

3.2 Ennerdale Bridge to Rosthwaite

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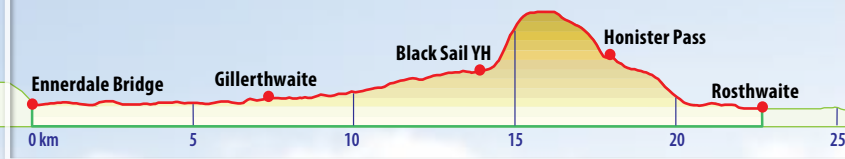
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Distance 14.0 miles 22.5 km

Terrain quiet road, rocky lakeside path, field paths, forest road, mixture of paths, with one difficult section

Food & drink Ennerdale Bridge, Honister Pass, Seatoller, Rosthwaite

Summary lakeside and mountain paths, with fine views; stark mining landscape, then wooded Borrowdale



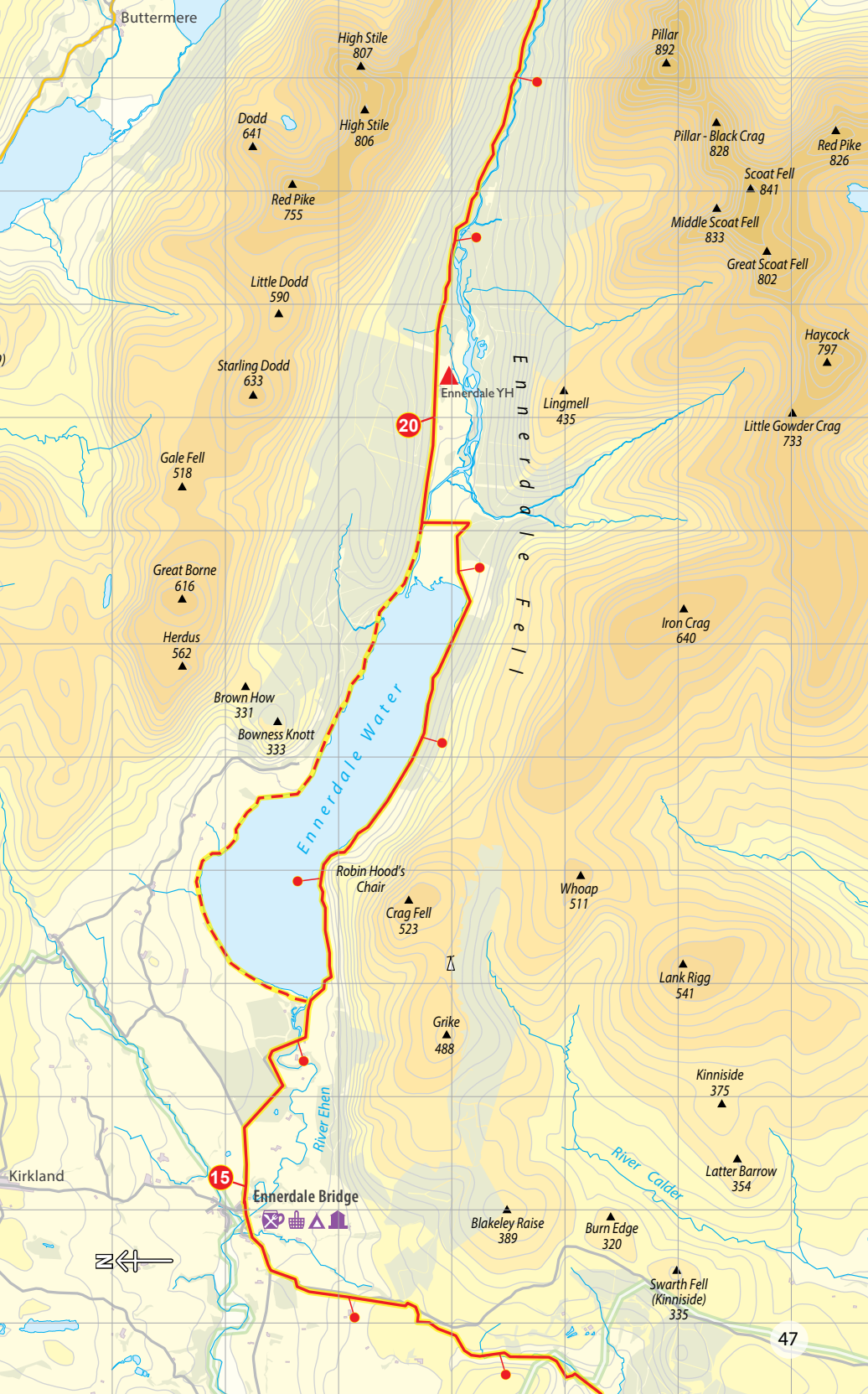
If you have any concerns about the length of this section, consider two ways to shorten it: one is to take the easier path around the northern shore of Ennerdale Water, the other is to end it at Seatoller in place of Rosthwaite.

