

By 1567 the company was mining enough lead and copper ore from the fells around Keswick to keep six ore smelters in action at Brigham in Keswick. This is believed to then have been the biggest operation of its kind in Europe.

Below you on the near shore is Brandelhow, once a large mine which had flooding problems. Its lead ore veins were rich enough for miners to justify the use of water wheels to pump out the mine, though they eventually lost the battle in 1891. Other mines in the area included Saltwell Mine, near Brandelhow, and Copperplate Mine so called because the copper it produced was used to plate ships against encrustation. In its mining heyday the area around Derwentwater must have been busy and noisy - a far cry from the quiet beauty you enjoy today.



*Elizabethan mining*

**4** Continue over the summit and descend on the path ahead. At the lowest point before the path starts to climb Maiden Moor, take the path to the right, descending steeply into Newlands valley. Fork left on a grass path to a cairned path that follows the steepest route through the old workings of Yewthwaite Mine, then bears left curving down to the valley.

**5** On meeting a wider track in the valley and by a wall, a shorter route is possible by turning right and walking along the path to Skelgill and picking up the route description at stage 7. For the longer walk, on meeting the wide path turn left and continue on the track which bends left towards the valley head under Dale Head.

Where the gravel path bends right for Little Town, the route may again be shortened by turning right to Little Town at **point A** and picking up the route at Little Town as in stage 6, **point B**. For the longer route, do not go into Little Town, but instead take the grass track off to the left facing the sharp ridge of Hindscarth.



*Newlands*

Continue left when the grass track meets gravel towards the head of the valley with impressive views of Dale Head. Just after the last farm buildings on the right look out for a footbridge to the right beside the old Goldscope mine workings.

*(Old mines and their remains can be dangerous so please stay away from them.)*

Copper was mined from this area as early as the 13th century but by 1565, copper and some lead were being mined on a large scale. The name Goldscope is thought to have evolved from 'Gottes Gab' which in German means 'God's gift'. Though this rich source of ore was mined, on and off, for more than 400 years the spoil heaps just before Low Snab Farm are the only remains.

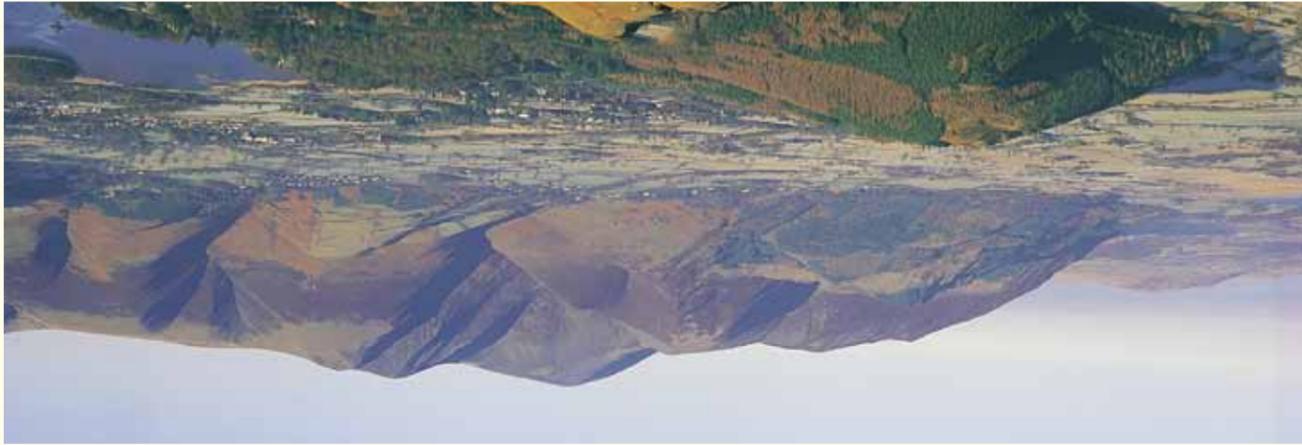
Cross the footbridge and turn right through a gate onto a path back towards the farm. Follow the path beside the wall and ahead through a gate onto a permissive path through the farm and ahead to Newlands Church.

**6** Turn right along the road at the church and right again after a gate. Walk over the bridge and continue (*carefully*) on the road through the hamlet of Little Town to find the footpath just after the last building on the right (FPS Skelgill) **point B**. Turn right and continue on the faint but obvious path over several fields to reach Skelgill Farm with its camping barn.

**7** Turn right after the farmhouse and up the road through the gate on to the level road. Carry straight on to where the road forks (at start of climb to Catbells). Keep left over the cattle grid and in 45 metres take the path on the right (FPS Hawes End). At the next road, if you want to take the launch back to Keswick, turn right and in 15 metres turn left down a path in the woods (FPS Launch Jetty) through a kissing gate and ahead to the lakeshore. If you wish to walk back to Keswick, rather than taking the launch, at the road go left through the wicket gate and retrace your steps back to Keswick (stages 3, 2, 1).

**8** The launch takes you back to the boat landings in Keswick.

**9** On disembarking, turn left and walk past the Theatre by the Lake and turn left into Hope Park. Walk through the park, passing the crazy golf and putting green, cross the road and take the pedestrian subway to reach Lake Road. Turn right up Lake Road and left at the top to continue through the shops back into the Market Square of Keswick (1).



