

Crosthwaite's Maps

In 1783, Peter Crosthwaite, one-time employee of the East India Company (where he had probably learned surveying), self-styled *Admiral of the Keswick Regatta, Guide, Pilot, Geographer and Hydrographer to the Nobility and Gentry*, as well as keeper of the Keswick Museum, surveyed and published maps of **Derwentwater**, **Windermere**, and **Ullswater**, plus a plan of **Pocklington's Island** in Derwentwater. In 1785 he added maps of **Bassenthwaite**, in 1788 he added **Coniston**, and finally in 1794 he published a map of **Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater** on one sheet. He updated his earlier maps as he went along, and new editions continued to appear up to and after his death in 1808. Most were at a notional scale of around 2.5-3" inches to the mile, apart from Windermere, which was printed at two inches to the mile, while Pocklington's Island did not show a scale. All were a considerable advance on what was available at the date, such as the map which had accompanied Thomas West's *Guide to the Lakes* (1778), approximately 3 ½ miles to the inch: or the one-inch-to-the-mile county maps of Jefferys (Westmorland, 1770), Donald (Cumberland, 1774) or Yates (Lancashire, 1786).

All seven maps were sold at Crosthwaite's Museum for nine shillings for the set (folded to 9.5" x 6"), or 1s 6d each. They were clearly aimed at the growing tourist market, and make a feature of Thomas West's 'stations', the spots from which the best views could be had (making the assumption that the purchaser of the maps would have a copy of West with him on tour, or at least would have seen a copy). To West's stations, Crosthwaite also added some of his own, as well as giving vignettes of places of interest, and various notes, including the names of the owners of various properties abutting the lakes.

For more information on Crosthwaite and his maps (reproduced from the 1809 edition), see *Introduction* in William Rollinson, *A Series of Accurate Maps of the Principal Lakes of Cumberland Westmorland & Lancashire... First Surveyed and Planned between 1783 and 1794 by Peter Crosthwaite*, (Frank Graham, 1968).

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1) 'An Accurate Map of the Matchless Lake of Derwent (situate in the most delightful Vale which perhaps ever Human Eye beheld) near Keswick, Cumberland'

Printed with north to the right. **West's seven stations** are marked, clockwise from Keswick, plus another '*good prospect*' (near *Brandilow*=Brandelhow).

Attention is drawn to the '*great water fall*' behind the *Low Door Hotel* (Lodore), while two Salt Springs, a Lead Mine and a Copper Mine are shown.

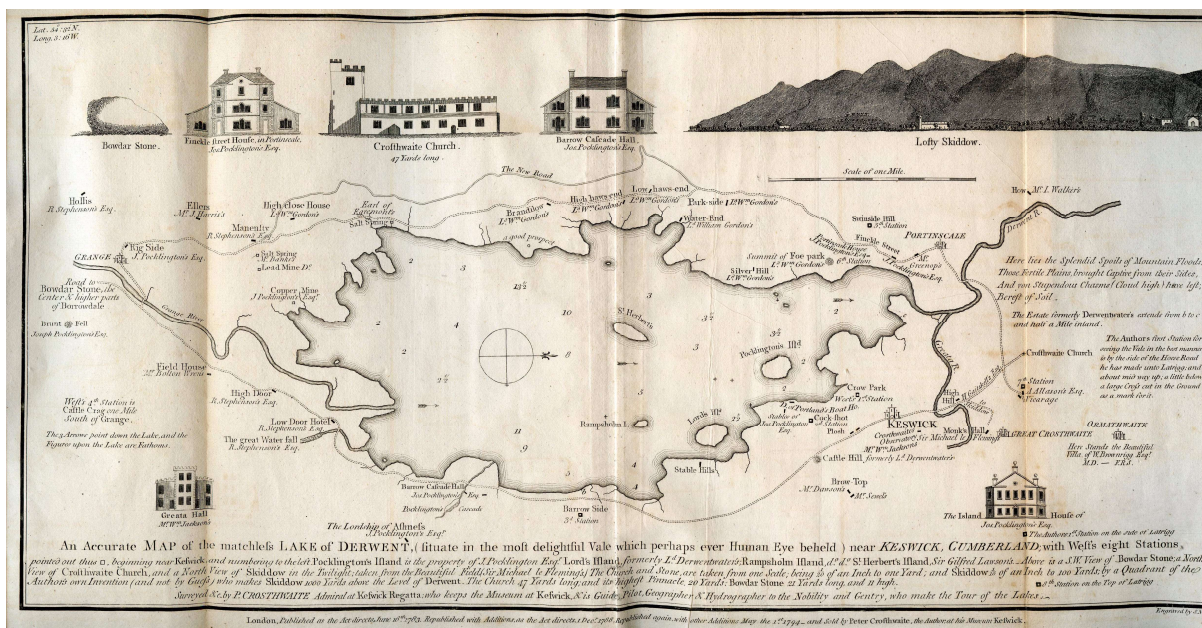
The depth of the lake is given in fathoms, with the deepest point off *Brandilow*, at 13 ½ fathoms (81 ft=25m). Numerous properties belonging to *Jos*.

Pocklington Esq (an eccentric Nottinghamshire businessman who had retired to the area in 1778) are marked, as well as those of other proprietors, while the estate of the former Earl of Derwentwater (executed for his part in the Jacobite Rising of 1715) is indicated.

The map is surrounded by vignettes of *Bowdar Stone* and *Crosthwaite Church* (drawn to the same scale), *Lofty Skiddow*, *Barrow Cascade Hall*, *Greata Hall* (then owned by Wm Jackson, but subsequently let to Samuel Taylor Coleridge from 1800 and Robert Southey from 1803) and *The Island House of Jos Pocklington Esq.* Crosthwaite also notes that he had calculated the summit of Skiddaw to be 1000 yards above the surface of the lake, using '*a Quadrant of the Author's own invention (and not by Guess)*' (Skiddaw's summit is at 931m, Derwentwater stands 75m above OD, so the actual difference is 856m=936yds)

Lat 54° 32'N, Long 3° 46'W. Scale $2^{13}/_{32}$ " to one mile (c.1:26000). Size 230 x 425mm.

Surveyed 1783, with additions 1788 and 1794. Engraved by S. Neele



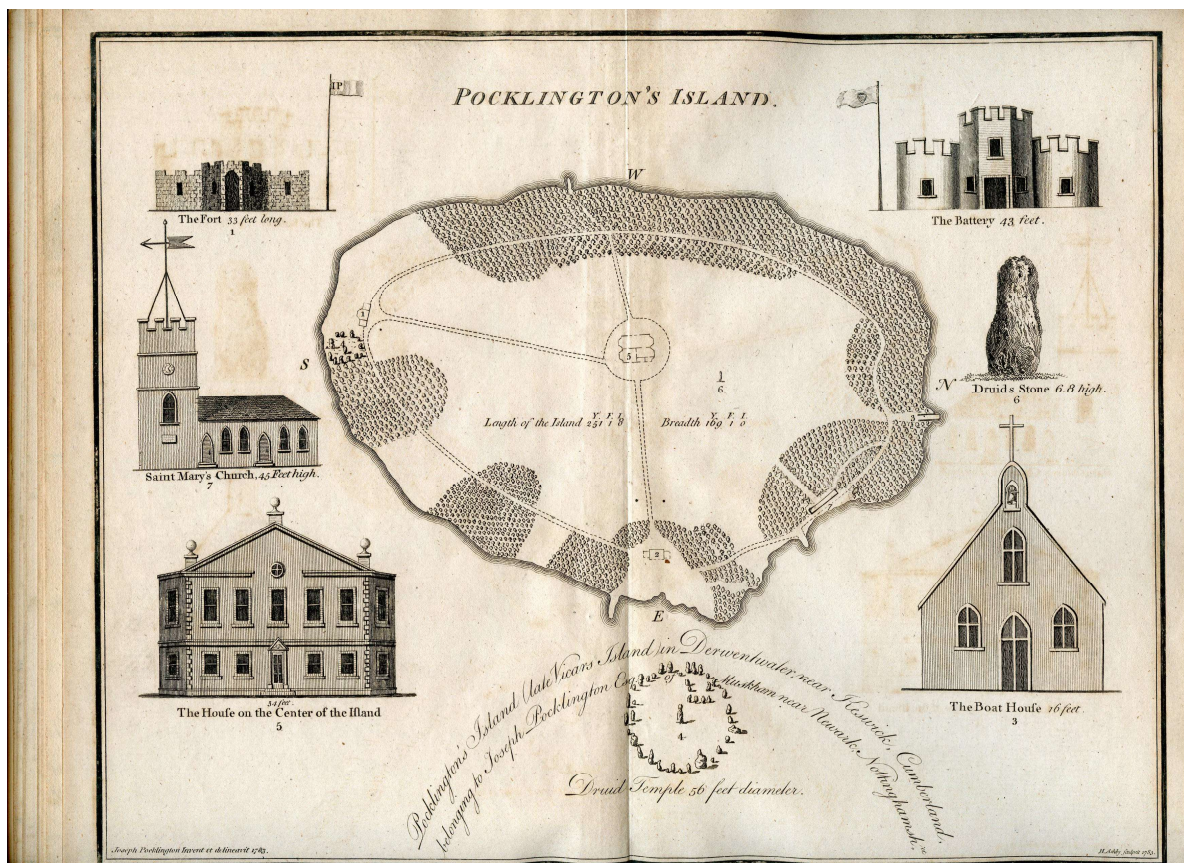
2) 'Pocklington's Island'

