



18 CUMBRIA HIGH STREET

▶ Distance: 7 miles/11.6km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 30

Heading over Long Stile to Rough Crag.



PHOTO: KEITH TAYLOR/ALAMY



CHOSEN BY... GUY PROCTER

One of Wainwright's favourite walks is a

supremely satisfying circuit of fells in the far-eastern Lake District, from lonely Mardale Head, over High Street and two of its neighbours. As close to 'forgotten' as any valley in the national park gets, Mardale is home to Haweswater reservoir, which in the 1930s subsumed the hamlet of Mardale Green. Today the car park at its head is a perfect launch pad for an ascent of High Street via the charismatic Rough Crag ridge. You'll walk briefly in the footsteps of Roman soldiers on High Street before Mardale Ill Bell and Harter Fell

make the perfect conclusion to a day among the exquisitely Lakeland-y eastern fells.

1 Start

Leave car park via the Gatescarth Pass gate, then take the first R past corner of wall, signed to Riggindale. Follow the path alongside and above the lake, towards conifers of The Rigg.

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile/1.2km

Go through the gap in wall then turn L up the narrow path that rises toward the long rib of the ridge leading to Rough Crag. The path doesn't follow the crest at least at first but runs parallel to the left. The gradient lessens atop the long ridge over Rough Crag.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Free parking at Mardale Head car park, grid ref NY469107

Is it for me? Clear paths, some stony but mostly good going underfoot. A very few scrambly but not exposed steps on Rough Crag

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Penrith

Refreshments Haweswater Hotel (01931 713235)

Public toilets

None on route

Public transport None

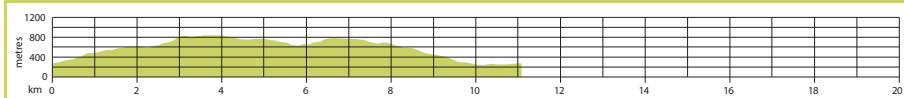
Maps OS Explorer OL5; Landranger 90.

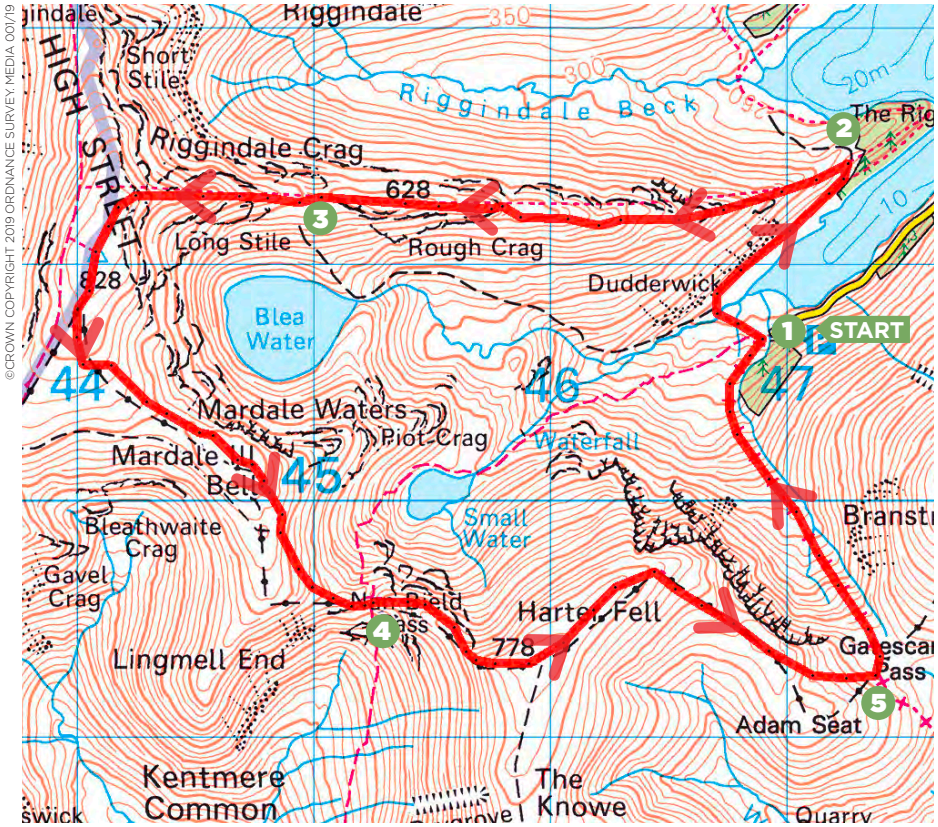
Harvey Superwalker Lake District East

3 $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles/3.5km

Coming to a wide haue called Caspel Gate, Blea Water looks magnificent and behind and beyond it you can see the full circuit you're about

GRADIENT PROFILE



18 CUMBRIA
HIGH STREET▶ OS Explorer map OLI5 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

to complete – it's a mouthwatering coliseum of fells. Not too far now to the top, up Long Stile. Turn L on the obvious track on the summit ridge to High Street's trig point. Beyond the summit turn L on a clear grey stony path, and the tarnlet-dotted summit of *Mardale III Bell* comes easily. Follow the path down to the top of *Nan Bield Pass*.

4 4½ miles/7.2km
At the imposing shelter, carry on straight up *Harter Fell*, where you're gifted lovely views down to *Small Water*. A summit cairn stuck with old fence-post marks the top. Follow the path as turns south-east to the top of *Gatescarth Pass*.

5 6 miles/9.7km
At the top of the pass turn

L following the sign pointing to 'Mardale Head 1 mile', where your car is parked. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

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