Boot is a small village in the valley of Eskdale. It grew up with the discovery of iron ore. A mineral railway was built from Ravenglass to service it (latterly the La'al Ratty, which now terminates at Dalegarth). The road continues on and up to the Hardknott and Wrynose Passes. The village of **Drigg** is set on low-lying land on the coast. The dunes are an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). It is home to Europe's largest colony of Black Headed Gulls. **Eskdale Green** is a village in Eskdale and a popular tourist stop (The Green) on the La'al Ratty. Once on a packhorse track, it was the Romans' route to Hardknott Fort. Irton is also nearby and served by Irton Road station on the La'al Ratty. **Holmrook** is a linear village on the A595, alongside the River Irt. **Nether Wasdale** (also known as Strands) lies at the southern end of Wastwater, England's deepest lake. The village green has a large maypole, now a listed structure, commemorating the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. **Ravenglass** lies at the estuary of three rivers - the Esk, the Mite and the Irt. It was an important naval base for the Romans (Glannaventa). Once iron ore, granite and copper ore were brought to the port by a narrow-gauged mineral railway, since preserved as the La'al Ratty railway. There is now also a second station on the same site for the Coast Line (Carlisle to Barrow). The hamlet of **Santon Bridge** straddles the River Irt. Its name comes from the Old English, bridge by a sandy farmstead. The nearby sandpit produces silver sand. **Seascale** Is a small attractive seaside resort, enhanced in Victorian times. It has history tracing back to Norse and Roman times. The village of **Waberthwaite** on the estuary of the River Esk overlooks Muncaster Castle and Ravenglass. **Wasdale Head** is a hamlet located at the "head" of Wasdale, beyond Wastwater. This Guide has been produced by members of the West Cumbria Branch of CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale) to promote the excellent Real Ale premises that we enjoy in West Cumbria.

August 2017 Edition

CAMRA cannot accept any responsibility for errors or changes. Premises' contact details are shown to enable anyone to check out any facility, opening times or beers available, etc, before travelling to those premises. Visit our website at *http://www.camrawestcumbriaguides.org.uk/index.html* for information on CAMRA and updates. You can also download a current version of this Guide.

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Please note that an (*) asterisk alongside a beer entry for a premises denotes that it is a "house beer" supplied to them by the brewery indicated.

Public Transport

There are unfortunately no regular bus services available in this area. The only regular public transport is rail, although you should check the timetables to ensure availability.

Northern Rail (Cumbria Coast Line) This runs between Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness. There are stops at Drigg and Ravenglass. *See www.northernrailway.co.uk/destinations*

The Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway (La'al Ratty) This runs from Ravenglass to the Eskdale valley terminating at Dalegarth (for Boot) with a stop at The Green (for Eskdale Green). See *https://ravenglass-railway.co.uk/*

FACILITIES SYMBOLS

See individual premises facility listings

- Quiet premises: free from piped music, jukeboxes, electronic games or TVs (at least one room).
- Family premises: where the license guarantees that families are warmly (and legally) welcome and in at least one distinct area of the premises : not just in a corridor or a corner of the main bar or lounge.
- Outdoor drinking area: this may vary from a garden to benches on a pavement or even a village green.
- Accommodation: rooms to let (no assessment of quality or price is made).
- Lunchtime meals: not snacks but substantial fare (including one hot dish) and in the premises itself, not in a separate restaurant.
- Evening meals: as for lunchtime meals; separate restaurants are often mentioned in the premises description.
- Wheelchair access: easy access to the premises and WCs.
- Camping: camping facilities for tents at the premises or within one mile; sometimes caravans are also welcomed and this is often mentioned.
- Bus routes that regularly pass close to the premises and/or near to a railway station.
- Traditional pub games played.
- Real draught cider (not keg) available.
- Premises has its own car park.
- Dog friendly.
- WiFi access.
- Oversize lined pint glasses: used for some or all beers.

17 BROWN COW INN

Waberthwaite (On A595) LA19 5YJ 01229 717243

www.thebrowncowinn.com

4-11.30 (M&Tu) 12-11.30 (W-Sun)

ENNERDALE Blonde, HAWKSHEAD Bitter, plus up to five changing guests (usually Cumbrian or north Lancashire)

A family run, community focused inn, in a rather remote village. Offer good value home cooked food.

