



# jennings 2 day borrowdale ale trail

**Grade:** Time/effort: 5 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 3

**Start:** Borrowdale Hotel, GR NY261182

**Finish:** Borrowdale Hotel, GR NY261182

**Distance:** 26.8 miles (43.2km)

**Time:** 2 days

**Height gain:** 2060m

**Maps:** OS Landranger 90, OS Explorer OL 4 & 5, Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).

The Armboth Fells at the eastern side of Derwentwater and the Dodds at the northern end of the Helvellyn range are real connoisseur's peaks.

They do not have the overt showiness of some of the Lakeland mountains but set foot on their high rounded crests and peer over their craggy flanks to discover abundant charms.

Straddling the deep trough occupied by Thirlmere, the two sets of fells split into two manageable hill days. The Armboth Fells are slightly smaller in terms of overall height but in terms of work both walks are fairly evenly matched. Both days are full and will require some fell walking experience to enjoy them fully.

Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!



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### Day 1 - borrowdale hotel, borrowdale - kings head, thirlspot

After a nights rest in the Borrowdale Valley (at either the Borrowdale Hotel or the Lodore Falls Hotel) step out into a landscape of inspirational, beautiful views. The first day consists of a warm up through a delightful mixture of woodland, crag and beck, up the flanks of Borrowdale and then gets into stride with a high level, view-filled walk over the unassuming peaks of High Seat and High Tove to the Kings Head at Thirlspot. Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!

**Grade:** Time/effort: 3 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 2

**Start:** Borrowdale Hotel, GR NY261182

**Finish:** Kings Head, GR NY316182

**Lunch stop:** Heights Hotel, Castlerigg

**Distance:** 12.25 miles (19.7km)

**Time:** 7-8 hours

**Height gain:** 1000m

**Maps:** OS Landranger 90, OS Explorer OL 4 & 5, Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).

1 After a night relaxing and sampling Jennings award winning Cumberland Ale (silver medallist in the International Beer Awards...!) it's time to explore the dramatic landscape of the Borrowdale Valley. Follow the path through the trees behind the Borrowdale Hotel; take it steady as the first bit is steep. Climb through a series of hair pins on to Moss Mire, then through the trees of Mossmire Coppice to cross a footbridge over Watendlath Beck. Follow the path through the trees to join the road. Continue to Ashness Bridge, stopping to take in the view of Derwentwater and Skiddaw at 'Surprise View'. Near Ashness Bridge is a small cairn commemorating Bob Graham's 1932

fell run - 42 Lakeland peaks in less than 24 hours!

2 Cross over Ashness Bridge and take the path 50m on the right. Follows it as it gains height by traversing up the fell side and across the top of Falcon Crag. As you near Cat Gill turn right and climb the open fellside past a craggy knoll and sheepfold and make directly for the domed summit of Bleaberry Fell.

3 This is the first proper summit on the main ridge of the Armboth Fells. The crest of the ridge is broad and flat, a path weaves along it to the summit of High Seat and then to High Tove. From High Tove descend to the top of Fisher Gill. The path then heads down the north side of the beck all the way to the road at Armboth.

4 Either follow the road or a permissive path by the side of Thirlmere to a road junction by the dam, turn right, follow the road over the dam. Thirlmere was dammed in 1894 to provide water for Manchester. The dam is 857 feet long, 104 feet high and the water flows by gravity along a 100 mile long aqueduct. Join the permissive footpath on the right along the eastern side of Thirlmere, swing east to the main road. Turn left; follow the A591 to the Kings Head.

5 Walk through the large oak door into the reception area, turn right into the lounge where there is an open fire and comfortable seating - really weary walkers could even lay on the chaise lounge in the bay window! Then head to the newly refurbished bar/restaurant area with its Kirkstone green slate floor.

6 Your eye is met with the golden peak of the Jennings hand pull. Your journey is complete and a beautiful, foam-topped pint of Jennings Ale is your reward. Close your eyes and savour the taste.



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### Day 2 - Kings head, thirlspot - borrowdale hotel, borrowdale

Today follow ancient hooves up the packhorse route to Sticks Pass and then break out onto the rounded giants at the northern end of the Helvellyn range before heading back to the comforting hotels, and dramatic scenery, of the Borrowdale Valley.

Before setting off please make sure you plot the suggested route on OS maps and pack a compass. They are essential for a safe, enjoyable day in the hills!

**Grade:** Time/effort: 3 Navigation: 2 Technicality: 2

**Start:** Kings Head GR NY316177

**Finish:** Borrowdale Hotel, GR NY261182

**Lunch stop:** Horse and Farrier, Threlkeld

**Distance:** 14.6 miles (23.5km)

**Time:** 8 hours

**Height gain:** 1060m

**Maps:** OS Landranger 90, OS Explorer OL 4 & 5, Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland Central and Lakeland North, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).

1 From the Kings Head go north on the A591 to the junction with the B5322. Turn right then join a bridleway on the right; an ancient packhorse track connecting Stanah with Glenridding. This is today's main climb and follows the bridleway to Sticks Pass. Stop and admire the retrospective views!

2 From Sticks Pass the route zig-zags along the rounded crest of the main ridge first visiting Stybarrow Dodd, then Watson's Dodd, Great Dodd, Calfhow Pike and finally Clough Head. The going is over smooth grass and the ups and downs are fairly

gentle, but watch out for mist; this part of the Helvellyn Range is quiet and some of the paths are vague and easily lost, so check the direction if in doubt.

