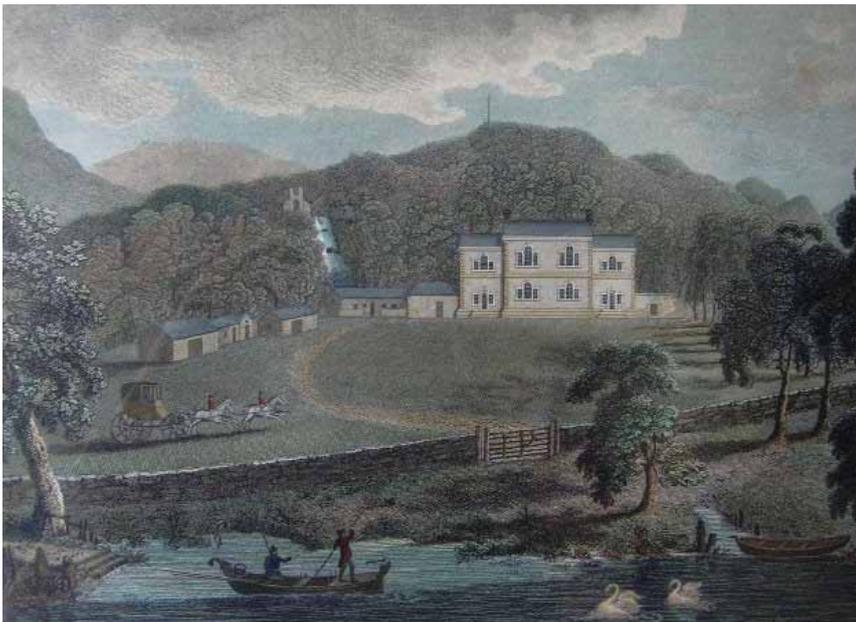
View from Barrow House, Borrowdale Road

Directions 1

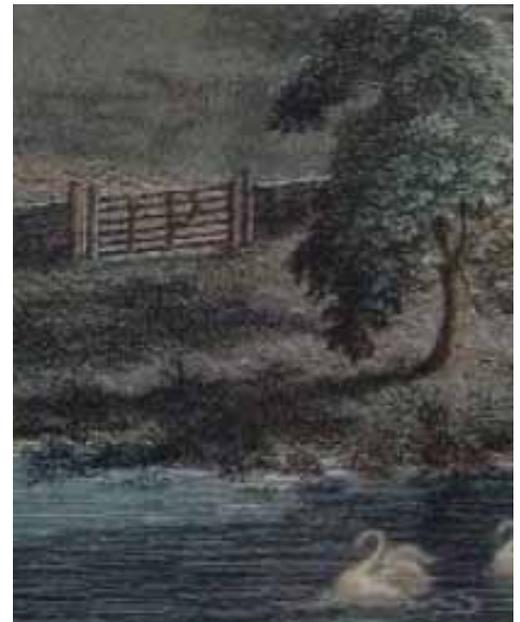
Walk down the driveway to the first speed bump then go left across the lawn. Stop when you are facing the blue doors of the house that marked your first stopping point. Listen to Track 2.

2. Art beats Nature

Barrow House front lawn



Engraving of Barrow Cascade House viewed from Derwent Water (1800)
© Private Collection



Detail of Pocklington's initials
© Private Collection

Directions 2

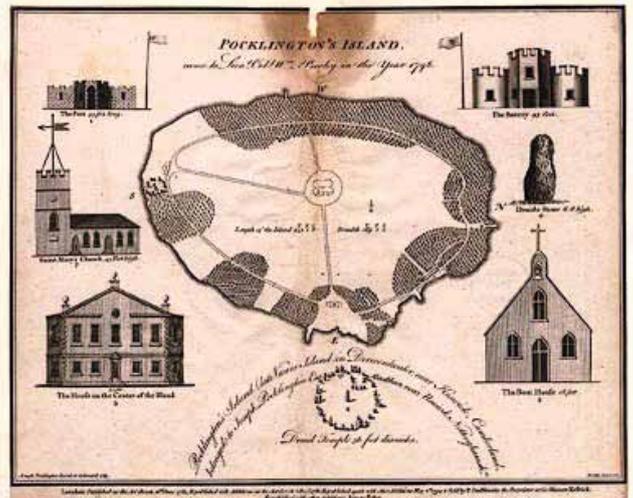
Stroll back across the lawn to the drive. Turn left and walk to the bottom of the driveway. Cross the road with care and step down to the lake-shore beach. Go down to the edge of the water. Listen to Track 3.

