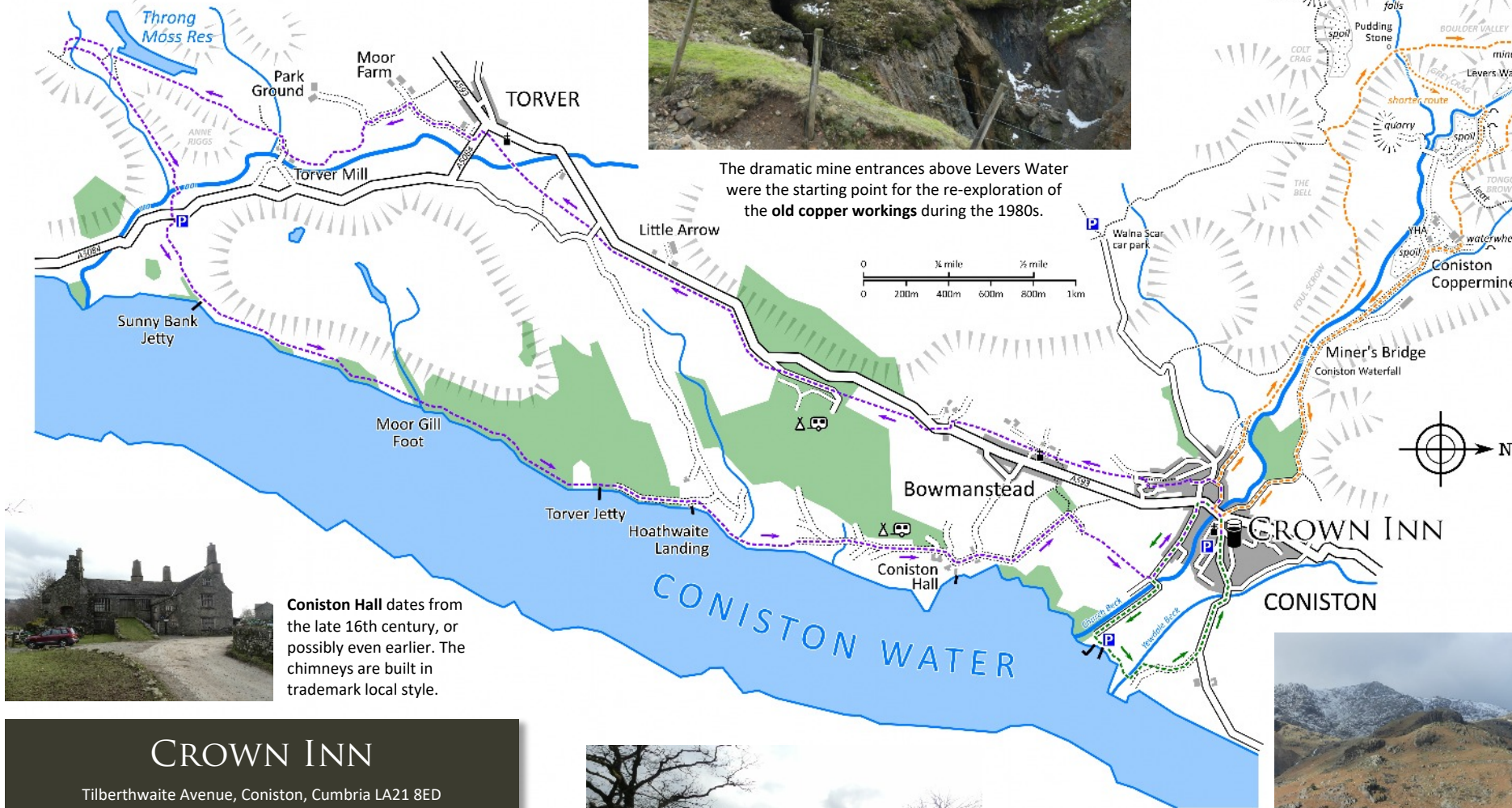
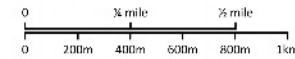




**Juniper**, seen here growing on a crag near Anne Riggs, is a long-lived, spiky coniferous shrub native to the UK and something of a Lake District speciality. Only the female plants produce the edible berries, which are bitter to the taste but famously used to flavour gin.



