

Walk 1-S Glassonby & Long Meg local walk

Glassonby village and the surrounding countryside

Distance:

3¾ miles (6 km)

Cumulative Height

275 ft.

Our rating: Easy

Local services: Glassonby has no services, with inns and shops in the nearby villages of Langwathby, Melmerby and Kirkoswald.

Start grid: NY578389

Map: OS Explorer OL5

The English Lakes North-eastern area

This walk begins at the entranceway to Glassonby Old Hall. It firstly uses field paths to the historic Addingham Church then more such paths to visit the ancient Long Meg & Her Daughters Stone Circle. The return is via a series of old trackways and Glassonby village centre.

Glassonby is a village of Norse origin whose name means 'Farmstead or village of a man called Glassán'. The village has an association with Romany (Rev. George Bramwell Evens: 1884-1942), a Methodist Minister, stationed for a time in Carlisle, who preached from time to time at Glassonby chapel (now closed). He spent much of his spare time exploring the lower Eden valley with his wife Eunice, dog(s) Raq and horse Comma. He became well known for the pioneering Children's Hour BBC programme 'Out with Romany' which, with 13 million listeners, paved the way for modern naturalist radio and television broadcasting. Romany visited Old Parks near the village regularly for 22 years and it is here that his ashes were scattered on a small hillock, the location marked by a small memorial bird bath.

The Walk

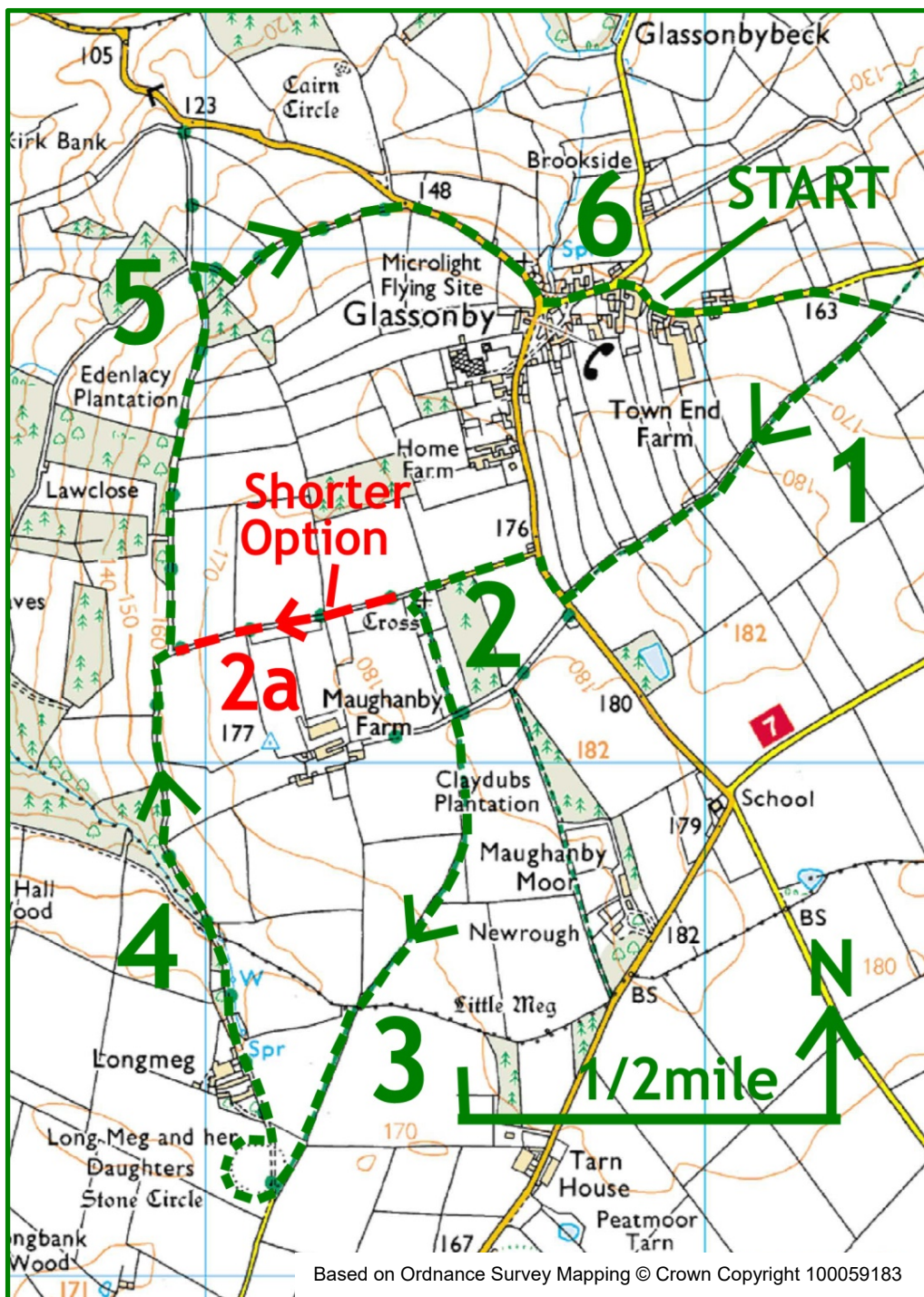
1. Commence the walk from the entranceway to Glassonby Old Hall by turning right along the local road that leads towards Gamblesby. Pass between various village properties then veer off this road to the right about 200 yards beyond the final dwelling in the village. Continue along an unsurfaced 'green lane' with an untended 'green' at first on the left. After a short distance turn off this lane to the right and pass through a gate into a field (signed Public Footpath). Keeping a fence to the right side pass along the edges of six fields, each separated by a gate to eventually pass through a final gate to reach the Little Salkeld to Glassonby road.

