

Bowness Viewpoints - Brant Fell, Post Knott, Biskey Howe 2 hours 3.5 miles

Turn left out of Ivythwaite's front gate. Walk to the end of Prince's Road. Turn left at the junction, where you will find a grand property called Oakthwaite. Head up Thornbarrow Road, admiring Loughrigg Fell and the high fells of the Langdales to your left.

At the crossroads, turn right onto Park Road, heading towards Windermere Park. Go straight ahead at the junction with Lickbarrow Road. An uphill 200m detour left here will provide you with your first views of Lake Windermere. Where Park Road bears to the right, take the footpath to the left, signposted Bowness ½ mile.

After 30 m, take the path to the right. You'll walk past bungalows to the right and open fells to the left. After another 250m, take the path to the left over a stone stile. Follow the path straight ahead, past a turning to the right through a narrow gap in the stone wall.

When you reach the road, go straight on. The road bears to the left. After 10m, go left through the wooden gate in the wall, into an open field. Be careful – this field is often muddy. Follow the path across the field to the gate and stile in the wall at its far side. Keep the farm buildings to your right.

Pick up the road and go straight ahead. Where you reach a T junction, leave the road and go straight ahead, following the yellow marker sign through the gate. You will see the summit of Brant Fell in the distance. **P1** Take the path straight ahead through the next gate, then aim for the gate and stile at the far end of the field. You will pass farm buildings and a greenhouse on your right.

Go through the stile and follow the stone footpath for 20m where you cross a farm track. There are two paths to the left to farm buildings with a holiday let wooden caravan in the grounds. The path to the right has a cattle grid. Go 30m straight ahead along an often very muddy path to a gate with views through the trees ahead of Lake Windermere.

Immediately after the gate, go up the stone stairs ** to the left and follow the meandering path that goes steeply uphill. The path bears to the left, gets even steeper as it passes through trees, eventually reaching a moss-covered dry-stone wall. Go left. Go over the stone stile then over the wooden stile into the lower fells with the summit of Brant Fell ahead. There are a number of routes to the summit. Keep your eyes on the summit so you can fully savour the views when you make it. **P2** On a clear day, you will get views of the lake, Belle Isle, Grizedale Forest on the other side of the lake and the Langdales to the north. You will find a pair of stone pillars from a gateway long out of use. **P3**

Go back to the stone stile that you used to access the lower fells of Brant Fell. Go over the wooden stile but not the stone stile. Follow the yellow marker sign along a downhill path with woodland to the left and a stone wall to the right. Where the path ends, you will find two stone stiles. Take the one to the left and follow the undulating path through the trees. You will cross another footpath. Go 20m straight ahead to a rock outcrop known locally as a knott. **P4**

Take the path downhill to the right as you face the lake to a gate in the wall. Go through the gate and follow the footpath that bears to the left. Bowness and Belle Isle will be visible below to your left. After 400m you will reach a crossroads.

To Biskey Howe – follow the path straight ahead to a gate and stile. Pass through and follow the road as it bears to the left, past a turning left to Pine House, to a crossroads. Go straight on. The road bears to the left. At the junction 30m ahead, take the road straight ahead. At the junction, take the footpath directly ahead signed to Biskey Howe viewpoint. **P5** Take the staircase footpath next to the information sign **P6** downhill to Biskey Howe Road. Turn left downhill past Puddle Duck Lodge and Elim House to New Road. Turn left for Bowness or right uphill on New Road and Lake Road to Ivythwaite in Prince's Road.

To Bowness – turn left through the gate and follow the path steeply downhill through the fell. Go through the gate and walk down the very steep Brantfell Road. You will pass The Royal Oak pub at the bottom of Brantfell Road and the option of many pubs, cafes and restaurants immediately beyond it in central Bowness.

To retake the same route back to Ivythwaite – turn right through the gate and follow the footpath gently uphill with a wall to your left. You will eventually reach the stone stairs **. Retrace the route to Ivythwaite from this point.