The dramatic mine entrances above Levers Water were the starting point for the re-exploration of the old copper workings during the 1980s.



**Coniston Hall** dates from the late 16th century, or possibly even earlier. The chimneys are built in trademark local style.



Coniston Water in winter



www.walksfromthedoar.co.uk



Coniston Coppermines



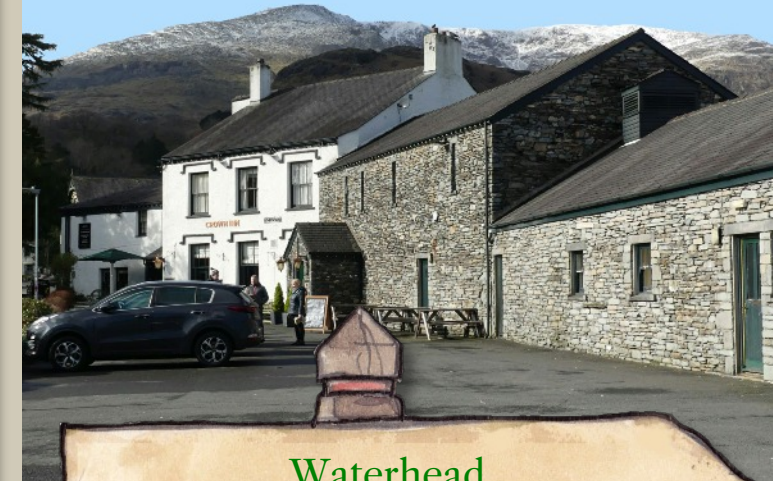
Levers Waterfall

three circular walks from the



# CROWN INN

CONISTON



## Waterhead

1½ miles: easy

Stroll through the village and down to the lake.

## Coppermines

4 or 4½ miles: fairly strenuous

A taste of the high fells, with photogenic waterfalls and fascinating industrial relics.

## Torver and Coniston Water

8¾ miles: moderate

A long but mostly level walk, with an extended unbroken section along the lakeshore.



# Waterhead

## 1½ miles: easy

*Allow 1 hour. Mostly on surfaced paths and pavements. No stiles or significant gradients.*

**1** From the front door of the pub, turn right past the church. **2** Cross the bridge over Church Beck and bear left past the petrol station. **3** Turn left into Lake Road. Follow it between a children’s play area and John Ruskin School and out of the village. **4** Follow the road as it bends left and right to cross Church Beck again, and continue alongside the beck to the café and jetty at the lakeside. **5** Turn left onto the lakeside path, with the car park on your left, and continue along the gravelly shoreline. **6** Bear left over a footbridge across Yewdale Beck and turn left along the streamside path. **7** Follow the path as it bears right to join a driveway. **8** Follow the drive, away from the lake, to the road. **9** Turn left and follow the road back to the Crown Inn, crossing Shepherd’s Bridge over Yewdale Beck on the way.

# Coppermines

## 4 or 4½ miles: fairly strenuous

*Allow 2–3 hours. Rocky ground and significant ascent, though the shorter walk stays a little lower.*

**1** From the front door of the pub, turn right past the church. **2** Bear left over the bridge across Church Beck and turn immediately right. Follow the narrow road past Meadow House. **3** Immediately after the Sun Hotel, turn right (signposted to the Old Man and Levers Water). **4** Pass through a farmyard onto the track beyond, which shortly crosses a side-stream of Church Beck then runs alongside the main beck. **5** Shortly after Coniston Waterfall you reach the Miners’ Bridge. Follow the path ahead, still with Church Beck on your right. **6** As the spoil-heaps of the coppermines come into view, the path veers left and starts to climb the valley side, and the summit ridge of the Old Man (not on this route) comes into view. **7** After a couple of gates through walls, the path climbs to meet the main path curving up from Walna Scar car park (away to your left). **8** Turn right at the junction and then, shortly, right again (leaving the main route up the Old Man). The path runs along a terrace below a juniper-hung crag on the left, then passes above a quarry before passing over rocky ground and then descending to the Pudding Stone, a prominent boulder next to Low Water Beck.

