

English Lakes Hotels

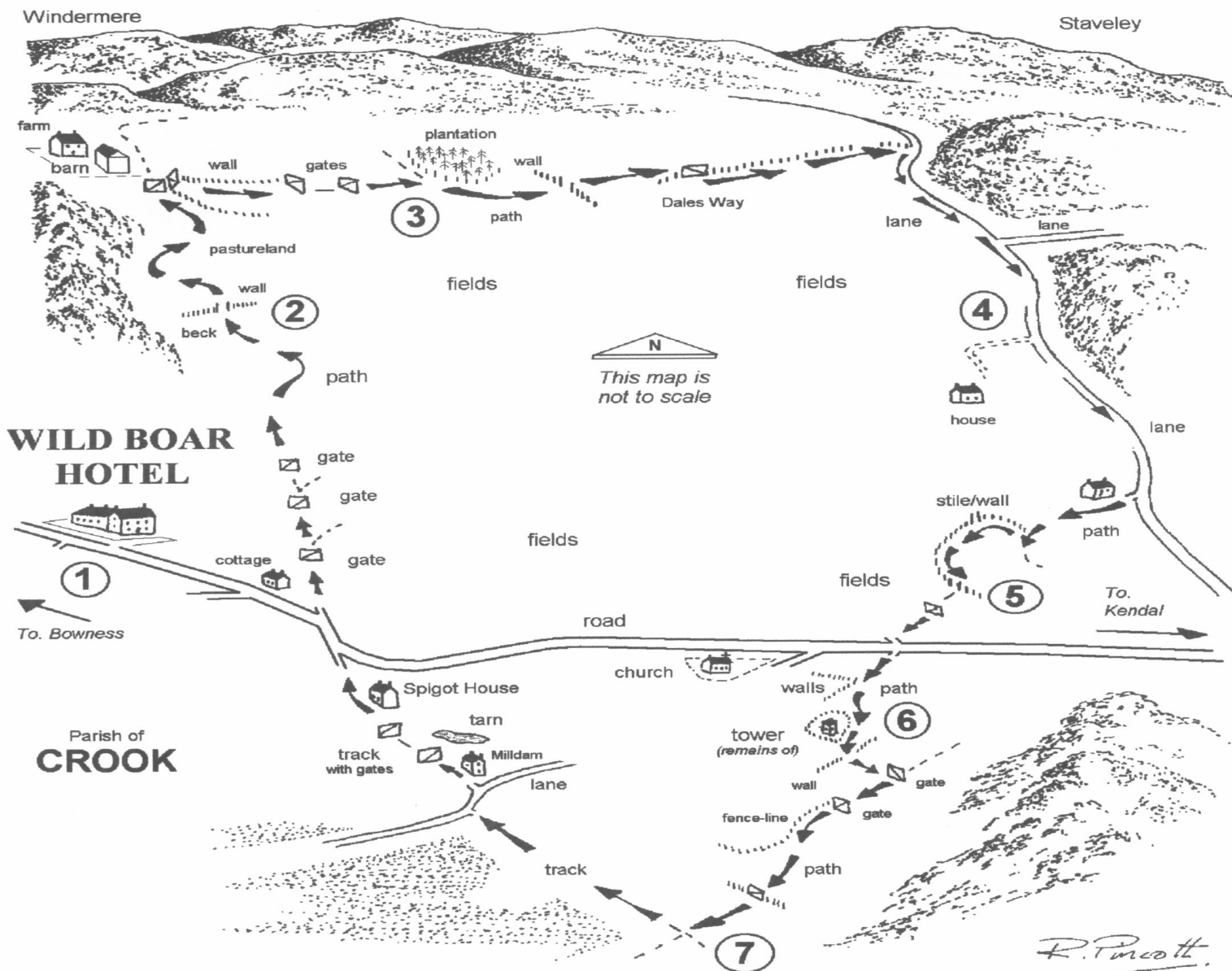
Route 1

The Famous Wild Boar Circular

Description: A superb walk through the very beautiful countryside behind The Famous Wild Boar hotel. Follow well-defined footpaths through a wonderful assortment of green, undulating pastures where sheep peacefully graze. Meander down quiet, leafy lanes and pass by quaint cottages that date back over 200 years. With every step, enjoy a varied landscape generously laden with gorse bushes and craggy, angular outcrops of rock that can only lead your eye upwards to an ever-changing panorama of distant mountains.

Distance: 5 ½ miles (8.8 km): Allow 3 – 3 ½ hours. Start from: 'The Famous Wild Boar' at Crook.

Safety: Most of the paths will be rough, stony or muddy, therefore, stout boots with a good grip on the soles are absolutely essential. Waterproof clothing is recommended for your own comfort along with energy-giving food and drinks.



