



British Walking Federation

PT35 WORDSWORTH WANDER



ORGANISED BY THE BWF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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DISTANCE: 11km

ENTRY FEE: £2.00 per walker (Cheques payable to the British Walking Federation)

AWARD: Cloth Badge at £2.50 each

START VENUE: Stock Lane Car Park, Grasmere. If car park is full, use Thirteen Valleys Car Park or Red Bank Car Park on far side of village and join at #

OS MAP: OL7 **GR:** NY339073

SAT NAV: LA22 9SJ

what3words ///unlimited.thin.backpacks

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Grasmere can be reached by bus from either Windermere or Keswick. Bus services vary greatly according to the time of year.

TERRAIN: The walk is mainly off road along reasonably good tracks but there are a few steep climbs.

REFRESHMENTS: There are plenty of cafes & pubs in Grasmere and a pub can be found in Rydal

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (Updated 24th October 2025)

Leave Car Park and turn left towards main road. Cross Stock Lane and cross Main Road with care. Turn right, then turn left on minor road passing Dove Cottage and Wordsworth Museum on left. Follow road uphill and after 200m reach Coffin Stone on left. Continue uphill to reach farm.

Q1. What has No Through Road in 1/2 mile?

Turn left, follow road as it swings right, signposted Coffin Route to Rydal, and continues to climb, passing pond on left. At V junction of tracks keep to left, signposted Coffin Route to Rydal, after 100m where tarmac track ends keep forward along gravel path. At Brockstone House bear right, then immediately bear left, (ignoring turning on right) and follow track as it contours along hillside going through 6 wooden gates to eventually reach a tarmac road. At road, turn sharp right and descend downhill. Continue to main road.

Q2. When was William Wordsworth warden of St Mary's Church?

At main road turn right and cross with EXTREME CARE. Turn left onto footpath opposite Badger Bar and Restaurant sign. Descend to left and cross bridge over river, turn right then immediately left uphill to gap/gate in wall. Enter woods and follow path & steps uphill towards house. Go through gate and turn right along road keeping forward as it becomes a walled lane, go through gate and take left hand path uphill to eventually reach a rocky outcrop with a cave. Continue uphill to reach another larger cave with water (Rydal Cave).

Cross open area to right of cave and take rocky path over brow of hill and then follow it as it gradually descends downhill. At junction of tracks by seat turn right downhill to wall and cross tracks. Turn right towards derelict building and in 50m turn left through gate signposted Grasmere 2.5 miles. Continue through wood descending on track with wall on right to eventually reach bridge over the river. Cross bridge and continue straight to follow path with river on left.

Q3. In 50m on blue information board on left, what is the name of the wood on either side of the river?

Continue ahead through wood keeping river on left and fork left signposted Grasmere (not Grasmere Trail!) to reach another bridge. Cross bridge and turn right along lake shore keeping lake on right hand side. Eventually follow track uphill through gate to road.

Q4. On metal plaques on gate to road, what was Brian and Eileen's surname?

Turn right on road. TAKE GREAT CARE AS THIS ROAD IS VERY BUSY, PARTICULARLY DURING THE SUMMER AND AT WEEKENDS. Follow road back to Grasmere, on reaching the village go forward passing car parks # to reach T-junction by church and turn right.

Q5. When do the oldest parts of the church date from?

Continue to follow road through village to return to car park and end of walk.

When you have completed this trail please use the [Permanent Trail Entry Form](#)

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

All Permanent Trails Registered with BWF

Points of Interest about Grasmere & William Wordsworth

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH – William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth in 1770 and educated at Hawkshead Grammar School. Wordsworth moved to Dove Cottage in Grasmere in 1799. He married Mary Hutchinson, a childhood friend, in 1802 and they had five children. William Wordsworth with his friends Robert Southey & Samuel Taylor Coleridge became what were known as 'the Lake Poets'. He moved to Rydal Mount with his family in 1813 and lived there until his death in 1850. In 1813 Wordsworth was appointed 'distributor of stamps for Westmorland' at a salary of £400.00 which gave him the financial stability to continue with his poetry. William Wordsworth was appointed Poet Laureate in 1843 following the death of his friend Robert Southey and held that position until his death. Wordsworth was buried in the churchyard of St Oswalds in Grasmere along with several other members of his family.

DOVE COTTAGE – Dove Cottage was built in the early 17th Century and for over 170 years was an Inn called the 'Dove & Bough'. It had been empty for several years before Wordsworth moved there. Dove Cottage was originally opened to the public in 1891 and has continued to develop as a museum.

COFFIN ROUTE – A coffin route was a path used to carry coffins from outlying villages to the nearest church. They were generally straighter and flatter routes. A coffin stone is a large flat stone on which a coffin could be rested during the journey.

RYDAL MOUNT – William Wordsworth moved to Rydal Mount in 1813 as his family had outgrown Dove Cottage. He lived there until his death in 1850 and his wife continued to live there until her death in 1859. Mary Henderson (nee Wordsworth), the great, great granddaughter of the poet bought the house and opened it to the public in 1970.

St. OSWALDS CHURCH - The Church is named after St Oswald, a 7th Century Christian King of Northumberland, who is said to have preached on this site. It is the parish church of Grasmere, Rydal and Langdale, and each township has its own separate gate into the churchyard. Every year on the Saturday nearest St Oswald's Day (5 Aug), Grasmere celebrates its Rushbearing Festival. This custom dates back to the days when the earthen floor of the church was strewn with rushes for warmth and cleanliness. The floor has been flagged since 1841, but the ceremony still continues.