



Route 5

From Waterhead to Low Wood Bay

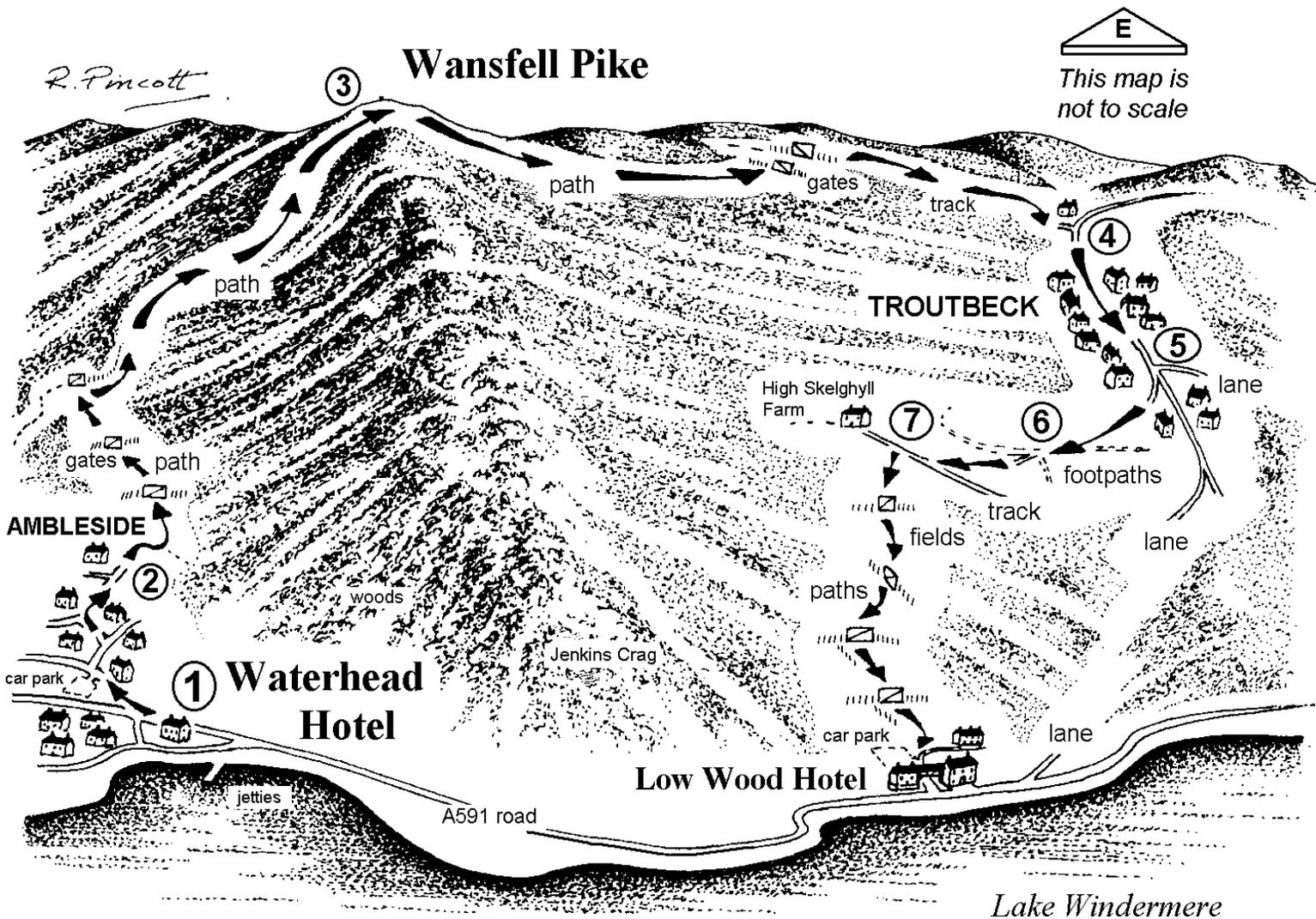
Description: This is a fabulous but extremely strenuous walk up to the top of *Wansfell Pike*, followed by a gentle stroll along well-defined paths across open fell, that eventually lead down to the chocolate-box village of *Troutbeck*. The climb up to the summit should not be underestimated, but the rewards on a clear day are quite breathtaking. In fact, half an hour with a map of the area and scanning with a pointed finger, is a most enjoyable way to get your breath back before continuing on the downhill route, to end at the *Low Wood Bay* nestling majestically by the side of Lake Windermere.

