



Route 4

Waterhead to The Wild Boar Inn

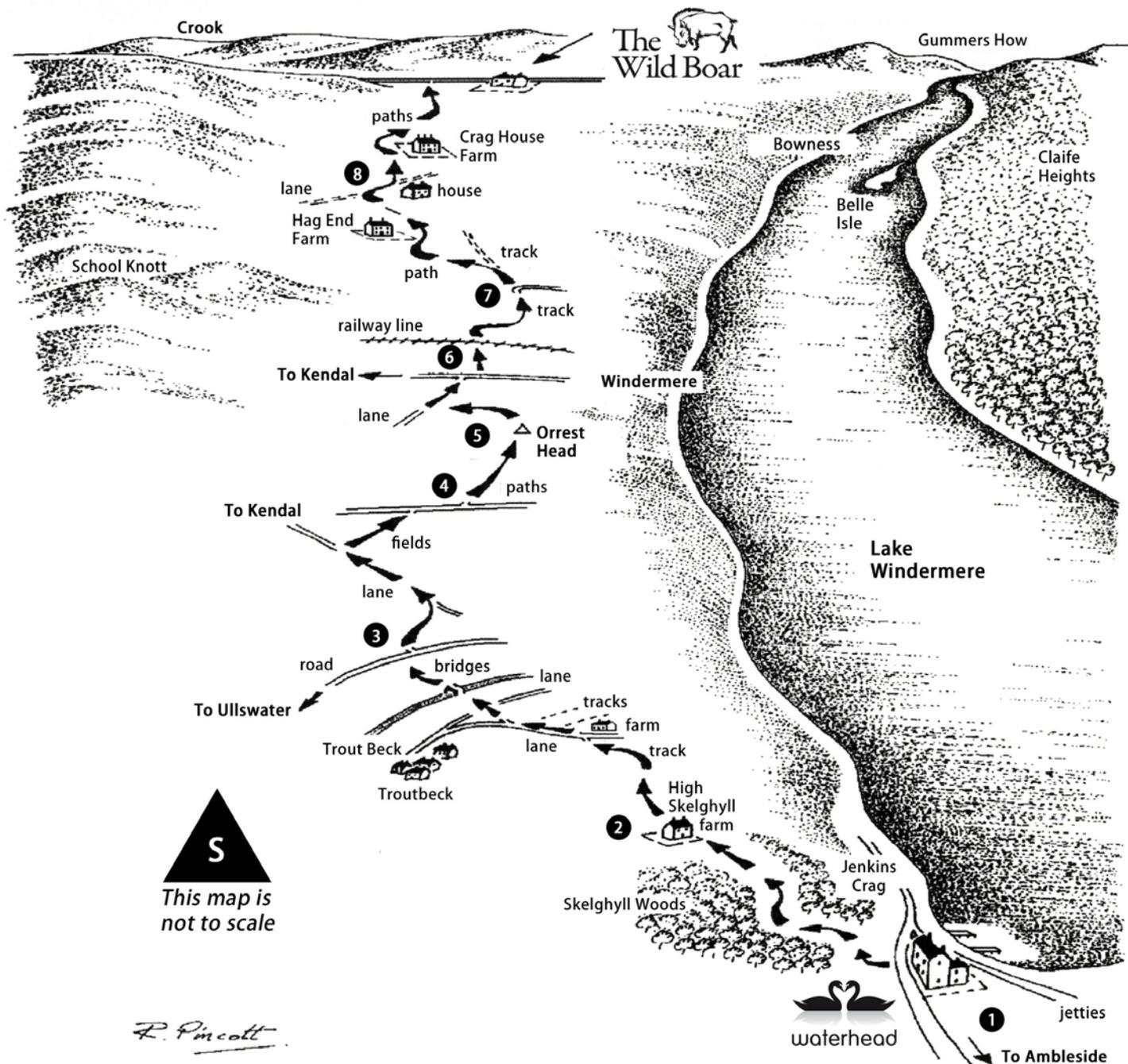
Description: A strenuous walk, but amply rewarded with countless opportunities in which to admire and be tempted to take snapshots of the captivating scenery. Enjoy an initial ascent through ancient woodland and then past rolling meadows full of grazing sheep, as the route follows the line of Lake Windermere in a southerly direction. A dramatic highlight is Orrest Head, where the breathtaking view from the top takes in virtually the whole of the South Lakes mountain range. A fitting finale is a warm welcome at The Wild Boar Inn.

Distance: 9 miles (14.4 km)

Time required: 6 hours.

Start from: Waterhead, Nr. Ambleside.

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. With the main entrance of The Waterhead on your right, walk to the end of the building and **stop! Turn left** (across the road), then **turn left** up the steps [Public Footpath. [Jenkins Crag]. Ascend the steep, stony path for 200 yards, and then climb over a stile to enter a field. Walk across the grass and climb over a ladder-stile (seen 100 yards away). Ascend between the trees for 300 yards, to arrive at a wire fence. **Turn right** and ascend for 150 yards, then **bear right** and cross the stone bridge over a beck. Walk for 30 yards, then **bear left** and ascend the zig-zag path for 350 yards, to locate a gap in the right hand wall [NT Jenkyns Crag]. **Detour:** A short walk across the rocks leads to a well-known viewpoint, but return again to this point! Continue along the main path through the woods and after ½ mile, arrive at High Skelghyll farm. Pass across the farmyard, to link up with a hard-surfaced track. Walk downhill for 200 yards and cross over a cattle-grid.

