

# Walk 1-M Sandwich, Ullswater & the surrounds of Hallin Fell

*Encircling an iconic Lakeland Fell*

## Distance:

5 or 6¾ miles (8.0 or 10.9km)

## Cumulative Height

1,250 or 1,500 ft.

Our rating: Moderate

**Local services:** There are no shops or services close to Hause Hall and Cruik Barn. The nearest settlement of Howtown lies at the eastern foot of Martindale Hause where there is a hotel, a tea room and regular Ullswater ferry services to Glenridding and Pooley Bridge. A signposted tea room lies about ½ mile along the shore path to the west of Sandwich.

**Start grid:** NY434191

**Map:** OS Explorer OL5

The English Lakes North-eastern area

This walk begins in the courtyard to Hause Hall. It firstly takes the valley road south to visit Martindale Old Church (St Martin's) before crossing the foothill of Beda Fell into Boredale. It then passes through Sandwich onto the shore path for Ullswater to pass around Hallin Fell to Howtown Pier. The return to Hause Hall is across the lower fellside slopes to the back of Howtown with an extended walk opportunity north-eastwards to Bonscale and Swarthbeck.

## The Walk

**1.** Leave the courtyard southwards and pass through the main gateway to Hause Hall onto the local road junction. Keep ahead along the Howe Grain valley road for about ½ mile to reach the old Martindale church of St Martin, which may be visited. *The church is dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours, an earlier French patron saint. The present building was probably erected at the end of the C16<sup>th</sup>, replacing an earlier the chapel, the last reference to which occurs in a document of 13 April 1541. In 1839, William Ford, in his book "Description of Scenery in the Lake District" described the building as "a chapel with low roof and simple bell-gable, and a picturesque yew-tree".*

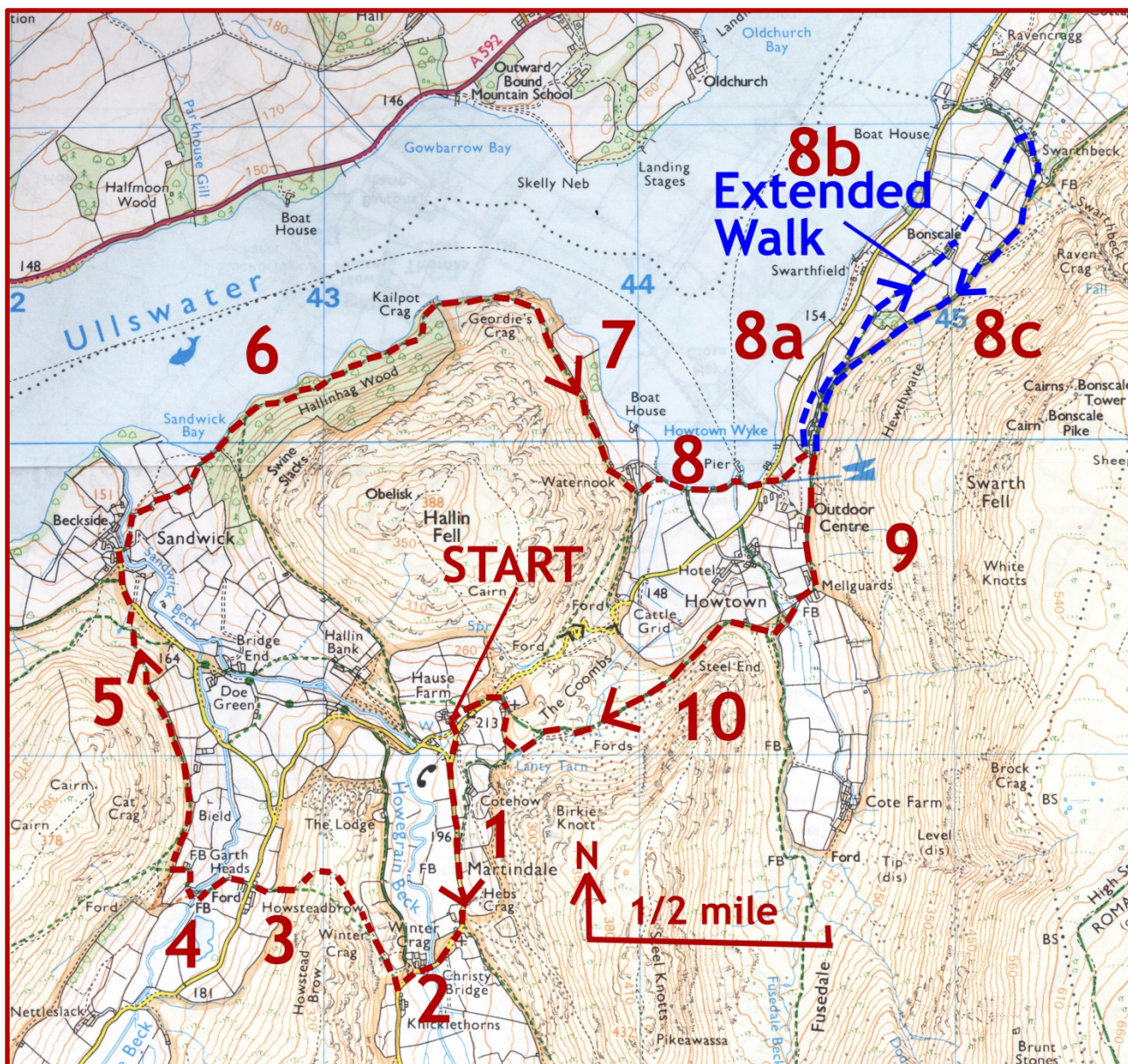
*The date of the establishment of a place of worship on the site of St Martin's is unknown but it is mentioned in a de Lancaster Charter of 1220 and other references state that a chapel was already in existence at that date. In its early days and up until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 St Martin's was served by the monks of the parish of Barton. In 1633 the parish of Martindale was founded and Richard Birkett became the church's first resident priest, he served until his death on Christmas Day 1699, after a ministry of almost 67 years.*