3. Pocklington's follies

View of Derwent Island from Barrow Bay



Pocklington's Island, showing his grand house and chapel-style boathouse (1786)
© Wordsworth Trust, Dove Cottage



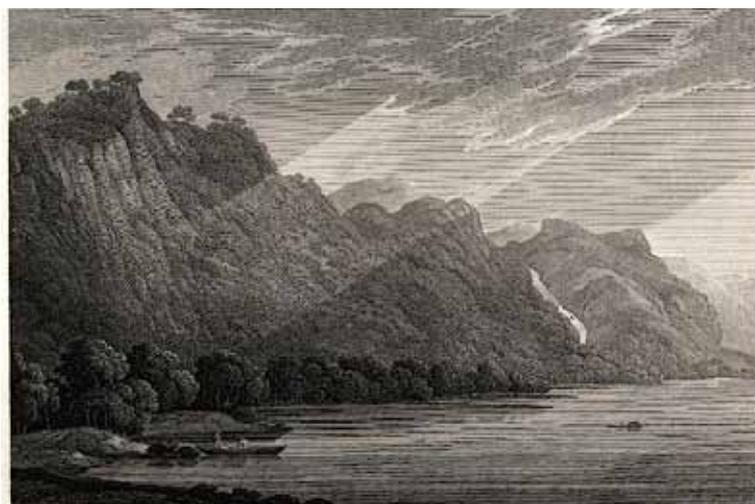
Map of Pocklington's Island including details of the boathouse and fort (1783)
© Armit Library

Directions 3

Walk around the lakeshore with the lake on your right. Cross a wooden footbridge (over Barrow Beck) from where the path becomes very well defined. Stop just after passing two large trees on the right where you should have a good view of the south end of the lake and the Lodore jetty. Listen to Track 4.

4. Painting the picturesque

View of the southern end of Derwent Water



Joseph Farington's 'East side of Derwentwater looking towards Lowdore Waterfall' (1815)
© Private Collection



JMW Turner's 'Keswick Lake (Derwent Water)' (1835)
© Trustees of the British Museum



W Radclyffe's 'Keswick Lake, Cumberland (after JMW Turner)' (1837)
© Tate Britain

Directions 4

Continue along the lake shore path to reach Kettlewell car park. At the car park, cross the road and follow the path marked Lodore half a mile. Shortly after the entrance to the Mary Mount Hotel on the right, the path divides. Follow the left-hand path marked with an arrow. The path twists through woods. After a short descent, turn left to go uphill to the Lodore Falls viewpoint. There is a bench which you may wish to sit on. Listen to Track 5.

5. The renowned cataract

Lodore Falls



Sketch of Lodore Falls by JMW Turner (1797)
© Tate Britain

Directions 5

Retrace your steps towards the foot of the falls and cross the small metal footbridge at the back of the Lodore Falls Hotel. Follow the service road around the back of the hotel to meet the main Borrowdale Road. Cross the road with care and then turn left to walk along the narrow roadside footpath with a public toilet block on your right and the road on your left. Follow the roadside footpath for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile until you are level with High Lodore Farm. Listen here to Track 6.

6. A serene scene

View of Skiddaw, Lodore Farm



'View of Skiddaw' by Thomas Stothard (c.1809)
© Tate Britain

Directions 6

Continue along the roadside footpath with the road on your left. Pass the Borrowdale Hotel and the Leathes Head Hotel. The last section of the path moves down to the riverside, signposted Grange. Just before the path meets the stone bridge at Grange, turn right to walk through foliage to the stony river bed. Position yourself on the stones so that you have a good view of the bridge. Listen to Track 7.