- From the River Ehen bridge, follow the road eastwards. Bear right almost immediately, and after 700 m bear right again along a road signed for Ennerdale Water. There is a roadside path but it may be more quagmire than path.
- Follow the road as it twists and turns past Bleach Green cottage to the car park. As of 2018, works on the weir and pipework restricted any access to the lake to a gate at the far end of Bleach Green car park.

An information board shows how the north and south paths provide a loop around the lake: choose here. Both offer superb views, but the south path demands close attention to placing your feet and is slow going.

South-east across Ennerdale Water towards Pillar Ridge







South shore path, looking east

- The main route follows the south shore from near the weir. Pass through a gate that announces 'Anglers Crag' (National Trust) and soon reach a fine memorial bench.
- The main path mostly stays close to the waterside, but it's rough going and soon involves a steep rocky scramble over Robin Hood's Chair – treacherous in the wet.
- After a further 2 miles/3.2 km of lakeside path, cross various small streams to reach the eastern end of Ennerdale Water. Go through a gate on the right, then bear left through another gate, soon crossing a larger stream by footbridge.
- About 500 m beyond the end of the lake, turn left on a track to cross the River Liza and turn right along the forest road. Pass a stile to Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre, and soon afterwards Ennerdale Youth Hostel.
- Just beyond is the start of a strenuous option over Wainwright's beloved High Stile and Hay Stacks, rejoining the main route somewhere near mile 25. Attempt this only if you have suitable experience, a large-scale map and visibility is good.



North from the footbridge

- The main route follows the forest road for a further 4 miles (6.4 km) up Ennerdale, with inspiring views across the tumbling River Liza to the peaks and ridges high above.
- Go through a gate and on to Black Sail Youth Hostel, a former shepherd's hut: see page 8. It's usually open in the daytime and hot drinks are available: use the honesty box. It welcomes C2C walkers with a wonderful atmosphere and shelter.



