



STORRS HALL

## Whitbarrow Scar

We're continuing with our suggestions for lesser known but sensational walks around the southern lake district – this gets you away from the congestion of better known routes and hopefully, will show you an unexpected new aspect to lake district walking.

Due to Windermere's enduring popularity it can sometimes be discounted as a walking destination, but if you head south from Storrs to Cumbria's coastal hills you find some spectacular little gems, and what they lack in height, they massively overcompensate for in unique habitats and vast views. They punch way above their weight.

Whitbarrow Scar is a bit of a superstar by any standards. A huge whaleback summit plateau, edged by towering cliffs swathed in ancient Temperate Rainforest – one of the rarest habitats in the world. It has hundreds if not thousands of miles of 360° views, from out to sea over the Kent estuary, Morecambe Bay, and down to Wales over Lancashire, round over Yorkshire and Cumbria's western fells, over the cluster of central lakes mountains in the north, then out to where the western fells end on the Irish Sea coast.

The diversity of views is matched by the different wildlife habitats, from the rainforest woodlands, to the limestone pavement on the summit. The link to Cumbria Wildlife Trust's page gives you more information about this beautiful natural environment. The woods are rich in fungi, ferns, mosses and lichens, and the grassland plateau is home to rare butterflies and insects, as well as seasonal wildflowers. These limestone hills are free draining, stream free, and tend to allow drier walking – the soil is thin, not water retaining deep peats hence their distinctive wildlife.

We strongly recommend that you have a paper Ordnance Survey map, as well as the OS app, (signals can be unpredictable on the hills); on the app, via the links below, you can click on a 'start fly-through' option in the left hand side panel to get a virtual reality bird's eye view of the route before you try it. Please do dress appropriately - whilst the top of Whitbarrow is broad and undulating, the wooded paths up the side can be narrow, rocky and steep in places; and being so coastal new weather systems can sweep in quickly – at least you'll have the benefit of being able to see them coming!

The OS pick of walks is very thorough and from reputable sources, we have chosen to share two OS walks here, one is the classic loop which ends with a steeper descent by the direction given here – try it in the other direction if you prefer to walk steep inclines upwards. <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/3836046/Country-Walking-Whitbarrow-Cumbria>

The second map takes in more of the beautiful rainforest on Whitbarrow's western flanks, and is a slightly longer walk. <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/521096/Trail-Magazine-Old-smoothies> The OS app cost us £29 a year, and we can rely on its accuracy and information, never mind the added benefit of fly-throughs and 3D maps. The route card on the left gives a description and directions from each of the numbered waypoints labelled on the map.

\*For advice on walking safety please visit <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/things-to-do/walking/top-walking-tips> (We'd say sometimes walking poles get in the way, and if you're on thin limestone soil the pointed ones will rip right through it creating damage).

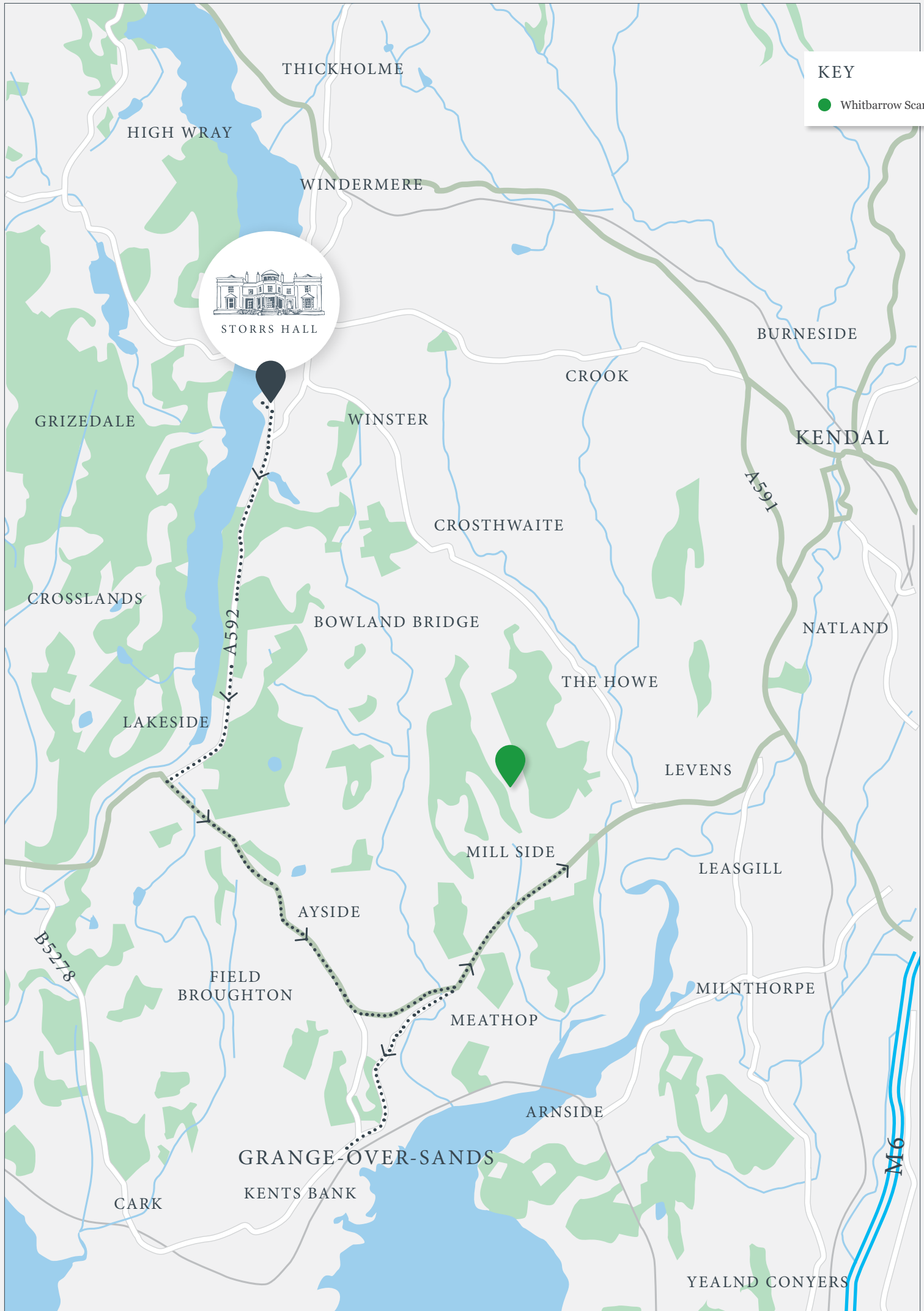
<https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/countryside-code> The ldnpa weatherline is reliably accurate too: <https://www.lakedistrictweatherline.co.uk/>

## WHITBARROW SCAR



\*Whitbarrow is under 30 minutes' drive away from Storrs, turn right on to the A592 and head to the roundabout at Newby Bridge, then left again along the A590. Turn left again at the roundabout for Grange over Sands, heading West towards Kendal – you will now see Whitbarrow ahead of you on the left; take a left turning for Mill Side, where there is limited free parking on the old road parallel to the A590, and into the village. Please be considerate of gateways and access for farms and village residents.

<https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/whitbarrow-hervey-memorial-reserve>



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● Whitbarrow Scar