

# 555 StagePath

## RIDE & STRIDE BY BUS

### *the family way to walk*

**ALWAYS CHECK THE TIMETABLE - USUALLY DISPLAYED AT EACH BUS STOP – TO CONFIRM BUS TIMES FOR THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF EACH WALK STAGE.**

The StagePath in the leaflet has been carefully researched and described for clarity in route finding. The maps on the other hand are very basic, as there is no substitute for carrying and referring to the correct Ordnance Survey Explorer Map, acquire OL7, OL5 and OL4 &/or the Harvey Lake District Outdoor Atlas.

Line - Journey of the 555 bus service  
Dashes - the route of the StagePath  
Dots - Request and Timetabled bus stop



## STAGE 7

## SOUTHBOUND

### Dale Bottom > Thirlspot

*one brief climb, otherwise largely level going, allow two hours*

**For the main part this a dale floor walk, journeying with a lost road and along the edge of a peat moss before climbing above the intake wall to survey the greater Thirlmere setting, spiced by the potential visit to the crashing cascades of Fisherplace Gill.**



Follow the verge south from the bus stop, bear left down the side road leading between Dalebottom Farm and the caravan park. The road twists and turns passing Broadstones, and rising by a road-gate opens upon a T-junction. Turn right on a bridleway ('no through road' sign). The lane passes Shaw Bank and Brownbeck Farm cottages, becoming a green track advancing to a stile/hand-gate. The bridleway continues below a bracken-clad bank becoming a lovely green track to reach a hand-gate/gate. Veer right as a green track converges from the left, pass the old single-

arched Rough How Bridge, to reach a hand-gate/gate onto the old road. Cross the newer bridge spanning Shoulthwaite Beck, and immediately cross the low wall-stile left. Traverse the brief pasture to a second low wall-stile onto the main road verge (request bus stop), cross straight over into the lane leading to Shoulthwaite Farm (caravan park). Bear round to the left between the barns to a kissing-gate into woodland. Take the obvious level path ahead, which shortly merges with a forestry track. Continue with Shoulthwaite Moss left, passing by two further kissing-gates to meet a minor road. Turn right and first left after 60m, via the hand-gate on the left with footpath sign. Follow the open track to a gate left of a barn passing between the footings of a building

and an old white-washed barn to a gate. Follow the green-way via a gate, declining with a fence close right to cross a triple-gated footbridge over St John's Beck, the outflow of Thirlmere. The central section is the remnant of a broader stone structure - note the stepping stones to the left - not a right-of-way so do not cross over here. The footpath rises via a hand-gate onto the farm track leading by barns onto the road opposite the caravan park. Turn left following the road past Bridge End Farm to meet the main road (with request bus stops).

Carefully cross the main road and follow the broad verge path right. Advance to find a footpath signed left, descend the embankment and cross over a wall-stile. Traverse the valley pasture with a wall close right, go through a hand-gate onto the St John's-in-the-Vale road. Turn right, at the small car park before cottages and Thirlmere Community Hall, leave the road left. Follow the lane rising towards Stanah Farm, crossing the ladder-stile at the top ascend the pasture to a hand-gate/stile beside the Thirlmere Leat. Note the huge rock bluff right, the reservoir engineers had to bore through to create the water channel, one suspects this was not an easy process! Continue up, cross a stone



Castle Rock of Triermain from Smaithwaite

bridge over Stanah Gill beside the wall - the ravine above has one massive double waterfall, but to see it one has to stay within the gorge, be warned - it is slow rough going.

However, the StagePath rises to the wooden signpost 'Swirls Car Park' and forks up right, off the ancient Stick Pass route - the highest range-crossing bridle-path in Lakeland, reaching 750m/2460ft. Our path comes above the intake wall then dips, but the path contours to a footbridge crossing of Fisherplace Gill. This is another ravine famed for its waterfalls, these also require one to climb up from the path, but can be clearly seen from the bus. The path reconnects with the intake wall, coming to a three-way sign where the wall breaks down, take the bridleway 'Thirlspot Farm' descending on a pitched path via three gates re-crossing the leat to enter the farmyard beside the trio of static caravans. Exit through the hand-gate right, beside the white-washed hotel, the bus stop is at the far end.