

Wild Boar Fell

ID: 283 **Distance:** 6.2 miles **Height gain:** 500 Metres **Map:** Explore OL 19 **Contributor** David and Chris Stewart **Duration** 3 Hours 20 Mins

Features Birds, Great Views, Hills or Fells

Description:

Wild Boar Fell is a neglected classic on open access land on the southern edge of the Eden Valley, with stunning views to the Howgills, North Pennines, Yorkshire Dales and even Morecombe Bay.

Though not as high as other fell tops, Wild Boar Fell feels like a proper hill. Although only a small part of the route is on a marked right of way, access to Wild Boar Fell has been possible for many years and it is now incorporated into open access land.

A sheep track leads up beside a dry-stone wall with good views of Mallerstang Valley, crossing a limestone pavement. Then there's a short stretch of bridleway to the col and easy to follow paths to the trig point at the summit.

From the summit it's across open fell, so in poor visibility your navigation skills need to be up to scratch. The route crosses Swarth Fell before cutting steeply down a grassy slope onto Aisgill Moor. You make your way across the moor (there is no clear path) to reach the road and your car.

Mallerstang Valley is very popular with birdwatchers and railway enthusiasts, as the spot just above the car park is perfect for pictures of trains on the Settle - Carlisle railway making their way up the valley.

Access info:

The start can only really be reached by car, though Kirkby Stephen is on the Settle - Carlisle railway and you could make your way down the Mallerstang Valley on foot.

By car, from Kirkby Stephen town centre head south and at the traffic-lights turn left onto the B6259 signed to Nateby. In Nateby keep straight on and continue up Mallerstang until the road bends left over a bridge across the railway line. Immediately after this bridge there is a parking area on the left.

From the south take the B6259 north from the junction with the A684 Sedbergh to Hawes road, at the Moorcock Inn. Look for the car park three miles north of the junction, just before a bridge takes you over the railway.

Additional info:

There is no pub on the walk itself but a three-mile drive south to the junction with the A684 brings you to the Moorcock Inn. A warm welcome for walkers at any time of year, good ales and home-cooked food awaits. www.moorcockinn.com

The Black Bull in Nateby, on the road back to Kirkby Stephen, is a bit posher. The food is very good though fairly expensive. Alternatively there are lots of pubs and tea shops in Kirkby Stephen itself. See www.walkeden.org



1

Grid ref: SD7743296958 **Lat:** 54.36765 **Long:** -2.34886

From the car park area turn right and cross the bridge. Walk down the road past farm buildings on your right and a large converted barn (with pretty gardens) on your left. Walk beyond this house, crossing the river.



2

Grid ref: SD7739697639 **Lat:** 54.3737608 **Long:** -2.3494508

Immediately after the bridge over the river, turn left through a gate (very rickety and tied up with string). Walk up the track which bends left and goes under one of the arches of the railway viaduct.



3

Grid ref: SD7725297539 **Lat:** 54.3728556 **Long:** -2.351675

Immediately under the viaduct bear right and continue on the track. It follows a dry-stone wall on your right.



4

Grid ref: SD7716298130 **Lat:** 54.378166 **Long:** -2.3531041

Keep following the dry-stone wall as it climbs gently up the side of the fell.



5

Grid ref: SD7724898780 **Lat:** 54.384009 **Long:** -2.3518296

Where the dry-stone wall turns sharp right you need to keep going in roughly the same direction, or if anything bearing slightly to the left, towards some large boulders. If using a compass the bearing from the wall corner is about 350 degrees. Pass through the boulders and continue to Waymark 6, where you can see a bridleway coming up the fellside.



6

Grid ref: SD7708399566 **Lat:** 54.3910679 **Long:** -2.3544305

Cross the scattered limestone pavement, losing as little height as possible to meet the bridleway (by this point marked by the occasional post). Join the bridleway as it climbs diagonally up to the ridge.



7

Grid ref: NY7654400020 **Lat:** 54.3951227 **Long:** -2.3627562

On reaching the ridge turn left and climb fairly gently along the ridge up to The Nab.



8

Grid ref: SD7636999175 **Lat:** 54.3875213 **Long:** -2.3653898

From The Nab take the right-hand of these two grassy paths towards the trig point at the summit of Wild Boar Fell. In good visibility the stone shelter surrounding the trig point is visible on the horizon.



9

Grid ref: SD7579598829 **Lat:** 54.3843828 **Long:** -2.3741998

Leaving the trig point, carry on in almost the same direction as your approach to the trig point, just a few degrees to the left. The path is indistinct but you are essentially following the line of the ridge, although the top of the ridge here is very flat. If using a compass the bearing is approximately 215 degrees.



10

Grid ref: SD7538998266 **Lat:** 54.3793067 **Long:** -2.3804056

At this point you pick up a wire fence, making navigation a whole lot easier. Follow the fence along the ridge, keeping it on your left.



11

Grid ref: SD7520997957 **Lat:** 54.3765253 **Long:** -2.3831511

Keep the fence on your left as you drop down to a col where it meets a dry-stone wall. Just before the wall you can cross the fence by a very rickety stile. Climb up onto Swarth Fell on the other side, taking the track that climbs diagonally right up the slope.



12

Grid ref: SD7539596814 **Lat:** 54.3662602 **Long:** -2.3801916

As the track levels out, bear left and head for the cairn ahead at spot height 681 on the OS map.



13

Grid ref: SD7558796668 **Lat:** 54.3649588 **Long:** -2.3772318

From the cairn continue along Swarth Fell on an easily followed grassy track.



14

Grid ref: SD7589896136 **Lat:** 54.3601905 **Long:** -2.3723982

Drop down off Swarth Fell into the dip or col before Swarth Fell Pike. Do not go up Swarth Fell Pike but turn left into the gully that runs away from the col. There is no path from now on, you have to make your own way across open fell, but the terrain is reasonably easy (if occasionally boggy).



15

Grid ref: SD7607996056 **Lat:** 54.3594795 **Long:** -2.3696096

The initial descent is quite steep on a grassy slope, so take care. Skirt round to the left of the reedy patch in the bottom centre of this picture. Then head more or less straight downhill, picking up the left-hand edge of Far Cote Gill. There is a small sheep track alongside the gill which can be followed down to the road. Just before reaching the road bear left to cross a small stream and walk parallel to the road for about 50m to find a gate and stile. You are back at the car park!

