



## ABOUT HOLEHIRD

The Lakeland Horticultural Society's hillside gardens at Holehird include a great variety of specimen trees and shrubs, extensive rock and heather gardens, alpine houses, a walled garden, herbaceous borders and stream gardens. Admission to the Gardens is by donation. The Gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk, and wardens are available for advice from Easter to October.

## GETTING TO HOLEHIRD FROM WINDERMERE

Holehird Gardens lie about two miles from Windermere Rail and Bus Station. If you do not have a car, your options to reach them include:

- Hiring a taxi, currently costing about £5 each way.
- There are infrequent buses from Windermere to Patterdale and Penrith which pass the entrance to the Gardens. They do not run throughout the year; check the current timetable.
- Walking, which will take upwards of one hour each way.

This leaflet is for those intending to walk. Walkers need suitable footwear: some paths are steep, rough or rocky and others are very muddy or slippery in wet conditions. There may be dogs in the farmyards and cows and sheep in the fields.

## OPTIONS FOR WALKING

- Via Orrest Head (a climb of about 400 feet with splendid views)
- Via High Hay Wood (fairly level, very pleasant)

These two routes join at (4), near Crosses Farm. We suggest that your outward journey should be via Orrest Head, for the superb views from the top.

For return options, see overleaf.

### 1. Windermere to Holehird via Orrest Head

On leaving the railway station, cross the A591 to the foot of the tarmac road emerging near the left-hand end of the Windermere Hotel grounds. There is a large white notice "Footpath to Orrest Head" a little way up the road. Follow the pointer and, after about 30 yards, continue up the road following the white arrow and ignoring the sign to A592 Troutbeck Rd (1).

Continue up this road passing a blacksmith's on the right. Soon after the blacksmith's, the tarmac road becomes a rough track, and 50 yards beyond that there is a choice of three paths. Take the right-most one by the wall. This path, which is stony and criss-crossed with tree roots, leads to a T-junction. Turn right to go along the path so a wall is on your left and a wire fence on your right. Seats are provided for the weary. There is then a 90° turn to the left, through a kissing gate, up a stepped path to reach the summit of Orrest Head (2). There are superb 360° views. Alfred Wainwright waxed lyrical about it: "first ascent in Lakeland, ..... first sight of mountains in tumultuous array, ..... awakening to beauty."

There are no signs or waymarks on the summit. Leave the top northwards descending the path towards a white farm (Causeway Farm) which is about ½ mile ahead. As you descend, Windermere is on your left and a cluster of farm buildings and houses at The Common is on your right. On reaching the junction of walls (3) take the path to Crosses Farm, through a kissing gate on the left. Walk across a field, over a ladder stile, and cross another field before arriving at another signpost to Crosses Farm.

Follow the path through a kissing gate and, with the wall on your right, descend to the corner of the field to a further signpost to Crosses Farm (4). Follow this path through the kissing gate and into the wood. Cross a footbridge over a stream, and then immediately take the left-hand fork away

from the stream, until you emerge on a public road. Turn left and walk down the road about 150 yards until you reach Crosses Farm (5).

Immediately past Crosses Farm take the drive on the right signposted to Troutbeck. At the end of the track go through a gate and into a field. The path veers left and diminishes to parallel vehicle tracks which you will follow all the way to Far Orrest Farm. At the next wall, go through a gate and, leaving a knee-high outcrop to your right (6) walk to a gate and stile in the next stone wall. Far Orrest Farm, with its white farmhouse, is in view straight ahead of you across the fields. Cross the stile, and walk across two fields (muddy in wet weather), to reach the farm (7). In the farmyard go through the wicket gate (waymark). Turn left onto the farm road which passes in front of the farmhouse. Cross a cattle grid and after 40 yards turn sharp left (8) and, via a permitted path, enter the Gardens via a stile and a gate down in the corner of the walls. Walk down the path, past the alpine houses, to reach the entrance to the walled garden and Reception.

### 1. Windermere to Holehird via High Hay Wood

Start out as in Route 1, but about 30 yards up from the notice turn left at (1) on the public footpath to A592 Troutbeck Rd. Follow this wide path, enclosed at times, for about ¼ mile, ignoring a waymark (9) pointing to the right, until you emerge at a tarmac road with "Elleray Bank" on the gatepost ahead. Continue along the path, to the left of the gates, for another ¼ mile, passing a signpost to Causeway Farm on your right. 20 yards further on turn right onto the permitted path through an iron gate, with a National Trust sign for High Hay Wood (10).



# WALK TO HOLEHIRD GARDENS

Follow this path through the wood for a short distance, and emerge into a field with the wood on your right. Follow the white arrow footpath signs, crossing into another field, until you come to a signpost (4) at the corner of the field, pointing to Crosses Farm. Follow Route 1 from here.