7. An awful amphitheatre

Grange Bridge



'Grange Bridge, Cumberland' by William Havell (c.1807-08)

© Tate Britain

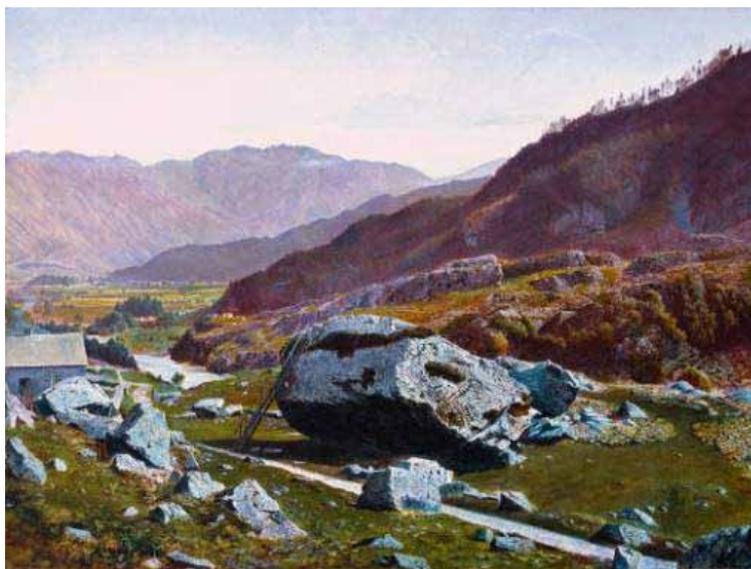
For comparison with Stothard's 'View of Skiddaw' see the previous page

Directions 7

Retrace your steps to the path and follow it up to the road. Continue along the roadside footpath with the road on your left all the way to the Bowder Stone car park. Cross the road but do not go through the car park. Instead, head for the wheelchair-friendly path signed for the Bowder Stone. Follow this firm, gravelly path with a fence and a disused quarry on your left. The path goes gently uphill to a gate. Go through the gate and continue along the path. Stop in front of the Bowder Stone. Listen to Track 8.

8. A ship upon its keel

The Bowder Stone



'The Bowder Stone' by John Atkinson Grimshaw (c.1863-68)
© Tate Britain / Private Collection

Directions 8

To reach Stop 9 there is a fairly steep climb.

Take the left hand path from the Bowder Stone. It becomes more uneven as it descends to the Borrowdale Road. Go through the wooden gate at the bottom of the path and cross the Borrowdale Road with care. Turn left along the roadside path with the road on your left and the River Derwent on your right.

Follow this path for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile until you reach a lay-by on the left where there is a wide wooden gate and a Public Bridleway signpost (Picture 1). Cross over the road and go through the gate. Then follow the stony bridleway straight ahead in the direction of the signpost arrow. The path ascends quite steeply at first, with an old stone wall on the right. The path then winds through woodland over a couple of small becks. After another steep climb you will reach a small wooden gate.

Go through the gate and follow the grassy path, traversing the hillside towards an area of coniferous trees (Picture 2). There are good views of the southern end of the Borrowdale Valley to the right. Keep the conifer trees on your left and follow the path round to a kissing gate in a stone wall. Go through the gate and turn left onto a stony bridleway (Picture 3).

