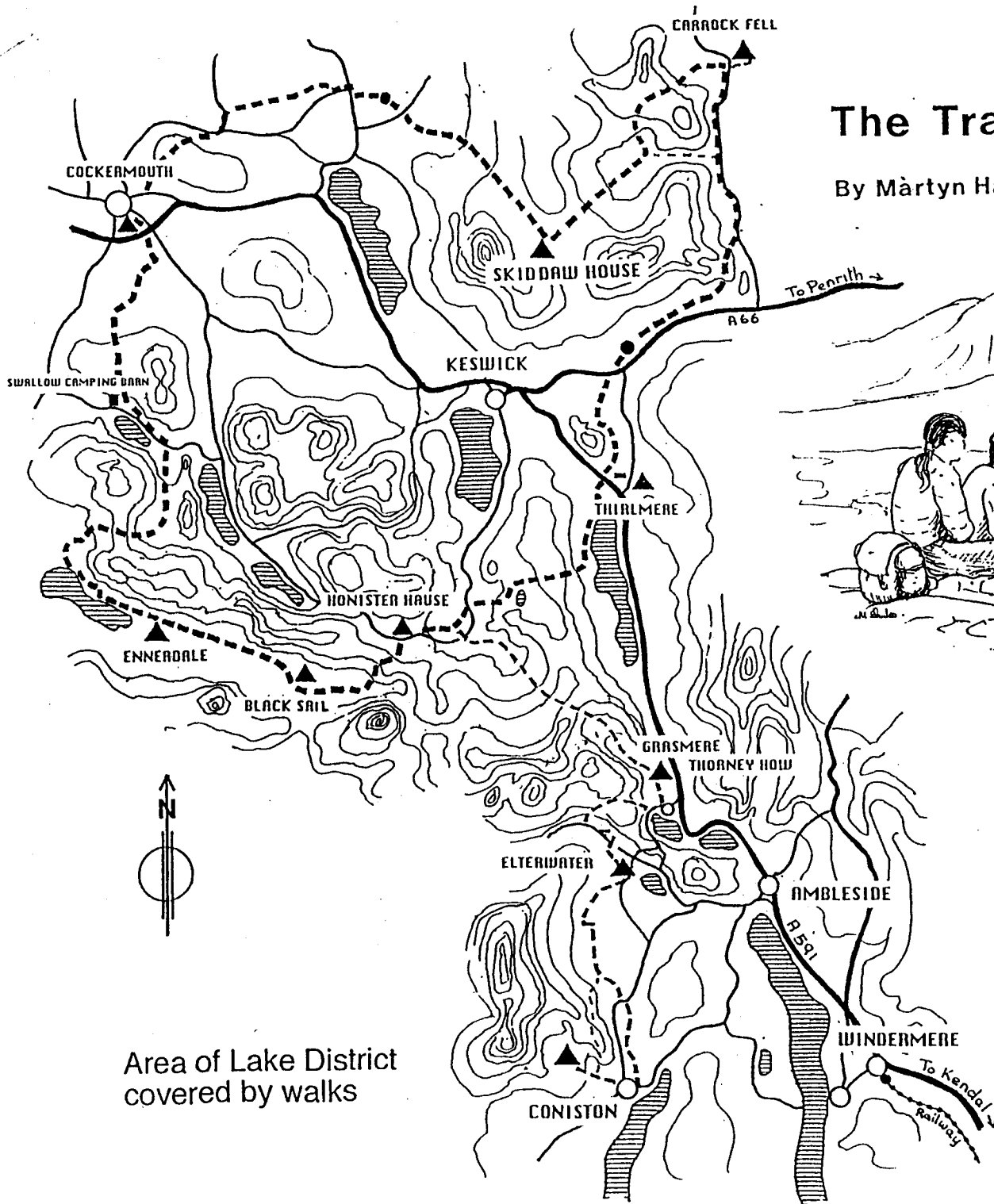


The Traditional Hostels Lakes Walk

By Märtyn Hanks

£1.50



Area of Lake District covered by walks

This walk, which takes in some of the finest scenery in the north of England, has been designed to connect ten of the smaller traditional style hostels in the region. The main walk which starts and finishes at Thirlmere, takes in seven of the most northerly hostels and covers a distance of around 60 miles, 96.5 Km in total.

The distance for walking to all ten hostels covered is around 80 miles, 128 Km in total.