Printed with north to the right. Pocklington's house is shown in plan at the centre of the island (formerly known as Vicar's Island, and now called Derwent Isle), and in profile in a vignette: similarly shown are the follies which Pocklington had built on the island - *The Fort*, *The Battery*, *The Boat House*, *The Druid's Temple* and the *Druid's Stone*.

Crosthwaite does not mention it on this engraving, but his self-description on the previous map as '*Admiral at Keswick Regatta*' refers to his involvement with the owner of the island in an annual event which involved a mock sea-battle.

No scale is given, but the measurements on the island imply a scale of around 42" to the mile (c.1:1500). Size 230 x 283mm.

Surveyed 1783 – by Pocklington himself rather than by Crosthwaite - with additions 1788 and 1794. Engraved by H. Ashby.



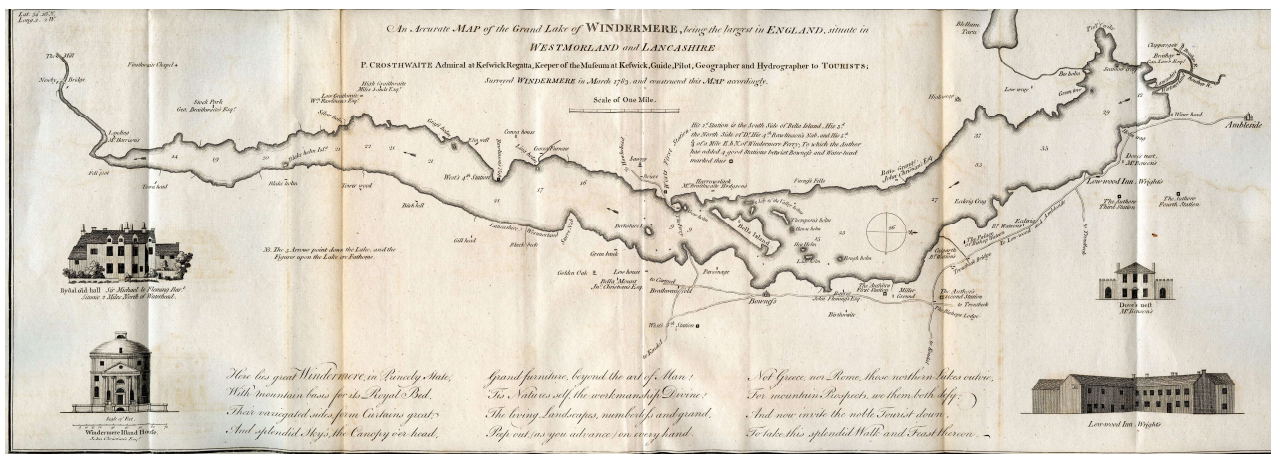
3) 'An Accurate Map of the Grand Lake of Windermere, being the Largest in England, situate in Westmorland in Lancashire'

Printed with north to the right. Shows the first of **West's five stations**, located alongside the ferry, which is now known as the National Trust's Claife Viewing Station). Two of West's stations are described but not placed on the map – but four of **the author's own stations** are so marked. Once again, depths of the lake are shown, with a maximum of 37 fathoms (68m) off *High wray*. Four vignettes feature *Dove's Nest*, *Low-wood Inn*, *Windermere Island House* (an unusual circular house, started in 1774, but not yet completed when this map was first surveyed), and *Rydal Old Hall* (the seat of *Sir Michael le Fleming, Bart*^t).

Some of Crosthwaite's spellings might suggest local pronunciation, such as *Bitch hill* (now Beech Hill), *Seamow Crag* (now Seamew Crag), *Green tove* (now Green Tuft Island), *Bella Island* (so named c.1781 after Isabella Curwen, but today called Belle Isle), *Cunza furnace* (now Cunsey, the site of a bloomery, a furnace for smelting iron) and *Stock park*, (now Stott Park). Note too '*The Palace of Bishop Watson*', marked on the map, although not shown by a vignette: this place, known as Calgarth, near Troutbeck Bridge, was the home of Richard Watson, made Bishop of Llandaff in 1781 (see Rollinson).

At the base is printed a twelve line poem which concludes '*Not Greece nor Rome those northern Lakes outvie/For mountain Prospects, we them both defy/ And now invite the noble Tourist down/ To take this splendid Walk and Feast thereon*'.

Lat 54° 18'N, Long 3° 2'W Scale 2" to one mile (c.1:31000). Size 230 x 606mm. Surveyed 1783, with additions of 1788 and 1794. Engraved by H. Ashby.



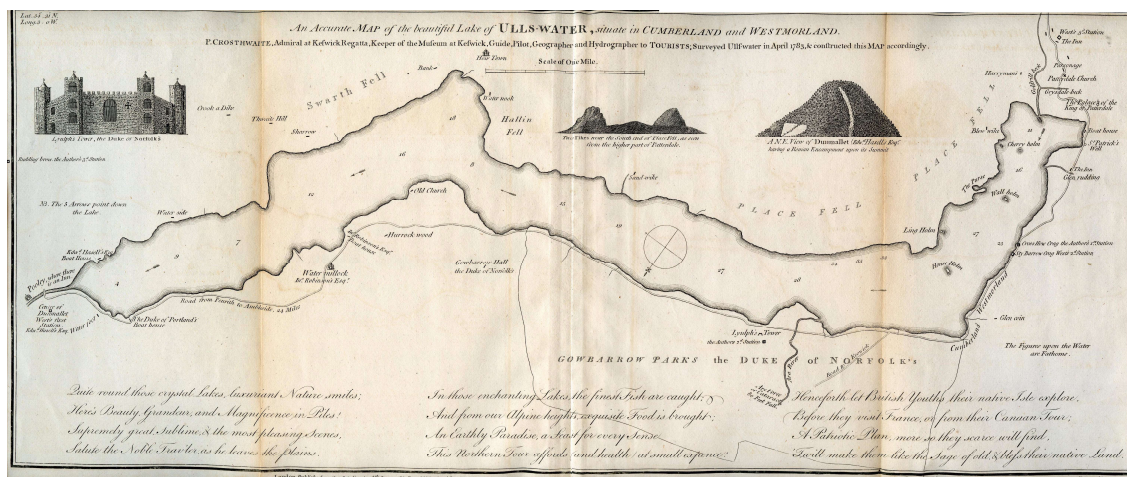
4) 'An Accurate Map of the beautiful lake of Ulls-Water, situate in Cumberland and Westmorland'

This was the last of the three lakes surveyed and published in 1783. Printed with south west to the right. **Two of West's stations, and two of the author's own** are marked. The lake is shown to be a maximum of 35 fathoms (64m) deep. Only one property is shown in a vignette, the Duke of Norfolk's *Lyulph's Tower* (recently built in the 1780s as a hunting lodge in a mock-medieval style for the duke). The other two vignettes are mountain views, of *Two Pikes near the South end of Place Fell* (Patterdale Common), and *Dummallet*, the latter of which is said to have '*a Roman encampment upon its Summit*' (Dunmallard Hill, near Pooley Bridge, upon which there is a small pre-Roman Iron Age multi-vallate hill-fort). Near Patterdale is marked not only *St Patrick's Well* but also '*The Palace of the King of Patterdale*', a title claimed by the Mounsey family of Patterdale Hall (see Rollinson). The hall is now an out-door centre for Bolton School.

