



Route 1

The Wild Boar Circular

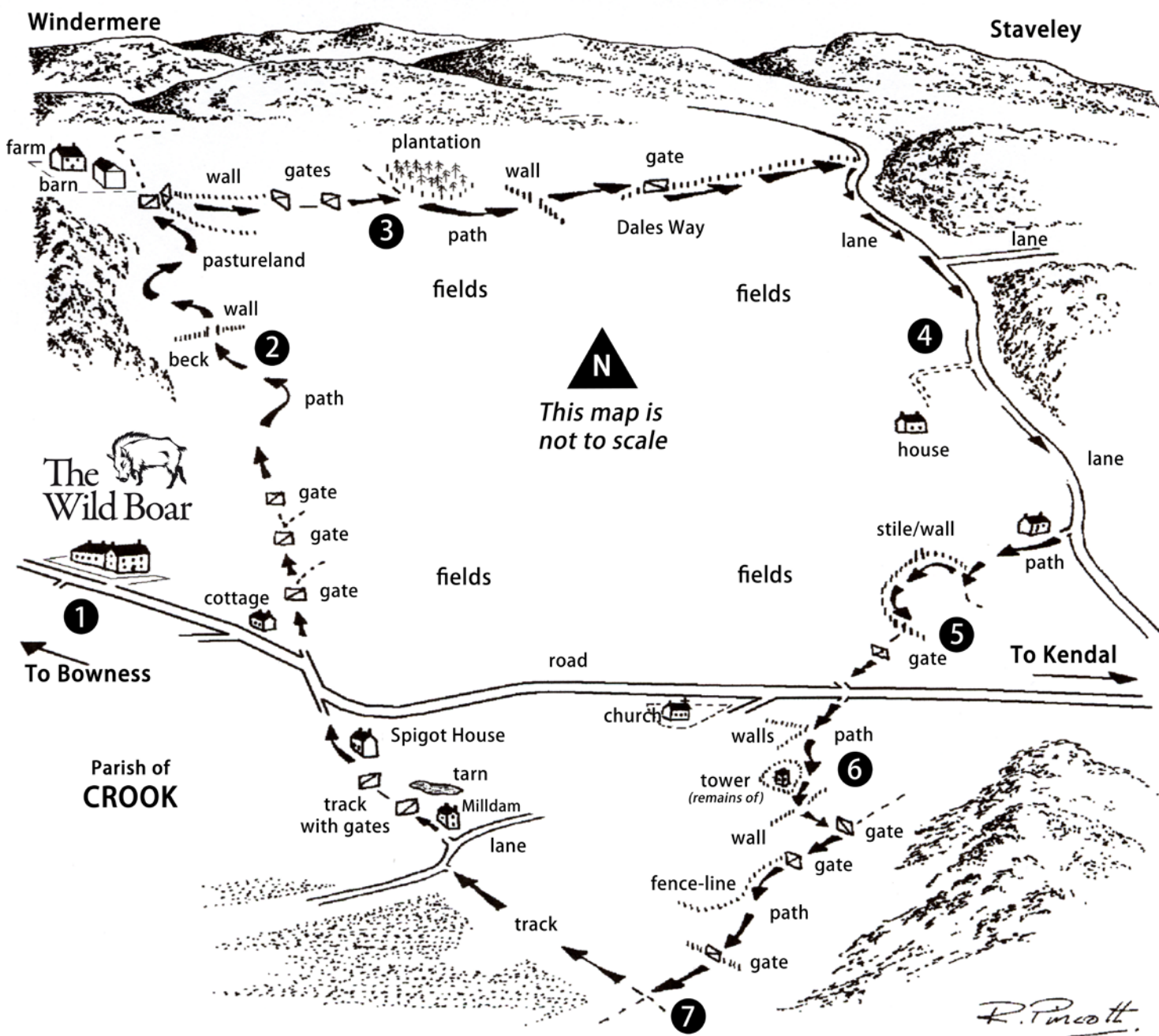
Description: A superb walk through the very beautiful countryside behind The Wild Boar Inn. Follow well-defined footpaths through a wonderful assortment of green, undulating pastures where sheep peacefully graze. Meander down quiet, leafy lanes and pass by quaint cottages that date back over 200 years. 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)

Time required: 3 – 3 ½ hours.

Start from: 'The Wild Boar Inn' 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. From The Wild Boar Inn, join onto the main Kendal/Bowness road. **Turn left** and (facing the oncoming traffic) proceed for 150 yards, then, (just beyond a cottage) **turn left** onto a stony track [Public Footpath]. Ascend for 300 yards, and then climb over a stone stile next to a field-gate, to enter rough pastureland. Within 15 yards, the path forks. **Proceed straight ahead** (along the level path) and after 200 yards, go through a gate. Continue for 100 yards and the path forks again. Walk (along the level path) for 75 yards, 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. 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 yards, then **curve right** for 200 yards, (keeping to the level ground where possible) to link up with a stony track. Ascend the track for 100 yards, to pass through a large gate situated in the corner wall (just 50 yards 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 yards, to pass through a swing-gate. Go straight ahead and after 150 yards, reach a 3-way junction.

3. Proceed straight-ahead [Public Bridleway - Dales Way] and after 200 yards, the wire fence on your left (enclosing a plantation) abruptly turns left. Continue straight ahead for a maximum of 60 yards, then **bear left** [waymarker] and follow the bridleway for 75 yards, to pass through a gate/gap in a wall. 350 yards further on (in the top right-hand corner of this field) pass through a large gate. **Turn left** [Dales Way] and then 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. ⅓ mile further on, **TURN RIGHT** at a **2nd driveway**, signposted [Public Footpath: Crook End & St. Catherine' s Church]. Within 50 yards, pass by the cottage and barns of Becksid on your right, then proceed along a short double-rutted track with a stile & gate at the far end. Enter a field, and then walk straight ahead for 100 yards, to cross over a beck. Walk for 50 yards and pass through a gate. Continue alongside the hedge for a maximum of 100 yards, and then **TURN RIGHT ACROSS A STONE STILE next to a GATE. Immediately turn right** and ascend alongside the right-hand wall for 150 yards, 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 yards, to locate a stone stile next to a gate/gap on your right.

5. Cross over the stile then walk to the opposite side of the field to aim for a gate/gap seen 150 yards 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 yards, to cross over a beck. Continue up the side of the fell and after 200 yards, 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 yards 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. With this gate on your right, **bear slightly left** [Public Footpath] & [waymarker] and after 150 yards, **turn left** through a squeeze-stile in the left-hand wall. In the adjoining field, descend alongside the wall for 50 yards, and then **turn right** onto a double-rutted track. After 150 yards, pass through a gate, to enter the next field. Walk alongside the right-hand fence line for 250 yards, 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. **Turn right** and descend a narrow hard-surfaced lane for 250 yards, to pass through a gate by the side of a cattle-grid. After a further 200 yards, arrive at a T-junction with a lane. **Turn right** for just 75 yards, then, just prior to Milldam House, **turn left** down a broad, stony track. After 75 yards, pass through a large field-gate (near the entrance to Atkinsons Tarn). Proceed for 300 yards, to pass through a 2nd gate across the route. After another 300 yards, (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 Wild Boar Inn.