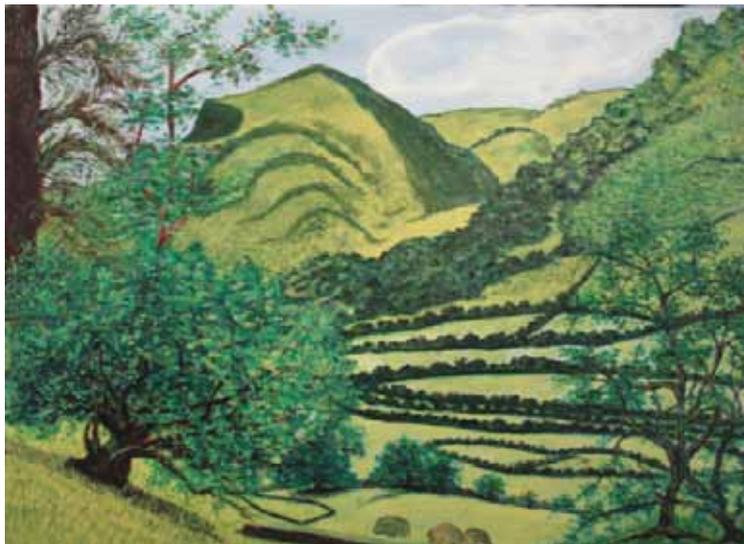
Follow the bridleway uphill passing 'the six sisters': one yew and five Scots Pines on the left. Stay on the stony path (veering right) rather than following the grassy tracks that have been made by quad bikes. Follow the bridleway uphill until you reach a wooden gate. Listen here to Track 9.

9. Walking with ice

View of Puddingstone Bank



'Borrowdale Valley' by May Stephenson (1967)
© The Dock Museum



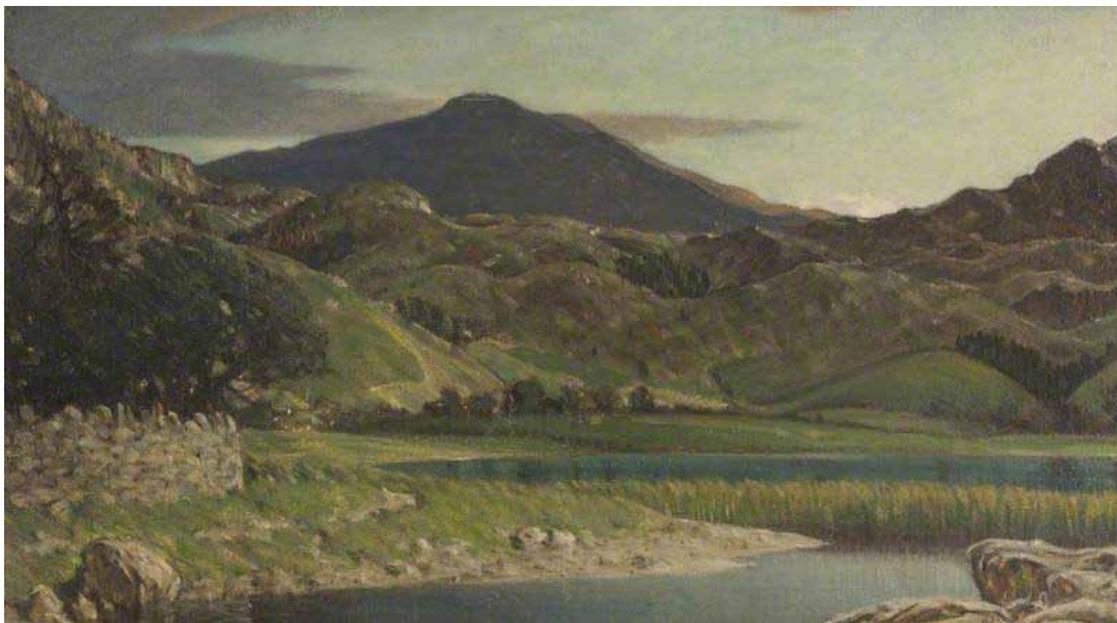
'Lakes (Borrowdale Valley)' by May Stephenson (1967)
© The Dock Museum

Directions 9

Go through the gate and continue along the well-defined bridleway. The path is fairly level for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile then descends into the Watendlath Valley with glimpses of Watendlath Tarn through the conifers on the right. At the bottom of the path is a signpost for Rosthwaite and Dock Tarn. Bear left towards the neck of Watendlath Tarn and go through the wooden gate in the stone wall. Take a few steps and stop next to a large stone on the right (just before the widest part of the stream). Listen to Track 10.

