

## CAT BELLS

MODERATE, 15.7 km, 6h 30min, Grid Ref.: NY247212, North England

**WPT 1 [Grid Ref.: NY247212]**

The day begins with a drive along the narrow lanes to the car park at the foot of Cat Bells. The path leaves the roadside and climbs steeply up the northern nose of the fell. In summer this is steep but fairly easy, but in winter, snow and ice can make every step a slippery experience, so be prepared to use those crampons.

**WPT 2 [Grid Ref.: NY244199]**

The angle soon eases, the lungs tingle from the cold air and the view over Derwent Water provides ample opportunity to take a breather. Cat Bells must rank in any list of top ten Lakeland viewpoints, as many a chocolate box and calendar can prove! The walk continues along the broad ridge, with fine views growing across the Newlands valley to the west.

**WPT 3 [Grid Ref.: NY237178]**

The path descends to a saddle and then climbs onto Maiden Moor. Here the ridge is broad and there are crags tumbling steeply into the Newlands valley. To the west note the spoil heaps of the Goldscope mine on the slopes of Hindscarth. The ridge dips and then rises to the top of High Spy. The views back over your route and across Borrowdale to the east are exceptional, and this is your last chance to see them for a while as the path descends steeply to the swampy bowl of Dalehead Tarn.

**WPT 4 [Grid Ref.: NY231152]**

In poor weather you can descend north into the Newlands valley from here and then return to the start without difficulty. On a fine day, a steep climb awaits leading you up a scree path to Dalehead.

**WPT 5 [Grid Ref.: NY220153]**

There's a stunning view from Dale Head down the whole length of the glaciated Newlands valley to Skiddaw. The walk continues north-west along a clear ridge known as Hindscarth Edge, with the Buttermere valley to the left and more views of the Newlands valley to the right. Given more time you could extend this walk to Robinson and then descend north-east into the valley, but in winter a shorter route via Hindscarth will more easily allow you to end the walk in daylight. So at this point turn north to Hindscarth.

**WPT 6 [Grid Ref.: NY215163]**

From the summit of Hindscarth you get the chance to really take in the scene as this fell stands aloof from the main ridges. The name means 'pass used by the red deer', a sign of how wildlife has changed in the Lake District, as today the main strongholds of red deer are Martindale and the Furness fells. Walk north along the ridge to descend over May Crag and High Crag. Note the scree and spoil heap to the right where vegetation cannot flourish due to the high concentration of lead and copper in the soil. Then continue more easily along a slender ridge to Scope End and Low Snab.

**WPT 7 [Grid Ref.: NY229186]**

Here join a lane that you can easily follow above the banks of Newlands Beck to the road at Little Town. The final leg of the journey involves leaving the road at Little Town and following a clear path north-east past East House and Skelgill where you rejoin a road which you follow back to the start.

**Terrain**

high-level fellwalk on clear paths and ridges with options to change route; navigation not too difficult

