

# 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 6

## SOUTHBOUND

### Thirlspot > Wythburn

*three hours of comparatively wilder country walking*

**Beginning as a fellside path entering the forest running along the western flanks of Helvellyn to admire Thirlmere from an elevated trail. Judicious tree felling has enhanced the reservoir's surroundings restoring its wild mountain heart, from both road level and 'on high'. As a further bonus this is a national sanctuary for our native red squirrel, these delightful creatures are actively protected from the unwelcome advances of the American grey squirrel, carriers of the squirrel parapoxvirus that decimates populations of reds.**

From the bus stops immediately north of the Thirlspot walk back

Thirlmere and Ullscarf from the forest track



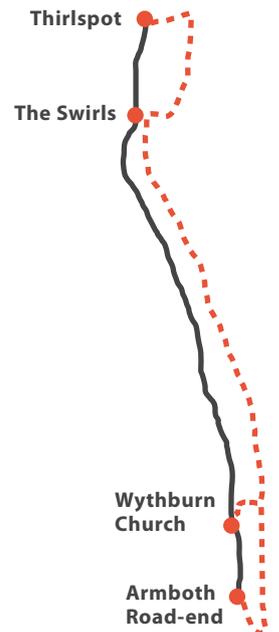
to The King's Head Hotel, pass the bar door to a hand-gate with a bridleway sign, enter the gated lane leading through Thirlspot Farm. Cross the gated gill beside a trio of static caravans, ascend the pasture to a gated crossing of the Thirlmere Leat, carrying water seemingly up-dale to join Helvellyn Gill and thus enter the reservoir. Continue up to a gate in the intake wall, joining as a pitched path climbing to a path junction at the top of the adjacent rising wall. Turn right, signed 'Swirls Car Park', follow the stone-edged contouring path, duly this comes alongside an intake wall with consistently handsome views, particularly north



towards Skiddaw and Blencathra. The wall dips away but the path continues contouring and crosses a small footbridge before declining to a sign where the popular path to Helvellyn branches left. From here go right, down through a kissing-gate and subsequent hand-gate. Crossing a footbridge over Helvellyn Gill enter The Swirls car park.

Pass through the car park taking the first kissing-gate left, with a big blue signboard 'permissive path to Wythburn'. Joining the forest track enter the woodland on a rising line that later descends to a broad gate. Go left onto the bridle-path, initially level this rises and weaves through the mature conifers with a firm cobbled base and steps and one small footbridge. After a kissing-gate cross successive footbridges spanning Mines Gill and join the forest track -

a welcome chance to restore a comfortable stride. Continue, to Whelpside Gill, immediately after crossing the gill take the bridle-path crossing the track. For the southbound bus turn down right to Wythburn Church and follow the access roadway left to the bus stop. For the northbound bus stop, continue with the forest track and as the forestry ends swing down right with the track to reach the Armboth road-end bus stop.



Approaching Thirlspot from the high intake wall path