

## Walk 1-M

# Blencow, Greystoke Gill & Greystoke

*Local villages & countryside in the Upper Patteril valley*

### Distance:

6¾ miles (10.9km)

### Cumulative Height

400 ft.

Our rating: Moderate

**Local services:** Greystoke has a village shop and an inn.

**Start grid:** NY450325

**Map:** OS Explorer OL5

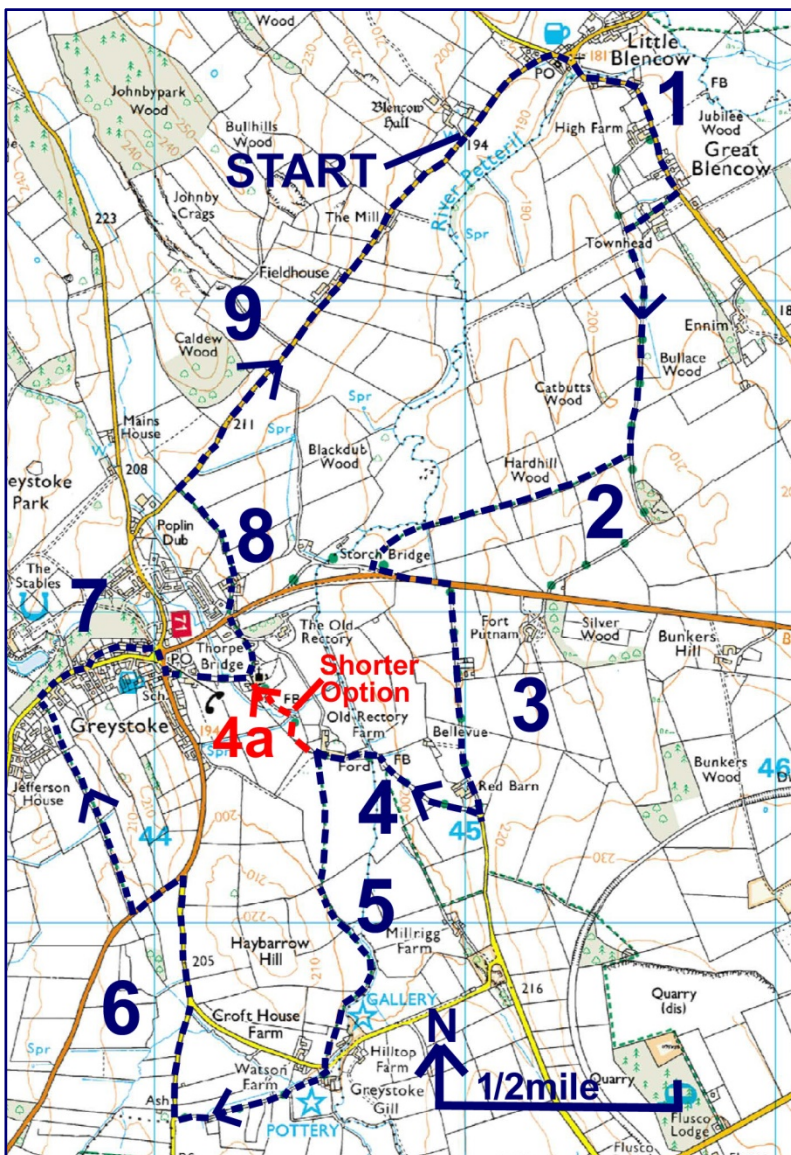
The English Lakes North-eastern area

This walk begins at the entranceway to Blencow Hall, Cazenovia Hall, Riverain and Wythburn. It visits the villages of Blencow, Greystoke Gill and Greystoke, utilizing field paths, tracks and stretches of local road between. On several occasions it crosses the fledgling River Patteril. Sheep, cattle and horses could be encountered on the walk.

## The Walk

1. Commence the walk from the entranceway by turning left along the local road. Keep carefully along the right side of the road, facing any on-coming traffic. After ¼ mile the road reaches the green at the centre of Little Blencow. *Blencow - the name is derived from 'summit'*. Turn downhill to the right here along the road signed to Blencow Station and Penrith, pass by the old Methodist

Chapel and cross the bridge over the River Patteril into Great Blencow. From here the road rises slightly uphill, then turns around to the right to pass by various farm and residential properties. Pass by a row of houses on the left side then immediately turn off right along a farm access track signed as a Public Bridleway.