**3** Cross over and take the path ahead, climbing by the wall through woodland (FPS Catbells). Bear left up the road (take care - short stretch without pavement, so face oncoming traffic). Cross the cattle grid, continue up the road to the Skeigill road junction and go up the footpath straight ahead, by the Skeigill sign post. The path zigzags upwards and gets steep on the climb over a rocky outcrop to the ridge (take care the path is slippery, especially when wet). The path flattens out along the ridge, then there is a final steep climb to the summit. (Again take care as the path can be slippery.) Enjoy the views. As you look down at Derwentwater you can see a large house on an island: Derwent Isle. In the 16th century, German miners had a brewery and an orchard on the island. Queen Elizabeth I had brought the miners to England, as part of the workforce of the Company of Mines Royal, to develop copper and lead mining and to prospect for silver and gold.

large fields (FPS Portinscale). Turn left and cross the suspension bridge over the River Derwent. Continue ahead on a road to turn left at a T junction.

**2** Walk along the road for about 800 metres going past Derwent Water Marina (take care - short stretch without pavement, so face oncoming traffic). Turn left along the drive to Nichol End Marine and then right up a path before the Marine shop and buildings. Carry straight on across Fawe Park drive and continue ahead on a broad track. Continue through woodland to emerge on a farmac lane (private drive). Cross the lane and take the wicket gate signed for Catbells.

Continue on the path through woodland and through a kissing gate into an open field with good views of the route ahead up Catbells. Continue through the next gate, over footbridge and ahead through woodland to pass through a gate onto a road.

**CATBELLS and NEWLANDS - ROCKS and MINERALS**

Distance: About 13 km  
Time: 5-7 hours plus waiting time for launch  
Grade: Strenuous

Please note that 'FPS' means footpath sign

**1** Exit the Moot Hall and walk around the building to head down the Market Square towards the Post Office. Continue ahead at the end of the pedestrian zone, and straight ahead at a junction. Cross the bridge over the River Greta and turn immediately left (FPS Portinscale). Just before you turn, though, look for the Pencil Museum on the right hand side of the road - it is well worth a visit on another day. Although Keswick developed as a market town in the 13th century, the mineral wealth of the surrounding fells was key to the community's growth in the 16th century. 'Wad' or 'black lead' (graphite) was one of the areas' subterranean treasures and it proved to be the most valuable thing ever taken out of Cumbrian ground. As well as being used to cast cannon balls it became the central raw material for the local pencil industry. By 1840 there were 14 pencil mills along the River Greta all using wad from the mine in Seathwaite in Borrowdale. Although the Seathwaite wad is now exhausted, the pencil tradition continues thanks to imported graphite and Derwent pencils are world famous.

After about 45 metres take the footpath to the right, through a kissing gate and across two

KESWICK WALKS

**The Countryside Code**

The land in the Lake District National Park is nearly all privately owned and much of it is farmed. Because of this it is especially important that you use the Countryside Code to guide your activities in the National Park:

**Respect, Protect, Enjoy**

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep dogs under close control
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Consider other people

The fields and fells of the Lake District are pasture for sheep. Dogs do not have to attack sheep to cause them harm, particularly from late autumn through to early summer when ewes are either pregnant or with lambs. Please keep your dog on a lead.

**Safe and Sound**

The weather in the Lake District can change very quickly and you should always dress appropriately for your activity:

- if you are walking, wear strong boots, take a rain jacket, some food and drink, a map and a compass
- call the National Park Authority's Weatherline Service 0844 846 2444 to check the forecast before you leave
- in case of an accident away from the road, call 999 and ask for Mountain Rescue

**The Lake District National Park**

With its world renowned landscape, the National Park is for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future.

It needs a prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities, which sustain the spectacular landscape.

Everyone involved in running England's largest and much loved National Park is committed to:

- respecting the past
- caring for the present
- planning for the future

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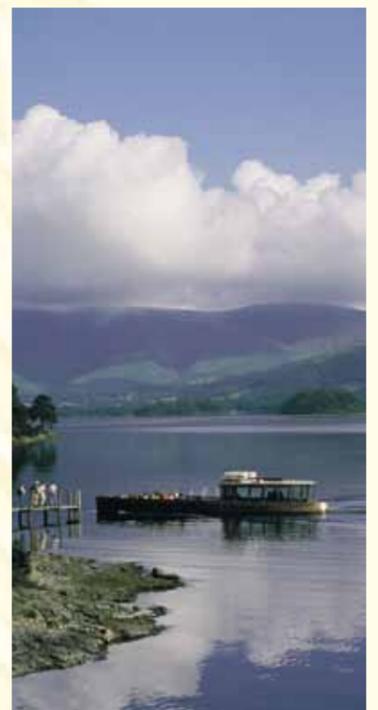
**Lake District National Park**



KESWICK WALKS

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**Catbells and Newlands**



A challenging route onto popular fells whose mineral wealth was mined for more than 800 years. The walk is steep, rocky and slippery in places: a map, compass, walking boots and waterproof clothing are a must. Part of the route is completed by a trip on the launch; ask TIC staff for a timetable and take some money for your ticket.

KESWICK WALKS