

## THE QUEENS HEAD

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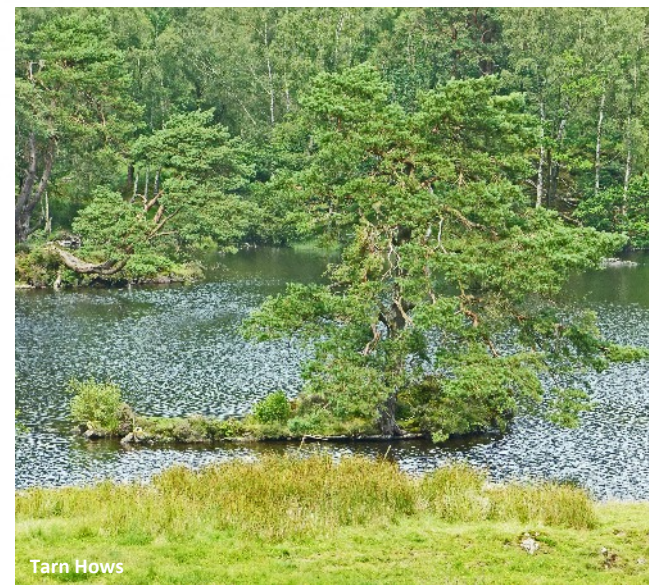
Since the early 17th century the Queens Head Inn has been welcoming weary travellers and visitors to the village of Hawkshead. Some things don't change: whether you want to drink, dine or unwind, you will find The Queens Head the perfect base to explore the beautiful South Lakes of Cumbria and beyond. We have thirteen comfortable guest rooms, all with private bathrooms.

Please check our website for opening and food service times.



**St Michael's Church** (right) has been called "one of the best Lake District churches". It was largely built in the 15th and 16th centuries, though it may have an older core and stands on the site of a Norse chapel.

**Hawkshead Courthouse** (left) is all that survives of a monastic grange. Built in the 1400s, it once served as the gatehouse into a courtyard and is unique in Lakeland. It is a Grade II\* listed building.



four circular walks from the

*Queens Head*  
Inn & Restaurant

HAWKSHEAD, CUMBRIA



### Hawkshead Courthouse

1½ miles: Easy

A gentle beckside stroll to a medieval building with pretty views in and around the village.

### Latterbarrow

4 miles: Moderate

A rewarding hike to Hawkshead's local fell, with fine views belying its moderate height.

### Tarn Hows

5 miles: Moderate

A gradual climb to a renowned beauty spot.

### Windermere

6¾ miles: Moderate

Beautiful walking alongside the largest natural lake in England, with a lofty wooded return.



# Hawkshead Courthouse

1½ miles: Easy

*Allow 1 hour. Wet grass in places after rain; one stile. The key for Hawkshead Courthouse can be borrowed from the National Trust shop in Hawkshead on receipt of a small deposit.*

Follow steps **1–5** of the **Latterbarrow** walk, below.

**6** Turn left after the footbridge and follow the becks side footpath; ignoring a path to the right, continue through a gate and follow the beck for three quarters of a mile. **7** At the end, go through another gate into a farm/campsite entrance and turn left to the road. **8** Turn right to the entrance to visit Hawkshead Courthouse. **9** On exiting the Courthouse drive, turn back towards Hawkshead and pass the farm entrance on your left and the road to Hawkshead Hill and Coniston on your right. **10** Beyond the junction, follow the Hawkshead road for 150 yards. **11** At the first house, turn right up the driveway. **12** After 200 yards, at the entrance to Keen Grounds, turn left into a field and bear right. **13** After a pair of trees, the path bears left to a kissing gate. **14** Cross the field ahead to a stile. **15** Follow the path ahead across the field to a pair of stone gateposts, where you will find a kissing gate. **16** Turn left down the track, then shortly turn right into a lane with a slab wall on the left. **17** After a gate at the end of the drive, bear left on a clear path across the field. **18** Turn left through a gate, and follow another slab wall towards the church. **19** Keep right of the churchyard past the Old Grammar School and out to the road. **20** Turn left to return to the Queens Head.