2. Rise gently uphill and pass between some farm buildings (two gates en route) then turn left with the track and continue on between fields. Pass by a small copse type woodland on the left, then on approaching a second woodland turn off the track to the right, into a field, through the right hand of two gates (signed Public Footpath). Keep along the left edge of this and the next field (separated by a gate) then pass through the right of two gates ahead into a third field. Again keep along the left field edge and pass through a gate (adjoining stile) at the further corner. From here bear left and rise gently uphill to climb over a stile onto an old section of the Penrith-Greystoke road near Storch Bridge.

3. Turn left here to the junction with the present B5288 road. Cross over the road then turn left along the carriageway edge for just over 200 yards. Turn off right then onto a metalled access road and pass over a cattle grid (adjoining gate). *To your left and uphill 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*

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*Howard of Greystoke Castle, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.* Continue along this access road for about ½ mile. After the third gate the access passes through the curtilage of 'Red Barn'. It leaves through a fourth gate after which a 'Public Path' sign directs sharply to the right along a grassy path.

4. Turn onto this enclosed path and proceed gently downhill between trees to reach a gate at the foot of the slope. Once through bear left and cross a footbridge over the River Petteril. Continue on through an avenue of poplar trees into the Old Rectory Farm stables area. Pass to the left side of a first green clad stables building then to the right of a second open fronted barn. Keep ahead then behind and to the left of a third set of buildings to reach a footpath direction sign.

**4a. Shorter Option: From here the walk can be shortened by following the directions in this paragraph, then continuing the walk from Paragraph 8.**

Keep on behind the buildings as signed to Greystoke, pass through a temporary sheep gate then bear right at the building end and continue with a fence to the left as far as a second gate. Pass through this gate and continue along an enclosed grassy path. This path turns, then crosses two 'clapper' type bridges over the River Petteril. Keep ahead but veer slightly right to pass through a gate and then keep along a short section of track to reach the turning area in front of St Andrew's Church. Pass in front of the church and then continue from the description in paragraph 8.

5. Turn left, as signed to Greystoke Ghyll. Climb under or over a section of plastic topped fencing to reach a gate. Pass through the gate then bear left to come alongside a practice equestrian running track. Keep beside the track, then where it turns to the left keep ahead to reach a stile in the far corner of the field. Climb over this stile, plus a second nearby, and proceed along the left edges of two fields which are separated by a gate (adjoining stile). The River Petteril will come alongside to the left. Climb over a stile into the third field then after rounding a corner make over towards a gate ahead. Don't go through this gate but climb over a rough double type stile to the left side, into the curtilage of Beckstones Gallery. Keep along the right edge of the curtilage then along the Gallery's access road to reach the local road at Greystoke Gill.

6. Turn left, cross the River Petteril then turn immediately sharp right, onto a signed Public Way. Proceed along this track for about ⅓ mile to reach the local Greystoke to A66 road. **Note: Parts of this track may be wet and a ford may be encountered.** Turn right, along the road, cross a bridge over the River Petteril and keep ahead at a first road junction. Upon reaching a second junction, with the B5288 road, cross that road and turn sharp left along the carriageway edge (signed to Motherby & Keswick). After 200 yards turn off right, through a gate, onto a Public Footpath signed to Greystoke. Proceed along the left edges of three fields (separated by gates), then veer slightly right upon approaching the further edge of the third to pass through a gate alongside a barn. Keep on along a short stretch of access path and through another gate onto the local road at Greystoke. *Greystoke - The name could be derived from a place dependent on a 'Monastery' or a 'Manor'. Greystoke Castle, dating from C12<sup>th</sup> was originally the seat of the barony of Greystoke.*

7. Turn right along the road pavement and pass by a number of historic and newer properties, then turn off left along the cul-de-sac, Park Road. At the end of this road continue along a metalled path and drop down some steps onto the village green and on to Greystoke Cross in the centre. Leave the 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 end of the street at St Andrews Church.

8. Turn left here along a Public Bridleway signed to Thorpe. Follow this path as it passes to the left of a house, then along the right side of a paddock and thirdly along a driveway, to reach the B5288 road. Cross over the road onto a metalled access road signed as a Public Bridleway to Poplin. Pass by a number of dwellings then at the head of the access road continue up the right hand brick surfaced house drive then turn to reach a field gate behind the final dwelling. From the gate continue along the right side of a field, pass through a gateway then follow the left sides of two fields to reach the Greystoke to Blencow road after two further gates.

9. Turn right, along the road edge. Pass by the properties 'Fieldhouse' and 'The Mill' then, after just short of a mile, reach the Blencowe Hall, Cazenovia Hall, Riverain and Wythburn entranceway once again and the end of the walk.