

LAKE DISTRICT




Outstanding Circular Walks

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guides

Walk	Page	Start	Nat. Grid Reference	Distance	Time	Height Gain
Bannerdale Crag and Souther Fell	60	Mungrisdale	NY 364302	6¾ miles (10.8km)	3½ hrs	2,015ft (615m)
Beda Fell	47	Martindale	NY 433190	5½ miles (9km)	3 hrs	1,510ft (460m)
Black Combe	86	Whicham	SD 135826	8½ miles (13.5km)	4½ hrs	2,185ft (665m)
Blencathra: Hall's Fell Ridge and Doddick Fell	55	Threlkeld	NY 324255	3¾ miles (6km)	3 hrs	2,395ft (730m)
Bowfell	89	Great Langdale	NY 286061	7½ miles (12km)	4½ hrs	2,855ft (870m)
Branstree and Selside Pike	39	Mardale Head	NY 469107	5½ miles (9.2km)	3 hrs	1,740ft (530m)
Buttermere	20	Buttermere	NY 173169	4½ miles (7km)	2 hrs	395ft (120m)
Cat Bells	18	Hawse End	NY 247212	3½ miles (5.6km)	2 hrs	1,150ft (350m)
Coniston Old Man	50	Coniston	SD 304975	5 miles (8km)	3 hrs	2,430ft (740m)
Dalemain and Dacre	22	Dalemain	NY 477270	4½ miles (7.25km)	2 hrs	445ft (135m)
Devoke Water	12	Birker Fell	SD 171977	3 miles (5km)	1½ hrs	490ft (150m)
Glenridding and Lanty's Tarn	33	Glenridding	NY 386169	5¼ miles (8.3km)	2½ hrs	1,015ft (310m)
Hay Stacks	42	Gatesgarth	NY 195150	4½ miles (7km)	3 hrs	1,870ft (570m)
The Langdale valleys	82	Great Langdale	NY 294064	8½ miles (13.5km)	4½ hrs	1,690ft (515m)
Little Mell Fell	28	Thackthwaite	NY 417252	4¼ miles (6.75km)	2½ hrs	1,065ft (325m)
Loughrigg Tarn and the Brathay	16	Silverthwaite	NY 341037	3 miles (4.6km)	1½ hrs	525ft (160m)
Loweswater	30	Loweswater	NY 135210	5½ miles (8.6km)	2½ hrs	885ft (270m)
Ravenglass and Muncaster	25	Ravenglass	SD 085964	4½ miles (7km)	2 hrs	670ft (210m)
Rosthwaite and Stonethwaite	70	Rosthwaite	NY 258148	9 miles (14.5km)	4 hrs	850ft (260m)
Rough Crag and High Street	58	Mardale Head	NY 469107	5½ miles (9km)	3½ hrs	2,100ft (640m)
Seathwaite Tarn	36	Seathwaite	SD 229962	4¾ miles (7.6km)	2½ hrs	1,065ft (325m)
Sheffield Pike and Glenridding Dodd	44	Glencoynedale	NY 386189	5 miles (8km)	3 hrs	1,935ft (590m)
Skiddaw	78	Keswick	NY 271238	9½ miles (15.2km)	5½ hrs	2,875ft (875m)
Sweden Bridges	14	Ambleside	NY 375046	3 miles (5km)	1½ hrs	755ft (230m)
Torver Commons and Walna Scar	67	Coniston	SD 304975	8¼ miles (13.2km)	4 hrs	1,425ft (435m)
Troutbeck Valley	74	Troutbeck	NY 412027	7¾ miles (12.5km)	4 hrs	1,330ft (405m)
Wetherlam	64	High Tilberthwaite	NY 306010	5½ miles (8.8km)	3½ hrs	2,295ft (700m)
Wray Castle and Blelham Tarn	52	High Wray	SD 385995	6 miles (9.7km)	3 hrs	785ft (240m)

Devoke Water

Start	Birker Fell	GPS waypoints  SD 171 977  SD 162 970  SD 152 969
Distance	3 miles (5km)	
Height gain	490 feet (150m)	
Approximate time	1½ hours	
Parking	Roadside parking spaces	
Route terrain	Rugged mountain tops and tracks; <i>not advised in poor visibility</i>	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 96 (Barrow-in-Furness & South Lakeland), Explorer OL6 (The English Lakes – South-western area)	

There seems more to this simple walk than there is. The illusion is created by the vastness of the moorland bowl in which Devoke Water reposes, one where the adjacent fells stand back and so give a distorted sense of their height. But the beauty is in the solitude and away-from-it-all-ness, a quality that is a perfect antidote to the bustle of everyday life. Throw in the fact that so few visitors to Lakeland take the trouble to find this lovely tarn, and connoisseurs of peace and quiet will find it in abundance here.

