

Lancashire Walks



Warton Crag

Warton Crag is the Lake District's introduction card. On the southern edge of the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Beauty its rocky prominence attracts the eye as you drive north of Lancaster on the M6. Yet of the millions of visitors headed for Windermere, Ambleside and Keswick few would consider making a detour to this lovely knoll.

Start: Carnforth Railway station. For readers arriving by car follow directions from the car park at the foot of the Crag. Leave the M6 at junction 35 and take the M601 to the A6. On reaching the A6 roundabout turn right. After 1000m turn left into Borwick Lane. When you reach the village turn left into Main Street. Continue towards the church turning right into Crag Lane. The Warton Crag Local Nature Reserve car park is on the right just 700m from the village.

Distance: 12 Km or 7½ miles from Carnforth Station / 8 Km or 5 miles from nature reserve car park.

Time: 3 – 4 hours (rail users) 2 – 2 ½ hours (car users)

Terrain: Mainly easy walking across fields and through woods with an ascent of 160m (almost 500ft).

Note: At time of writing footpath from Warton to Millhead was temporarily closed. Readers are advised to follow road back to Carnforth.

1. Carnforth Station to Warton Crag summit. (3 Km or 2 miles: 1 hour.)

From the station, walk down the approach to Warton Road. Here turn left and after walking under one railway bridge, **(Pic 1)** turn left just before the next one into Shore Road. Bear right after another pair of bridges. In 300m cross the river over a footbridge joining the Lancashire Coastal Way. Keep on it along a strip between river and railway. At Sands Lane turn right. After 500m turn left onto a footpath. **(Pic 2)** Keep straight on this, over a stile up to Crag Lane. Turn right on Crag Lane to arrive at the nature reserve car park on the left. Look for a footpath on the right and take it to walk into the nature reserve proper. **(Pic 3)** When you reach a second entrance from the lane bear left up through trees to a kissing gate. Go through this and turn left climbing steadily up along the edge of the crag. Ten minutes of steady climbing will bring you to a fence above the car park. **(Pic 4)**

To reach the summit cross the fence and look for a narrow path on your right. Follow this to a stile below a rocky shelf. Beyond this a short scramble will keep you on a path bringing you to a beacon and trig. Point. **(Pic 5)**

2. Summit to Warton Village. (6 Km or 4 miles: 2 hours.)

With the beacon and trig. point on your right, follow the path to a sign post in the woods. Take the direction for Crag Foot. On reaching a wooden gate turn left. **(Pic 6)** This track will bring you to Crag Lane. Turn right. **(Pic 7)** At the next junction follow footpath sign for Coach Road. In 150m turn right along a track and past a field turn left into woodland over a stile. **(Pic 8)** The way now is up. Pass through a metal gate into pasture. **(Pic 9)** Follow the path until you reach a forbidding "Private No footpath" sign. Here bear left through a gate and follow faint path. **(Pic 10)** When you reach a red gate cross stile **(Pic 11)** and bear right. After crossing pasture and a stone stile **(Pic 12)** the way flattens out along an improving track. At Peter Lane **(Pic 13)** cross to a squeeze stile and walk up to a metal gate. Keep on path as it passes a lime kiln and drops into woodland. With a wall on your right look for a wooden gate marking an entrance into Hyning Scout Wood. **(Pic 14)** Almost immediately inside the wood the path forks. Keep left descending gently through the trees. When you reach a broader track bear right. Following the base of a rocky shelf you will arrive at a track with Warton in view across a field. Here turn left to reach Hyning Road. **(Pic 15)** Turn right and walk into the village.

3. Village to Station. (3 Km or 2 miles: 1 hour)

Car users turn right into Crag Road to return to the car park. Railway users bear left past church and walk down to a children's play area. Turn left and go through it, then turn right onto a path that will bring you into a housing estate. Turn right and then left just before No.24. **(Pic 16)** Pass through metal kissing gate with a utility building on the left. The footpath to will bring you to Millhead joining Warton Road. Turn left for railway station.



Map by
Chris Wayatt
at the
Blackpool Gazette

Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



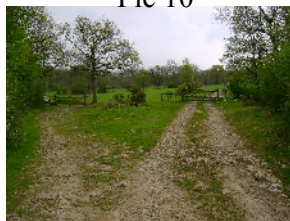
Pic 8



Pic 9



Pic 10



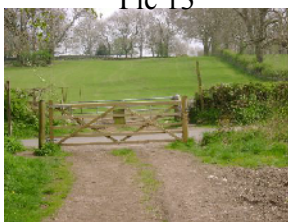
Pic 11



Pic 12



Pic 13



Pic 14



Pic 15



Pic 16