## AT HOLEHIRD GARDENS

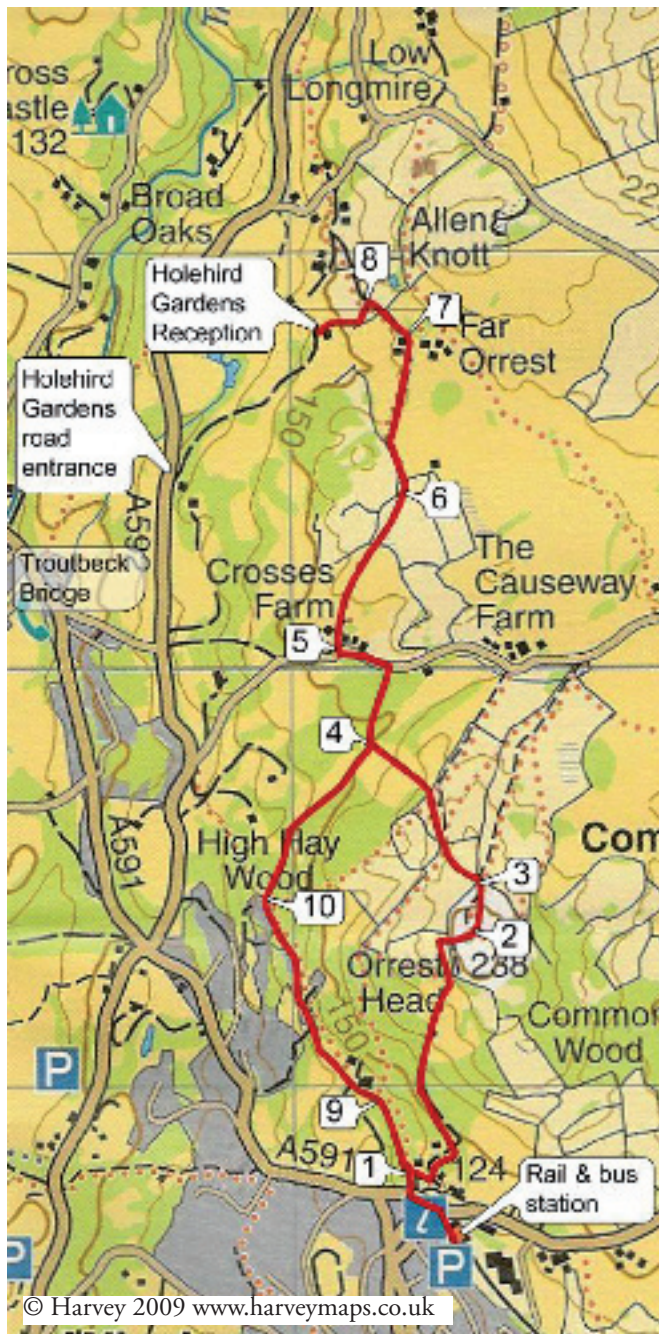
- You will have entered the Gardens through the Fell Gate. Reception is inside the Walled Garden at the far right-hand end from you.
- Toilets are in the building facing the small car park which is behind the main building.
- A collection box for donations is near Reception.

## RETURNING TO WINDERMERE

1. From Holehird to Windermere via Orrest Head  
Walk out of the Fell Gate, over the stile and up to the track (8). Turn right onto the track to Far Orrest Farm (7) and right again at the signpost. Go through the farmyard and along the track to Crosses Farm (5). After turning left on the road at Crosses Farm, turn right after 150 yards at the sign to St Katherines and Orrest Head.

At signpost (4) go through the kissing gate and turn left towards Orrest Head and follow signs until you reach it. On the summit (2) go down towards the distant lake and buildings of Bowness. There are two possible paths off the summit in this direction; each leads to the same iron kissing gate. Go through this and follow the path until you can turn left down through woodland onto the broad vehicle track which leads down to Windermere Hotel (1).

2. From Holehird to Windermere via High Hay Wood  
Follow the previous route to signpost (4). Go through the kissing gate and take the path to St Katherines, with the wall on your right. Following the white arrows, go through a gate and down a field with a wall on your left, into the wood. You emerge from the wood past a National Trust sign onto a wide path (10). Turn left and follow the path reaching Windermere Hotel (1) after about ½ mile.



NOTE There are toilets and, in summer, tea and coffee facilities at Holehird. Dogs, except support dogs, are not allowed in the Gardens.

©Lakeland Horticultural Society, 2015,  
Holehird Gardens, Patterdale Road, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1NP  
Registered Charity Number 259847  
Telephone 015394 46008 www.holehirdgardens.org.uk  
Printed at Stramont Press, Kendal



LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Written, illustrated, designed and produced  
by volunteer members of the Society