

14km/8.75 miles

4.5hrs

hard

## Wast Water

Head to the far reaches of the Lake District for a circumnavigation of England's deepest lake, Wast Water. Climb on to the fells atop the famous Screes and take in views of England's highest peak, Scafell Pike, before gently ambling back along the lake shore.

### The walk

**1** Follow metalled road in a south-westerly direction along lake edge until road swings R away from shore towards cattle grid. Leave road and go straight on to join lakeside path and follow past youth hostel, R, and on to headland. Swing R in front of boathouse, then take L fork in woods to keep with river, follow path with river, L, then through kissing-gate in wall to footbridge.

**2** Cross bridge and turn L to follow riverside path to track. Turn L on track and go through gate, then turn immediately R on path signposted 'To fell', with drystone wall on R (path can be a little indistinct in places). Follow path uphill, keeping wall on R, to stile on R above a stream. Turn L away from stile and follow path steeply uphill to cairn on ridgeline, where path comes in from R.

**3** Turn L to follow path along ridge to summit of Whin Rigg. From summit, walk in north-easterly direction, using cairns as markers, past tarns to Ilgill Head. There are a number of paths across this felltop – it's access land so any route is fine but be aware of the precipitous drop down the

Screes to your L, especially in poor visibility.

**4** From the summit of Ilgill Head, continue in a north-easterly direction, heading downhill and using cairns as markers towards Fence Wood. Pass ruined buildings on R and follow bridleway round R-hand edge of wood and over little stone bridge. Continue down rocky path, through gate and down to small wood. Follow grassy path through wood with house on R, to rocky track. Swing R across bridge over river, then L to follow track to metalled road.

**5** Turn L on road and follow back to start, ignoring turn to R.

### DETAILS

**Country Walking ID**  
2908  
**Mag** Route 20,  
September 2007  
**Region** North  
**Area** Cumbria  
**Length of walk**  
14km/8.75 miles  
**Time needed** 4.5hrs  
**Difficulty** Hard

### IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

**Terrain** Upland footpaths, lakeside path, country road, one steep ascent  
**Sites** None

**PLANNING**  
**Parking** Parking areas next to road on western shore, between grid refs NY148048 and NY151054  
**Start grid ref** NY148049  
**Nearest town** Gosforth

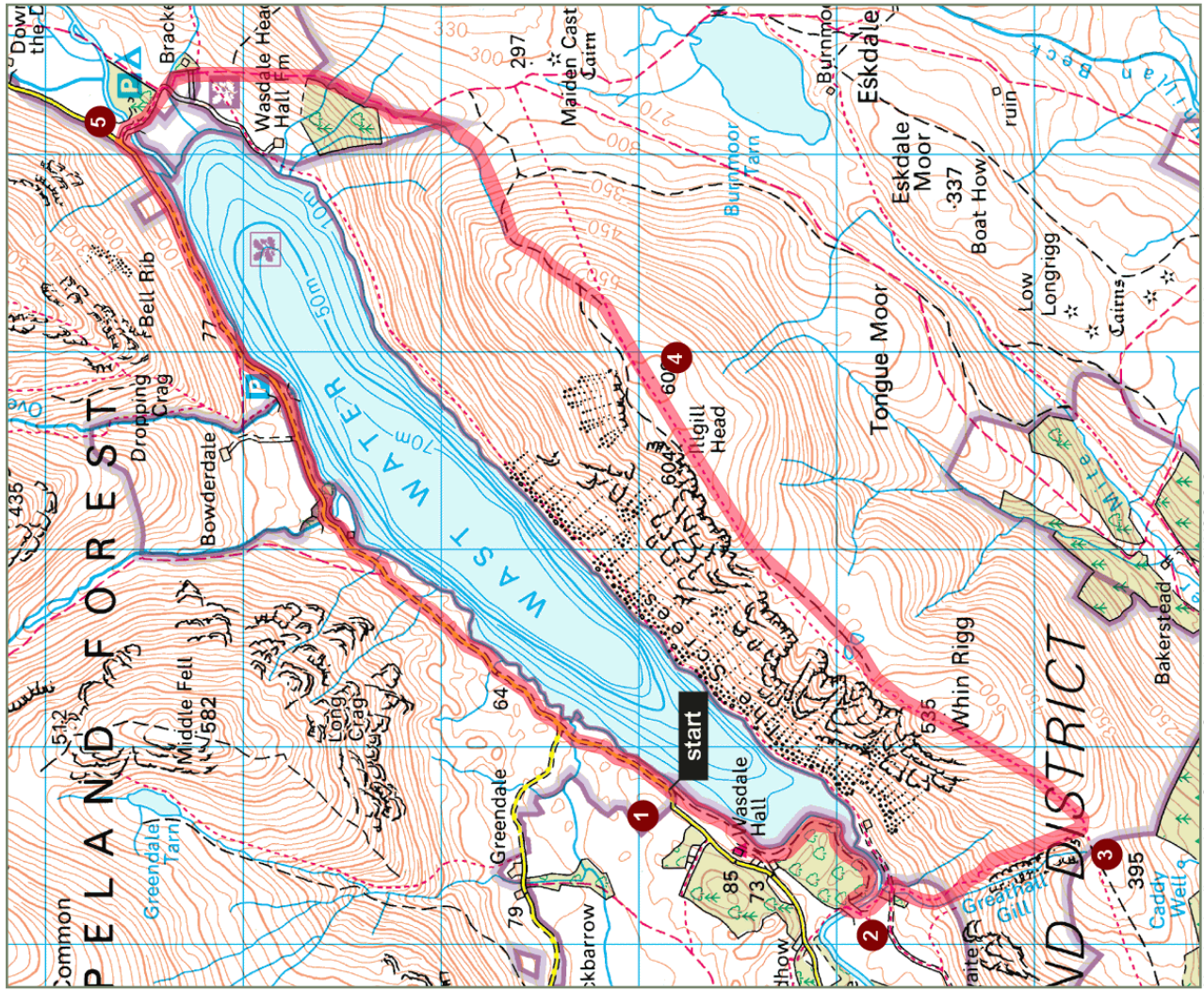
**Refreshments** Pubs one mile from route at Nether Wasdale or Wasdale Head  
**Public toilets** Wasdale Head

**Public transport** Wasdale taxibus service runs Thurs, Sat and Sun and must be pre-booked by 6pm night before. Tel: Gosforth Taxis 019467 25308 for info

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL6; Landranger 89

JENNY WALTERS



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