

# 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 stops



## STAGE 1

## NORTHBOUND

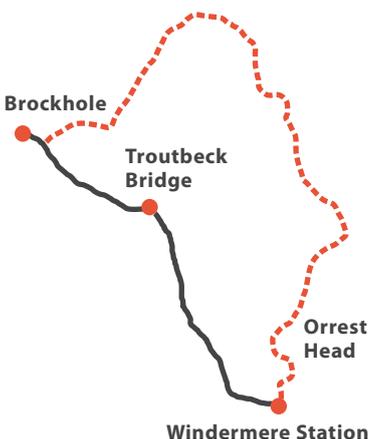
### Windermere Station > Brockhole National Park Centre

*a leisurely three hours up hill, down dale*

**An inspiring start to your StagePath adventure climbing to the top of Orrest Head to survey the great lake with its inspiring backdrop of Lakeland Fells. A thrilling moment enjoyed by early tourists from well before the arrival of the railway, there could be no better stagesetter.**

Leave Windermere from the Railway Station bus stop. Walk past Booths Supermarket (go under the canopy) to reach the road junction with the Gateway Tourist Information Centre to your left. Turn right, carefully cross the main A591 via the traffic island, overlooked by The Windermere Hotel. Turn left along the footpath, after 50m spot the 'Footpath to Orrest Head' notice on your right. Follow its pointing hand and ascend the metalled lane ignore the path fork, continue to follow the yellow 'Windermere Way' waymark and 'Orrest Head Viewpoint' white arrow. The road winds uphill passing the entrance to Orrest How to enter woodland, stay on the road. Pass a cottage selling refreshments and hand-crafted ironwork, the road becomes a track after a yew tree before the woodland. At the edge of the woodland turn right at the wall, the path becomes confined leading to a metal kissing-gate (with Heywood memorial stone), enter the Orrest Head Viewpoint enclosure.

Ascend the rough steps to the bare rock summit, with seats facing in various directions to suit the appreciative audience, the topograph - for all the legendary view is devoid of legend!



The plinth points north-west over the head of Lake Windermere to the stirring heights above Great Langdale - the panorama is amazing. Linger awhile, regain your breath and restore your belief in our wonderful world. Note the vertically-tilted and cracked bare rock beneath your feet indicating the effects of glacial smoothing. The place-name 'Orrest' is a very rare instance of the Norse orrusta 'battle', i.e. a meeting of armies.

Head north, straight on over the top, and taking the left-hand fork, descend to a kissing-gate and wall-stile in the enclosure corner. Cross the wall-stile signed 'Causeway', go gently downhill, keeping the wall left. Cross a stone flag over a gill to arrive at a wall-stile onto the road, the original Roman way from Medibogdum (Watercrook Roman Fort, near Kendal) and Galava (the Roman fort at Ambleside). Turn right, take the road to Near Orrest, was this the battleground referred to in the name 'Orrest' ie near the battleground?

Traversing the high wall-stile on the left, signed 'Far Orrest', pass the large bank-barn, after the kissing-gate cross the next paddock to a further kissing-gate, and via a small open copse to a wall-stile. Traverse the damp pasture to a wall-stile, advancing with the wall, now to the right, cross a ladder-stile then step over a wall-side gill. Traverse the field half-right, cross a second ladder-stile and follow the left-hand wall to a kissing-gate/gate close to Far Orrest. Turn right to a second kissing-gate/gate. Turn left and pass on behind the farmhouse to a third kissing-gate entering a walled green lane. Stay in the green lane to the kissing-gate beside a field-gate - do not go through the obvious gate opposite. Keep the wall close left. Glance over the wall for a fine view towards the head of Windermere; although hidden from view, you are directly above 'Holehird', the Lakeland Horticultural Society's beautiful gardens, maintained by volunteers and open to the public. Go through a new field-gate and follow the open track across the field ahead, declining to a galvanised gate onto the road.

Turn left and follow the road downhill passing the entrance to Low Longmire, Fusedwaite Yeat (which is Viking for 'cow-house clearing, gate') and lower down, ironically, High Longmire. Cross over the junction at the foot of the hill, turn right along the path to a bus stop (The Kirkstone Rambler 517 summer bus service) and kissing-gate. Descend the green track into the valley bottom to a hand-gate, cross two foot-bridges over Trout Beck, for one brief moment you are on an island!

Ascend the sunken path to the western end of Troutbeck village, some 400m right is 'Townend', a beautiful vernacular yeoman farmhouse (National Trust). Ascend the facing brick-cobbled drive beside Townfoot, rising via a gate it becomes a confined bridle-path to the road. Turn left and, as the road swings right, go straight on down the bridle-way, Wain Lane. This rough-tracked way passes several handsome old barns, narrowing as it goes to pass the well-screened Middlerigg Tarn. Cross the main road carefully, follow the cycle/footway to the north-bound bus stop at Brockhole (meaning 'the badgers' set').



Footbridge over Trout Beck