

## Your Adventure Your Way

Explore the world around you with OS Maps. Routes, mapping and navigation across the UK whenever and wherever you need it.

Find out more at [os.uk/osm](https://os.uk/osm)



Scan to download the app:



YHA Members: Head to the member benefits area at [yha.org.uk/walk-os](https://yha.org.uk/walk-os) to find your discount code for an OS Maps Premium subscription

### Hazards

Road crossings. Some walking on lanes and narrow roads without pavements. Short section along the busy B5289 without pavement. The route includes high ground which regularly has low visibility, make sure you know where you are at all times and have a map and compass for navigation. Deep water. May be livestock in fields.

### Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and gates and paths less than one metre wide. Paths are steep and slippery in places. Marshy and wet sections on the moorland near Dock Tarn. Washed out paths on the bridleway into Rosthwaite with some slabby rocks.

### Facilities

Toilets and tearooms (seasonal) in Watendlath and Rosthwaite. Pub in Stonethwaite and Rosthwaite.

### Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast and whether there is enough daylight to complete the walk ([metoffice.gov.uk](https://metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the route and weather, and that you take the right kit – learn more at [yha.org.uk/walk-skills](https://yha.org.uk/walk-skills).
- Download the OS Maps and what3words apps to your phone.
- To be able to contact emergency services by text visit [relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms](https://relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms) or text 'register' to 999.
- For more information on staying safe in the outdoors visit [adventuresmart.uk](https://adventuresmart.uk).
- Complete a route notification card ([yha.org.uk/route-card](https://yha.org.uk/route-card)) to provide essential information for the Emergency Services if you do not return when expected.
- Check all members of the group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.

### In case of emergency:

- Contact 999 and use OS Maps or what3words to help pinpoint your location.
- To attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash a torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location, number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to [yha.org.uk/map-guidance](https://yha.org.uk/map-guidance)

If you encounter problems with this route contact [walking@yha.org.uk](mailto:walking@yha.org.uk)

Walking has been at the heart of YHA since 1930, helping people access the great outdoors. Today, YHA continues to make adventures possible with mapped routes and affordable hostel stays across England and Wales. Our hostels are ideal for walkers, with drying rooms, self-catering kitchens, and great trails from the doorstep. We're committed to making adventure accessible to everyone, with walks for all abilities and guided walking events that connect people to nature, heritage, and each other.

Supported by

Share your walks



Produced by Matt Overd (<https://walkingpace.uk>). Contributions from Chris Edis, Aaron Jones, Simon Lightowler & Simon Ainley. Designed by HeylinSmith.com. Cover image: © Trevor Littlewood (cc-by-sa/2.0)



# Great Crag and Watendlath walk



## YHA Borrowdale

Book your stay now [yha.org.uk/stay-009](https://yha.org.uk/stay-009)

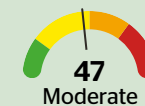
### Hill and tarn walk

A great walk with amazing views, moorland and tarns.

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (8.8km)

