

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



Scan to download the app:



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

Hazards

Some walking on lanes and narrow roads without pavements. No pavement alongside the road for 400m between the hostel and ② Howe Farm and for 1.1km between the recreation ground on the edge of Hawkshead village and the hostel. Deep water near to the path.

Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and paths less than one metre wide. Walking surface includes road, good track and sections of rough ground with ruts or stones. There is a Miles Without Stiles route around Tarn Hows (3km with some sections steeper than 1:10) beginning from the Tarn Hows car park.

Facilities

Drinks sometimes available at Hawkshead Baptist church on Hawkshead Hill. Toilets in the Tarn Hows car park. Food, toilets and shops in Hawkshead.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast and whether there is enough daylight to complete the walk (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.
- Download the OS Maps and what3words apps to your phone.
- To be able to contact emergency services by text visit relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms or text 'register' to 999.
- For more information on staying safe in the outdoors visit adventuresmart.uk.
- Complete a route notification card (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

If you encounter problems with this route contact 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 Walks Around Britain (adapted), Alan Platt & Simon Ainley. Designed by HeylinSmith.com. Cover image: Anthony Brown/AdobeStock



Tarn Hows and Hawkshead walk



116

YHA Hawkshead

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-116

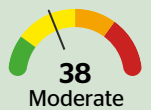
Countryside, lakeside and village walk

A lovely walk to stunning Tarn Hows Site of Special Scientific Interest, formed by a dam built in 1865, and then through picturesque Hawkshead village with many historic buildings.

Distance: 7.2 miles (11.6km)

Ascent: 290m (951ft)

Time: Allow 3h 30m to 5h 30m



Partnered with



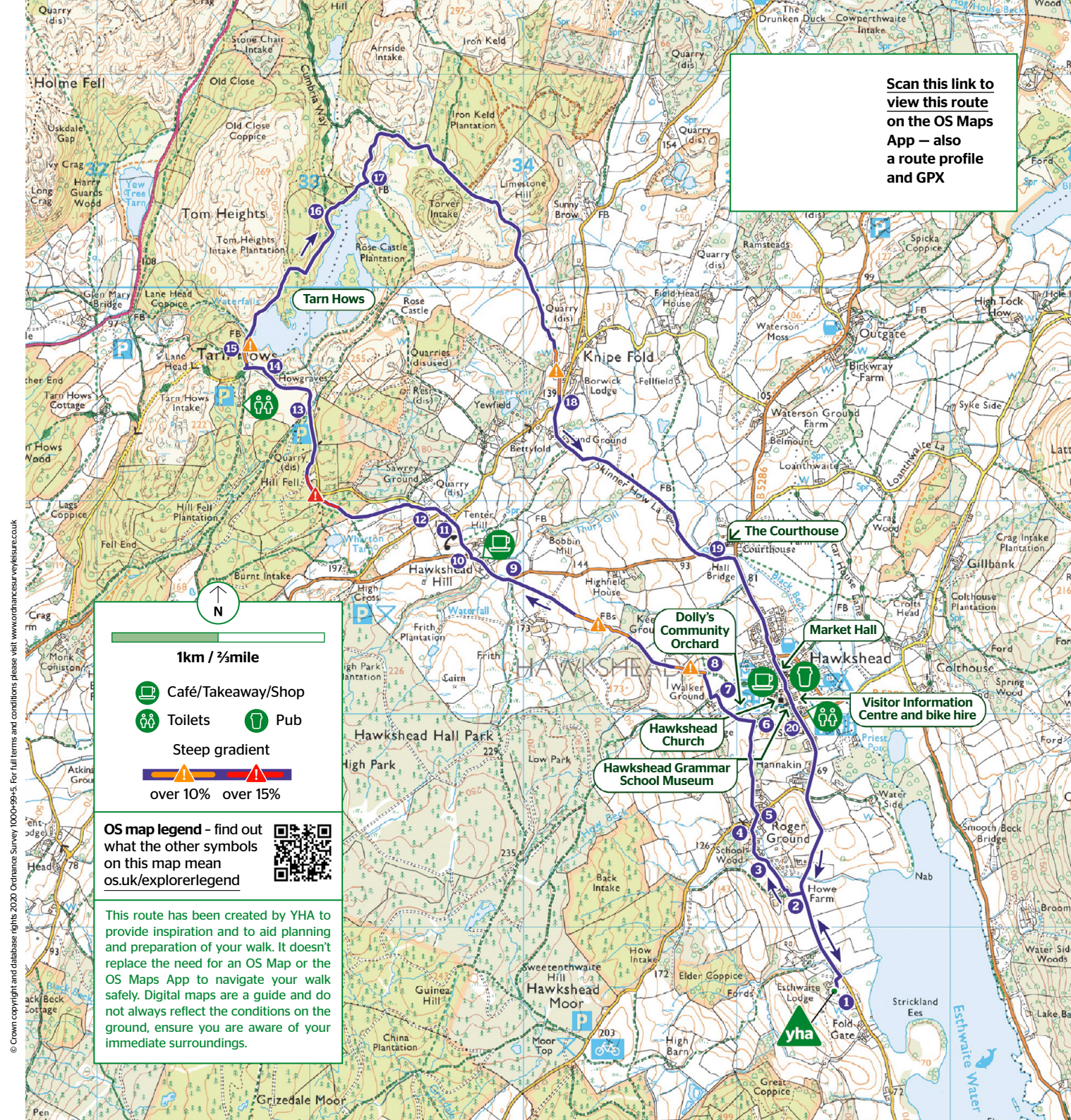
Route directions

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL7) English Lakes – South-eastern area

Start/Finish: Grid ref SD 354 966

what3words ///frantic.handrail.indulgent

- 1 From the hostel head to the road and turn left.
- 2 Turn left to Howe Farm then take the footpath on the right across a field.
- 3 Join the road and pass the houses.
- 4 At the junction bear right.
- 5 Turn left onto a track signposted to Hawkshead Village.
- 6 Turn left, continue to the track and pass the vicarage.
- 7 At the junction turn left, then take the footpath on the right by the two pillars.
- 8 At the path junction turn left, then head uphill through fields.
- 9 At the road bear left and continue uphill.
- 10 Bear right at the junction signed to Tarn Hows.
- 11 Go straight ahead at the junction, then bear right at the next junction signed to Tarn Hows.
- 12 Take the footpath on the left which follows around the road.
- 13 At the road by the car park turn left.
- 14 When next to the barrier, cross the grass to the lower path and head to the left side of the tarn.
- 15 Follow the Cumbria Way alongside the tarn.
- 16 Bear right to follow the path around the tarn.
- 17 At the north end of the tarn turn left, then turn right and follow the track downhill to towards Knipe Fold.
- 18 Follow Skinner How Lane downhill towards Hawkshead.
- 19 At Hall Bridge turn right onto the B5285 and pass through Hawkshead village.
- 20 Go straight ahead and pass the recreation ground, then continue on the road to the hostel.



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



1km / 3/4 mile



Café/Takeaway/Shop



Toilets



Pub

Steep gradient



over 10% over 15%

OS map legend - find out what the other symbols on this map mean
[os.uk/explorerlegend](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/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.

