

8 miles/12.9km

4 hours

moderate

Highs and Lowes

Low Fell and Felbarrow stand a little apart from all the other fells around Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere. While some of the higher fells may be quite crowded, these little fells are likely to be much quieter. You may even have them all to yourself. A pleasant circuit starts with an easy walk beside lovely little Loweswater; one of the most delightful lakes. A series of tracks can be linked to approach rounded Felbarrow, followed by a little romp along a knobbly crest to reach the top of Low Fell. On a clear day you can test your knowledge of the higher fells by calling out their names from north east to south west. If there is anything visible to the north west, then that will be Scotland. Facilities are sparse in this little corner of Lakeland, so the route starts and finishes at the Kirkstile Inn, which serves food and drink.

The walk

- 1 Leave the Kirkstile Inn by walking back along the road, keeping left along other narrow roads to follow a farm access road to Watergate Farm. A track continues onwards into Holme Wood, running along the shore of little Loweswater. Looking across the lake, Darling Fell and Low Fell look quite rugged and they seem of greater stature than is actually the case. There is also a path passing a lone cottage in the wood, which can be used to stay near the shore, though the track needs to be followed out of the wood later.
- 2 Pass the farm at

the forest fence down a rugged slope. Turn right at the bottom to walk alongside another stand of forest, then drop down through the trees to reach a gate leading onto the minor road beside Loweswater.

- 3 Follow the Mosser Fell Road to the left, then turn right along a fenced track, which climbs to a gateway on a bracken fellside. Turn left to follow the lines of a fence towards the bracken slopes of Felbarrow. The fence doesn't actually cross the summit, but Felbarrow's trig point is easily reached by drifting right across a broad, grassy dome. The altitude is 1,363ft (416m).
- 4 Turn right to follow the fence away from the top of Felbarrow. The line of the fence zigzags along a grassy crest and there are stiles over any adjoining fences. The intermediate humps of Smithy Fell and Sourfoot Fell are crossed, though there is also a path which misses the top of Sourfoot Fell. The ridge path crosses a couple more fences and runs along the crest of Low Fell. The highest point bears a small cairn at 1,388ft (423m). It's worth crossing one more fence to enjoy the view from the far end of the fell, which allows a greater sense of depth, taking in both the dales and higher fells.

- 5 This last fence can be followed roughly westwards to start the descent. It drops into a little valley drained by Crabtree Reck which can be followed in turn downstream. Keep to the right of a forest further downhill and follow

- 2 Pass the farm at

DETAILS

Country Walking ID 2024

Mag Route 20, February 1999

Region North

Area Lake District

Length of walk 8 miles/12.9km

Time needed 4 hours

Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Lowland tracks and paths, followed by moderate fellwalking

Sites 7

Suitable for children, dogs

PLANNING

Parking Loweswater

Start grid ref NY141209

Nearest town Loweswater

Refreshments Food and drink at the Kirkstile Inn, Loweswater

Public toilets None

Public transport None

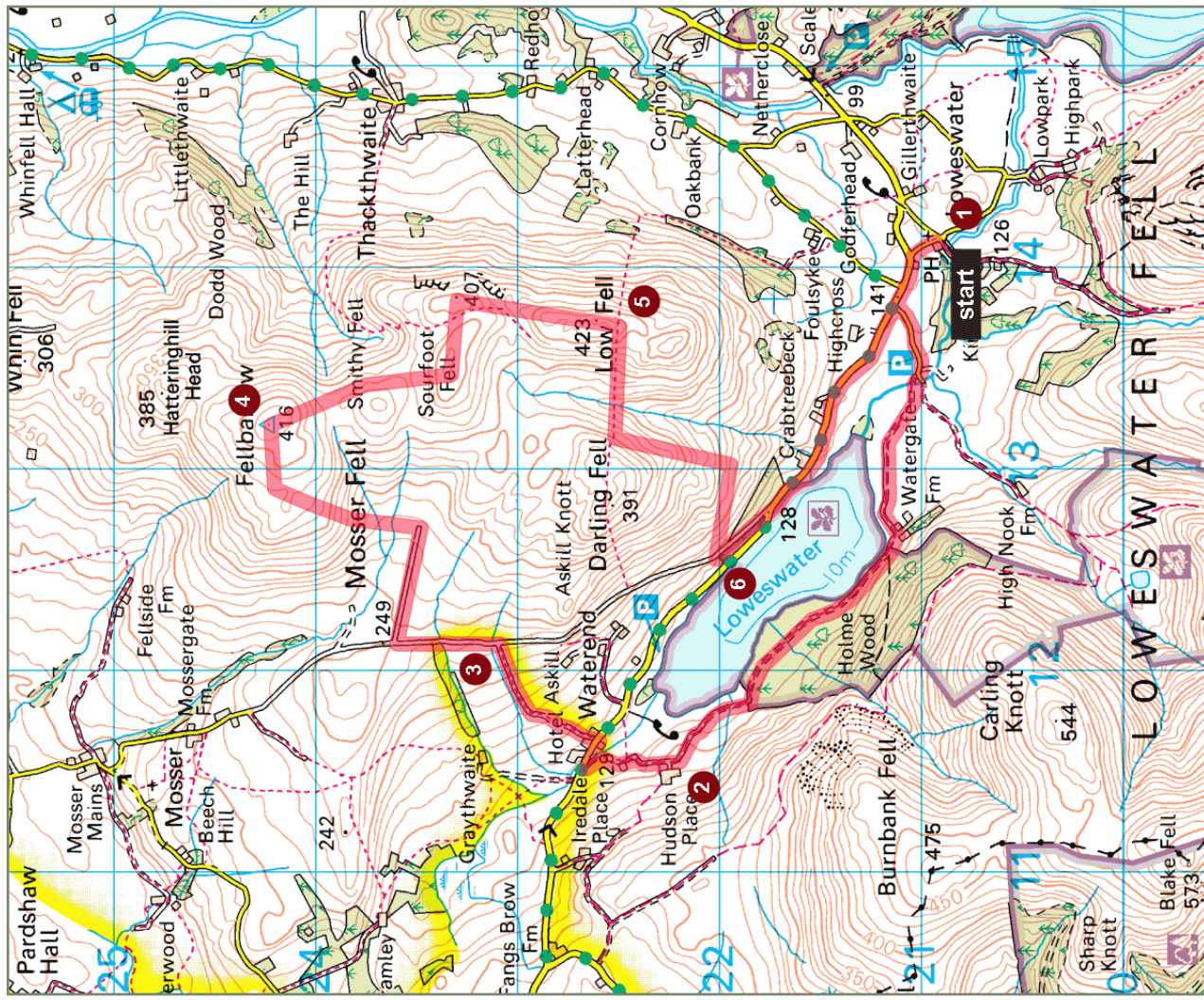
MAPS

Ordnance Survey Landranger 89;

Outdoor Leisure 4;

Harveys Walker & Superwalker Maps of North West Lakeland

PADDY DILLON



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