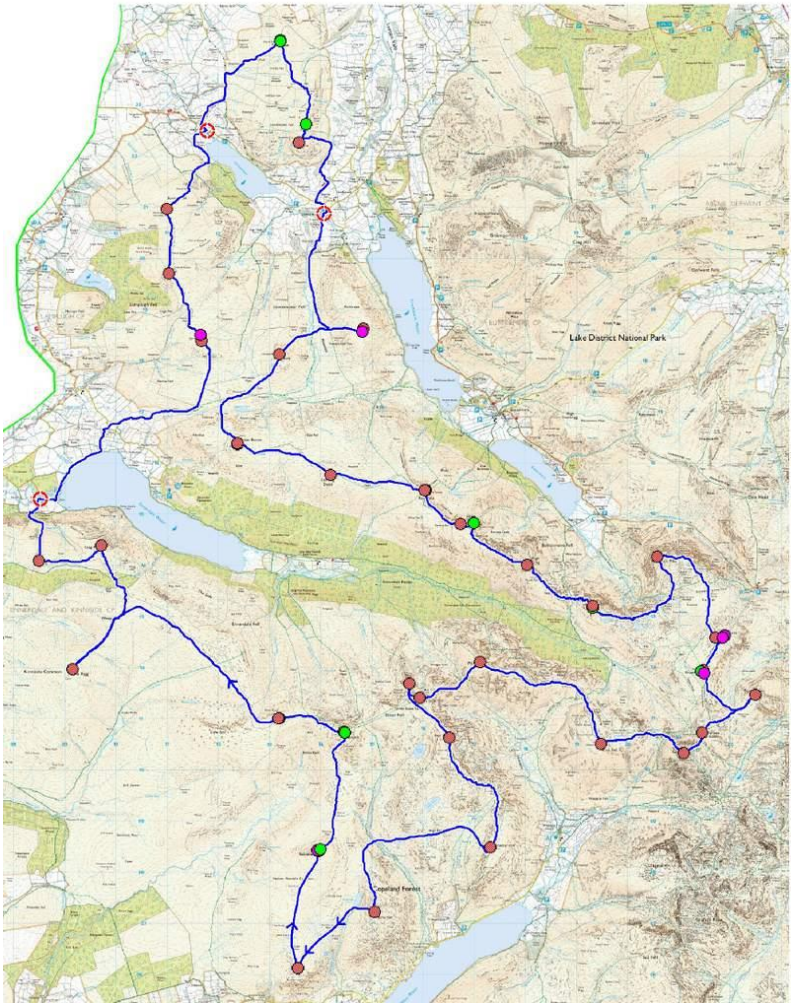
7. Western Fells

Type	Direction	Distance / km	Ascent / m	Descent / m	Time / h:mm
Circular		81	5842	5842	15:40



A big route – it's the Ennerdale Horseshoe with some mighty extensions! It contains the longest leg between road-crossings of any of the books – 62km from leaving the Kirkstile Inn to reaching the Bleach Green car park at Ennerdale Water – a grand traverse of the mountains. The route falls very naturally into place, with very few there-and-backs (which I always find a little irritating), and consequently there are no variations to consider. The underfoot condition are mostly good with much short-cropped turf, but with a somewhat rocky path along the High Stile ridge and a very rocky descent of Great Gable. There's very little boggy ground, only a small amount near Hen Comb and Gavel Fell. A more direct line could be taken between Yewbarrow and Middle Fell but the ascent of the Middle Fell looks steep through bracken, scree and broken rock. The descent from Burnbank Fell shown requires a wall to be climbed, which is not ideal. A longer alternative is to head north from the summit to join the track and then meander on ROW or the road to rejoin the route shown.