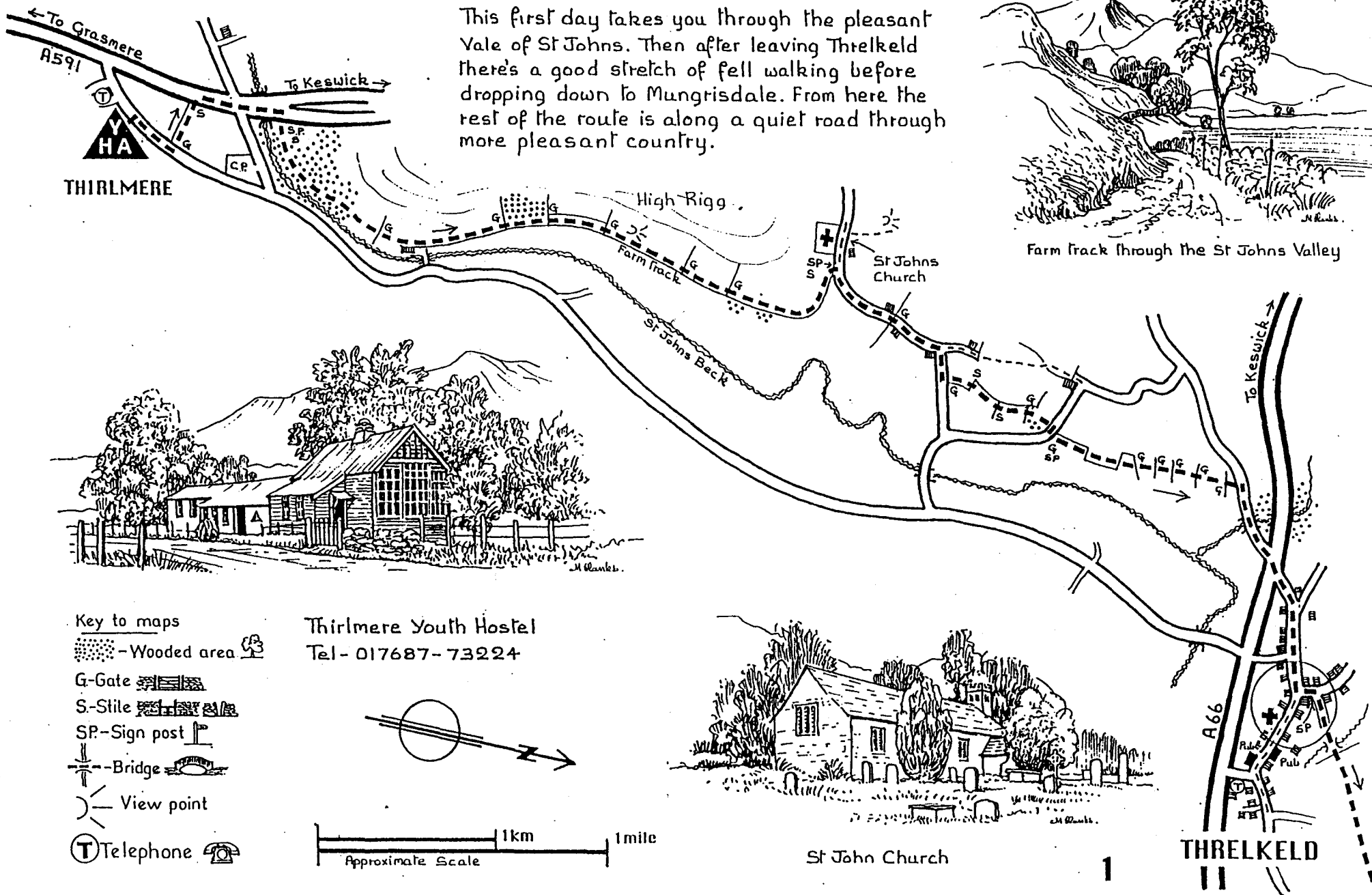
Day 1. Thirlmere to Carrock Fell.

Approximate distance 13 miles 21 km

This first day takes you through the pleasant Vale of St Johns. Then after leaving Threlkeld there's a good stretch of fell walking before dropping down to Mungrisdale. From here the rest of the route is along a quiet road through more pleasant country.

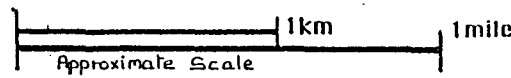
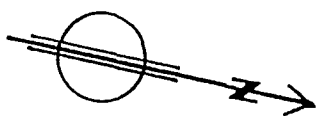


Farm track through the St Johns Valley



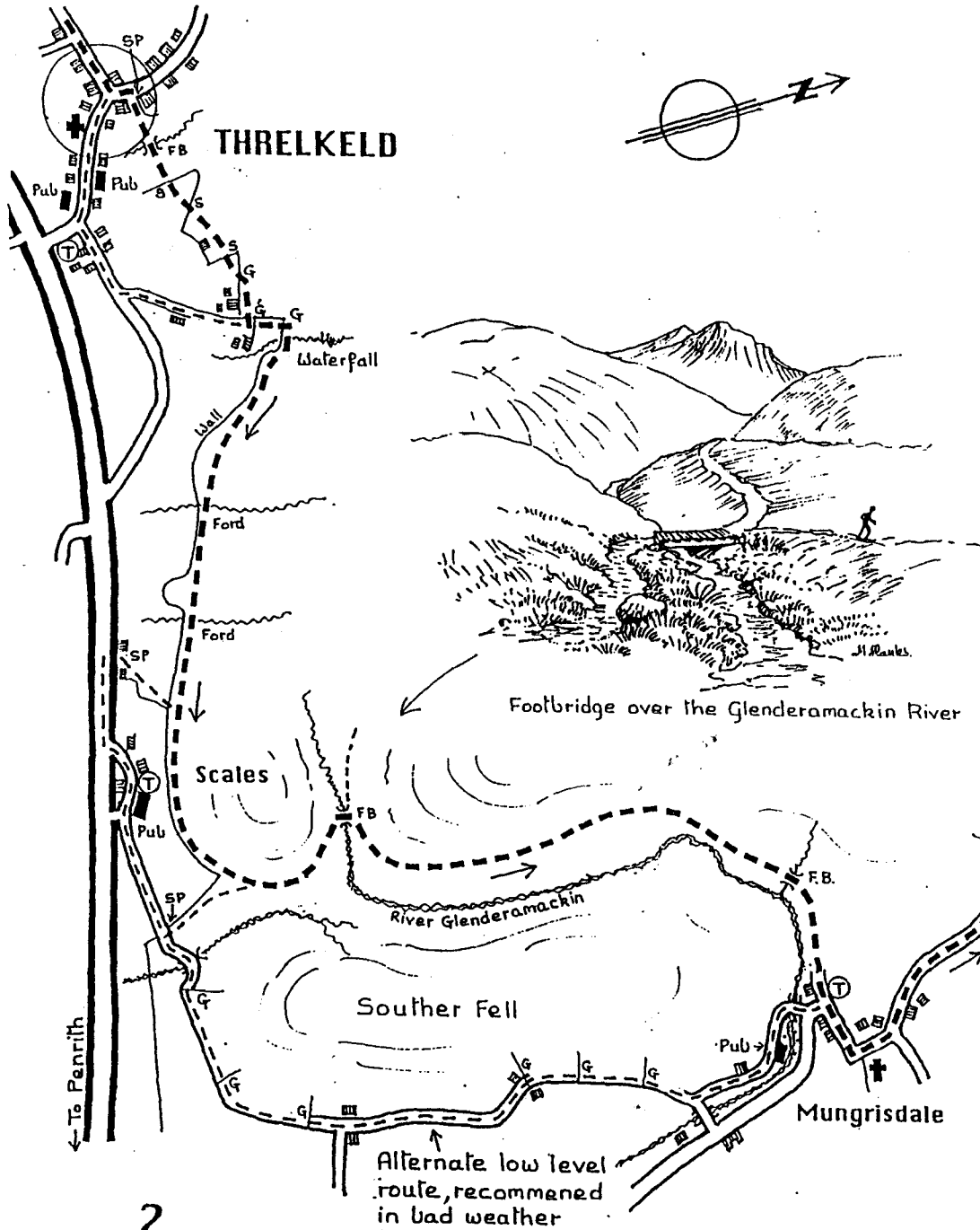
- Key to maps
- - Wooded area
 - G-Gate
 - S-Stile
 - SP-Sign post
 - Bridge
 - ⌒ View point
 - T Telephone

