

Walk 2-S Skelton local walk

Skelton village and the surrounding countryside.

Distance:

2.5 or 3 miles (4.0 or 4.8km)

Cumulative Height

200 ft.

Our rating: Easy

Getting there from Cazenovia or Blencowe Hall: Pass through Little Blencowe and leave along the road signed to Laithes and Carlisle. After ½ mile turn left along the road signed to Skelton. Turn left at the crossroads in Skelton along the road signed to Ellonby, then park at a convenient point along that road.

There is no regular public transport serving Skelton.

Note: The start point for this walk can be reached along the road on foot at a distance of 2½ miles (each way). Section 2 of the walk, near Tilery Farm, is 1¼ miles on foot.

Local services: The village has an inn, the Dog & Gun, selling bar food.

Start grid: NY435354

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

This walk begins on Ellonby Road at Skelton. It passes through a section of the village and visits St Michael's church (C13th origin). It then leaves the village and crosses fields to the shallow valley of Lamb Beck and back to the western part of Skelton village. From here local roads take the route past a playground and picnic area to the north of the village, to return past farms, the historic Methodist chapel and the Village Hall along the northern main street. A shorter option is to return directly to the start past Victorian and more recent properties along Ellonby Road.

Skelton - The name means 'place on a hill, bank or shelf' - very noticeable because of its elevated position above the surrounding countryside. It was formerly on the main route between Penrith and Wigton.

The Walk

1. Commence the walk facing along Ellonby Road towards the village crossroads. Pass by the 'Dog & Gun' Inn and over the crossroads then continue gently downhill to reach the gates to St Michael's Church. *The present Church of 'St Michael and All Angels' was restored & re-built in 1794, with further extensive work in 1879, on the site of earlier buildings reaching back in age to C13th. Certain features from earlier churches have been incorporated into the present building, including an C18th sundial.*

The lych-gate is the 1914-18 war memorial for the village. Having visited the church retrace your steps a few yards, then turn off left onto a roughly metalled track just past Church House and alongside Todd's Barn. Continue along this track, past some farm buildings (two gates) to shortly reach a junction with the Laithes to Skelton Road.

2. Cross over this road then drop left downhill for a few yards to reach a gate on the right at the start of a signed Public Bridleway to Lamb Beck. From the gate proceed along the length of the field ahead which drops downhill into a shallow valley. At the further lower edge towards the left field corner a stile and footbridge take the path across Lamb Beck (with a ford alongside) into scrubby woodland. Keep ahead through the scrub and then across a section of high grassy rough pasture to reach another field edge (no gate or stile). Turn right, along the edge, pass by a stile and continue on along the field edge, with the path eventually turning to the right as it crosses a former hedge line. After a further few yards the path reaches a gate that leads onto the local Blencowe to Ellonby road.

3. Turn right, along the road, for about ½ mile. En route the road crosses Lamb Beck then shortly after the property Lamb Beck Ing. After rounding a left bend turn off right, through the left of two gates, onto the right edge of a field. *Note: There is a Public Footpath sign here which may be buried somewhat within the hedge.* Keep ahead across this first field and through a gate at the further side. Continue along the left edge of a second field to reach a gate in the far right field corner. From here veer slightly left in

the third field and make across to a gateway (adjoining stile) which is set at the right end of the walled section of field boundary along the further edge. Once through, continue uphill along the right edge of the fourth field. At the upper corner don't leave the field but turn left, along its top edge. Pass through a gate into a fifth field then keep ahead to reach a gate in the further field corner that leads out onto the local village road at the west edge of Skelton. Turn right, along the road for a short distance to reach a road junction.

3a. Shorter Option: Turn right at the road junction onto the western end of Ellonby Road. Continue then along this village road to reach, once again, the starting point of the walk.

4. Turn left at this junction onto an unsigned local road. The road then turns to the right before dropping gently downhill away from the village, passing by a wooded play area and picnic site. It then continues on to reach a further junction at Car Dub. Turn right here and after rounding a corner continue gently uphill back into the village. The road passes by farm and residential property, plus the Methodist Chapel and the Toppin Memorial Hall to reach the main village crossroads close to the 'Dog and Gun' Inn. Turn right here to return to the starting point of the walk.

The Listed Methodist Chapel, recently re-furbished was built in 1865 as a primitive Chapel on the site of two formerly dilapidated cottages.

The Toppin Memorial Hall was built in 1923 in memory of local benefactor Fred Toppin (1835-1915) of Musgrave Hall in Skelton. He became Chairman of the New York Dock and Harbour Board and official of the White Star Shipping Line that owned the Titanic.

SKELTON: C19th Skelton had a population of around 330 but the village at the time boasted a smithy, a tailor, a butcher, a cobbler and clog repairer, a draper and a general store. In early C20th the village had a post office, general shop, garage and cycle shop. Today the village has a school, postal facilities, Dog and Gun Inn and two churches and a veterinary practice. It is served by one bus a week.

