

Cat Bells and Derwentwater Lakeshore

Kindly supplied by Glendale Guest House, Eskin Street, Keswick

Distance -Approx 3.5 miles/5.7 kms

Time -3 hours approx plus stops

Watering Holes - None

Difficulty - Moderate. A short steep section on ascent. Generally good paths

Map recommended -1:25000 North West area

Map on reverse scale approx 1:25000 (2.5 in to 1 mile)

From the moment you step on the fell you can start to enjoy sensational panoramic views over Keswick, Derwent Water and Borrowdale. In the West the views of Newlands Valley and the Western Fells make this walk without rival for such a small amount of effort.

This walk starts at Hawes End which can be best reached by taking the Launch from Keswick to Hawes End landing stage or alternatively by car (limited parking) and by bus. If you arrive by launch follow the path up to the road away from the lake shore.



Launching stage at Hawse End

From the cattle grid walk up the road 50 metres. The clear path leaves the road at the first bend and zig-zags steeply up the main breast of Skelgill Bank. The path levels for a short while and then climbs again to the summit of Cat Bells.

After the required stop, the photos, the pat on the back and general enjoyment of the views, descend south to the saddle of Hawes Gate



From Catbells looking back to Keswick

From Hawes Gate descend the steep but made up path left (East). Pass the short cut with sign “No Path” and continue down. Take the path left towards a plantation of conifers. Here you join the main terrace path but your direction is down following a dry stone wall to the road. Follow the road left for approx 50 metres and turn right down to the lakeshore at Brandlehow Bay past the old mine workings.



Looking towards Brandlehow Bay from Hawse Gate

Now follow the lakeshore path through the wooded shore line, passing High Brandlehow Landing stage and then Low Brandlehow, eventually returning to the start point at Hawse End.



Sculpture in Brandlehow Woods

Here you can return by your chosen transport.

Walk Variations

Maiden Moor and High Spy—From Hawse Gate continue South on the ridge over Maiden Moor and High Spy and descend Rigg Head to Rosthwaite.

Ringling the changes on Catbells parking problems

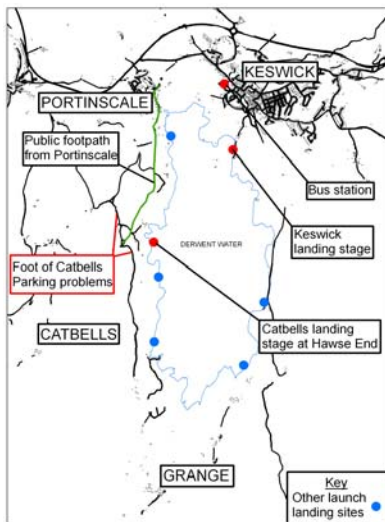
BOAT, BUS or BOOTS

The beautiful Catbells, on the western shore of Derwentwater, has always been a magnet for walkers. But Catbells' popularity - boosted on TV by Griff Rhys Jones and Julia Bradbury - is causing severe parking problems at the foot of the Fell.

Indiscriminate parking on the narrow winding approach road is causing serious danger, inconvenience and environmental damage.



to



Cumbria County Council is urging walkers to use BOAT, BUS or BOOTS access the fell.

Staying in Keswick? Leave the car where it is.

Follow Julia Bradbury's example and use the Keswick Launch – half hourly from Keswick to Hawse End – the foot of the fell. (Visitors can park in Lakeside Car Park).

Or take the Honister Rambler bus, which leaves Keswick Bus Station (car parks nearby) at 9:15, 11:05, 14:10 and 16:00 arriving at Catbells just 11 minutes later. (Both run from before Easter to October/November)

Or why not walk to Catbells on the beautiful footpath through Lingholm Estate from Portinscale or Keswick – and perhaps catch public transport back?

Cumbria Highways, in conjunction with the Police, Emergency Services, National Trust, local Parish Councils, and people who work in the area, has provided signs near the foot of the fell to advise drivers to park considerately or to use more sustainable transport.

Congestion created by parked cars is causing severe problems. Emergency vehicles, the Honister Rambler bus, National Trust and farm vehicles with trailers, and others needing to use the road, now often find it impossible to get through parked cars, or to access side lanes, fields or property. People parking don't realise how much room is needed to swing a trailer or minibus round very tight bends.

In addition verges, trees and drainage are being damaged.

The Police may tow away parked vehicles which cause serious obstruction.

We really do want everyone to enjoy the fells, but hope drivers will park considerately – or better still – please use **BOAT, BUS or BOOTS** to fully enjoy **Catbells**.