3 From Clough Head descend northeast for about 1km, when you pass the shoulder of White Pike turn north and head downhill to join the Old Coach Road at Hausewell Brow.

4 Turn left and follow to the B5322 at Wanthwaite Bridge. Turn right to the A66. Cross with care and head into Threlkeld for lunch and a pint at the Horse and Farrier.

5 The old Keswick railway line provides an easy and picturesque walk to Keswick. The old line opened on the 2nd January 1865, and linked Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith. The Beeching report (1963) recommended closure and the last service ran on March 6th 1972. Retrace your steps through Threlkeld and turn right by the Police Station, follow for 250m to a junction. Turn right to the A66. Follow the cycle path for 200m to join the old railway. Follow this over a series of bridges to the leisure centre in Keswick. Head into the town centre and use the water bus on Derwentwater or the bus service to get back to Borrowdale.

6 Head back to your hotel and reflect on your adventure over a pint of 'Pure Lakeland' Cumberland Ale; made from the finest ingredients and Lakeland water drawn from the breweries own well.



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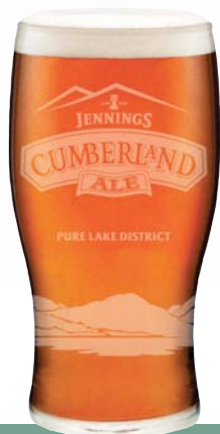
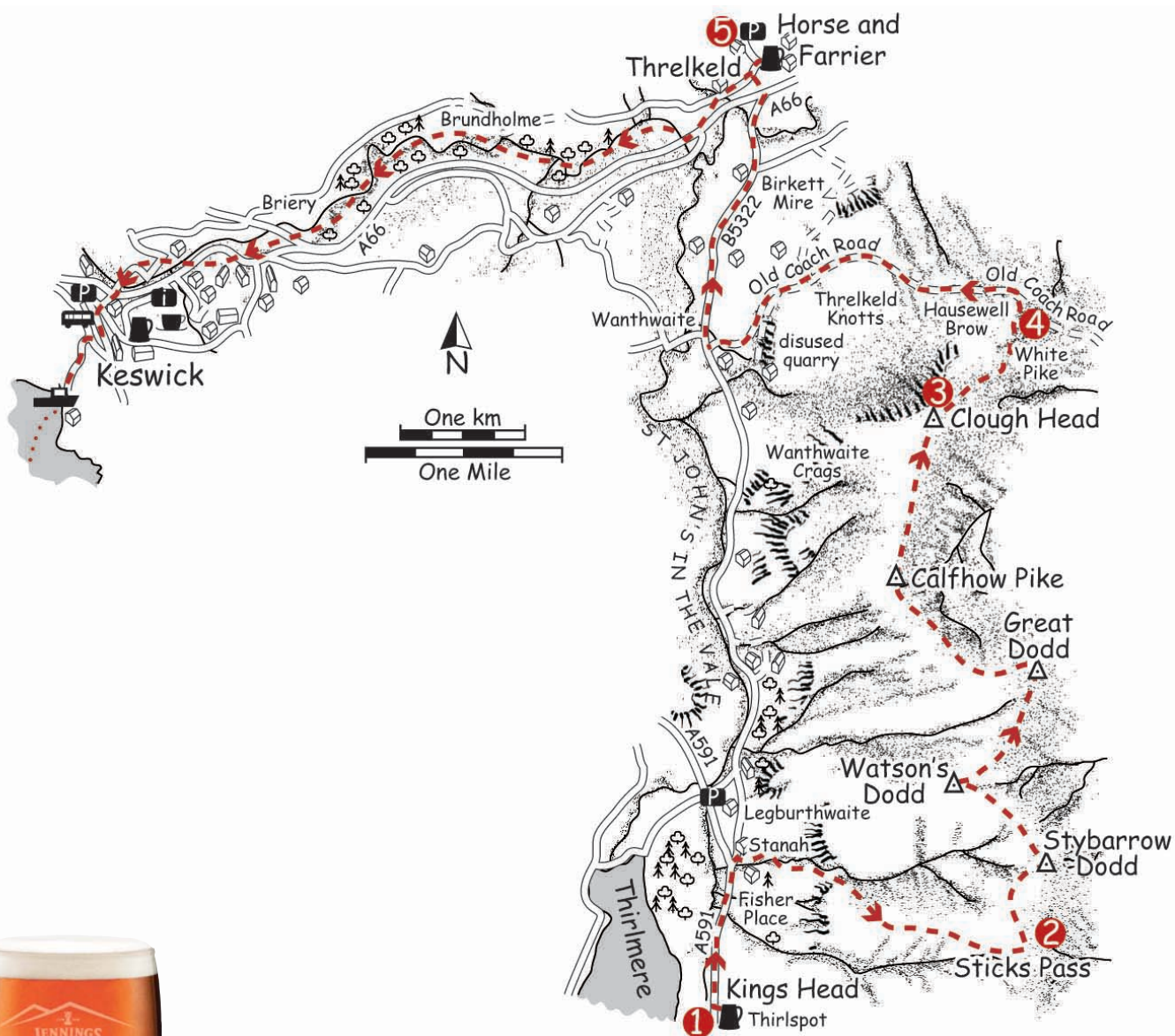


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