## Shorter route

**9** Cross the footbridge and take a rough path off to the right, downstream with the beck on your right. **10** The path descends steeply by a series of small falls then bears left, leaving the beck, to run below Grey Crag. **11** At the far end, cross another beck via a gated footbridge below the Levers Waterfalls and bear right past a mine adit on the left. **12** Take the lower of the two tracks beyond, initially heading towards

the bottom of the valley, then shortly leave it to follow the grassy course of an old leat on the left, which takes a fairly level path across the left-hand side of the valley, above the Paddy End water treatment works. **13** When you meet another path at the foot of Tongue Brow, drop down to the right through a rocky breach in the leat, and rejoin the **Longer route** at step **14**.

## Longer route

**9** Cross Low Water Beck via the footbridge and climb the pitched path ahead. The path, alternately rocky and grassy (and boggy in places), leads up the slight ridge to the right of Boulder Valley to a minor col, where Levers Water comes into view. **10** Descend half-left, passing above a fenced-off mineshaft before turning right onto a minor path that passes below the same fenced shaft. The path then drops to pass the impressive slit entrances of two old mines. **11** Beyond the entrances, the path descends to the shore of Levers Water and runs along to the dam. **12** Ford the spillway, then take the descending path to the right. This heads down towards the Coppermines valley with the cascades of Levers Waterfall away to your right. **13** When the main track zig-zags right towards the stream, rather than following it round, continue ahead on a narrow path. At the foot of Tongue Brow, this path drops down and right over the rocky remains of a collapsed mine leat. **14** Bear left, round the shoulder of land, onto a rather rocky path that descends towards the prominent house and water-wheel. **15** Pass under the aqueduct that would have carried water to the top of the waterwheel, then bear right past the wheel. **16** Bear left and exit the Coppermines complex beyond the copper-painted slab. **17** Keep left by the white-painted Youth Hostel then follow the main track down the valley, passing the footbridge to the terraced Irish Row on your left. **18** Beyond the hydro scheme, the track descends to the Miners’ Bridge. Keep on down past Coniston Waterfall, then follow the descending track as it leaves the beck and leads above walled-off woodland before crossing a cattle grid. **19** Ignore the path off to the left, signposted to Yew Tree Farm and Elterwater, continuing down the main track which shortly becomes a tarmacked road. **20** Pass the rear of the Ruskin Museum to reach the main road. **21** Turn right then left to return to the Crown.

# Torver and Coniston Water

## 8¾ miles: moderate

*Allow 4–5 hours. Mostly level, but with some rocky or boggy ground.*

**1** From the front door of the pub, turn right past the church. **2** Bear left over the bridge across Church Beck and pass the petrol station, then turn right into Station Road. Cross the entrance to Church Beck Close, then turn left into a no-through road. **3** Before the first house, turn right up a long flight of steps leading to a path behind the house and below a retaining wall. **4** The path continues in similar fashion until it meets a narrow road at a hairpin bend; follow the road uphill (right) past a slate-built terrace of houses, then continue uphill as it

