

HIGH STILE

MODERATE, 15.2 km, 6h 30min, Grid Ref.: NY174169, North England

WPT 1 [Grid Ref.: NY174168]

The day begins at Buttermere, the old farming community that lies between the waters of Buttermere and Crummock Water. There's a tiny church here, a couple of hotels and little else, making it the perfect retreat for mountain lovers. Leave the village by following the footpath beside the Fish Hotel that leads around the western shoreline of Buttermere to Burtness Wood. Here a path climbs steeply south through the woods before emerging onto the open fell from where a path leads to Bleaberry Tarn.

WPT 2 [Grid Ref.: NY173166]

Bleaberry Tarn nestles in the palm of Red Pike and its waters feed the waterfall of Sour Milk Gill. This is a spectacular setting for a light snack before you tackle the steep climb onto Red Pike, which rises to the west.

WPT 3 [Grid Ref.: NY160153]

The hard work over, the ridge extends from Red Pike like a pier stretching out to sea, with a clear path tracing the lip of the cliffs that tumble into Buttermere. To the south the ground sweeps gently away to Ennerdale. All around there are mountain tops dominating the view. The path climbs a little onto High Stile, with its tremendous views across Buttermere, then a steady walk continues along the cliff tops to High Crag.

WPT 4 [Grid Ref.: NY180139]

High Crag marks the end of this section of the high-level traverse and a very steep descent leads over a scree path that is challenging and slippery, particularly in wet or windy weather. The path drifts more easily over Seat before dropping into Scarth Gap Pass, from where you climb over Haystacks.

WPT 5 [Grid Ref.: NY194131]

Pillar, Kirk Fell and Great Gable dominate the views from Haystacks and it's little wonder that Wainwright asked for his ashes to be scattered here. There are more great views to explore though, so follow the clear path east and then north-east across the head of Warnscale Bottom to climb up through the slate mines. Leave the main path and make your own route across the rough fell to the summit of Fleetwith Pike.

WPT 6 [Grid Ref.: NY201143]

If you arrive on Fleetwith Pike late in the evening you can enjoy one of the finest sunsets in the Lake District. The sun descends across the High Stile Ridge above Buttermere in quite spectacular style. This view is outstanding at any time of day though, so definitely take a break here before descending. The high-level walking ends with a steep descent down the north-west ridge of Fleetwith Pike to Gatesgarth.

WPT 7 [Grid Ref.: NY194148]

A clear track leads west from Gatesgarth, passing between fields, to the foot of the Scarth Gap Pass route. A long valley walk around the western shoreline of Buttermere leads back to the start at Buttermere village. A clear path makes the walk easy on the feet while the views back up to the towering cliffs of the High Stile Ridge are a fitting reminder of the grand traverse completed earlier in the day.