Thirlmere Youth Hostel
Tel- 017687-73224

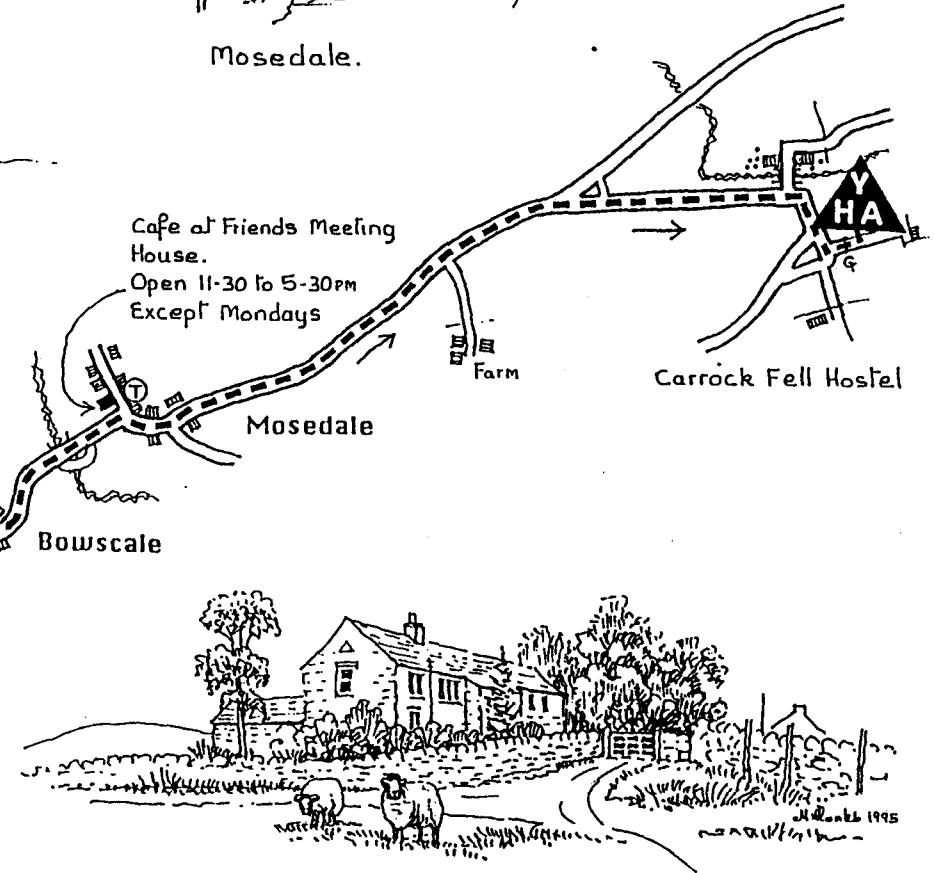


St John Church

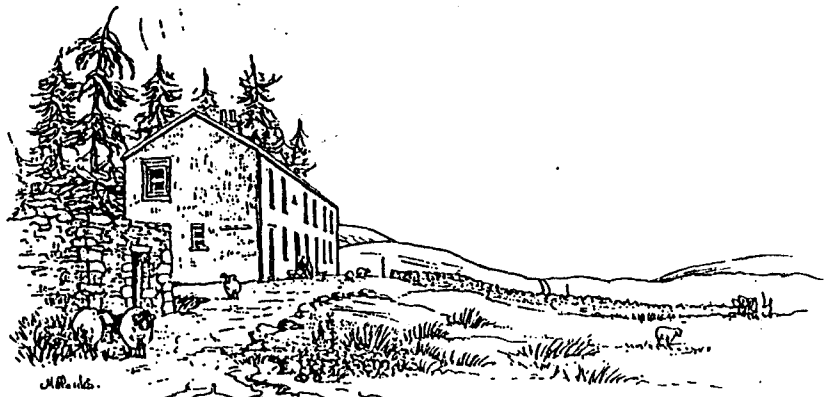
THRELKELD



Mosedale.

