

The lakeshore on the eastern side of Coniston is a fine and varied place to spend time exploring with your camera. Natural woodland meets a shoreline of rocky outcrops and quiet bays with fantastic views to the hills and mountains across the lake. Peel Island, near the southern end of the lake is 'Wildcat Island' in Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*.

There is too much of photographic interest along this shoreline to hope to include in this book. Instead we have concentrated on just a few locations to give a flavour of the area.

What To Shoot and Viewpoints

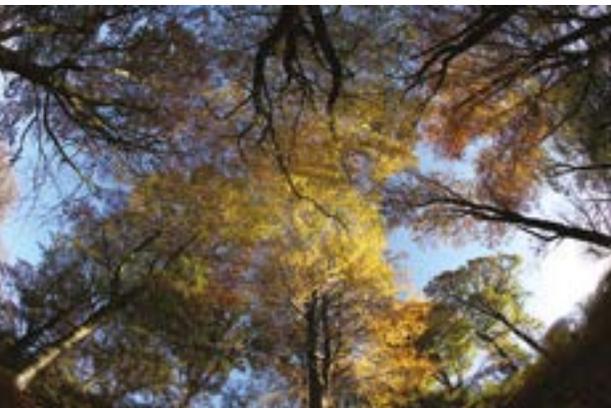
Viewpoint 1 – Low Peel Near beach shot

At Low Peel Near there is a good view from the south side of the beach looking across the water to Coniston Old Man with the headlands of Low and High Peel Near jutting out into the lake. This is especially effective early in the morning when the lake is calm for some great reflections.

It's a lovely walk through open oak woodland to High Peel Near. The heather on the lakeshore normally flowers in August.

Viewpoint 2 – High Peel Near

From the western shoreline of High Peel Near there are many spots to shoot through the trees towards Peel Island and Coniston Old Man. Use the beautifully mossy tree trunks or rocks for foreground interest or leading lines. The main photograph on the right was taken on a dull October afternoon.



A fisheye shot of autumn beech trees on the east side of Coniston Water.

Viewpoint 3 – Rigg Wood (Parkamoor) Jetty

Rigg Wood Jetty (previous page) is located 0.7 miles further north along the road. There is parking in roadside lay-bys. This is a good one for the evening with a neutral density filter to get really slow shutter speeds to blur the water. The jetty makes an excellent foreground for a beautiful sunset. The effects of early morning mist can be dramatic looking south towards Peel Island and High Peel Near.

How To Get Here

Low Peel Near is situated near the southern end of Coniston Water on the east side of the lake. From Coniston village either take the B5285 towards Hawkshead turning off right to go past the Monk Coniston Ferry Landing and around the east side of the lake. Or, go south on the A593 to Torver, turn left on the A5084 to Water Yeat, go left here, over the bridge and left again passing through High Nibthwaite. Low Peel Near is about a mile north of High Nibthwaite. There is roadside parking. Rigg Wood jetty is a further 0.7 miles along the road. There is further parking 0.3 miles further on at Dodgson Wood car park.

It's possible to take a launch from Coniston Village to Water Park Jetty at the south end of the lake. This is the nearest to Low Peel Near and Rigg Wood Jetty. From Water Park Jetty to the next launch jetty at Brantwood is about a 75 minute walk, without photo stops.

Parking grid ref: OS SD 297 908
Parking postcode: LA12 8DQ
Map: OS Explorer Map OL6 (1:25 000)
 The English Lakes south-west area

Accessibility

These locations are very easy access being so close to the road. Beyond the roadside they are not really suitable for wheelchairs due to rough ground and some walls.

Best Time of Year/Day

Autumn and winter are best for the colours and the possibility of snow on the peaks. This is a place that really warrants a pre-dawn start in autumn to catch the mist on a still lake and the first rays of sun hitting the mountains behind. This area is good any time of day however with so much to photograph hereabouts.

Useful Techniques

Composition: page 276
Panoramic Photography: page 294
Macro and Close Up page 292



Mossy oak and heather on the east shore in front of Peel Island.
 Canon 5D MkIII and 14mm, ISO 100, 1/5sec at f/22