bends right and left. **5** At the next road junction, turn right through a gap in the wall onto the old railway, and turn left to pass under the road bridge. **6** Follow the old railway for ¼ mile to Bowmanstead, where it passes behind the church and over a minor road. **7** Continue along the old line for a similar distance until you meet a crossing road, where you turn left to the A593. **8** Turn right along the main road for a short distance, then take a path off to the left at a right-hand bend. This path quickly rejoins the old railway line, now running through fields in a slight cutting. **9** At the end of this stretch, a gate leads into woodland and shortly the path meets a road at the entrance to a caravan park. **10** Follow the road until it bends right to join the main road, at which point continue along the path straight ahead, through a gate. **11** This path ends up running parallel to the main road, separated from it by a wall, before switching to the verge as it passes the hamlet of Little Arrow. **12** Shortly afterwards, the path leaves the roadside through a gate on the left and again runs parallel, before bearing slightly left. Ignoring a path on the right, pass under a road bridge and continue along the old railway through fields, ignoring a crossing footpath. **13** The path crosses Torver Beck within sight of the church and continues across fields, before passing to the left of a caravan park to emerge on the A5084, close to its junction with the A593. **14** Turn left, away from the junction, then shortly cross to a farm entrance on the right. **15** Take the hedged track straight ahead, left of a house, signposted as a public bridleway. **16** After ¼ mile, turn left, signposted to Park Ground. When the track bends right, take a path on the left, signposted as a public bridleway to Mill Bridge (½ mile) and Stable Harvey (1¾ miles). **17** This path leads pleasantly towards Torver Beck and then runs parallel to the stream to Torver Mill. **18** Beyond the mill house, turn right, away from the bridge, past a converted barn (Mill Pool Barn) on your left. The track crosses a side-stream and climbs to a gate, beyond which two paths diverge. Take the left-hand path, following the wall on the left. **19** When the wall heads off left, carry straight on over rough grazing land until Throng Moss Reservoir comes into view. The path runs between the bank on your left and the lake on your right. **20** At the end of a short arm of the reservoir, ford a stream that runs off down a gully to your left. Ford a second stream then follow the path as it bears left. **21** Look out for a waymark post, where you turn sharp left to ford the second stream again. This path heads initially towards the low summit of Anne Riggs, then bears right towards the developing valley (ignoring any minor paths over the ridge on your left). **22** Cross a second stream and then follow the path along the valley side, with the slopes of Anne Riggs above and to your left and the stream below and to your right. **23** At the end of this valley, the stream meets Torver Beck, which you cross via a footbridge above the confluence and below a series of low cascades. **24** Bear right then follow the wall left, away from the beck and up to the main road. **25** Take a few steps left to a small parking area, then follow the track signposted ‘Coniston via Lake Shore’. Beyond a gate, this track follows a wall, then heads off down towards the lake. Follow a wall above trees to the shore, where you will find the Sunny Bank Jetty. If timetables allow, you

could hail a launch here and ride the boat back to Coniston. **26** To continue with the walk, turn left onto the lakeside path. After ¾ mile, you cross a small stream (Moor Gill) running down to a small gravelly beach. **27** Continuing along the lake, the next landmark, after a wooded section, is Torver Jetty, where again there is an opportunity to catch a boat back to Coniston. Otherwise, cross a footbridge onto a wider track that continues beside the lake. **28** At Hoathwaite Landing is a boathouse and jetty used by the University of Birmingham. Beyond a further gate, leave the obvious track ahead to follow a path on the right that leads back to the shore. **29** After a footbridge and gate, a low mound in the field bearing a couple of trees marks the site of old ironworks or ‘bloomeries’. The path continues along the shore and then joins a wide, surfaced track. There are views across the lake to Brantwood, John Ruskin’s home. The track winds across a campsite towards Coniston Hall. **30** Beyond a barn, bear right to the house, then continue to a gateway between two barns. **31** Keep right here to another gate, where you follow the track half-left, away from the lake. **32** By a small copse, follow the track round a right-hand bend. **33** This track bears right through a hedge then turns left towards the houses of Coniston. **34** When you meet Lake Road, turn left and walk past the school to the village centre. **35** Turn right past the petrol station, cross Church Beck and turn right to return to the Crown Inn.



**Brantwood**, prominent in the view across Coniston Water, was the home of poet and critic John Ruskin for the last three decades of his life. The house and gardens are maintained by the Brantwood Trust as an artistic retreat and museum. The Grade II\* listed main house was built at the end of the end of the 18th century and extended by Ruskin and others during the 19th century. The property is open to the public from Wednesday to Sundays during the winter, and seven days a week in high season.



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