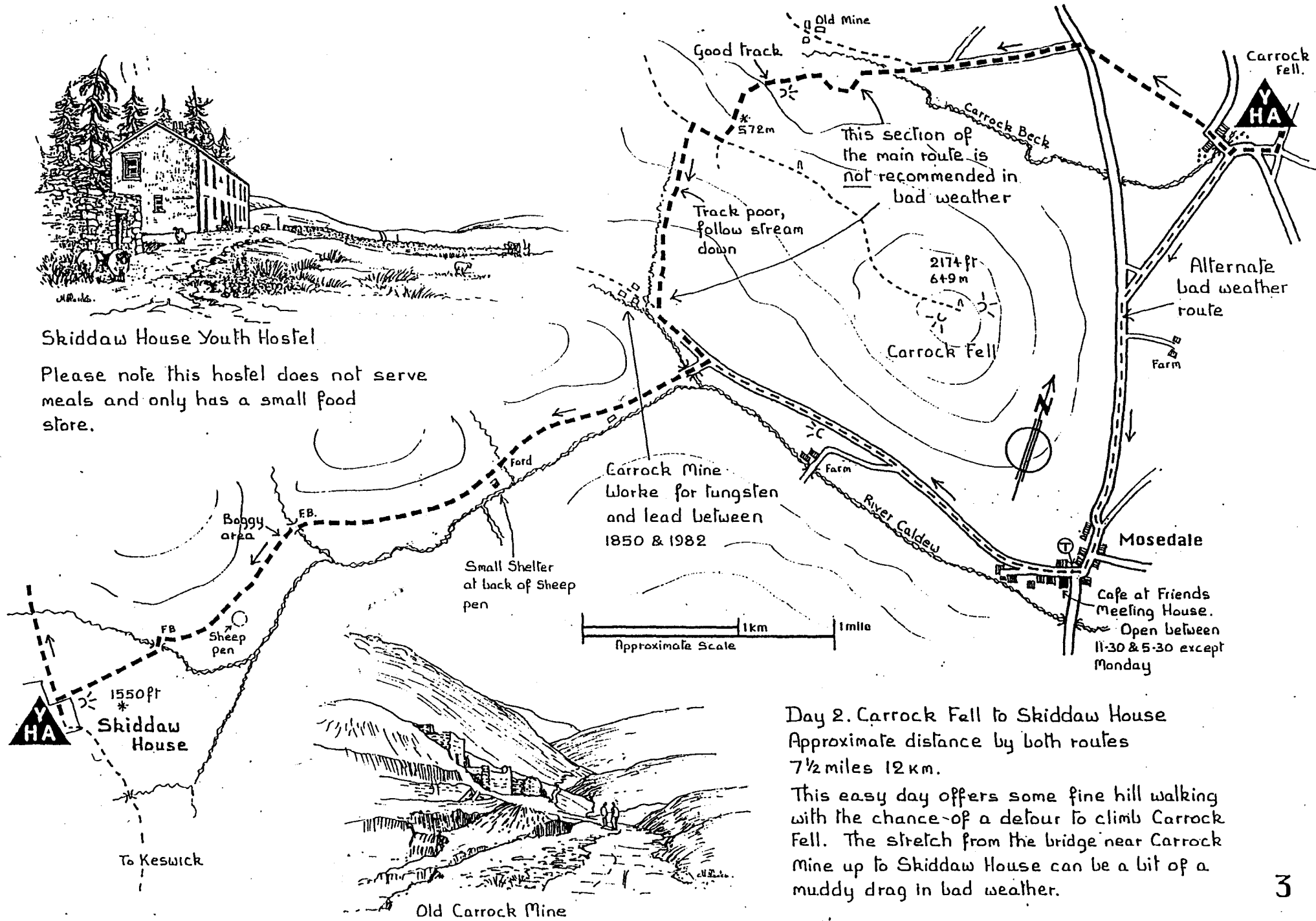


Carrock Fell Hostel Tel- 016974-78325



Skiddaw House Youth Hostel

Please note this hostel does not serve meals and only has a small food store.