**2.** Keep along the road and cross the bridge over Howgrain Beck. Pass beside the farm 'Winter Crag' then, at a corner by a barn on the left, turn sharply right, off the road, onto a signed footpath to Boredale.

**3.** Follow the direction indicated on the sign and make across a section of grassy hillside to reach a clear path with a wall on the right side. Rise uphill along this path which climbs the northerly flank of the Beda Fell ridge, turning gradually to the left to reach a cross junction of paths on the ridge, where there is a lone seat. Cross over the ridge and drop downhill on the opposite grassy path, at times quite steeply and eventually pass through a gate to reach the local Boredale road.

**4.** Cross over the road onto the opposite track (Public Footpath sign), pass through a gate (adjoining stile) and continue gently downhill towards Boredale Beck. A stone clapper bridge is sited just beyond the place where the track fords the beck. Cross over this bridge then bear right and cross marshy ground back to re-join the track. Pass through a gate ahead then rise steeply uphill along the track as far as a stone barn. Bear left in front of the barn and continue up the hillside to the upper right corner of the area of pasture. Climb over two adjoining stiles onto the open hillside.

5. Turn immediately right at this point and with a boundary wall to the right side proceed across the hillside. Where the wall turns sharply to the right, after about 1/3 mile, continue on then drop steadily down the hillside along a path that veers gradually to the right. This path eventually reaches the local road near Sandwick. Bear left here along the road and drop downhill to the road end at Sandwick hamlet.



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6. Turn right at the road end pass through a gate and cross a bridge over Sandwick Beck (signed 'Footpath to Howtown'). Bear left from the bridge then, with some evergreen trees to the right, continue alongside a wire fence. Turn right in front of a gate ahead (Public Footpath sign) and rise gently uphill with a wall to the left. The path, which is very well signed, crosses a low hill shoulder to drop down again alongside Sandwick Bay (four gates en route). Continue on (now signed 'Howtown 1 1/2 miles) and climb steps followed by a gate to enter the lakeside Hallinag Wood. *Note: Though the path through the wood is clear to follow it is very rocky and infested with tree-roots in places. Great care is needed to avoid tripping and falling.* Continue along the path through the wood, which rises and falls above and close to the Ullswater lake shore, to reach an exit gate after 1/2 mile beside Kailpot Crag. *Kailpot Crag is a rocky promontory set above a deep water section of Ullswater. The Crag is used regularly by the 'Outward Bound Trust' for students to jump from as part of their outdoor adventurous learning activities in 'inspiring locations'.* Pass through the gate then continue on, close to the shore, to then rise up a craggy path to the promontory of Geordie's Crag. From here panoramic views can be enjoyed along Ullswater towards Pooley Bridge.

