



SCAFELL PIKE - WASDALE

OVERVIEW

This is the most direct and popular ascent of Scafell Pike from Wasdale Head. The route climbs steeply via Brown Tongue before entering the rocky expanse of Hollow Stones and the summit boulder field. Although frequently walked, this route demands good pacing, careful foot placement, and competent navigation in poor visibility.

KEY STATS



978m
SUMMIT HEIGHT



OL 6
OS MAP NUMBER



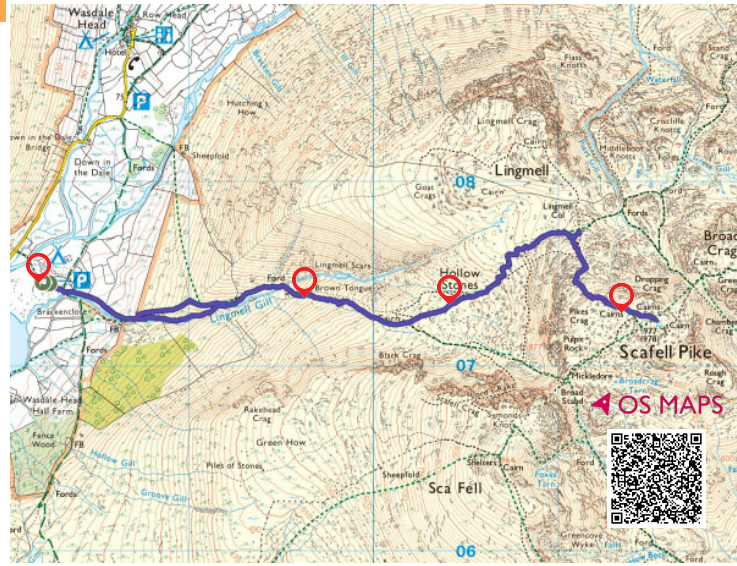
9km
DISTANCE



900m
HEIGHT GAIN



5-6 hours
DURATION



CHECKPOINTS (OS GRID REF)

CP	GRID REF	HEIGHT	LOCATION
CP1	NY 182 074	60m	Wasdale Head
CP2	NY 195 074	300m	Brown Tongue
CP3	NY 204 072	600m	Hollow Stones
CP4	NY 215 072	978m	Summit Boulder Field

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

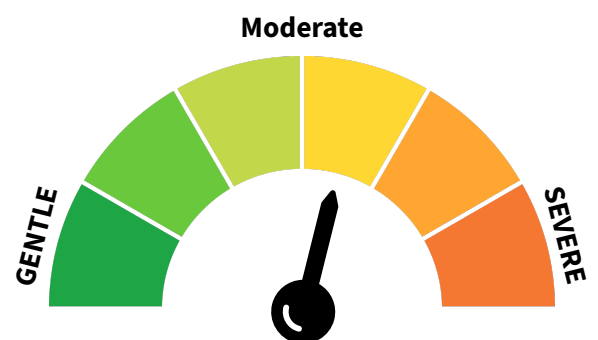
From the National Trust car park at Wasdale Head, follow the clear stone path south-west, crossing Lingmell Gill via a footbridge. The route immediately begins climbing steadily alongside the stream on a pitched and often busy path. This section, known as Brown Tongue, gains height quickly and can feel relentless early on. At approximately 2 km (1.2 miles), the path steepens further as it approaches Hollow Stones — a large area of loose, broken rock and boulders beneath the summit. The ground becomes increasingly uneven and slower going. From Hollow Stones, the route climbs north-east up short zigzags and then over extensive boulder fields. The summit cairn is not visible until very close in mist, and multiple false paths can mislead walkers in poor visibility. From the col it's south-east to the summit. The final approach involves navigating between large stones before reaching the summit plateau and trig point at 978m.

WEATHER RISKS

- Cloudy around 700-900m
- Summit Wind Severe
- Whiteout Common

HAZARDS + CONDITIONS

- Steep Sustained Gradient
- Extensive Bolder Fields
- Rapid Weather Changes
- High Wind Exposure
- Loose rocks



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY