

## Bus stop at Scales (White Horse) near Threlkeld

### Location -

- On the A66 trunk road, below the White House Inn as Scales, near Threlkeld
- Grid reference – NY 343 268
- Bus services
  - X4 / X5                      Penrith – Keswick – Workington
  - 509                              Keswick – Patterdale - Penrith

My name is Ron Kenyon and I have just published a book entitled “Wainwrights without a car” - it this is about climbing the Wainwright summits, in the Lake District, using public transport - i.e. buses, trains, boats etc (and bikes).

During the writing of the book, I became aware of the issue of there not being an official bus stop at Scales and that the bus would not automatically stop there.

The official position where there is no official bus stop is stated by Stagecoach on their website as follows -

*“In urban areas, you can only get off at marked bus stops. However, in rural areas with no fixed bus stops, our bus drivers will happily stop on request if it's safe to do so.*

*Our biggest concern is your safety and the safety of the other customers and driver. This is why, once a driver has shut the bus doors and started driving, they're not able to stop.”*

This seems a sensible situation but, with Scales being a popular starting and finishing point for ascents of Blencathra, one of the Lake District’s most ascended summits for many walkers, and with the move to get people to forsake cars and use public transport (buses) it seems wrong and unfortunate that buses cannot be seen to stop here.

I also understand that the people living and working around that area are massively inconvenienced by this on a number of counts –

- The walk back up from Threlkeld is a pleasant walk on a good day but taking 55 minutes must put people off using the bus.
- There is the issue of picking up and dropping off school kids in this area - at least one has contacted the local MP (Tim Farron) on this.
- I was also speaking to one of the staff at the White Lion, who does not have a car and travels from away, by bus, and is never sure if he will be dropped off or picked up there.
- One elderly person is considering moving house as a result of this situation.

As the road is a trunk road this issue has been referred to National Highways - however their response seems to have been to build a footbridge, over the road, at a cost of £3m. This seems to address the issue of crossing the road safely but not the issue of speeding vehicles and the stopping of the buses - it also seems like an excessively expensive and totally out of place suggestion for such a problem and location.

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### **Why is there no official bus stop at Scales?**

The A66 road goes along beside Scales and is a well-used access to the Lake District. My memory goes back to using the old A66 road, which can be seen going south off the A66 about 200m east of Scales. The road improvements were done many years ago and this is now a relatively straight and also fast flowing road. I understand this speeding has contributed to some near misses hence the crackdown on using this location as a bus stop.

### **Ideas to improve the situation and establish an official bus stop.**

As mentioned, I understand this issue has been looked at by National Highways and other than the idea for a footbridge I don't have any other details. I set out below some ideas which I know about and would ask that National Highways to reconsider the situation.

- **The issue of speed seems to be the major problem so ideas to try and control speed and overtaking could be as follows -**



- **Eastwards along from Scales**
- Create 50mph speed limit with attendant signage
- Have speed awareness cameras there and impose fines - good income for WFC!
- Extend the white lines further
- Having crossing island in middle of the road with attendant hatching
- Signage of either side as well - "BEWARE PEDESTRIANS CROSSING"

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- **Suggested location of bus stops -**

- **Buses heading eastwards**

- I understand the buses heading eastwards can use the slip road going up to the White Horse Inn -

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- Is the pulling off and blocking the slip road a problem.
- I believe this is long enough to take the bus.
- Could be issue if vehicle coming out from White Horse Inn.
- There has been a suggestion of using layby by Scales Cottage.

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- Buses heading westwards



View of tarmacked area on south side of the road.

- **Stop on the main road next to / in the tarmacked layby and retain car parking**
  - Issues at the moment with speeding and “bad” driving and creation of tailbacks.
- **Claim the tarmacked parking area as a bus stop.**
  - Will it be reclaimed by cars?
  - See below alternative car parking 400m further east

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- Use the junction to the old A66 road 200m further east for a bus stop

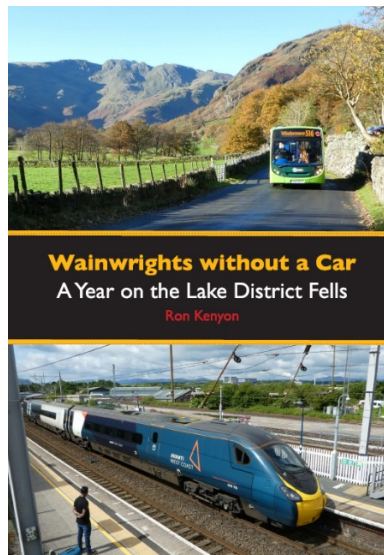


- Would this be allowed ?
- Very wide and quiet junction.
- Need then for passengers to make way along and cross the road (crossing island ?)
- The junction is about 200m from Scales
  - This is nothing compared to ascending Blencathra.
  - But makes it further from the houses further west of Scales.

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- **Promotion of and better use of layby 400m east of Scales for car parking**
  - 400m east of Scales is a layby, on the north (eastbound) side of the road, which is used by walkers but to ascend Blencathra one needs to walk along by the road, by the White Horse Inn then along the road to the path up Mousthwaite Combe
    - There used to be (I believe) an unofficial path from near the layby to the point where the path goes up Mousthwaite Comb and Blencathra etc.
    - Not sure of misuse or whatever but this path was closed sometime ago which stopped this access.
    - Would be good if agreement could be made with the landowner to establish this as a permissive path and reopen this way up.
    - Look then to promote the layby as a parking point for Blencathra - and even extend the layby to take more vehicles.
    - If this was done then look to establish the hardstanding at Scales on the south side of the road as a bus stop.



My name is Ron Kenyon and I have just published a book entitled “Wainwrights without a car” - it this is about climbing the Wainwright summits, in the Lake District, using public transport - i.e. buses, trains, boats etc (and bikes) - and underlying this is getting people to change their mindsets to no using the cars and vehicles as much and look at, what can be better though not always, alternatives with public transport.

There are many reports of clogged up roads in the Lake District in the summertime and the promotion of public transport is one way of helping to alleviate this problem but also, often, enhance the experience for visitors and locals by using buses etc.

My book follows the trips out, by members of the local Eden Valley Mountaineering Club, during 2023, when we collectively climbed all the 214 summits. The final peak, we felt appropriately, was Blencathra and members disembarked at Scales and also in Threlkeld and ascended this fine summit by various ways and ended up for a celebratory drink in Threlkeld

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I am also

- British Mountaineering Council (BMC) North Lakes Local Access Representative
- Founder Member of the local Eden Valley Mountaineering Club
- Penrith Town Councillor
- Born and lived most of my life in Penrith
- First climbed Blencathra, with my mum, when I was 10.

*Ron Kenyon*

October 2025