

Walk 1-S Greystoke local walk

Greystoke village and the surrounding countryside.

Distance:
2 miles (3.2km)
Cumulative Height
152 ft.
Our rating: Easy

Getting there:
Turn right, out of Cazenovia Hall, Blencowe Hall, Riverain or Wythburn along the local road to Greystoke. The village is reached after about a mile. Park around the green or in the car park behind the village hall. There is no regular public transport serving the village.

Local services: The village has a shop and an inn.

Note: The start point for this walk can be reached along the road on foot at a distance of 1¼ miles (each way).

Start grid: NY439308

Map: OS Explorer OL5
The English Lakes North-eastern area

This walk begins at Greystoke Cross in the centre of the village green. It explores a little of the eastern flank of the village on the approach to the former collegiate church of St Andrews. From there it moves beyond the village through the extensive premises of the Greystoke Racing Stables, then into more open countryside. Returning to the village the walk passes by newer residential properties and the boundary wall to the Greystoke Castle estate.

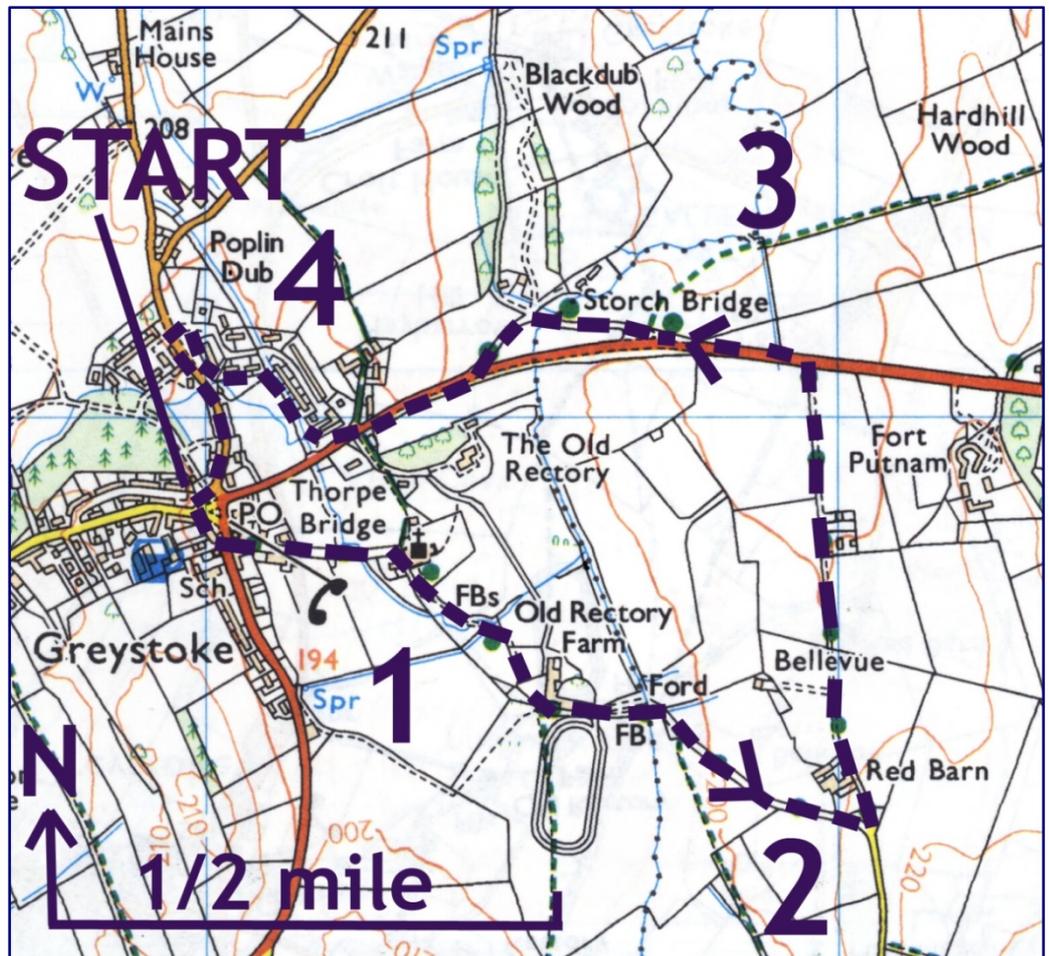
Greystoke - The name could be derived from a place dependent on a 'Monastery' or a 'Manor'. Greystoke Castle, dating from C12th was originally the seat of the barony of Greystoke.

