



## 6. Pooley Bridge to Howtown Walk

Description:	Rewarding walk with great views across the lake
Starting Point:	Pooley Bridge 'Steamer' Pier
'Steamer' Options:	Glenridding to Pooley Bridge on Steamer, then walk back to Howtown and catch the Steamer back to Glenridding
Distance:	6 miles / 9 km
Difficulty:	Fairly Easy
Terrain:	Some uphill stretches and can be boggy in places
Duration:	3 hours average
Footwear:	Boots/sturdy shoes
Clothing:	Waterproofs during wet weather
Toilets &	
Refreshments:	Glenridding or Pooley Bridge piers or villages, or on the 'Steamers', or Howtown Hotel Public Bar (March-October only)

**Always check the weather forecast and boat times before your walk**

1. Disembark, walk down Pooley Bridge pier, through the pier house and turn right following the pavement towards Pooley Bridge village. Cross the bridge and stay on the pavement through the village, passing the pubs and shops until you reach the mini roundabout. Here, take a right and follow the signpost for Howtown . You will soon reach a crossroads at which you should carefully cross STRAIGHT OVER the road and continue up along Roe Head Lane. This lane will take you up to a path signposted Helton which rises over Barton Fell Common. You'll get superb views across the lake from here.
2. Continuing along the path you will reach a cairn - at this point take the right hand path signposted Public Bridleway to Howtown Roman Road . This stretch of track offers great views eastwards towards Blencathra, otherwise known as saddleback due to its shape. After a short while you will reach a stone circle, known as 'The Cockpit', [INFO ABOUT STONE CIRCLE AND GENERAL AREA] from which you should again take the right hand path heading along the lower path towards Barton Park Wood. As you head down, the views down the lake towards the Helvellyn range are excellent. You will pass Barton Park Wood on your right and continue along the path which heads down towards another smaller group of trees, Austerstone Wood. Keeping this on your right, walk straight along the path and do not take any of the lakeshore diversions off to your right.
3. Keeping to this path, with a dry stone wall on your right, you will eventually cross a small bridge over Swarthbeck Gill. The path gradually descends as it approaches Howtown Bay, eventually reaching a substantial stone house immediately adjacent to the right of the path. Follow the dry stone wall around until you reach a gate (it has a 'no cycling' sign on it) taking you through the grounds of the house. Keeping left you will reach the next gate which exits the grounds and takes you down and through yet another gate onto the road next to the Howtown Outdoor Centre. Carefully cross the road, turn left and through the gate a few metres away which takes you down towards Howtown 'Steamer' pier. Walk along the pier and wait for the boat to arrive.

OPTION: If you are early for the 'Steamer' then go back to the road, bear right and along to the nearby Howtown Hotel Public Bar for a drink. The hotel is open March-October.