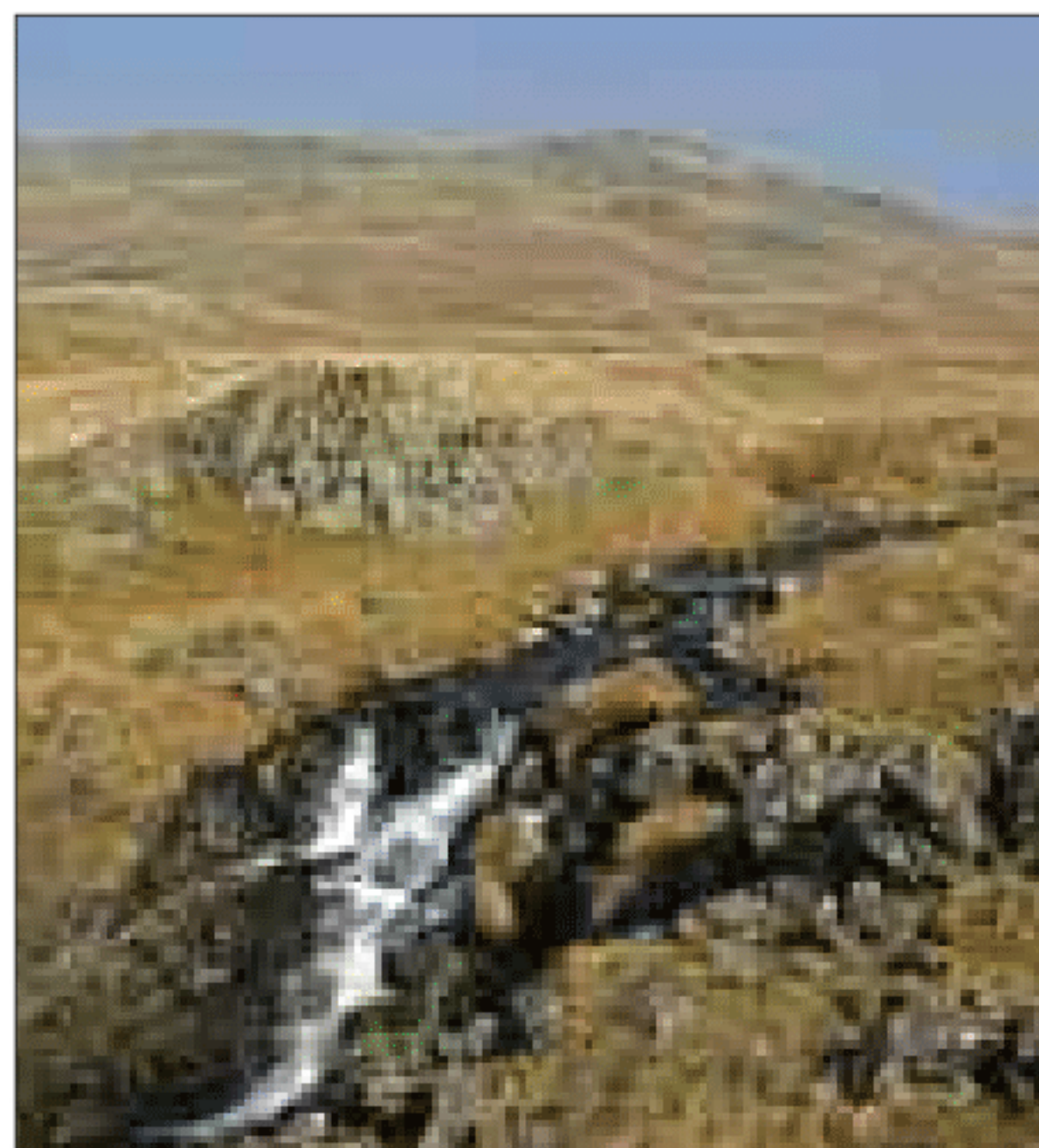
 The key to the start is a minor road junction on the Birker Fell road, where a rusting roadside signpost marks the departure of a bridleway, a broad track, racing off in a westerly direction. The track soon passes a gate and then brings Devoke Water into view, on its shores a partially ruined boat house  to which the track leads.