10. Unchanging landscape

View of Watendlath Tarn, just beyond the gate at the tarn neck



'Watendlath Tarn near Keswick' by Sir Charles John Holmes (1919)
© Harris Museum and Art Gallery



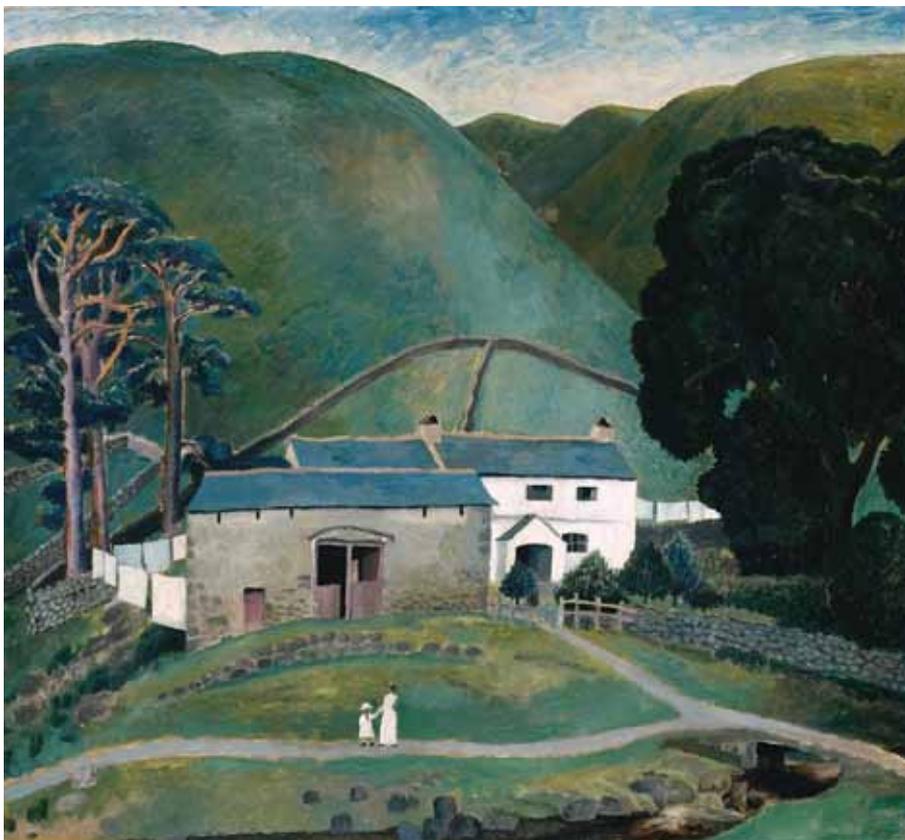
A recent view of Watendlath Tarn
© Katy Moore RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Directions 10

Continue along the beck-side path to the stone bridge. Cross the bridge and bear left to follow the road between two barns. Stop by the signpost for Rosthwaite and look ahead at the white cottage called Steps End Farm. Listen to Track 11.

11. Spot the difference

Lane in front of Steps End Farm, Watendlath



'Farm at Watendlath' by Dora Carrington (1921)
© Tate Britain

Directions 11

Bear right to follow the sign for the National Trust car park. Walk through the car park where you will see an information board about Watendlath and a public toilet block. Go through the small wooden gate and take a couple of steps (just to clear the gate for other people!) before stopping in front of Fold Head Farm. Listen to Track 12.

12. Farming in the fells

Fold Head Farm, Watendlath



'Farm at Watendlath' by Donald Goodby (1991)
© Royal Birmingham Society of Artists

Directions 12

Walk down the right side of Fold Head Farm to the edge of Watendlath Tarn. Turn right along the track, following it round to the stone bridge. Stand on the bridge. Listen to Track 13.

13. Abstract reflections

View of Watendlath Tarn from Packhorse Bridge



'Watendlath Tarn' by Ernest Pascoe (1960)
© Royal West of England Academy

Directions 13

Continue over the bridge and go through a wooden gate on the right signposted High Lodore and Ashness 1 ½ miles. Stop after just a few steps to look back at the bridge. Listen to Track 14.

14. Please use the correct address!

View of Packhorse Bridge before Watendlath Tarn



'Watendlath' by Guy Nicholls (1966)
© Government Art Collection

Directions 14

Continue along the path towards Ashness. You will be walking down the Watendlath Valley with Watendlath Beck to your right. Follow this path for about 1 ¼ miles until you reach the large wooden footbridge which crosses Watendlath Beck.