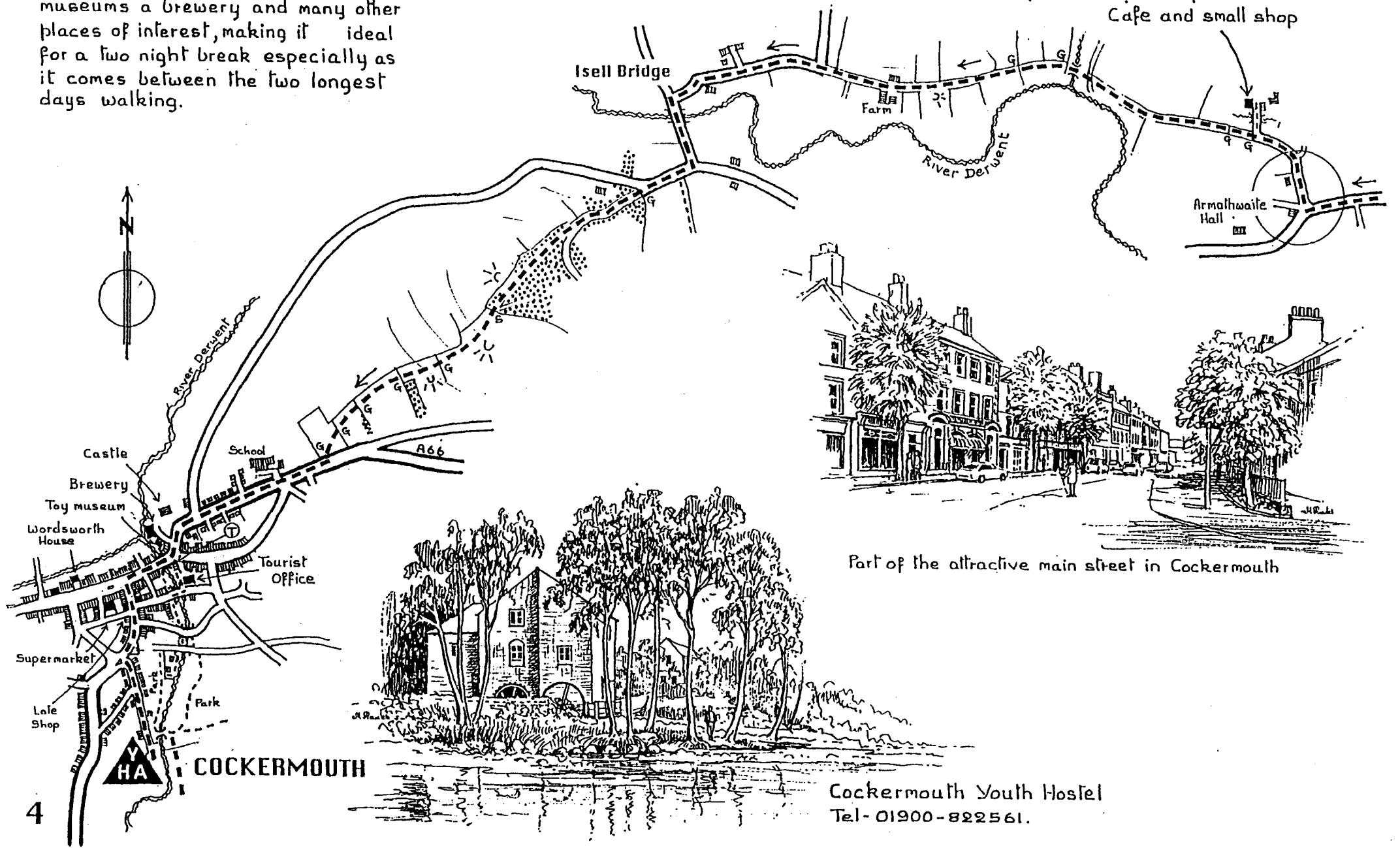


Day 2. Carrock Fell to Skiddaw House
 Approximate distance by both routes
 7½ miles 12 km.

This easy day offers some fine hill walking with the chance of a detour to climb Carrock Fell. The stretch from the bridge near Carrock mine up to Skiddaw House can be a bit of a muddy drag in bad weather.

Cockermouth is an attractive old market town with a number of small museums a brewery and many other places of interest, making it ideal for a two night break especially as it comes between the two longest days walking.

Trotters & Friends Animal Farm
Open 10-5.30pm 1st April to 29 Oct
Cafe and small shop

