

Walks from Running Hare



Follow the Stream



Follow the Stream: Mill Beck in Queen's Park to Lake Windermere

Meander down the hill with Mill Beck to Lake Windermere in Bowness

Following the journey of a stream invites you to look at your surroundings a bit differently, as Mill Beck wends its way through urban and rural parts of Windermere before merging into Lake Windermere.

Make a day of it exploring Bowness, different aspects of the Lake, or enjoy the shops, bars and eateries. There's also a cinema and the World of Beatrix Potter.

Length: About 3k/1.8 miles from Running Hare to Windermere Jetty; the return will be similar or shorter depending on the route you select.

Time: Less than an hour to the Lake and as short as 25 minutes back. Factor in more time to enjoy Bowness, even if it's just getting chips for the walk back 😊

From Running Hare to Lake Windermere

1. Leave the house on Limethwaite Road, turn left along the pavement to the steps by the bench and bin. Go down the steps into the park and immediately go right to the closest corner of the field to see the first stream, Scout Beck, coming through the bridge under the road from its source up at School Knott tarn.

2. *Following the stream within the inner periphery of the park* for a few minutes, choose (a) closer to the stream but slightly trickier underfoot or (b) easy walking.

2a. Look out for a short mud track on the right going down to the stream. It's not the first short track through the greenery, but the second, directly on the other side of the field from the two large trees at the end of Limethwaite terrace. Go down the track. Looking towards the right, is Scout Beck being joined by Mill Beck. Cross the stream, perhaps using tree roots 'bridge' and take the path to the left with Mill Beck to your right. Walk along the tarmac path where the water passes first under a footbridge then across a road-bridge linking the sport pavilion to Droomer Drive on your right (don't go over the bridges, stay in the park). Carry on walking behind the sports pavilion. Turn left at the tennis courts, up the stairs and then right to join the path in the park.

2b. Walk towards the sport pavilion, passing it and the tennis courts both to your right.

3. Follow the path past the Bowling Green on your right (with the play area on the left) and onto the woodland path. At the crossroads go left (the path on the right leads Upper Oak Street, a short cut into Windermere). The stream is on your right behind bushes. Exit on to Park Road, look back at the stream picturesquely running alongside the cottage (pictured).

4. Directly across the road, on the right of Laurel Cottage, is an opening down some steps. It took me 5 years to spot this!! Walk down the steps, then look back at the beck coming through the tunnel. Walk along this path with good views of Mill Beck where you can watch it follow its natural curving course between the houses built around it.

5. Say *au revoir* to your companion as it disappears from view whilst you walk straight ahead down Oldfield Court, taking a right into Park Avenue.

When you get to the next crossroads, take a minor detour up Woodland Road on the right to see the stream at the back of Adam's Place guesthouse. Return to your route, crossing Park Avenue to go downhill on Ellerthwaite Road with the stream on your left.

6. At Hare's Cottage on the left Mill Beck travels under the road (now called Lake Road) to emerge behind a picturesque terrace of houses. Continue on the pavement on the left, down Lake Road. Opposite is the Brookside Pub with its lovely terraces where you can nip down to say hello to the stream if you wish.

7. Return to the pavement on the left, passing the Carver Church. Cross Lake Road, go down the steps into a sunken park, the Millenium Gardens.

Optional stream search detour: turn at the *Diessen Am Ammersee* sign, going anti-clockwise on the circular path to enter the wooded area between two benches (facing the church you just passed). There's no defined path but it is possible to find the stream if you're feeling adventurous! Return the way you came.

8. Take any exit on to New Road, the main road linking Windermere with Bowness on Windermere. Cross over and turn left downhill towards Bowness. The stream crossed under the road and goes into the woods; they are private so not accessible.

9. Carrying on down the road, you will pass the Baddeley Memorial Clock Tower with its weathervane at the crossroads opposite, marking the boundary between Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere.

Nipping behind buildings you can catch occasional glimpses of the stream, but bear in mind this is private land. You can peer over the wall by Glencree Guest House to see a greenhouse dizzily balanced above the beck below.

10. Stay on the right side of the road, passing the Windermere Boutique Hotel opposite with its water fountain globe that lights up at night. Turn right onto the sign-posted public path just before the bus stop. Walk past Goodley Dale Cottages on your right, following the path into Sherriff's Wood where you enter via a metal gate.

11. You can now greet Mill Beck again, looking splendid in this beautiful, serene woodland haven away from the main road. Walk through the woods with the wall on your left and the stream on your right. When the path forks, go right to a beautiful space with a bench where you can enjoy a little waterfall and some calm, contemplative thoughts if you wish. This area is great for foraging wild garlic in the spring.

12. Return to the main path, pausing to admire the pollared tree in front of you that looks like a camel or a dinosaur then turn right back onto the main path to leave the woods.

13. Crossing Longlands Road, go straight down Millbeckstock following the signpost *Rayrigg Road 150 yds*. Notice the sign about red squirrels (sadly unlikely to see any). The stream to your right is not visible behind buildings but you might hear it.

14. Carry on downhill to the main road, Rayrigg Road, where you can see Windermere Jetty Museum opposite. Before you cross, turn right to see the stream looking glorious just past Stockghyll Cottage on your right where it runs under the bridge.

15. Cross safely and find the stream by Windermere Jetty Museum where it merges into Lake Windermere. There's a little boating lake, a museum and café (no dogs, but you can sit outside). <https://lakelandarts.org.uk/windermere-jetty-museum/>



Return options

Explore Bowness-on-Windermere with its popular waterfront, shops and eateries or head straight back to Running Hare. Either way, it's initially about a 5-minute walk into Bowness on the pavement of busy Rayrigg Road. Please note it's a right turn with your back to the Jetty Museum; or a left turn from Millbeckstock if you've not been to the Windermere Jetty. There's a couple of choices for returning home from Bowness

Urban return to Running Hare on roadside pavement, about 20 minutes

Reaching the busy roundabout, go left up Cragg Brow which then becomes Lake Road, the main road linking Windermere and Bowness. Continue uphill to Thornbarrow Road, turn left uphill, then left into Oakthwaite Road, cross over Park Road into Limethwaite Road.

Picturesque return via Biskey Howe viewpoint, about 30 minutes.

1. When you reach the roundabout, go left up Cragg Brow which then becomes Lake Road.
2. Turn right into Helm Road.
3. After passing a large hotel on your left (and Helm Close on your right), look out for a track uphill on the left to Biskey Howe. It's steep but not tricky underfoot.
4. After enjoying the amazing views, with your back to the lake, take the path to the right of the rocks walking down to Biskey Howe Road. Turn right, then turn left with the road into Helm Road up the hill. Stay on Helm Road, ignore two private roads/drives to the left and right until you see Helm Farm ahead, then turn left onto the track.
5. Follow the track through the wooden gate (that may or may not actually have a gate attached) and keep going straight on and go over the stone stile gap in wall. Turn right with the path past the houses and fields (ignore a right path in the woods) carrying along until you emerge on Park Road.
6. Turn right and walk down Park Road to the corner shop then right into Limethwaite Road.



Developers didn't tamper with the natural course of the stream here. Often in urban areas they are 'canalized'.