Like Windermere, the lower part of the sheet is taken up by a twelve line poem in praise of the lake, and suggesting that '*Henceforth let British Youths their native Isle explore/ Before they visit France...*'

Lat 54° 31'N, Long 3° 0'W. Scale 2 ²⁷/₃₂" to one mile (c.1:22000). Size 230 x 520mm.

Surveyed 1783, with additions of 1788 and 1794. Engraved by H. Ashby.



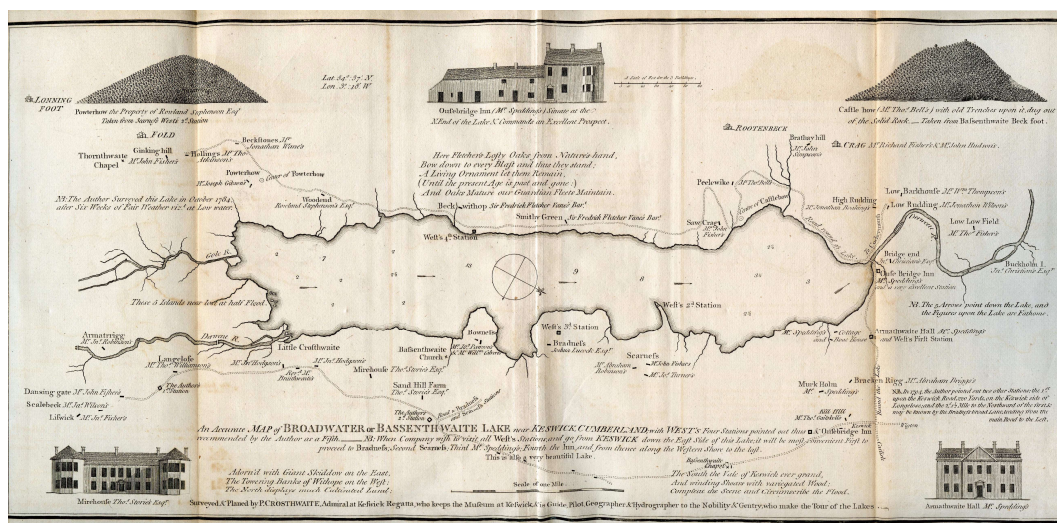
5) 'An Accurate Map of Broadwater or Bassenthwaite Lake near Keswick, Cumberland'

Surveyed in October 1784, and published in 1785. The map has north west to the right, and shows **West's four stations**, plus the Ouse Bridge Inn '**recommended by the author as a fifth**', and '**two other stations**' added by the author in 1794. Unusually, Crosthwaite suggests a sequence for the visitor from Keswick to proceed down the east side of the lake (where most of the stations are to be found), then back up the west side. The lake is shown as being relatively shallow, with the deepest part at 13 fathoms. There are vignettes of three properties, the *Ousebridge Inn*, which '*Commands an Excellent Prospect*' (presumably the owner, Sir F. F. Vane, Bar^t paid a suitable contribution to Crosthwaite for its inclusion): *Armathwaite Hall* (the home of Vane) and *Mirehouse* (owned by Thos Storie esq). Two topographical features are included: *Powterhow* and *Castle How*, the latter of which includes '*old Trenches ...dug out of the Solid Rock*', now believed to be an Iron Age hillfort.

There are two six line poems, one above the lake celebrating the planting of oak trees, *a Living Ornament*: while the second verse, at the bottom of the page, describes the general scene.

Latitude 54° 37'N Long 3° 18'W. Scale $2\frac{27}{32}$ " to one mile (c.1:22000). Size 230 x 454mm.

Surveyed 1784, with additions of 1788 and 1794. Engraved by S. Neele.