(1 – 2) From The Famous Wild Boar, join onto the main Kendal/Bowness road. — **Turn left** and (facing the oncoming traffic) proceed for 150 yds, then, (just beyond a cottage) **turn left** onto a stony track [Public Footpath]. — Ascend for 300 yds, then climb over a stone stile next to a field- gate, to enter rough pastureland. — Within 15 yds, the path forks. — **Proceed straight ahead** (along the level path) and after 200 yds, go through a gate. — Continue for 100 yds and the path forks again. — Walk (along the level path) for 75 yds, to pass through another gate. — Follow the path for just over 4 mile, to cross over a small beck via the stepping stones.— Immediately pass through a field-gate.

(2 – 3) Look straight ahead to locate a large barn seen ¼ mile away on the side of the fell. You must aim for this building! — Initially **bear left** for 75 yds, then **curve right** for 200 yds, (keeping to the level ground where possible) to link up with a stony track. — Ascend the track for 100 yds, to pass through a large gate situated in the corner wall (just 50 yds prior to the aforementioned barn).— Immediately **turn right** through another large gate [Dales Way]. — Descend alongside the left-hand wall and, in the next corner of this field, (by the side of a gate) climb over a stone-stile. — Bear right and follow the obvious path between the gorse bushes for just over 200 yds, to pass through a swing-gate. — Go straight ahead and after 150 yds, reach a 3-way junction.

(3 – 4) Proceed straight-ahead [Public Bridleway - Dales Way] and after 200 yds, the wire fence on your left (enclosing a plantation) abruptly turns left. — Continue straight ahead for a maximum of 60 yds, then **bear left** [waymarker] and follow the bridleway for 75 yds, to pass through a gate/gap in a wall. — 350 yds further on (in the top right-hand corner of this field) pass through a large gate. — **Turn left** [Dales Way] and follow a walled track for ¼ mile, to link up with a tarmaced lane. — **Turn right** and proceed for ⅓ mile, to pass by a lane on your left. — After ¼ mile, pass by a private driveway on your right.

(4 – 5) ⅓ mile further on, **TURN RIGHT at a 2nd driveway**, signposted [Public Footpath: Crook End & St. Catherine's Church]. — Within 50 yds, pass by the cottage and barns of Beckside on your right, then proceed along a short double-rutted track with a stile & gate at the far end. — Enter a field, then walk straight ahead for 100 yds, to cross over a beck. — Walk for 50 yds and pass through a gate. — Continue alongside the hedge for a maximum of 100 yds, then **TURN RIGHT ACROSS A STONE STILE next to a GATE**. — **Immediately turn right** and ascend alongside the right-hand wall for 150 yds, to approach a stile in the top corner of this field.— **DO NOT** cross over this stile, **but turn left** and, keeping the wall on your right, proceed for 250 yds, to locate a stone stile next to a gate/gap on your right.

(5 – 6) Cross over the stile then walk to the opposite side of the field to aim for a gate/gap seen 150 yds away. — In the next field, ignore the double-rutted track leading away from the gate. Instead, **bear slightly left** across the grass, to pass by the large grassy hillock on your right. — Now climb over a stone stile in the wall, (underneath a wooden signpost) to link up with the main Kendal/Bowness road. — Go straight across the road and pass through swing-gate/large gate. — **Bear left** and follow a grassy path for 75 yds, to cross over a beck. — Continue up the side of the fell and after 200 yds, reach the top left-hand corner wall enclosing a field. — By a signpost [F.P. Old St. Catherine's Church], aim directly for the tower seen 300 yds away. — As you approach the left-hand corner wall enclosing the tower, locate a small entrance gate leading into the old churchyard. (A plaque on the tower gives a brief history of the church).

(6 – 7) With this gate on your right, **bear slightly left** [Public Footpath] & [waymarker] and after 150 yds, **turn left** through a squeeze-stile in the left-hand wall. — In the adjoining field, descend alongside the wall for 50 yds, then **turn right** onto a double-rutted track. — After 150 yds, pass through a gate, to enter the next field. — Walk alongside the right-hand fence line for 250 yds, then **branch left** and cross over the field, to pass through a large gate. — Immediately cross over a small beck. — Walk straight ahead, parallel to the wall on your right for ¼ mile, to reach a 4-way junction.

(7 – 1) **Turn right** and descend a narrow hard-surfaced lane for 250 yds, to pass through a gate by the side of a cattle-grid. — After a further 200 yds, arrive at a T-junction with a lane. — **Turn right** for just 75 yds, then, just prior to Milldam House, **turn left** down a broad, stony track. — After 75 yds, pass through a large field-gate (near the entrance to Atkinsons Tarn). — Proceed for 300 yds, to pass through a 2nd gate across the route. — After another 300 yds, (by the farmstead of Spigot House) the track alters into a tarmaced lane. — Follow this lane for just under ¼ mile, to eventually arrive at the Bowness/Kendal road.— **Turn left** and, facing the oncoming traffic, return to the The Famous Wild Boar.

NOTE: Route No.1 was correct at the time of printing, and the author cannot be held responsible for any eventualities outside his control. MMVI at the time of printing, and the author cannot be held responsible for any eventualities outside his control. MMVI