

THE CUMBRIA WAY

ULVERSTON TO CARLISLE – MAIN ROUTE WITH
MOUNTAIN ALTERNATIVES

by John Gillham

CICERONE

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Front cover: Approaching Whit Beck under Skiddaw on Stage 4

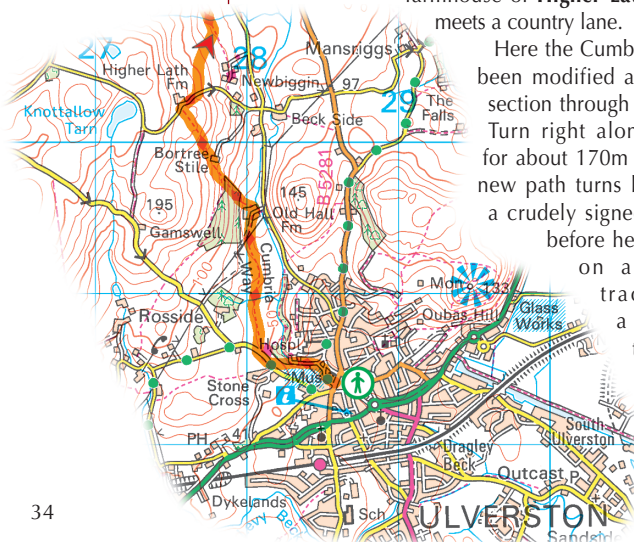
spot. Over another stile at the back of the farmhouse the route angles half right (NW) across fields, aiming for a stile at the right edge of woodland. Beyond the stile follow the woodland edge and go over another stile before climbing towards the large house of **Bortree Stile** on the hillside ahead. The path follows a streamlet and stays to the left of the house and its pleasant gardens, then goes through a gate into woodland. A narrow path continues by the streamlet then crosses it on a slab footbridge before entering high pastures.

Looking to the right you'll see the rooftops of **Ulverston** beneath Hoad Hill and its monument, with the waters of Morecambe Bay and the distant hills of Bowland and Yorkshire Dales forming the backdrop.

Keep to the right of high ground and pass through a small hollow in the field to a stile on its far side. Beyond the stile the path continues through the hollow, but now among rock-strewn, gorse-scattered pastures. Over a step stile in a cross-wall the path crosses a field towards the farmhouse of **Higher Lath**, where it meets a country lane.

Here the Cumbria Way has been modified avoiding the section through Newbiggin. Turn right along the lane for about 170m (557ft). The new path turns left through a crudely signed farm gate before heading north on a furrowed track across a field. Go through the right of two gates and continue

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track to the left of the church leads to the road, where you turn right. Turn left at a T-junction, then right along the lane leading to the village of **Broughton Beck**.

Where the road veers right in the heart of the village, turn left on a cul-de-sac. The lane bends left then the tarmac ends. Continue along a track, soon coming to the stream (Broughton Beck). One path fords the stream, but the one you want goes straight ahead through a metal farm gate. The way continues past large outbuildings and through a long field before veering right at a signpost and passing through a wall step stile into the next field. Angle half left to locate a slabbed slate bridge across the beck near the left edge of the field. Turn left by the stream's banks and go over a stile. The route now follows the left-hand field boundaries (walls and hedges) across several fields to join a rough track, which climbs to an unfenced lane beneath a rugged low hill, Lowick Beacon (**211m spot height** on the map).

Turn left along the lane, passing **Knapperthaw** farm. Take the right fork lane at the far end of the farm, then fork left on a shortcut track by the next junction. Now take the track opposite, which takes the route towards **Keldray** farm.

By now the mountains of **Dow Crag**, **Coniston Old Man** and **Wetherlam** can be seen clearly above the nearby woods and hillside and the Lake District proper feels a little nearer.

Beyond a gate before the house turn left – the place is marked by a ground-level signpost pointing up wooded slopes.