2. Turn right here for a few yards, then left onto the access road which is signed to Addingham Church. Keep along this access for about 300 yards then bear off left through a gate into the churchyard of St Michael & All Angels church. This 'Public Bridleway' (signed Long Meg 1 mile) skirts around the right side of the church as a flagged path and then leaves the churchyard on the southern side through a gate which leads into a field. Keep ahead along the length of the field and pass through a gate upon reaching the Maughanby Farm access road. *St Michael and All Angels Church (which may be visited) is in a parish named after a lost village. Addingham was an Anglo-Saxon settlement on the banks of the River Eden a little to the west. During the 14th Century the river changed its course and washed the village and original Mediaeval church away. Some ancient artefacts from the old church, including a 'hogsback tombstone' may be seen in the church.*

2a. **Shorter Option:** Come back out of the churchyard through the entry gate. Turn sharp left from the gate onto an enclosed track which is signed 'Public Way'. Proceed along the track past some woodland and drop down to a track junction. At this point turn sharp right onto the route signed as leading towards 'Daleraven Bridge' and continue the walk following directions again from paragraph 5.

3. Cross over the road and pass through another gate which is signed Public Bridleway - Long Meg ¾ mile. Continue along the right edge of a field towards an area of evergreen woodland. Upon reaching this area veer right, from the field and pass through a first gate onto an enclosed path. Keep the woodland to the left side and pass through a second gate, then continue along another section of enclosed path to reach a third gate. From here keep along the right side of a field towards woodland, then pass through two gates in succession. Continue then ahead, along the side of the next field with woodland to the immediate left. Pass through

another gate at the further field corner and into the field containing the Bronze Age stone circle known as 'Long Meg and her Daughters'. The route then continues on to reach the metalled farm access road from Long Meg farm. Cross over this road and make your way around the circle, taking in the outlying 'Long Meg' stone as well as the other stones and keep around to meet the farm access road a second time, nearer to the farm. *Note: Long Meg and her Daughters is the 3rd largest stone circle in England, after Avebury and Stanton Drew. It is composed of a large ellipse shaped ring of 59 light coloured porphyritic stones (the daughters) measuring 300 x 360 feet, and Long Meg, a large 12ft high outlying red sandstone pillar. On Long Meg there are some Bronze Age spiral carvings. A legend suggests that if Long Meg was damaged, she would begin to bleed. The relationship of Long Meg to the circle suggests the possibility that it may have been used to sight the midwinter sun.*



4. Turn left here, along the farm road, pass beside the various buildings and drop gently downhill on a track beside a small pond and a belt of woodland. At the foot of the slope leave the track make over right to a gate that leads onto a wood side path. Continue, along this enclosed path, rising up gently. Eventually the path turns sharply right to arrive at a signed 'T' junction of paths.

5. At this point turn sharp left onto the path signed as leading towards 'Daleraven Bridge'. Keep along this path for a little under 1/2 mile to reach a further junction, having just descended through woodland. Turn right at this point (no signage) and rise uphill, with woodland at first to the right side, to reach the local Kirkoswald to

Glassonby road after about 1/4 mile. Bear right, along this road, to shortly reach Glassonby village green.

6. Bear left at the village green junction along the road signed to Gamblesby & Alston and at a further junction keep ahead as signed to Gamblesby & Melmerby. After a few yards return to the entranceway to Glassonby Old Hall and the end of the walk.