**Suitable**

x

**Parking**

Hawes End, NY246212

**Town**

Keswick

**Refresh**

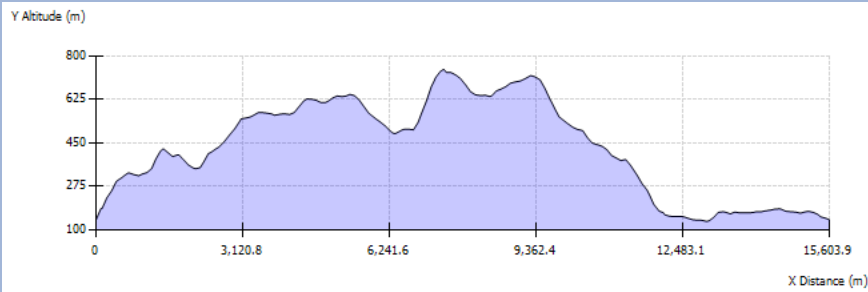
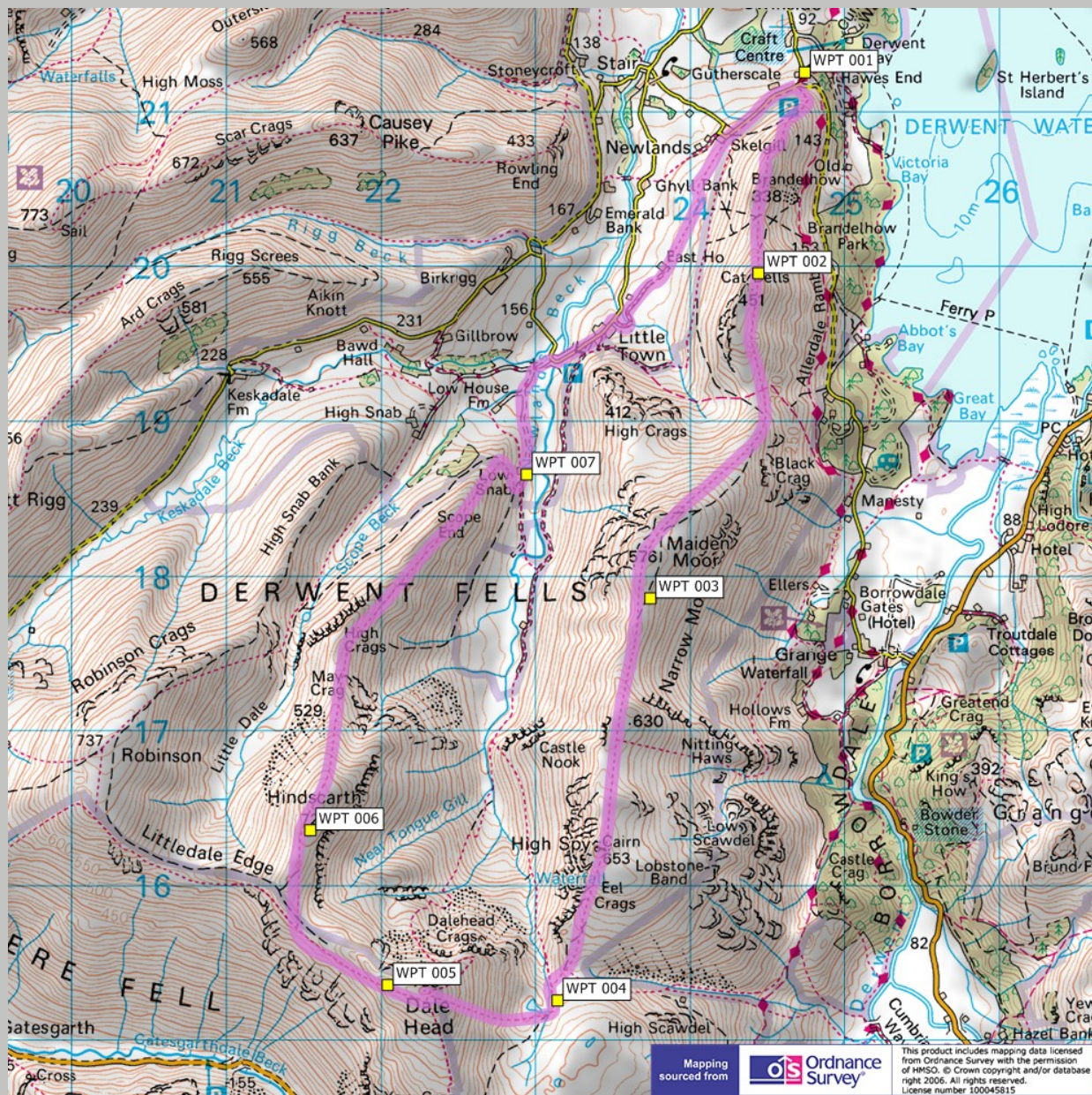
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**Transport**

trains to Penrith with buses to Keswick and Braithwaite. Limited buses from Keswick to Buttermere pass close to the start – tel. 0870 608 2608

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Total Air Distance: 15,603.9 m  
 Total DTM Distance: 15,855.6 m  
 Min. Altitude: 134.9 m  
 Max. Altitude: 747.7 m  
 Avg. Altitude: 417.5 m  
 Total Ascent: 1,059.7 m  
 Total Descent: -1,059.7 m  
 Total Ascent Distance: 7,163.2 m  
 Total Descent Distance: 8,119.5 m  
 Total Level Distance: 572.9 m  
 Percent Ascent: 45.2%  
 Percent Descent: 51.2%  
 Percent Level: 3.6%



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