

Grandmothers Head Hike

Getting There

From Highway 103 Exit 11, head North (the Cornwall Road) for 23km to Newburn. Turn right 5.3 km to the stop sign at Walden. Turn right. Go about 0.5 km just past house number 4181 (on the right) to the entrance to a field on your left. Park on this field.

The Hike

Walk diagonally across the field to the back corner on the right hand side. You will find the entrance to an old road which is the start of the hike. At about 0.5 km the trail divides. A blue arrow painted on a piece of plywood shows the way to go, to the left.

A further 400m or so and the trail divides again. The original old road went to the right but is so overgrown you might not notice it. You go to the left here.

Continue on for 0.7 km and you will come up a rise to a rather open and confusing spot. A blue arrow painted on a piece of plywood points to the right. Don't go this way, or you will walk 4 km back in a loop to the start! Turn left instead. The trail is not very distinct here, but if you beat down the ferns and undergrowth a bit you can find it.

A further 260m brings you to another side trail. Keep straight on, and another 200m will bring you down to a brook. Then another 200m and you cross a second brook. From here on it's just a matter of following the trail through the woods. There is tape to mark the way in some places, and where there is no trail (eg. over rock) there are arrows or tape to show the way.

After a long way, about 1.8 km, you suddenly come to a huge rock face. You don't have to climb it! Continue on the trail which loops around and up a steep hill to the summit.

At the top there is a survey monument and a "standing stone" which some people must have struggled to erect. From the top you can see for many miles in almost every direction except to the SE where the view down towards Grandmothers Head Lake is blocked by trees. To the NE you can just glimpse some water, probably a part of Nevertell lake, 3 km away.

Return by the same trail.

Total distance, there and back, is only 8.3 km but you should allow 3 hours to complete it.