7. Pass round the promontory then continue along the clear path, rising uphill before dropping gradually down, with a wall coming in from the left, towards Howtown Bay. Pass beside the property 'Waternook' then turn left, through a signed gate in the wall, to drop down steps through woodland towards the lake. Keep alongside a wall and pass through two further gates to reach the tarmacked drive to 'Waternook'. Turn right, along the drive, then keep ahead from where it turns to the right. The path from here continues beside the shore (passing through two gates). It then crosses a footbridge to reach a T junction on a section of decking. To the left here is the jetty which is the calling point for the Ullswater Steamer services.

8. Turn right here, drop down the ramp and continue along the shore path to reach a gate that opens out onto the Howtown launching ramp. Cross the ramp followed by the local road (somewhat on the diagonal) and up a short ramp to a gate (signed Swarthbeck 1 mile). Bear right from the gate and climb diagonally up a field towards the property 'Swarthbank'. Pass through a gate into a small enclosed wooded area at a junction of paths. At this point to continue along the main route turn sharp right, rise up and pass through a gate. Bear right again up a ramp to join up with a higher contouring path.

*If you wish to continue along the longer route follow the directions given in paragraphs 8a-8c. Otherwise continue from paragraph 9*

8a From the enclosed area proceed along the left hand path and pass through a gate into a first field. Continue along the length of this elongated field, keeping the boundary to 'Swarthbank' close by to the right. At the further end pass through a gate onto an @enters 'Swarthbank'), leave the access, and pass through a gate into a second field. Continue along the upper reaches of this field to reach a high wall stile in a projecting wall ahead. Climb carefully over the stile into a third field and continue ahead to cross a footbridge alongside some woodland. Next, pass through a gate into a fourth field, and rise up ahead to reach another gate. Pass through into a fifth field then bear left for a short distance and through a gate into a sixth. Once in this field bear up right towards the property 'Bonscale', pass through a gate and pass across the frontage of the property.

8b Leave through a gate ahead into a seventh field and make gently downhill to pass through a gateway and alongside a short section of high wall. Bear up right then and cross the remainder of the field to a stile (nearby gate). Keep ahead across an eighth field, followed by a ninth (gate between) and then through another gate into a tenth. In this field continue along the upper edge and out in the further corner through a gate onto the frontage of 'Swarthbeck'. Pass to the further side of the property and turn right and uphill along a clear rising farm track.

8c Pass by the various farm buildings, through a gate and up to the right across a paddock area. At the higher level keep a wall to the right side and cross a ford to a gate. Once through keep ahead, along a contouring type path that comes in from the left. This path lies at the foot of Swarth Fell and after about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile comes along the top side of the property 'Swarthbank'. When passing by this property on a second occasion veer off right at a shallow path junction to reach a further shallow junction with the path emerging from the 'enclosed' area visited earlier. *Continue then as described from paragraph 9.*

9. Once on the higher path continue on for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and pass through a gate at the path end beside the property 'Mellguards'. Drop down a few yards in crossing the forecourt to the property then turn off left, through a gate, onto a signed pathway. Drop gently downhill along a rather soggy grassy path and pass over a 'clapper' type bridge across Fusedale Beck. From here rise up to cross a concrete access road. To your right here is a sign that points ahead: Martindale Hause  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

10. Cross over the access road and rise steeply uphill beside a wall to the right. Continue along a clear wide track which drops a little before rising steadily uphill along the flank of Steel Knotts, with Hallin Fell over to the right. Once at the top of the rise keep with the path to reach Lanty Tarn. Turn right here to shortly pass alongside St Peter's Church, which you may visit. *Construction of St Peter's began in 1880 on an acre of common land at the top of Martindale Hause. Local stone from the surrounding fells was used in the construction, the church opening in January 1882.* Drop down from here and cross over the local road, then turn left along a grassy path that leads to a gate. From here descend gently downhill across a field to pass through the side entrance gate into the courtyard to Hause Hall and the end of the walk.