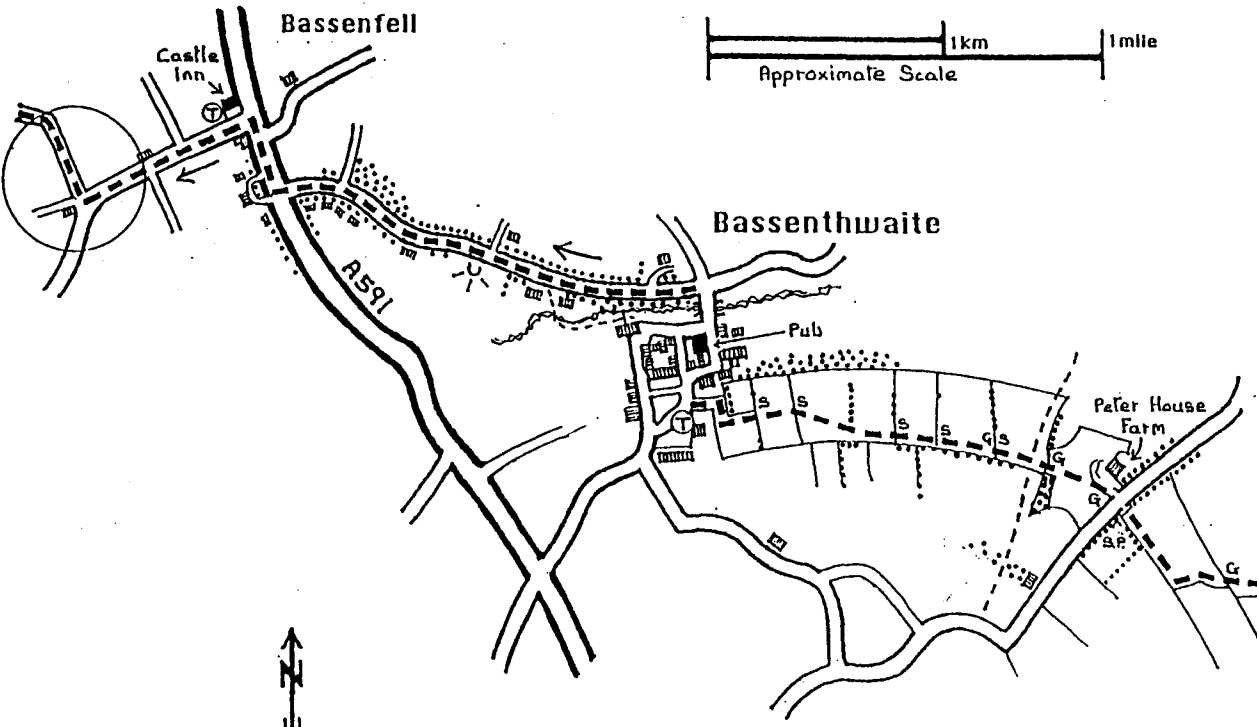


Part of the attractive main street in Cockerthmouth

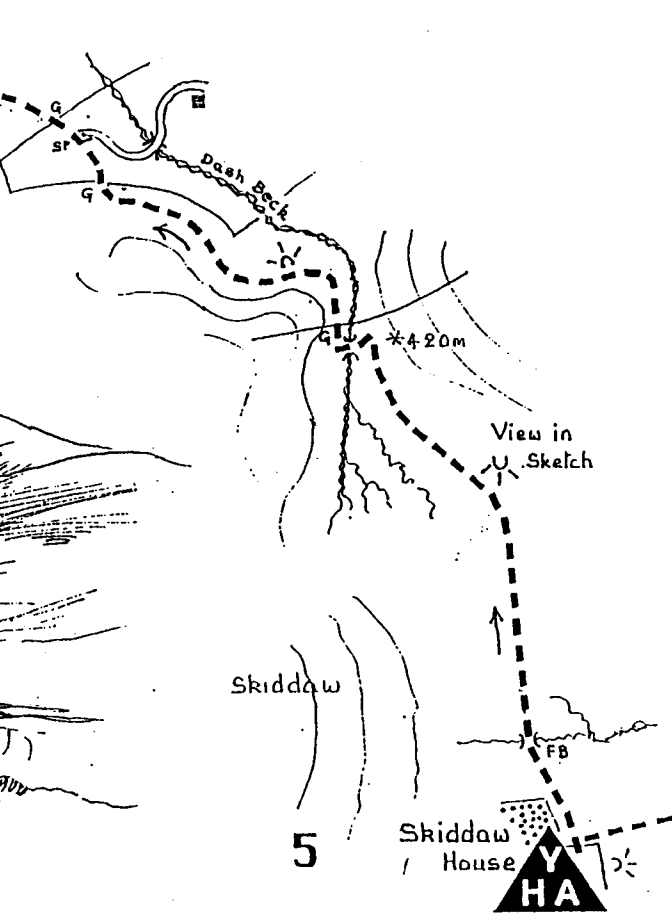
Cockerthmouth Youth Hostel
Tel- 01900-822561.

Day 3. Skiddaw to Cockermouth
 Approximate distance 15 miles 24 km

Though a fairly long day walk, this is partly compensated for early on by an attractive descent as far as Bassenthwaite Village. The unavoidable stretch of road walking that follows does not last too long. After reaching Trotters Farm, the last place for any refreshments, a more pleasant (if muddy at times) route continues climaxing with another fine descent into Cockermouth.



The impressive panoramic view looking back at the hostel from the track.