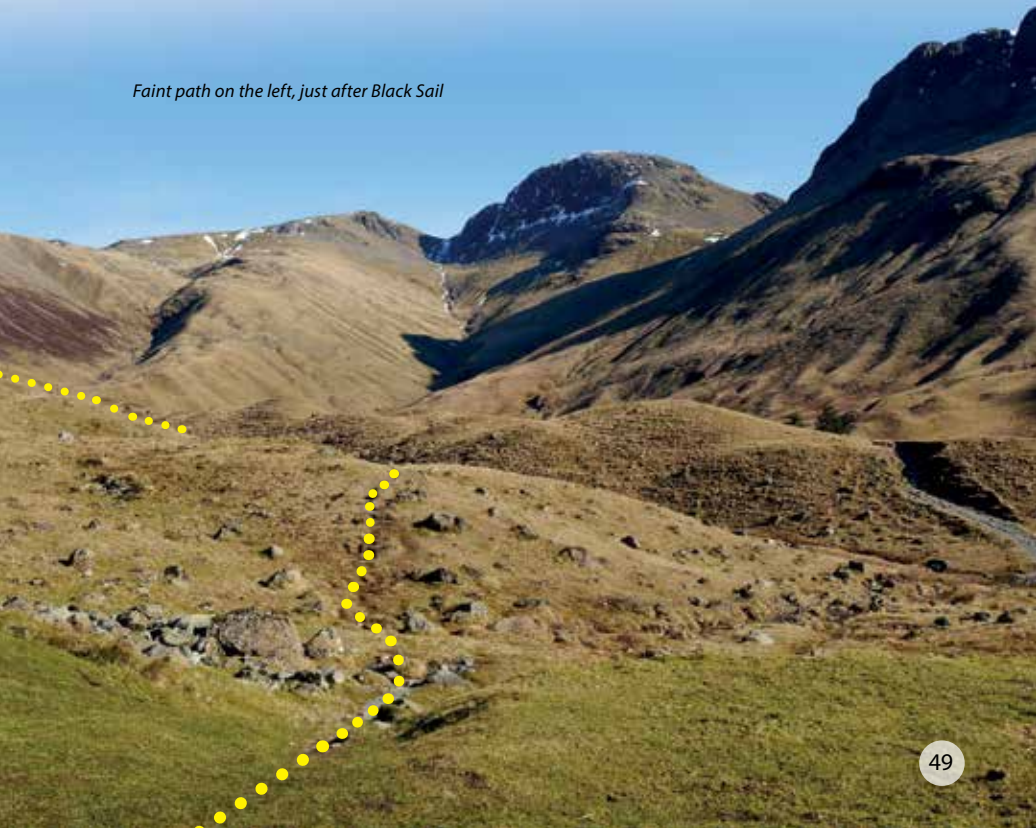
Tongue Beck



- Mountain Rescue reports far too many walkers losing the route after Black Sail, creating needless callouts: ignore the more obvious track on the right and take the line shown in the photo below. At first it's more an act of faith than a path, but it soon becomes better defined.

- The path contours the hillside for 800 m, leaving the fine falls in Tongue Beck nearby on the right. Reach and cross Loft Beck to follow the rocky route as it climbs steeply north-east, keeping the beck on your left.
- Above the beck, you pass through a gate to reach a boggy, grassy col. Navigate this section with great care, especially if in low cloud. Turn east to follow a line of cairns, crossing a stile on the way.

Faint path on the left, just after Black Sail



- As you traverse the col, look out for Buttermere to the north-west: see photo below.
- The route now veers north-east, then descends almost due north across the former slate mining area to the top of the tramway track. The feature is easily identified as a raised linear path flanked by a stone wall. Any navigational worries are now over as you descend into the valley of Borrowdale.
- Turn right to descend steeply on the boggy track which makes a left-right dogleg before reaching Honister Slate Mine with its piles of recently extracted slate, visitor centre and café: see panel opposite. Adjacent to it is Honister Hause Youth Hostel.
- Walk down the road to a slight right bend, then take a track (a former toll road) for about 250 m. Then follow a signposted bridleway, soon to diverge from the road.
- Cross a small stream, go through a gate and about 50 m past some tall conifers, bear right on a path heading steeply down to the B5289. Follow the road through Seatoller – unless you're staying here.
- Turn left to the car park, following a path to Longthwaite. From its far side, cross a stile and follow a grassy track into Johnny's Wood, passing through a gate. Within 25 m, bear right down a stony path.
- Ford a small stream, go through a gate and downhill almost to river level after three more gates. Now for some fun: make your way along ledges in a steep rockface with a short chain for security, then across small boulders and tree roots.
- Beyond a gate, a broad flat path leads on past Borrowdale Youth Hostel. Cross the car park, then the bridge on your right.
- Go up and turn left as indicated, across two fields. Pass through a gate to a lane, which bends right, left and right to the main road in Rosthwaite.