(This may be a sufficient walk for some, and the shores of the tarn, close by the boat house, a perfect place to take it all in and then retreat. Strong walkers may want to head for the hills that lie to the south of the tarn. The appearance of considerable height and ruggedness is deceptive, but to bring Yoadcastle and White Pike into the equation will add both immeasurably and pleurably to the day. There is no evident path to start the ascent, but none is needed, and the joy of

navigating through low crags and across the tops is paramount.)

Devoke Water is the largest tarn in the Lake District, almost a mile (1.6km) in length, and one of the highest at 775 feet (236m). There is an outflow from

Linbeck Gill and Water Crag





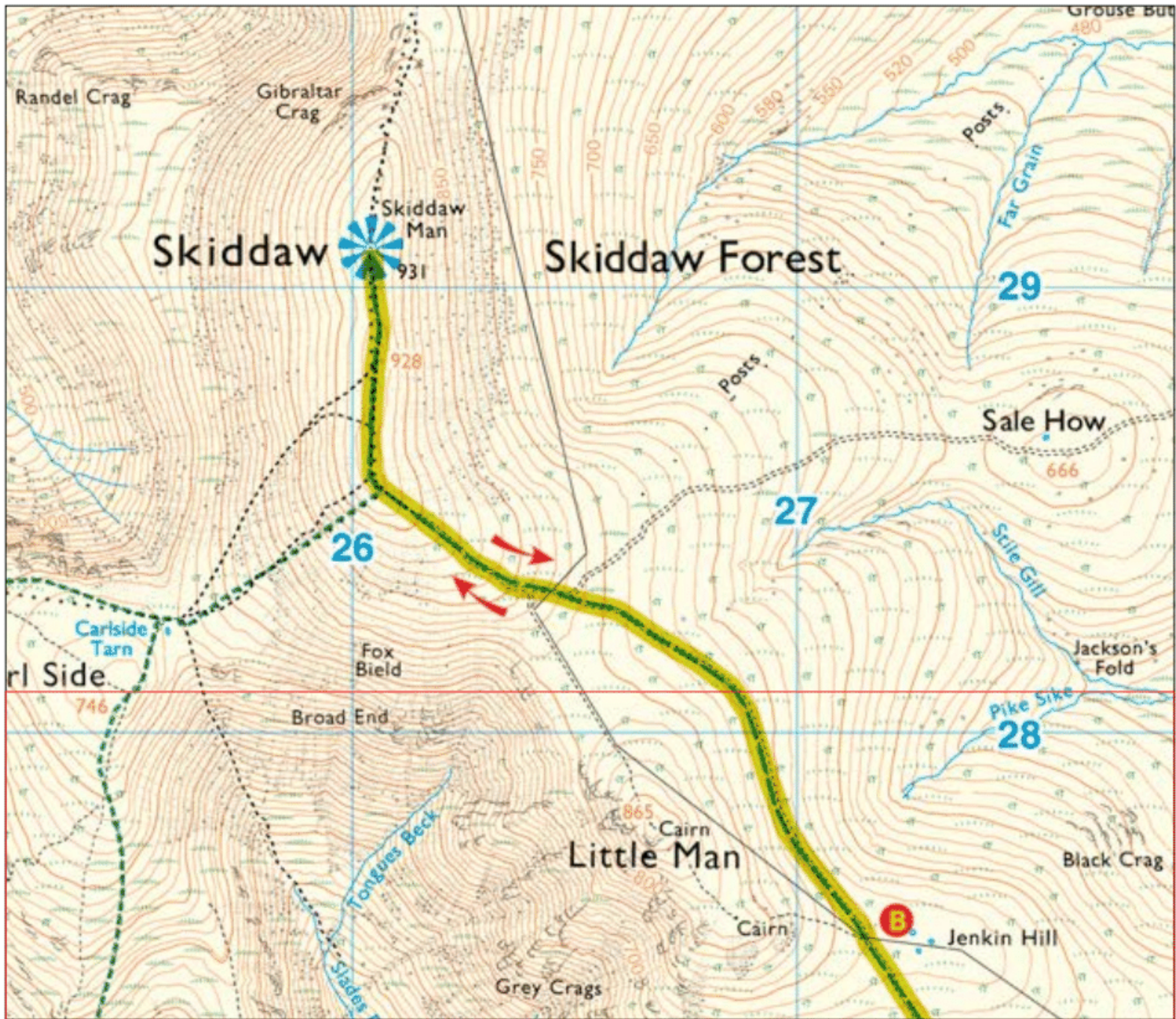
Heading for the summit of Skiddaw

leads upwards. This is the route taken by the first tourists, an undertaking described by one contemporary writer as ‘... easy even for ladies, who have only to sit their ponies to find themselves at the top, after a ride of six miles.’ Well, there are no ponies these days, nor was it ever six miles, although it may have felt like it sitting for so long on the back of a pony.

People have been ascending Skiddaw for centuries. Bishop Nicolson of Carlisle, for example, went up with friends as early as 1684... for the mere pleasure of going there. What is remarkable about this, and the