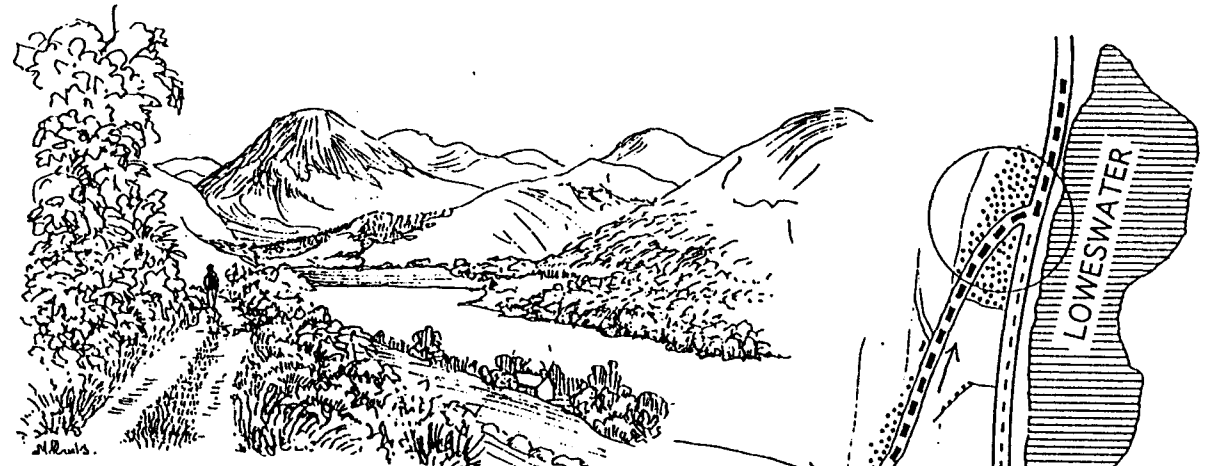


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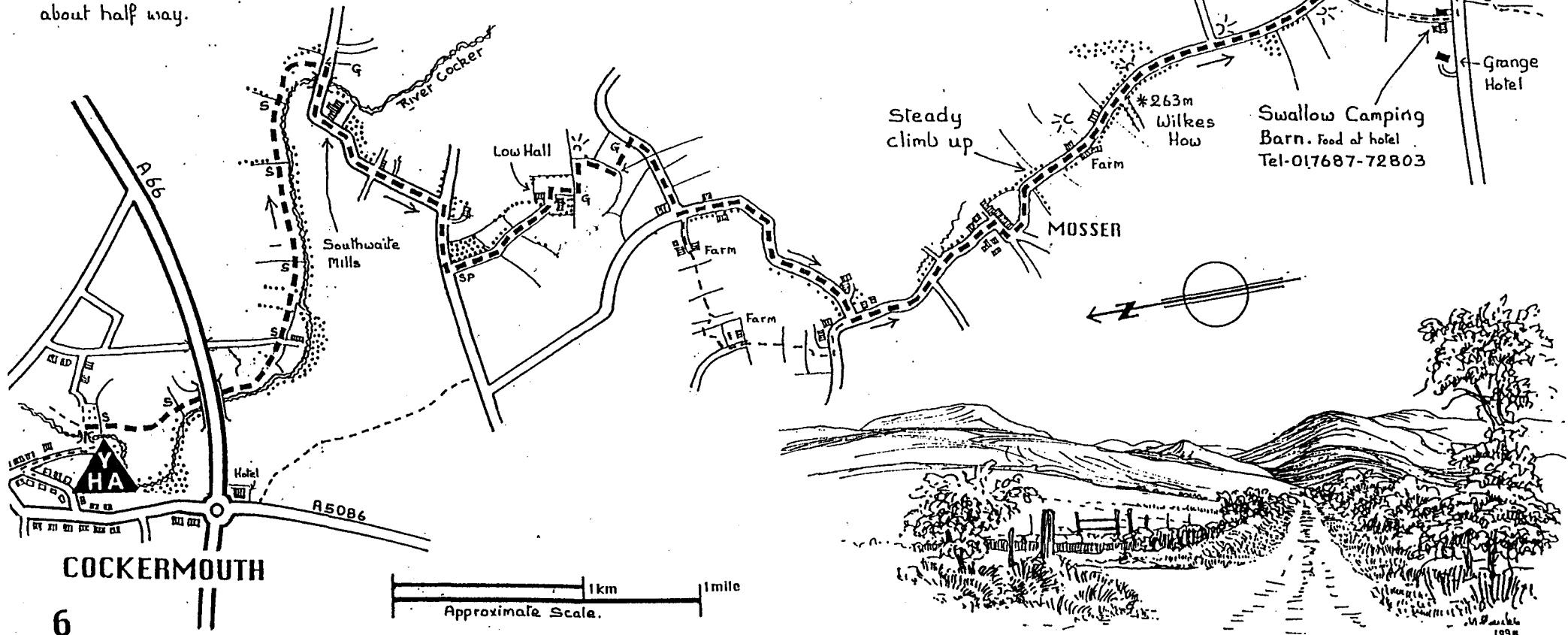
Day 4 Cockermouth to Ennerdale
 Approximate distance .16½ miles 26½ km.

Longest day on route. This walk starts with fairly flat farming country but after reaching Mosser the quiet lane starts to climb and once at the top a fine view of the hills about to be crossed can be seen ahead. From here on you're in the hills and though a long slog still lies ahead, it's a rewarding one with some beautiful scenery and a feeling you really are getting away from it all, even if the track up to the hostel at the end seems to go on a bit.

There is a camping barn at Loweswater about half way.