Just before you cross the bridge, look down at the cobbled path to see a triangular stone marking the three directions in which you can travel. You are now going to follow the route towards Keswick. Cross the bridge and follow the path for a short distance until you reach a wooden gate on the left.

Go through the gate and follow the stony path, climbing gradually uphill. Where the path meets the road at a footpath signpost, turn left along the road. After a short distance is a small car park on the right and a great view on your left. Walk down to the viewpoint which is known as Surprise View. Listen to Track 15.

15. Surprise, surprise

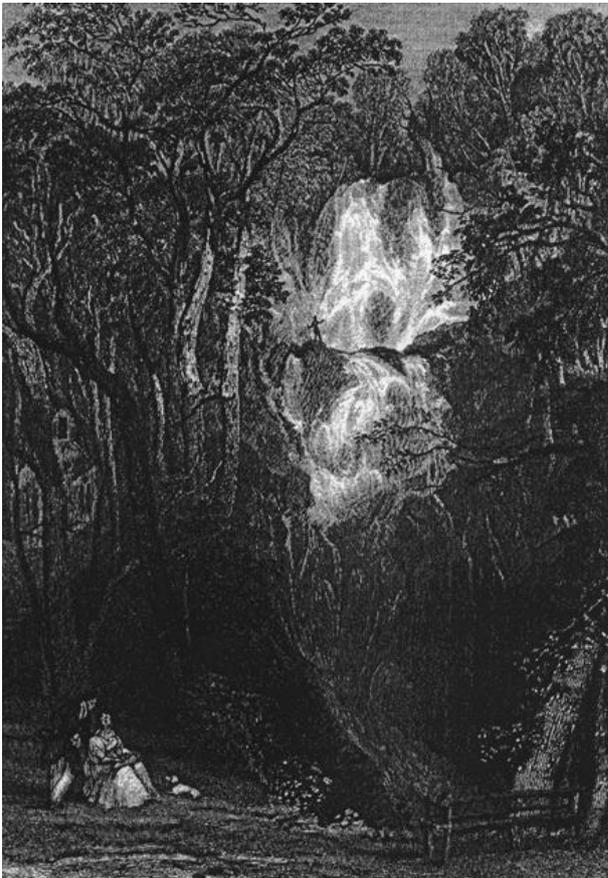
Surprise View, opposite the two small National Trust Car Parks on the Watendlath Road

Directions 15

Rejoin the road and follow it downhill all the way to Ashness Bridge. Cross Ashness Bridge and continue along the road for a short distance until you reach a gate on the left. Go through the gate and follow the path with Barrow Beck on your left. Stop at the bottom of the first flight of stone steps next to the padlocked wooden gate. From here you can see the top cascade and plunge pool of Barrow Falls. Listen to Track 16.

16. From the Sublime to the ridiculous!

Barrow Cascade and grounds



Left:

Barrow Cascade, drawing by Thomas Allom, engraved by H. Bond (1834)
Courtesy of Jean and Martin Norgate

Above:

Detail showing Joseph Pocklington's hermitage

Directions 16

Continue down the footpath to the rear of Derwentwater Hostel. This will bring you round the leftside of the house and you will emerge onto the terrace, back where we started. Listen to Track 17.

17. A walk of art

Terace of Barrow House

Directions 17

We hope you have enjoyed the walk. You are now back at Barrow House where we began. From here you may like to explore Derwent Water lake or visit nearby attractions, such as Castlerigg Stone Circle near Keswick or Honister Slate Mine.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

Katy Moore for creating the walk, providing photographs and the audio commentary

Caroline Millar for editing the walk materials and audio files, acting as narrator and providing photographs

Rory Walsh for compiling and editing the walk resources

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The Dock Museum, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Royal West of England Academy, Science & Society Picture Library and **Tate Britain** for kind permission to reproduce the artworks of Borrowdale

Brian Clift, David Iliff and **Fiona McCarthy** for providing additional images

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