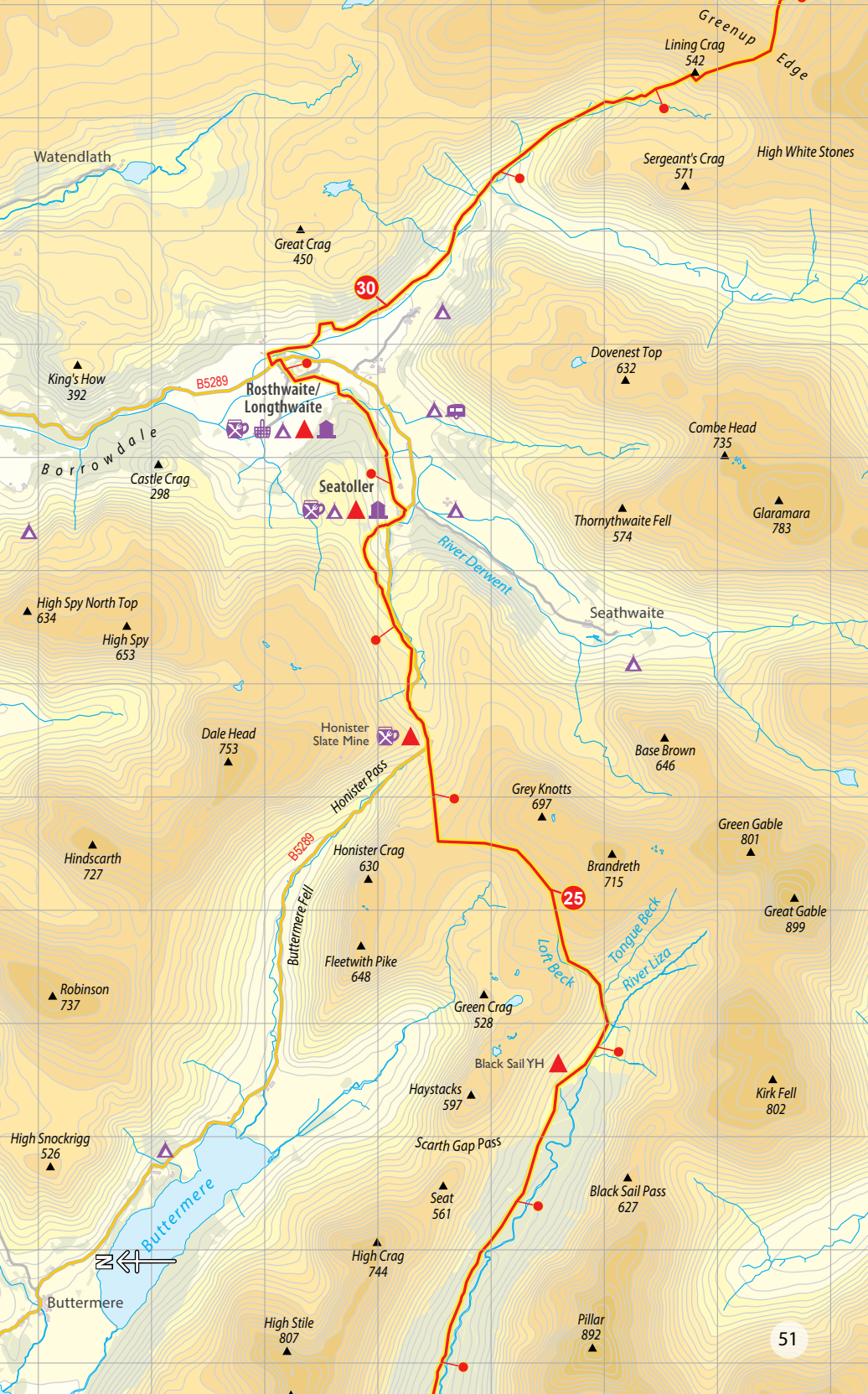


Honister Slate Mine

After lying dormant for 11 years, this slate mine was bought by local people and reopened in 1997, with underground workings made safe and machinery restored. It is now an award-winning visitor attraction with demonstrations, museum, shop and café, open daily 9.00 to 17.00, telephone 017687 77230 or visit www.honister.com.

From the col, Buttermere appears to the north-west





Watendlath

Lining Crag 542

High White Stones

Sergeant's Crag 571

Great Crag 450

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Dovenest Top 632

B5289

Rosthwaite/Longthwaite

Combe Head 735

King's How 392

Castle Crag 298

Seatoller

Thornthwaite Fell 574

Glamara 783

Borrowdale

High Spy North Top 634

High Spy 653

Seathwaite

Dale Head 753

Honister Slate Mine

Grey Knotts 697

Base Brown 646

Hindscarth 727

Honister Pass

Honister Crag 630

Brandreth 715

Green Gable 801

Great Gable 899

Robinson 737

Fleetwith Pike 648

Green Crag 528

Black Sail YH

Haystacks 597

Kirk Fell 802

High Snockrigg 526

High Stile 807

High Crag 744

Scarth Gap Pass

Seat 561

Black Sail Pass 627

Pillar 892

Buttermere

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