2. 250 yards further on, pass by the farmstead of Low Skelghyll. Continue downhill and after ¼ mile, this hard-surfaced track will terminate at a lane. **Turn left** and after 250 yards, pass by a farm on your right. Continue along the lane and after ¼ mile, pass by a wide track on your right. Proceed for a maximum of 150 yards, and then **bear right** onto a narrow, stony track [Public Bridleway]. Descend for 200 yards and pass through a large gate. Proceed between the cottage buildings, to reach a tarmaced lane. Go straight across [Public Bridleway] and descend a stony track for 250 yards, to cross over the Trout Beck. Within 25 yards, pass through a gate to enter a field. Ascend the slope, and in the top right-hand corner, join onto the Ullswater/Bowness road.

3. **Turn right**, but within 75 yards, **turn left** (across the road) to link up with a lane. Ascend for ⅓ mile, (facing the oncoming traffic) to pass by a lane on your right. 150 yards further up, pass by a farm-track on your left. After another 150 yards, pass by a broad, tarmaced track on your left. Continue along the lane for a further ⅓ mile, to locate a gate & stile on your right, signposted [Public Footpath]. Climb over the stile and observe the direction of the finger-post. Walk straight across the field, to climb over a ladder-stile. Now **bear left** towards a gate seen 75 yards away. In the next field, go straight ahead to climb over a ladder-stile in a corner wall. In this last field, **bear right** and walk for 250 yards, to cross over a small beck via a flat footbridge. 40 yards further on, climb over a stone stile in the wall, to link up with a lane.

4. **Turn right** and proceed along the lane for a maximum of 350 yards, then **turn left** across a stone stile, (next to a gate). Follow the right-hand wall for 75 yards and cross over a beck. Continue alongside the wall for a further 75 yards, then go straight ahead and ascend the steep path for ⅓ mile, (parallel to the wall on your right) to climb over a stone stile in the top right-hand corner wall. 50 yards further up, the path forks. **Go straight ahead** to reach the summit of Orrest Head.

5. With Lake Windermere on your right, descend a broad, grassy path for 100 yards, to approach a stone wall. **Turn left** and walk (alongside the wall) for 250 yards, to cross over a stone stile. **Turn right** and immediately pass through a swing-gate. Follow the wooded path for 250 yards, to reach a 3-way junction. **Turn left** [Common Lane] and after ¼ mile of descent, the path leads to a gate on the edge of a field. Cross over the field and join onto a lane. **Turn right**, to arrive at the main Kendal/Windermere road. Cross over the road (with care) and **turn right**. Ascend for 100 yards, and then **turn left** through a gate [Public right of way]. Follow the cart track for 300 yards, to reach a Y-junction.

6. **Bear right** and within 40 yards, enter the next field. Continue along the cart track for 200 yards, and then **turn left** through a tall swing-gate. Walk alongside the right-hand wall for 100 yards, then **curve right**, to aim for a large swing-gate. **Go straight across** the railway line (with care), to link up with a narrow footpath. Walk alongside the left-hand fence for 50 yards, then **turn left** and descend to a tarmaced track. **Turn right** and after 100 yards, (just prior to a stone bridge), **bear left** onto a stony track [School Knott]. Proceed for 100 yards, then cross over a residential road, to link up with a tarmaced track. Follow this [gated single track road] for ¼ mile, to pass by a cottage on your left. Pass by a barn, (behind this cottage) then proceed for a maximum of 125 yards, to reach a sharp right-hand bend. **Stop!**

7. Go straight ahead and pass through a large gate [waymarker], to enter rough pastureland. Follow the stony track, to aim for a gate seen 150 yards away. Continue straight ahead and after 350 yards, the track forks. **Bear left** [Dales Way] and ascend the rocky path for ¼ mile, to pass through another gate. Proceed for only 60 yards, then **turn right** through a gate, to enter the adjacent field. **DO NOT** follow the farm track straight ahead! **Instead, turn left** (alongside the left-hand wall) for 75 yards, then **bear right** and follow a grassy path uphill for 250 yards, to pass by a [waymarker]. 25 yards further on, cross over a derelict wall. Go straight ahead for 100 yards, then **curve left** for a further 150 yards, to go through a gate in a stone wall. Continue along the well-defined path and after ¼ mile, arrive at the farm of Hag End. Pass between the farm buildings and exit via a large gate. Follow a stony track for 150 yards and join onto a tarmaced lane

8. **Turn right** and after 150 yards, pass through a gate by the side of a house. Within 15 yards, pass by another gate on your left. **Proceed** for a maximum of 30 yards, then **bear left** through a swing-gate [Dales Way]. Walk parallel to the left-hand wall and after 300 yards; pass through a gate in a corner wall. Walk for a maximum of 75 yards, and then **turn left**. With a wall on your left and the farmstead of Crag House on your right, descend for 100 yards, to arrive at 3 gates. Go through the right-hand gate and descend a stony track for 200 yards, then **curve right**. Go straight ahead for 150 yards, then **curve left**, and the path leads to a gate in a wall with a beck on the opposite side. Cross over the stepping stones and follow a winding path between the gorse bushes for ¼ mile, to pass through a gate. Continue straight ahead, and (passing through several more gates) this track will eventually terminate at the Kendal/Bowness road. **Turn right** and walk along the road (with care) for 150 yards, to arrive at The Wild Boar Inn.