construction of a simple observatory on the summit of Skiddaw in 1689 by the geographer John Adams, is that the ascents point to a willingness to climb high mountains that is at odds with the mainstream of contemporary opinion, which viewed mountains as evil places, the abode of dragons.

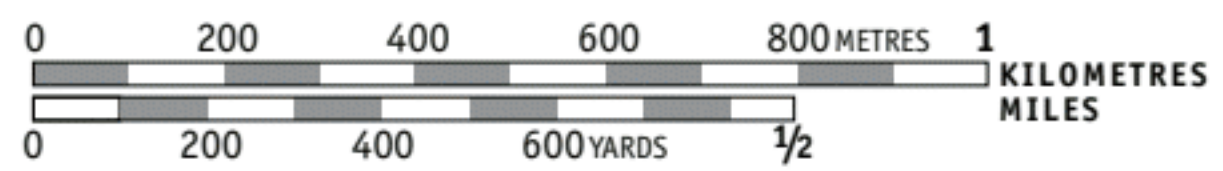
The apparent toil of Jenkin Hill succumbs to a steady, gentle gait, leading to a more relaxed gradient as the twin-topped summit of Little Man comes into view. When you reach a fenceline **B** you have the option of keeping to the west of it and taking in Little Man (though it’s easier to include



SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

that on the descent), but otherwise press on along the main trail and eventually, the terrain becoming more and more stony underfoot, you finally pull up onto the raised ridge that leads to the summit of the mountain.

As you pull onto the summit, spare a thought for that hardy breed of athletes, the fell runners, who



start from Keswick and make it to the summit and back down again in around one hour!

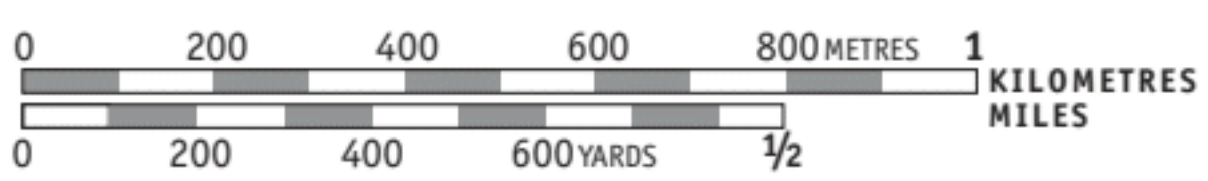
Having taken in Skiddaw's bare summit, simply turn round and follow your upward route, down. ●



Looking down on Latrigg and Derwentwater from the ascent of Skiddaw



SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



begin a long and delightful route close by the edge of Buttermere lake. The route finally reaches Horse Close, where a bridge spans Comb Beck. Continue along the path to reach a wall leading to a sheepfold and gate **B**.

