

# 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 5

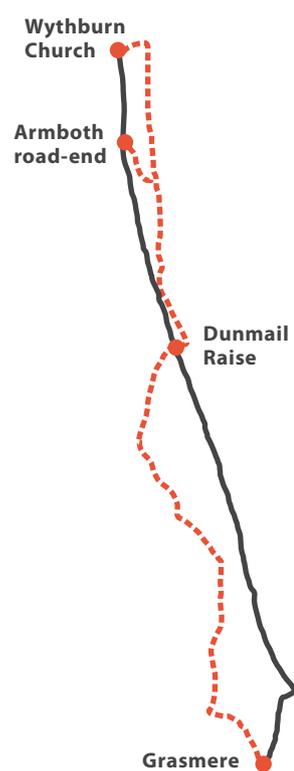
## SOUTHBOUND

### Wythburn > Grasmere

*three hours of comparatively wilder country walking*

**From forest track to open fell with a smidgen of adventure in climbing over the shoulder of Steel Fell. The stage concludes along a quiet back road beneath Helm Crag. There are request bus stops at the southern end of Dunmail Raise, enabling you to break this stage in two.**

From Wythburn Church (southbound bus): follow the access roadway into the car park behind the church. Pass through the kissing-gate and ascend the pitched path to reach the forest track at a kissing-gate. Turn right along the forest track to reach a big blue signboard. From the Armboth road-end (northbound bus): carefully cross the A592 and follow the facing forestry track rising south, this curves left to reach the big blue signboard. Turn right as directed for 'Grasmere'.



Go through the kissing-gate, cross successive footbridges over the excited waters of Birkside Gill. Above is a majestic sequence of cascades, well worth a closer look. The path continues on a gently rising line close to the intake wall with Helm Crag visible over the road pass ahead. At the wall-end turn right crossing the broad footbridge, view the beck's unnatural structure; Raise Beck was re-directed when Thirlmere was constructed. Bear half-right to the kissing-gate at the right-hand wall-end close to the road and the massive Dunmail Raise cairn. Continue beside the roadside fence crossing the original course of Raise Beck, now a dry stony bed. Ignore the ladder stile, advance to a light fence stile beside a gate, cross to the large roadside lay-by, just short of the climbers' club hut and the historic AA kiosk, now a Grade II listed building (request bus stops either side of



Helm Crag from Dunmail Raise with our bus to the fore

the road). Cross the wide road to the barrier: be alert. Turn right, find a short track leading left down to a gate in the fence. From the gate follow the green track leading left, latterly following a stream, cross a ford in the southerly-flowing Raise Beck. The track continues rising to a track junction at a smaller ford, follow the green track left rising round glacial moraine onto a low ridge on Cotra. Skirting a shallow marshy hollow bear off right over undulating ground to ascend the bracken bank with evidence of a sheep path. This climbs easily up the fellside slanting leftwards, contour above the intake wall, soon to unite with a grass path on the south ridge of Steel Fell.

Turn left, descending through the kissing-gate/gate passing down the ridge via gateways with Greenburn Dale to the right and Helm Crag ahead, note the 'Lion and the Lamb' prominent on the skyline. At the foot of the ridge join the Green Burn valley track beside a wall, go through the fell-gate (National Trust 'Green Burn' sign) and descend the gravel lane from Turne Howe, the white washed cottage. Proceed via two hand-gates beside cattle-grids adjacent to Helmside, at the road at the foot of the slope, turn right and follow the valley road past Ghyll Foot Cottages. Notice the pollarded willows in the pasture to the right, traditionally branches were cut not only to create sheep hurdles (see fence) but was also a source of minerals for sheep, extracted via chewing the bark.

At the next road junction, adjacent to Low Mill Bridge, turn right gently rising by Helmside Farm then via several cottages near Thorney How Youth Hostel to a road junction. Turn left crossing Goody Bridge, go immediately through the hand-gate, along the fenced footpath beside the roadside hedge. At the far end a hand-gate opens onto Easedale Road, pass on by Glenthorne, guest house, and the entrance to Butharlyp Howe Youth Hostel to the cross-ways in Grasmere (northbound bus stop immediately left, southbound bus stop right opposite the Heaton Cooper Studio).