**Ascent:** 449m (1,473ft)

**Time:** Allow 3h 15m to 5h



Partnered with





## Route directions

**Map:** OS Explorer (OL4) English Lakes - North-western area

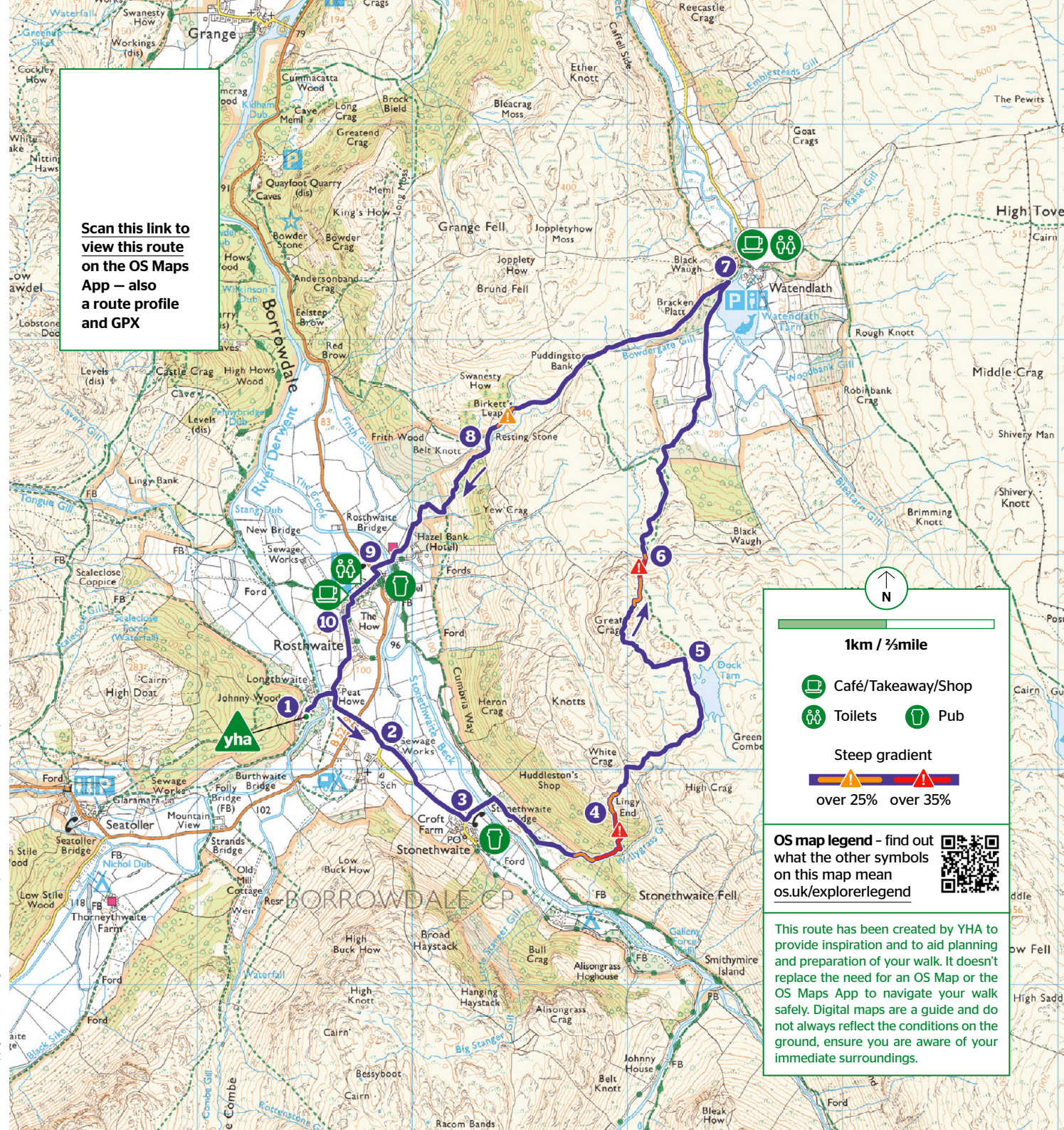
**Start/Finish:** Grid ref NY 255 142

**what3words** ///octagon.puzzle.insist

- 1 From the hostel turn left, follow the drive to the B5289 and cross to the road ahead.
- 2 When the road bends to the right continue ahead to follow the path across the field and rejoin the road.
- 3 Before the phone box turn left, cross Stonethwaite Bridge and turn right. Take the first left and follow the path heading steeply uphill and into the woods.
- 4 On leaving the woods follow the obvious path between White Crag and Lingy End, pass a waterfall which is on the right and follow the path alongside Dock Tarn.
- 5 After the tarn take the path on the left over the top of Great Crag.
- 6 Go through the gate in the wall and follow the path through more gates.
- 7 The path comes alongside Watendlath Tarn. To visit the tearooms and toilets in Watendlath cross the footbridge and return to this point to continue the walk. Take the bridleway uphill towards Bracken Platt and continue on the bridleway as it descends to Birkett's Leap.
- 8 Bear left through a gate signposted 'Rosthwaite'. Follow the track, cross Rosthwaite Bridge and continue to the road.
- 9 At the road turn left and then immediately right. Pass the car park, bear left at the tearoom and bear right to pass Oak Cottage.
- 10 Turn right onto a track between houses, left through the gate and across fields. Turn right onto the driveway and back to the hostel.

Scan this link to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX

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OS map legend - find out what the other symbols on this map mean [os.uk/explorerlegend](http://os.uk/explorerlegend)



This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.