Terrain

high-level fellwalk along clear paths with opportunities to change route

Suitable

x

Parking

Buttermere, NY175170

Town

Keswick

Refresh

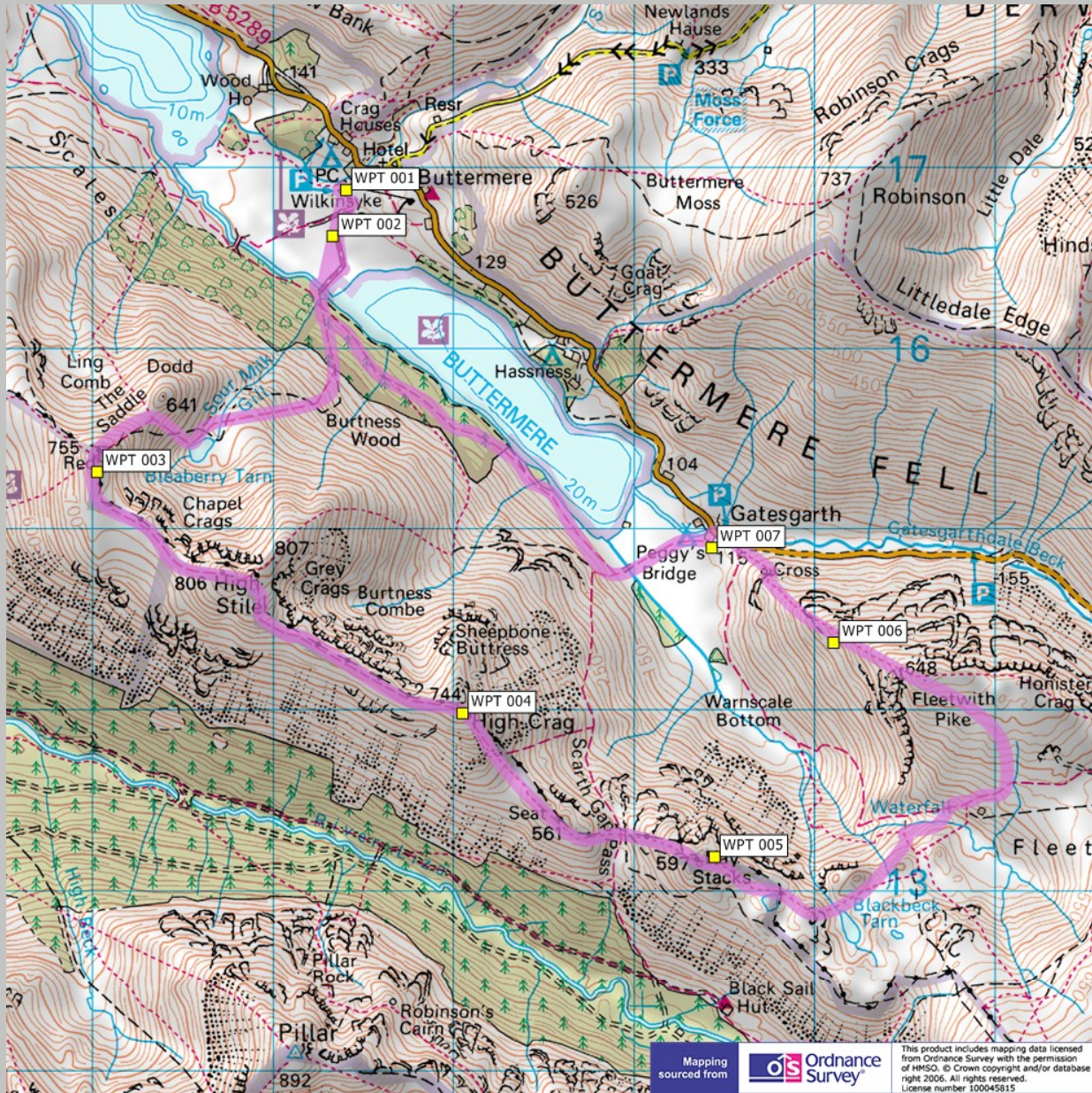
high-level fellwalk along clear paths with opportunities to change route

Transport

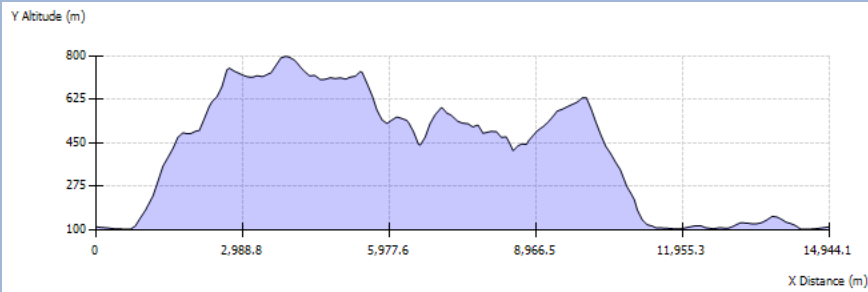
trains to Penrith with buses to Keswick, from where limited bus services extend to Buttermere – tel. 0870 608 2608

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Total Air Distance: 14,943.9 m
Total DTM Distance: 15,281.1 m
Min. Altitude: 102.8 m
Max. Altitude: 775.5 m
Avg. Altitude: 402.5 m
Total Ascent: 1,181.3 m
Total Descent: -1,181.3 m
Total Ascent Distance: 7,034.3 m
Total Descent Distance: 7,680.9 m
Total Level Distance: 565.9 m
Percent Ascent: 46%
Percent Descent: 50.3%
Percent Level: 3.7%



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