Bear left through the gate to descend to and cross Peggy's Bridge spanning Warnscale Beck, and then follow a clear path out to meet the valley road at Gatesgarth Farm. From the farm you turn left along the road – take care against approaching traffic. As the road bends left, leave it for a footpath on the left for the Lakeshore Path **C**, which

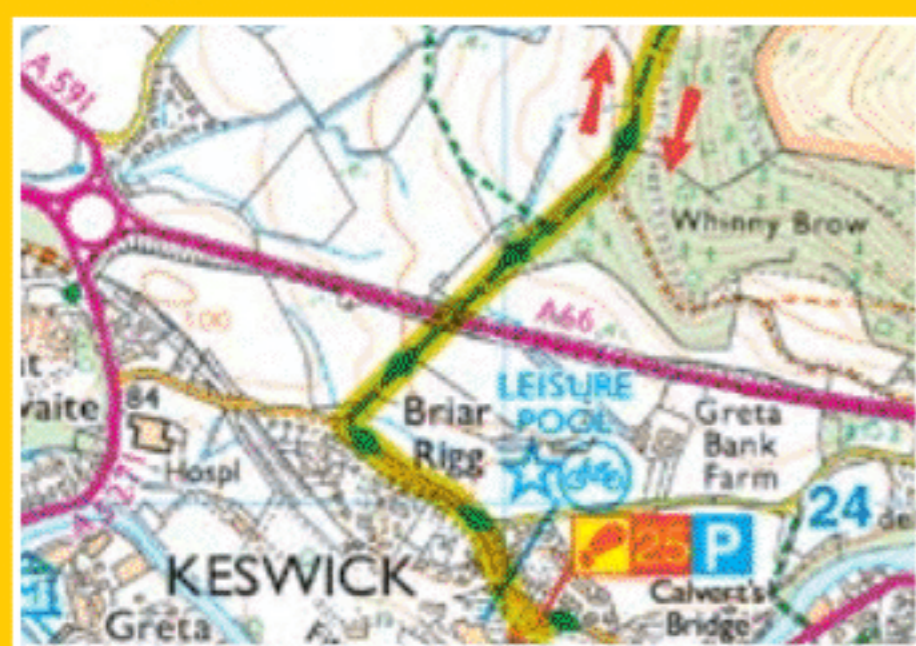
leads into a field, and presses on to Crag Wood, never far from the shoreline. The route leads you into the grounds of Hassness, a fine mansion once owned by a Manchester mill owner, George Benson. At one point the route lies through a tunnel, cut by Benson's employees so that the man could walk around the lake without having to get too far from it.

After the tunnel, a gate gives on to a gravel path through a wooded pasture, after which a right turn onto a fenced path leads to a bridge of slate slabs. Eventually a path guides you up to Wilksyke Farm, and an easy stroll out to the road. Turn left to return to the starting point. ●

Outstanding Circular Walks in the LAKE DISTRICT

160 miles of walking amid the majestic fells and the finest meres, tarns and waters of Lakeland: gentler rambles take in Devoke Water, Scandale, Loughrigg Tarn, Dalemmain, Muncaster Castle and Loweswater while Cat Bells, Little Mell and Beda Fells offer exquisite introductions to fell walking, raising the appetite for more energetic ascents of Blencathra, Bowfell and the Old Man of Coniston.

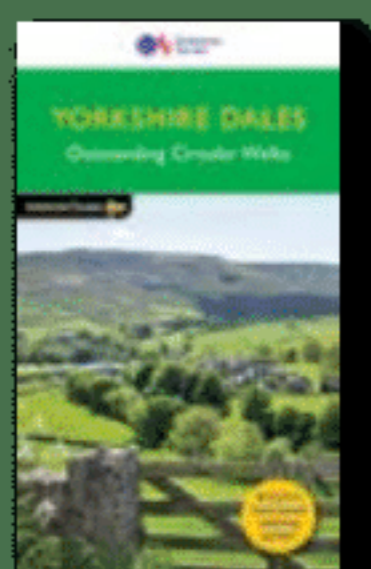
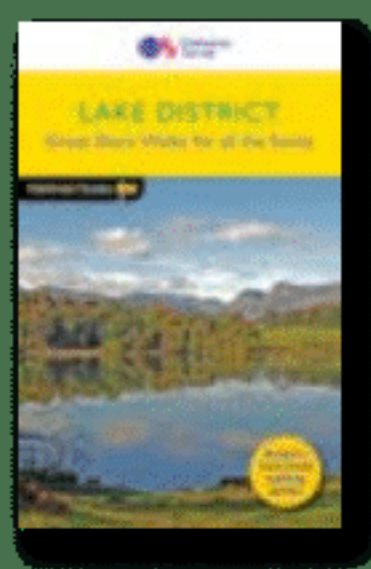
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