## Latterbarrow

4 miles: Moderate

*Allow 2½ hours. One stiff climb and a stony descent. Several stiles. Walking boots recommended.*

**1** From the front door of the Queens Head, turn right. **2** Turn right through the archway into Red Lion Yard. **3** Pass to the left of a stone barn at the bottom to a hand gate. **4** Cross the road into the driveway opposite. **5** Swing right at the first entrance then left, and descend to a footbridge over Black Beck. **6** Turn left after the footbridge, then shortly turn right, away from the beck (signposted to Wray Castle and Ambleside). **7** After a couple of hand-gates, at a path junction, keep left on the more obvious path. **8** Two more hand-gates lead you to Scar House Lane, a rough track. **9** Turn left for a few yards, then turn off right, through a hand-gate beneath an oak tree onto a footpath. **10** Follow the path along the right-hand edge of two fields, then turn right through a gateway and left and out to a lane. **11** Turn right and follow the narrow hedged lane. **12** After 300 yards the road bears right through woodland; ignore a permitted path into the trees on your right. **13** After a further 300 yards you reach a road junction; turn left. **14** After 50 yards, turn right onto a signposted footpath through a gate. **15** Pass a National Trust sign and climb a rocky path to the

corner of the field, where the path continues through trees. **16** At a path junction before a rock outcrop, turn left. **17** On emerging from the trees, the path climbs steeply up the bracken hillside, with rough stone steps in places. **18** At the top of the slope when the summit monument comes into view, keep left at a path junction and follow the path round to the stone pillar. **19** Having admired the view, take the path ahead, in the same direction, which leads quickly down through the bracken to a path junction in a corner surrounded by conifers. **20** Turn left over the stile and follow a stony path across the hillside to gap in a stone wall. **21** Continue through young conifers and bracken. **22** Meet and follow a plantation fence, then swing right, round the end of a slight ridge. **23** Beyond a wall to your left, steps lead down to a narrow path which leads through more bracken and scrubby woodland then climbs to a broader walled track. Turn right. **24** Follow the track with conifers on either side to a gate. **25** Continue through more open country, still with conifers much in evidence, and pass right of a rushy tarn. **26** The track continues in similar vein to a tall deer gate. **27** Descend the stony track beyond to a metalled lane. **28** Turn left for a short distance, then turn right by a sign for Crofts Head and Croftlands. **29** Turn left at a footpath sign down a track between the two houses to a gate. **30** Turn right along a fence after the gate, to a gap in the wall at the end. **31** Pass to the left of a low rock outcrop, guided by waymark posts, to a stone wall-stile. **32** Descend the steep bank to a footpath sign at the gate into Scar House Lane. **33** Take a couple of steps to your right, then turn left through a wooden kissing gate into a field. **34** Follow the hedge and trees on your left to a path junction. **35** Go through the gate on your left and cross the meadows to return to Black Beck. **36** Turn left to the footbridge and turn right over the stream. **37** Follow the driveway back to the road at Hawkshead. **38** Cross and walk back through Red Lion Yard to the main street in the village. **39** Turn left to return to the Queens Head.

## Tarn Hows

5 miles: Moderate

*Allow 3 hours. A long but mostly gradual climb is followed by a stony but gentle descent and some road walking on the return.*

**1** From the front door, turn left and walk down Main Street past the Hawkshead outlet. **2** Turn right through the gates of the Old Grammar School and enter the churchyard. **3** When the path forks, keep left to a gate at the end of the churchyard and follow the path beyond to another gate. **4** Bear right, signposted ‘Walker Ground/Hawkshead Village’. **5** Beyond a wooden gate, follow a track out to a metalled lane. **6** Turn left then immediately right through a wooden kissing gate beside some stone gateposts. **7** Cross the field to a footpath junction by a stile on the other side, before which turn left and walk up the slope to a field gate. **8** Follow the path to a stone kissing gate and continue ahead to the corner of a wood, where the path bears right. **9** After a wooden kissing gate, descend to a bridge over the stream and cross the bridge. A stony path beyond leads to another

