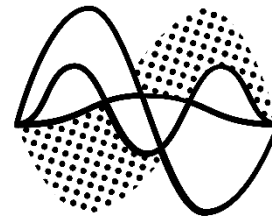


SCREE ROUTE INSTRUCTIONS:

ROUTE: DEEP BORROWDALE

ROSTHWAITE

6.4 MILES, 2,060 FEET OF ASCENT



Scree

Reimagining the
Lake District Fells

Start in the centre of Rosthwaite village, parking either in the Village Hall parking area or in the National Trust car park (NY 258149). From here head WSW, past the entrance to the village hall to Yew Tree Farm, where you take the left hand branch of the road, which curves around another bend to Stoney Croft (NY 257147). Up to your LHS you will see the top of the Howe, the roche moutonnée around which Rosthwaite is built. A short detour slightly further along the road brings you to a gate, which allows access to climb to its summit, before returning the same way to Stoney Croft, and a lane / gap between the houses where you will see a fingerpost just ahead. Follow the finger post due left, over the stile into the field, and immediately bear right off the path up on to the top of the small hillock ahead – this is the top of the first moraine. From here, over the wall and in the direction of Castle Crag, you will see another roche moutonnée, with pine trees on its top, and some fencing on its sides.

To continue, bear left back to the path / the wall and continue to a stile into the next field. Follow the wall slightly beyond this stile to reach the ‘top’ of the second moraine (NY 257145), before bearing diagonally right on the path, through a gap in the wall (which has been built upon a number of large erratic glacial boulders). Turn left to continue through a gate to the Youth Hostel road. Turn right down this road, across the bridge, then turn right again before reaching the hostel to follow the path along the western bank of the River Derwent.

Continue along this path for 1km to New Bridge (a packhorse bridge over the river). Keep going, around a right hand bend in the river at Stang Dub (ignore a path ascending just at the bend) beyond which there is another path junction (NY 252154). Take the left-hand branch to begin climbing up towards Castle Crag (with fantastic views behind to the glacial features of Rosthwaite and the U-shaped Stonethwaite valley beyond). This path climbs, increasingly steeply, before levelling out briefly at a level platform where you cross a stile, and then more gradually to a second stile directly beneath the steep final ascent to Castle Crag. Cross this stile (NY 245158) and turn right to reach the remains of the slate mines. A path zig zags steeply up through these remains (past a small rock arch sculpture) to the summit of Castle Crag (NY249159), the smallest Wainwright, where there is a war memorial and fantastic views down Derwentwater towards Skiddaw. To the south, note how mining has cut a huge gouge out of the summit.

Return to the stile at NY 245158, but instead of crossing it, bear right to descend a path which heads north at first, and then turns sharp left to descend due SW to the major bridleway which runs behind Castle Crag from Seatoller to Grange (NY 247158). Turn left along this bridleway, keeping right at the next two path junctions, first to avoid descending back to the beck, and secondly to turn off the bridleway and head up Tongue Gill towards the former slate mine workings of Rigghead Quarry. Cross a ford across the beck at NY 239154 and continue climbing the path ahead to the next path junction at NY 237153, where you take a sharp left turn to head down towards the quarry buildings directly below (now a climbing hut). Continue beyond the hut on a path down through the bracken to once more reach the Seatoller-Grange bridleway, where you turn right. This path follows a fantastic terrace across the hillside. Ignore the first turning left, continuing instead to cross Scaleclose Gill and the wall just beyond. About 250m further on, the ground begins to open out ahead, and you will see a stile down on the LHS (NY 243144). Cross the boggy ground beyond the stile to reach a path, which heads down left to follow the line of the gill, before sweeping down right to a gate into Johnny Wood (a temperate rainforest, internationally important for mosses, lichens and liverworts). Keep on this path which skirts through the woods beneath the hillside (taking a brief detour into the woods via a stile on the RHS after about 500m if you want to explore this in more detail!). The path emerges at the YHA – cross in front of the hostel, and continue on the path along the beck, where you will see boreholes in the rock from the time of the glacial retreat opposite what looks like a cut away embankment on the other side of the river (which is actually the end of a cut away moraine!) There is a great swimming hole in the river here.

The path turns away from the river just beyond, following a wall through the woods, before taking a left path branch to descend to Folly Bridge (NY 251139) where there is more good swimming. Cross the bridge, and continue across the field to the road at Mountain View. Turn left along the road (path alongside) for about half a kilometre, where just beyond a bridge (and just before Chapel Stile campsite), a fingerpost points you on a path across the field on the LHS (due NNE) over a stile, and into another field which is used as an overflow camping area in summer. The path ahead follows the narrow ridge of another moraine across to another stile where a narrow path leads onto the YHA road. Turn left (noticing the sign on the house gate on your LHS), for a very short distance before a gate on the RHS at Peat Howe takes you back along the path through the moraines where you started out, to retrace your footsteps back to the car.