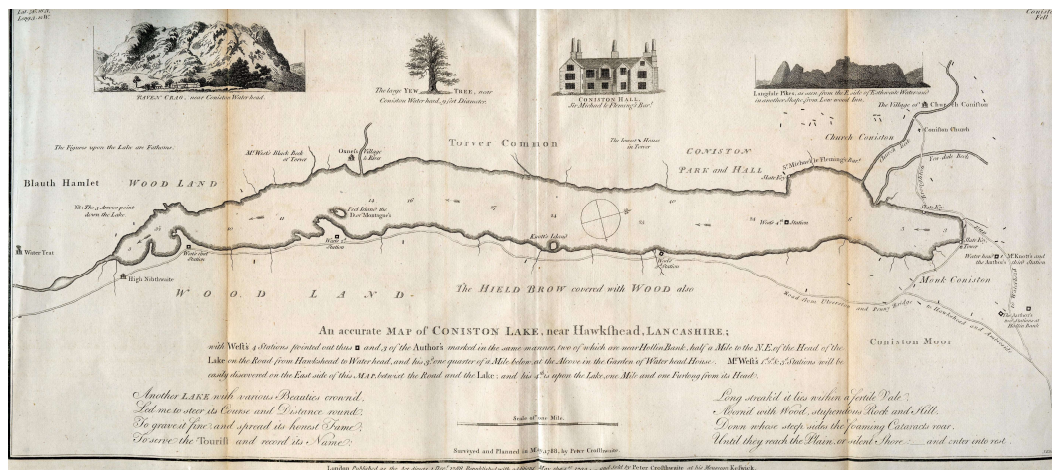
6) 'An accurate Map of Coniston Lake near Hawkshead, Lancashire'

Published in 1788, with north to the right, and showing four of **West's stations**, plus three of the **Author's**. The depth of the lake is recorded as 40 fathoms at its deepest part, in the vicinity of Coniston Park. There is only one vignette of a property, that of Sir Michael le Fleming's *Coniston Hall*. Two topographical vignettes feature the *Langdale Pikes* (a double portrait), and *Raven Crag*, the latter portrayed in a particularly dramatic fashion. The fourth vignette is of a solitary *Yew Tree* near Coniston Head, said to be '*9 feet diameter*' – although it is not marked as such on the map. Rollinson reports that it was blown down in 1894. Slate quarries at the top (north) of the lake are implied by three places marked *Slate Key* (=quay).

The text is accompanied by an eight line poem, specifically stating the purpose of the engraving being '*To serve the Tourist*'.

Lat 54° 16'N, Long 3° 12'W. Scale $2\frac{27}{32}$ " to one mile (c.1:22000). Size 230 x 492mm.

Published 1788 with additions of 1794. Engraved by J. Ellis.



7) 'An Accurate Map of Buttermere, Crummock & Lowes-Water Lakes; Scale Force etc'

Published in 1794, with north west to the right, and showing **6 stations Commanding fine Prospects** (all Crosthwaite's own, as these lakes were not covered by West), beginning at Loweswater and proceeding down the east side of the lakes. The accompanying notes suggest that if you are coming from Keswick to Scale Hill by *Chaise*, then you could include stations 1, 2 and 4, plus a visit to Scale Force (by boat) within one day: he also gives two other routes from Keswick to Buttermere on *Horseback*, one via Newlands, the other via Borrowdale, *passing the 2 Stupendous rocks of Honister on the left and Yew-Crag on the right*. Some statistical information is given for Scale Force, but there is no accompanying poem on this engraving.

The depth of all three lakes is recorded, the deepest being Crummock Lake, 22 fathoms in its deepest part. Three topographical vignettes are included, *Rannerdale Knot*, *Melbreak*, and, in a plug for his own enterprise, *A part of Newlands & Buttermere as they appear from Crosthwaite's Museum at Keswick*. Unlike the engravings of the other lakes, which show them to be surrounded by the houses of the gentry, no proprietors' names are shown at all on this map, reflecting the remoteness of this part of the Lakes. Perhaps then it is no surprise that one of the two vignettes of properties is one of *Crosthwaite's Museum at Keswick*, which, of course, is not on this map: while the other, shown at the same scale to emphasise its small size, and poverty, is of *Buttermere Chapel*.

Lat 54° 30'N, Long 3° 26'W. Scale $2 \frac{30}{32}''$ to one mile (c.1:22000). Size 230 x 560mm.

Surveyed June 1793, published 1794. Engraved by Neele, 352 Strand.