Q🍽❀🍽◑♟♣🍺P🐾🛜 **GBG 2015 & 2017**

18 WASDALE HEAD INN

Wasdale Head CA20 1EX 019467 26229

www.wasdale.com

11-11 (M-Sat) 12-10.30 (Sun)

Varies, up to seven changing guests

World-renowned inn, beyond England's deepest lake (Wastwater), surrounded by its tallest fells. Display of rock climbing memorabilia. World's Biggest Liar Will Ritson, was a former landlord. Q🍽❀🍽◑♿♟🍺P🐾🛜 **GBG 2015 & 2016**

CAMRA in West Cumbria issues awards throughout the year to our premises, recognising continued excellence and meritable achievements. In some cases our pubs go on to compete at county, regional and national level. Many of the premises in this Guide have been recipients of such awards over the years. As an indication we have included details, in the entries, of awards made over the last three years. These are :

POTS - Pub of the Season (awarded quarterly to recognise meritable achievement).
POTY - Pub of the Year (voted by members to be the best pub in the Branch area).
CiPOTY - Cider Pub of the Year (voted by members to be the best cider pub in the Branch area).
COTY - Club of the Year (voted by members to be the best club in the Branch area).
CPOTY - Cumbria Pub of the Year (voted by the members across Cumbria to be the best pub in the county).
CCOTY - Cumbria Club of the Year (voted by the members across Cumbria to be the best club in the county).
GBG - Good Beer Guide entry (selected by the members to be included in this prestigious national CAMRA publication).

1 BOOT INN

Boot CA19 1TG 019467 23711

www.thebooteskdale.co.uk

11-11.30 (M-Sun)

Varies, up to four changing guests in winter, six in summer (some Robinsons' list, others possibly Hawkshead)

A walkers' pub. Lively, with a jukebox, large screen TV and pool table. Popular with younger set. Participant in annual Boot Beer Festival (June). Large outdoor drinking and eating area. Excellent food. Q(Dalegarth)P

2 BROOK HOUSE INN

Boot CA19 1TG 019467 23288

www.brookhouseinn.co.uk

9am-11 (M-Sun)

Varies, up to four changing guests in winter, seven in summer

A family-run hotel with spacious outdoor drinking areas. Poachers Bar adorned with hunting décor. Multi CAMRA Award winner. Participant in annual Boot Beer Festival (June). Q(Dalegarth)P **POTY 2014** **GBG 2015 to 2017**

3 HARDKNOTT BAR & CAFÉ (at the WOOLPACK INN)

Boot CA19 1TH 019467 23230

www.woolpack.co.uk

8am-11 (M-Sun)

BARNGATES Goodhew Dry Stout, BOWNESS BAY Hardknott 2 Pass* plus up to four changing guests. Up to four changing ciders

Iconic two bar pub, in stunning scenery. Renowned for food, has wood fired oven. Large screen TV. Participant in annual Boot Beer Festival (June). Longish walk from Dalegarth Station. Q(Dalegarth)P **CiPOTY 2017** **GBG 2015 to 2017**

4 VICTORIA HOTEL

Drigg, Station Road CA19 iXQ 019467 24231

www.thevicatdrigg.co.uk

12-2 (Tu-F) 5.30-12 (M-F) 12-12 (Sat&Sun) Closes early Sunday evening in winter.

JENNINGS Bitter, Cumberland Ale, plus up to four changing guests (Marstons list)

Small village hotel. Welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Near seashore, sand dunes, nature reserve, and amazing panorama of Western Fells. Popular with diners, particularly on Sunday. Q(Drigg)P **GBG 2017**

5 BOWER HOUSE INN

Eskdale Green CA19 1TD 019467 23244

www.bowerhouseinn.com

11-11 (M-Sat) 12-11.30 (Sun)

BLACK SHEEP Bitter, THEAKSTONS Best Bitter, plus up to three changing guests

17th century inn, now a comfortable country hotel. Bar well used by locals. Pleasant garden with outdoor seating. Quality food in bar and separate restaurant.
Q(Ravenglass)P **POTS 2017**

6 GEORGE IV INN

Eskdale Green CA19 1TS 019467 23470

www.kinggeorge-eskdale.co.uk

12-12 (M-Sun)

CONISTON Bluebird, JENNINGS Cumberland Ale, Seasonal, Snecklifter, plus up to six changing guests (usually local or northern breweries)

Large, prominent roadside pub. Comprises two bars, a separate restaurant, games rooms, and offers two hundred malt whiskies! A reasonable walk from The Green station.
Q(The Green)P