The attractive descent to Loweswater

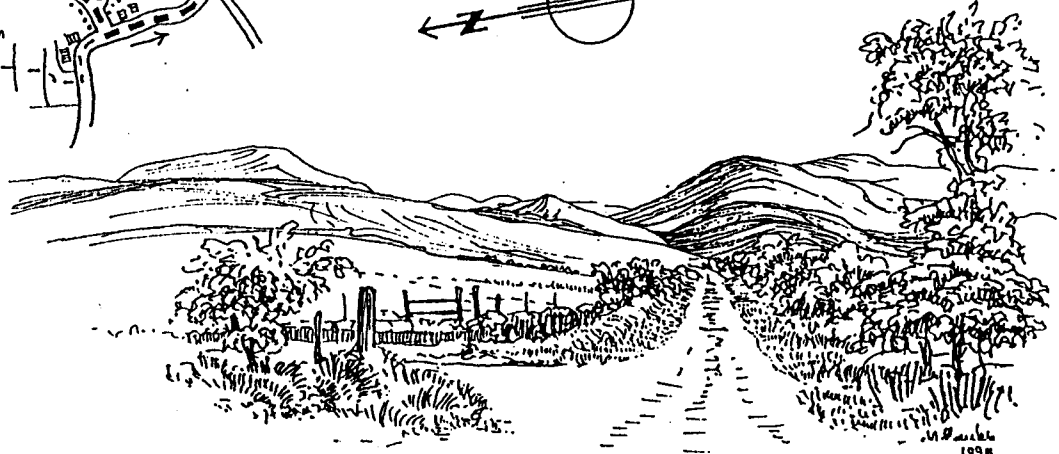


Steady climb up

*263m
 Wilkes
 How
 Farm

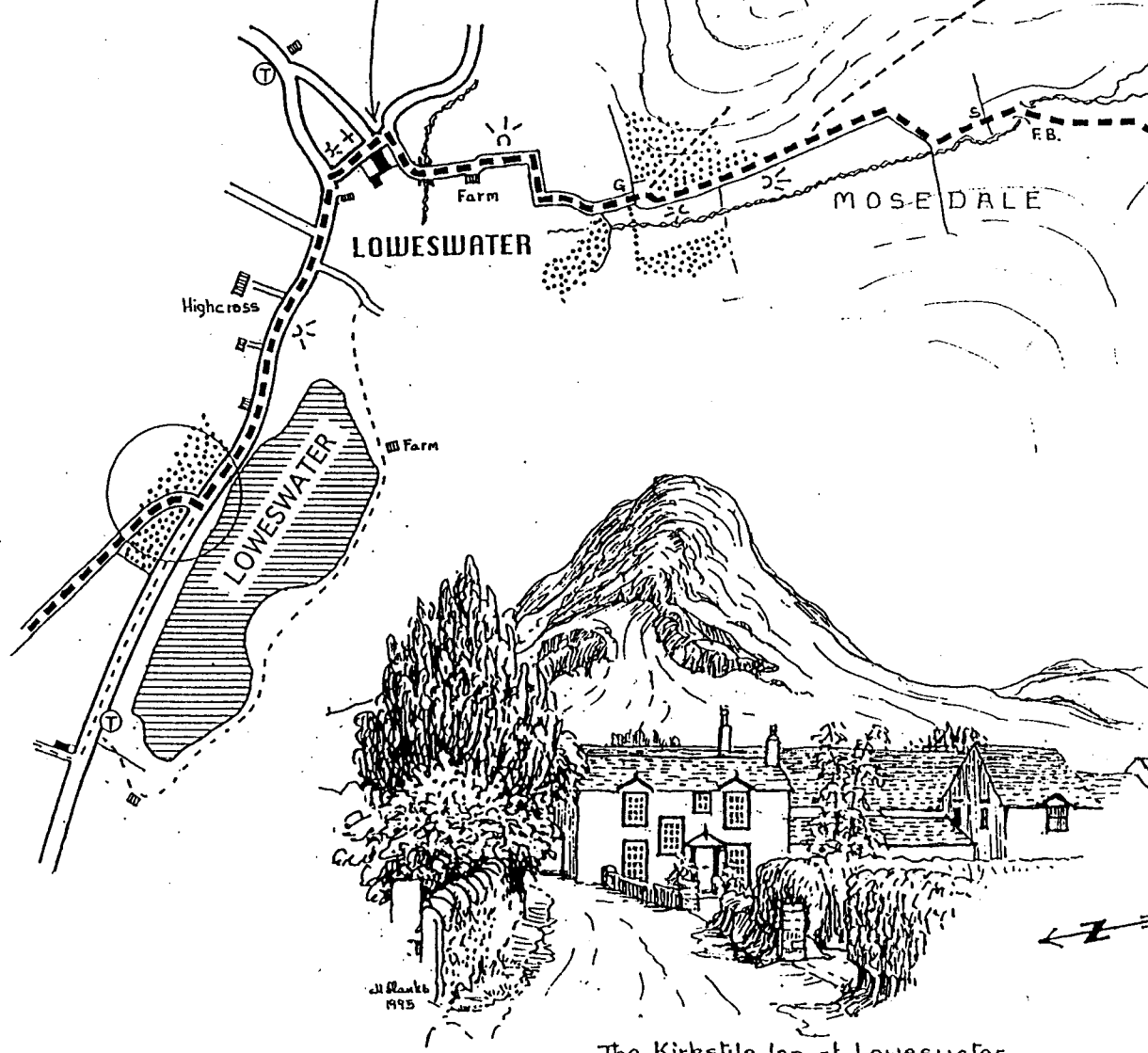
Swallow Camping
 Barn. Food at hotel
 Tel-017687-72803

Grange
 Hotel



Looking South from Wilkes How

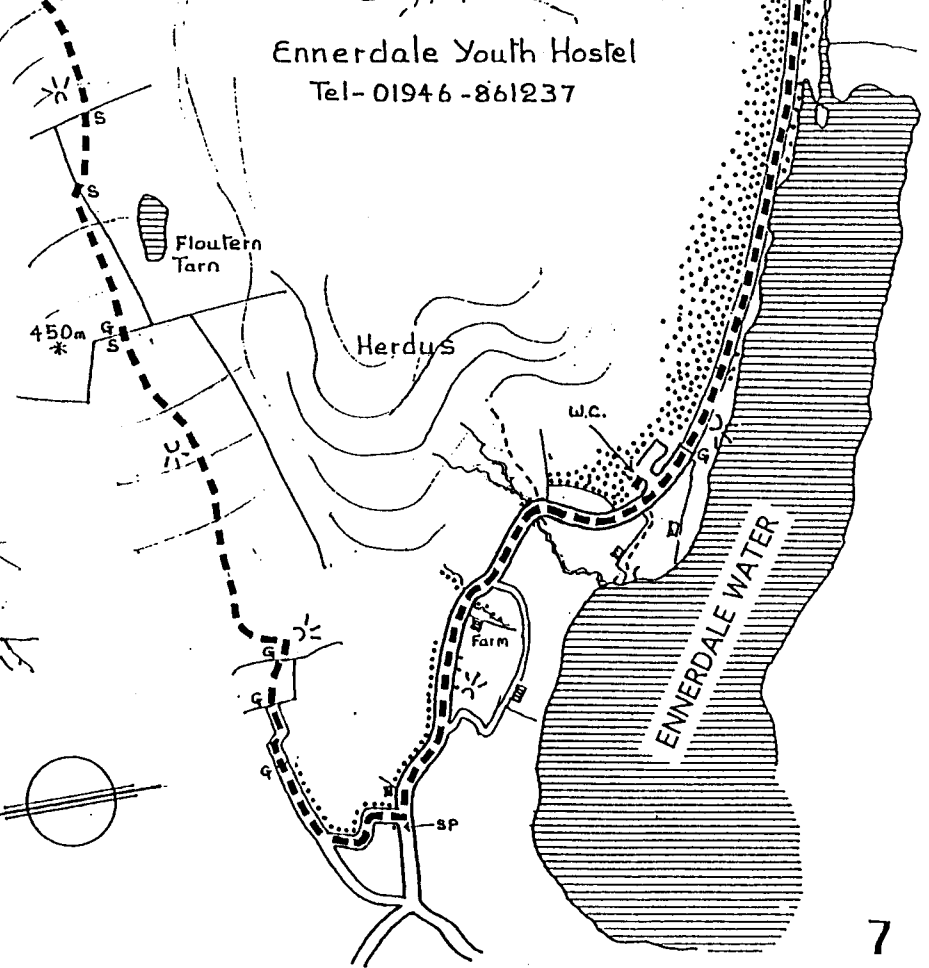
Kirkstile Inn
 Open all day
 Bar meals served
 till 2pm.



The Kirkstile Inn at Loweswater



Ennerdale Youth Hostel
 Tel- 01946 - 861237



Day 5 Ennerdale to Honister Hause via Black Sail Hut

By main Forestry track 7 miles 11½ Km.

A welcome short day with a chance to take it easy. There are many short Forestry tracks in the area and the walk round Ennerdale Water is superb in good weather.