Distance: 9 miles (14.4 km)

Time required: 6 hours

Start from: Waterhead at 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. Also, the weather can change rapidly - please check the local forecast before setting out. For safety reasons and also to appreciate the wonderful panorama from the top of Wansfell, do not attempt this walk in mist! Windproof clothing is recommended for your own comfort (It can be blustery at a height of 1581 feet), along with energy-giving food and drinks, camera, binoculars and a copy of the O.S. Map No. 7.



1. With the main entrance of the Waterhead on your left, walk along the roadside pavement for 250 yards, to pass by [Maciver Lane] on your left. 200 yards further on, **bear right** (across the road) to link up with a narrow lane [Old Lake Road]. Follow this lane for 200 yards, to pass by a car park on your left. Continue along the lane for a further 75 yards, then **turn right** onto [Fisherbeck Lane]. Ascend this residential road for only 70 yards, then **bear left** onto another lane. Proceed for 60 yards, to reach a T-junction. **Turn right** [Blue Hill Road] and after 200 yards, pass by another residential road on your left. Continue straight ahead and within 50 yards, this lane will alter into a stony track.

2. Follow this very steep and winding footpath (bordered by trees and stone walls) for 100 yards, to pass by a swing-gate/large gate on your right. Continue up the main path for a further 350 yards, then cross over a stile next to a field-gate. Proceed straight ahead, (along a narrow path bordered by walls) for another ¼ mile, to climb over a wooden stile adjacent to a gate. Follow the relatively level path straight ahead for a maximum of 350 yards, to approach a wooden swing-gate. **DO NOT GO THROUGH THIS GATE. Instead, turn right just prior to it** and ascend the well-defined stony footpath up the side of the fell for approximately ½ mile, to eventually arrive at the summit of *Wansfell* (1581' ft).

3. To depart the summit, locate the nearby stile-gate in the wire fence, to access the gentler, east facing slopes of *Wansfell*. With Lake Windermere over on your right, **bear left** (eastwards) and descend the well-cairned footpath across open fell for just under ½ mile, to pass through a swing-gate set in a stone wall. Follow the footpath for a further 200 yards, and then pass through a large gate, to link up with a track bordered by stone walls on both sides. **Turn right** and continue downhill, to eventually arrive at a lane after ¾ mile.

4. **Turn right** and follow the lane through the elongated village of Troutbeck for ½ mile, to locate a lane on your left. (Note: This lane is situated directly opposite a building on your right bearing the inscription ' Annie' s Clock 2000').

5. With the clock building on your right, proceed for a maximum of 20 yards, then **bear right** up a tarmaced track which immediately alters into a stony track, signposted [Public Bridleway – Robin Lane]. Ascend this track for ½ mile, to arrive at an inverted Y-junction with a seat. Continue straight on for a further 250 yards, to pass by a double-rutted track on your left. After another 250 yards, approach a Y-junction containing 2 large gates and a small swing-gate.

6. **Bear left** (off the main track) and pass through the small swing-gate [Public Bridleway: Skelghyll & Jenkin Crag]. Follow the path downhill for ½ mile (passing through several gates along the way), to eventually link up with a hard-surfaced track by the side of a flat bridge. **Turn right** across the small beck, then immediately go through a gate by the side of a cattle-grid. Ascend the track for a maximum of 50 yards, then **turn left** onto a double-rutted stony track, signposted [Public Footpath: Low Wood Bay ¾ mile].

7. Proceed for 150 yards, to pass through a large gate. Continue downhill for 350 yards, to locate a stile & farm-gate on your right. Cross over the stile and within 50 yards, **turn left** through another gate/stile. Follow the grassy path straight ahead and after 150 yards, pass through a swing-gate (with steps on the opposite side) to enter the adjoining field. With the *Low Wood Bay* and the lake directly in front of you, descend alongside the right-hand wall for 175 yards, then bear left to aim for a swing-gate/farm-gate. Continue in the same direction and in the lower part of this last field, **bear slightly left** then **curve right** around a wire fence, to pass through a swing-gate at the rear of the hotel. With a large car park on your right and an access lane to office buildings on your left, walk downhill (passing underneath the interconnecting arch) to link up with the main A591 Windermere/Ambleside road. **Turn left** and being mindful of passing traffic, walk the last few steps to finally arrive at the front entrance to the *Low Wood Bay*.

NOTE: Route No.5 was correct at the time of printing, and the author cannot be held responsible for any eventualities outside his control. MMVI