7 IRTON HALL

Eskdale Green CA19 1TA 019467 26025

www.irtonhall.co.uk

12-11 (M-Sun)

Varies, up to two changing guests

14th century manor house, now partly a holiday complex, extensive parkland. Bar tastefully converted and modernised. Runs an August Beer Festival for local charities.
QP

8 LUTWIDGE ARMS

Holmrook (On A595) CA19 1UH 019467 24230

www.lutwidgearms.co.uk

6-8.30 (M-Sat) 12-2 6-8.30 (Sun)

Varies, up to four changing guests

A comfortable hotel and popular as a "local" for this small village. Adjacent to the River Irt, where you can watch the annual run of Atlantic salmon.
QP

9 LOW WOOD HOTEL

Nether Wasdale CA20 1ET 019467 26100

www.lowwoodhall.co.uk

10-11 (M-Sun)

YATES Bitter

Delightful late-19th century hotel with original features. Bar open to non-residents. Elevated position above village, with excellent views across Wasdale.
QP .

10 SCREES INN

Nether Wasdale CA20 1ET 019467 26262

www.thestrandsinn.co.uk

Closed (M) 3-11 (Tu&W) 12-11 (Th-Sun)

STRANDS Errmm, plus up to five more changing STRANDS

Former temperance hotel, acquired by the owners of the Strands. Re-opened after some refurbishment. Clientele a mix of locals and visitors. Comprises a main bar/lounge and lower bar area. Attractive outdoor area. QP

11 STRANDS HOTEL & BREWERY

Nether Wasdale CA20 1ET 019467 26237

www.thestrands inn.com

12-11 (M-Sat) 12-10.30 (Sun)

STRANDS 1492, Brown Bitter, Errmmmm, plus up to three more changing STRANDS

Home of Strands Brewery. This inn has an extensive beer and food menu, of which they are justifiably proud. Children welcome. Popular for Morris Dancing and live folk musician events. QP **POTY 2016** **GBG 2015 to 2017**

12 INN AT RAVENGLASS

Ravenglass, Main Street CA18 1SQ 01229 717230

www.theinnatravenglass.co.uk

12-11 (M-Sun)

BOWNESS BAY Swan Blonde, ULVERSTON Laughing Gravy, plus up to two changing guests

17th-century inn alongside the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irk estuary. Specialises in locally-caught seafood. Stunning sunset views in summer. Cosy log stove when cooler. Roman remains nearby. Q(Ravenglass)P **POTS 2014** **GBG 2017**

13 PENNINGTON ARMS

Ravenglass, Main Street CA18 1SQ 01229 717222

www.penningtonhotel.co.uk

11-11 (M-Sat) 12-11 (Sun)

Varies, up to three changing guests

Recently renovated 18th century inn. Part of Muncaster Castle Estate. Well appointed. High quality food, at not inexpensive prices.
Q(Ravenglass)P **POTS 2016**

14 RATTY ARMS

Ravenglass, Ravenglass Station CA18 1SN 01229 717676

No website currently

5.30-12 (M) 11.30-3 5.30-12 (Tu-Sat) 12-12 (Sun)

JENNINGS Bitter, THEAKSTONS Best Bitter, YATES Bitter, plus up to three changing guests

Cosy family run-pub. A converted Victorian railway building. Lots of railway memorabilia. Welcome log fire. Pleasant newly refurbished beer patio. Good value, tasty food.
Q(Ravenglass)P **GBG 2016**

15 BRIDGE INN

Santon Bridge CA19 1UX 019467 26221

www.santonbridgeinn.co.uk

12-12 (M-Sun)

JENNINGS Cumberland Ale, plus up to five changing guests (Marstons list)

Busy hotel attracting locals and tourists. Low beams, creaky floors. Range of reasonably priced food, available daily. Home of World's Biggest Liar competition. Licensed for weddings. QP **POTS 2016**

16 CALDER HOUSE HOTEL

Seascale, The Banks CA20 1QP 019467 28538

www.calderhouse.com

12-2 6-11 (M-F) 11-11 (Sat) 12-10.30 (Sun)

JENNINGS Bitter, plus up to three changing guests

Seaside village hotel, once a Victorian girls' boarding school. Refurbished in 2015. The La Vista Basserie and Bar offers glorious sunset vistas over the Irish Sea.
Q(Seascale)P