kissing gate. **10** Cross the field ahead, crossing the drive to Thompson Ground Farm, then descend to another stone kissing gate into the road. Ignoring the path to Grizedale on the left, follow the road ahead through the hamlet of Hawkshead Hill. **11** Having passed the Baptist Chapel, turn right, signposted ‘Tarn Hows (unsuitable for coaches)’. **12** Follow this lane uphill past a phone booth and postbox to a triangular junction; keep left, then turn left and immediately right (again signposted ‘Tarn Hows’). **13** After about 80 yards, go through a kissing gate on your left and bear right, parallel to the road; swing left to a kissing gate, and follow the path beyond to the top right-hand corner of the next field. Here take the right-hand kissing gate, with a fingerpost to ‘Tarn Hows (¾ mile)’. **14** Descend through the trees to cross a small stream, and climb the hill beyond, ignoring a crossing path that leads through a gate on your right. **15** Climbing through open pinewoods, the path passes close to the road, but stay to the left of the wall, parallel to the road, until a gate on the right gives access to the road by the viewpoint car park. **16** Turn left and walk down the road towards the lake of Tarn Hows. **17** Before the car park at the bottom of the hill, turn right and walk down a broad path to the end of the lake. **18** Turn right and follow an obvious wide path, with the water on your left. Beyond a gate the path continues past a bench with views over the tarn. **19** After passing an inlet, a path (signposted to Hawkshead) joins from the right. Keep straight on (signposted ‘Skelwith Bridge & Langdales’). **20** At the end of the wood, the main path swings left; leave it to cross the stile ahead of you, leaving the woods. **21** Cross a boggy area and bear right around a low hillock, in an area of rough grassland studded with juniper bushes (ignore a vague path ahead over the hillock). **22** The path winds through bracken, with fine views to the Langdale Pikes and beyond to the left, before meeting a rough track at a stile. **23** Turn right and follow the track for a little over half a mile, with views to the pillar on the summit of Latterbarrow and glimpses of Esthwaite Water and Windermere, to meet the end of a no-through road, where you keep right, signposted to Hawkshead. **24** On meeting another road, turn right then immediately left at a triangular junction, signposted to Hawkshead. **25** Follow the narrow lane past the houses of Sand Ground. **26** After three quarters of a mile, you meet the B5285. Turn left and walk down to the junction by Hawkshead Courthouse. **27** Turn left, then right into the entrance to the campsite at Hawkshead Hall Farm; beyond the entrance gate, turn right and follow the permitted path along the beck. **28** Ignore the path heading left to Wray Castle and Ambleside, continuing along the beck until you reach a footbridge. **29** Turn right over the bridge and follow the narrow track beyond past a couple of houses to the road at Hawkshead. **30** Cross straight over and through the gate. Walk through Red Lion Yard and under the archway, beyond which turn left to return to the Queens Head.



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# Windermere

6¾ miles: Moderate

*Allow 4 hours. One stiff climb and some stony going. Several stiles. Walking boots recommended.*

Follow steps **1–10** of the **Latterbarrow** walk, above.

**11** Turn left and follow the lane through the farm, then turn right at a gateway with a footpath sign. **12** At the end of a short track, go through another gate and continue along the top edge of a couple of fields. **13** Head across the third field and bear right to a double stile in a corner. **14** Head across the field ahead to join a wall on your right leading towards a farm. **15** In the corner, go through a gate and join a farm track. **16** Turn right at a junction (‘Footpath to Wray’), away from the farmhouse and out to a minor road. **17** Turn left for a short distance then, when the road bends right, take the path ahead that leads in front of Tock How Farmhouse to a stone step-stile beside a gate. **18** After crossing a small stream, the path follows a grassy track with views over Blelham Tarn. **19** Cross another field to a slab-stile and follow the field edge beyond, bearing right to a stile. **20** Continue along the hedge then turn right into a small belt of trees and down to a footbridge. **21** Beyond the stream, follow the right-hand field edge to meet a road. **22** Turn left and walk down the road. **23** Just before a gate-lodge, turn right onto a wide path with an NCN 6 signpost to ‘Bowness via Ferry’. **24** As you approach the lake, bear right, shortly passing a boathouse (and ignoring a path off to the right, signposted to High Wray). **25** Follow the lakeside path for a mile, passing another boathouse on the way, to reach the car park at Red Nab. **26** Join the road at the end of the car park, and bear left at the junction. **27** Continue along the lane for a third of a mile, then turn right, away from the lake, just beyond Belle Grange Cottage (signposted ‘Hawkshead 3 mile’). **28** This rocky path climbs steeply through the trees for quarter of a mile, and continues to ascend, a little more gently, beyond a junction with a footpath signposted left to Far Sawrey. **29** The path levels off through more open country and meets a forestry track, where you turn left then right, onto a narrow, sometimes rocky, path through conifers. **30** On meeting another forestry road, go straight on, signposted ‘Hawkshead 2 miles’. **31** The path crosses old clearfell then meets a wall at a path junction by the corner of a plantation. **32** Continue along the track straight ahead.

Now follow steps **24–39** of the **Latterbarrow** walk, above, to return to Hawkshead and the Queens Head.



Photo: Peter Trimming (CC-BY-SA 3.0)