

Tarns and tranquillity amidst beauty of Borrowdale

Distance 6miles/10km • Total ascent 1500ft/460m



This issue's Geotrail is centred on what is arguably the most picturesque dale in Lakeland, Borrowdale. In fact, Wainwright thought it the most beautiful square mile to be found. The trail visits two tarns in secret locations, passes two tearooms and a couple of country pubs, and uses good paths throughout.

We start in the quiet hamlet of Stonethwaite, from where a sharp climb on a well-engineered path takes us up through ancient woodland teeming with bird life. Within a short time you are above the woods and in open country. This area is well known for the heather that is in abundance here. Towards the end of the summer it is

like a purple carpet speckled with the greens and browns of the bracken as autumn fast approaches.

Dock Tarn is a haven of tranquillity lying as it does in a hollow surrounded by small rocky prominences. The surface of the tarn has water lilies and reeds, and it is said that the fishing is good here, especially for trout. The one thing that strikes you most about the area is the feeling of wilderness, even though civilisation is not far away.

From Dock Tarn we descend to the brooding Watendlath Tarn and the small hamlet of the same name. Fold Heat Farm was visited by Hugh Walpole in 1929 and used as the main setting for his second (and best) Herries novel 'Judith Paris', a must

read for all devotees of Lakeland. In another novel, Nicholas Herries is brought to Watendlath by his servant to witness a witches sabbath.

Within the hamlet is a small tearoom that offers homemade cakes and scones, but be warned, the tearoom is closed from 31 October. From Watendlath we ascend Puddingstone Bank and then make our way down to Borrowdale and our return to Stonethwaite.

Start from the small car park in Stonethwaite (NY 2624 1375). The first cache is at grid reference NY 26762 13597. The clue is: *By the stile by the wall by the tree.* The cache will be in a sandwich-sized box wrapped in a bin liner. Inside you will find a grid reference and clue for your next

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

OS Explorer (1:25,000) OL4 English Lakes North West area map, compass and GPS (with spare batteries).



USING A GPS ON A GEOTRAIL

Enter your grid reference as a waypoint on your GPS. Name and Save. Locate the grid reference on your map. Ask your GPS to GOTO. Remember a GPS will only give you a straight line bearing to your destination, so you will need to refer to your map, use footpaths on the ground and contour.

ON THE RIGHT COURSE

Peter Judd and Simon Brown specialise in navigation training for walkers and Geocachers using GPS, with programmes devised for every level of experience. A good place to start is by attending one of GPS Training's introductory courses, followed by their classroom and activity-based one-day courses.

cache. In the last cache you will find a password. Remember the password and e-mail it to peter@gpstraining.co.uk to be entered into our prize draw. One lucky winner will win a voucher worth £20. GPS Training vouchers can be spent on any of GPS Training's goods or services, and make the ideal gift for the GPS enthusiast.

Trailmaster Tony Warren