In C14th Greystoke was upgraded to a 'collegiate town' from a 'rectory' and operated as such until dissolution in C16th. From 1958 to 1979 a college was re-established in Greystoke. This was a pre-theological college to help men gain the necessary qualifications prior to entering full residential training for the ministry.

The Walk

1. Commence the walk from the steps of Greystoke Cross in a southerly direction and

with the 'Boot and Shoe' inn to your right cross over the green and local roads to the frontage of the village store and post office. Turn left into Church Street and continue on through the village to the end of the street at St Andrews Church. *On Church Street can be seen the Sanctuary Stone. Formerly lying on the Church Causeway near the bridge, it was moved in 1908, for its own protection, into a recess in the wall by the swimming pool, and enclosed by iron railings. The stone is blue whinstone or cobble, and has a hatchet mark pointing towards the church.*



The right of sanctuary is said to have been granted in early times to all churches. Once beyond the stone, fugitives from the law could claim sanctuary within the precincts of the church.

In a field next to the church, is another stone known locally as 'Spillers'. This is hollowed out on the top, and is believed to have been a plague stone, where coins could be left to avoid possible contagion. The church is dedicated to St Andrew, and was first mentioned in records in 1255. It is much larger than most Lakeland churches because it was a collegiate, or mother church in the Middle Ages. The college of Greystoke was closed at the Reformation when the chantries were abolished. In 1848 the church underwent restoration under the celebrated architect Anthony Salvin.

Turn right here and pass through a gate onto a grassy track which is signed as a 'Public Path'. After a short distance pass through a second gate, then veer left to a pronounced white gate, followed by two stone 'clapper type' bridges and another such gate. Continue along an enclosed grassy path and through a further gate at Old Rectory Farm. Turn right from this gate and keeping the fence on the immediate right side pass in front of another gate and round to a temporary sheep gate beside a building corner. Continue on along the back of the building to reach a wooden direction post.

2. Veer left here, signed as a Public Way to Red Barn. Pass in front of a newer barn structure, then along a track to the rear of the next. To your right at this point will be an equestrian running track. Upon reaching the end of the building 'dog-leg' a little to the left, then continue on along a grassy track to reach the bank of the River Petteril. Cross over the river by means of the footbridge which is located to your right at this point. Once over the river pass through a gate onto a rising enclosed green lane. Continue gently uphill to come alongside Red Barn and leave the lane through a gateway to reach a local access road.

3. Turn sharp left, along the access road. Pass through a first gate into the outer curtilage of Red Barn, then leave again through a second gate. The road then crosses a field to a third gate and passes along the edge of another to reach a fourth gate. It then passes close to a small group of dwellings and continues along the edge of a further field before crossing a cattle grid (adjoining gate) upon reaching the main B5288 (Penrith to Greystoke) road. *To your right and uphill, when approaching the main road, you should notice the castellated C18th folly structure of Fort Putnam. This is one of three local 'folly farmsteads' (the other two being Bunker's Hill and Spire House) that were built by Charles Howard of Greystoke Castle, 11th Duke of Norfolk. Howard was opposed to the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and it is rumoured that the follies (C1789) were built to celebrate Britain's loss of its American colonies in that war.* Cross the road, then turn left along its right edge or verge then after about 200 yards turn off to the right along a section of the former highway. Drop downhill and cross the River Petteril once again, over Storch Bridge.

4. Continue along the former section of highway back up to the main road. Cross over the road at the junction, onto a wide section of tended grass, then turn right. Keep along the grassland as the road passes over a hill brow, to reach a plinth that celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. At the end of the grassland cross the main road once again and keep on the short distance to a junction on the right. Cross over the junction but then immediately pass right, through a hedge, onto a footpath that fronts a row of dwellings. Continue along this path as it first turns right: then follow it behind an estate of dwellings keeping a stream and fields to your left side. The path eventually emerges onto the Greystoke to Blencowe road beside a bridge and the walks to Greystoke Castle. *Greystoke Castle dates back to an initial wooden structure in the time of Llyulph de Greystoke (1069), after whom Ullswater is named. This was replaced with a stone structure and castellated in C14th. Following the English Civil War it was destroyed by Cromwell and then lay in ruin until being re-built and enlarged by the architect Anthony Salvin in the 1840's. A large part was destroyed by fire following an accident 1868, then again restored by Henry Howard, using estate labour. In more recent times the castle has been used as a POW camp and today functions in various hospitality roles.* Turn left along this road and shortly return to Greystoke village green and the end of the walk.