

A. The New Standing Stone at The Green

The new standing stone for The Green was part of a project 'Between Silence and Light' organised by local artist, Irene Rogan, in 2019 to provide a legacy for areas around the Duddon Estuary. This stone was provided by Burlington Slate and is nearly 2m high and represents the flow of Black Beck through The Green towards the coast.

The project was supported by the Ghyll Scaur Community Fund (funded by Aggregates Industries, the operators of the local Ghyll Scaur Quarry). The stone was carved by Irene Rogan and Danny Clahane with the support of Becks Farm, Whicham Valley.

B. Hallthwaites woolen industry

Hallthwaites was the site of woollen weaving industry which produced mainly blankets but also carpets. The woollen industry ended production in 1935 after operating for over a century. Examples of the blankets from Hallthwaites can be seen in a display at the Millom Discovery Museum.

Further interest

There is another new carved standing stone at RSPB Hodbarrow reserve at Millom, at the East end of the lagoon (SD 178 784). At time of writing there is a further new carved standing stone to be placed in Millom town (location to be confirmed) and also a bench at Kirksanton.

There are further ancient stones near Kirksanton. Two standing stones, referred to as the 'Giant's Grave' (OS map reference SD 13615 81103) are over 2m high and show evidence of prehistoric rock art in the form of cup marks.

The 'Giant's Grave' is immediately below an area of upland (Great Knott, Lacra) which contains an assortment of prehistoric monuments. These include 4 stone circles (SD 14984 81326), a funerary cairn, and a stone avenue. The stones indicate the importance of this area in prehistoric times and the diversity of monument classes to be found here. Further information can be found at historicengland.org.uk

Please follow the country code when you are out walking:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Keep your dog on a lead, particularly when livestock may be present, and remove waste
- Co-operate with people at work in the countryside..
- Leave gates and property as you find them or follow instructions on signs.
- Follow paths but give way to others where it is narrow



G. Swinside stone circle

One of the finest stone circles in Britain is sited at Swinside, situated on level ground on a slope overlooking Black Beck. The circle is considered to be an early circle, dating from the late Neolithic age (c3650 to 2900 BC). The circle measures approximately 28.7m in diameter and has 55 stones, locally sourced. Some of the stones stand up to 3m high and an entrance with double portal stones can be seen to the South East.

Very little is known about the purpose of stone circles and who built them. Archeologists have suggested it was for ceremonial activities, potentially for religious or celestial functions to mark death and the sequence of seasons. Some have suggested that the situation of the stone circles around the Lake District is indicative of staging posts for transport and export of stone axes from Langdale throughout Great Britain and Ireland during the Neolithic period.

There are several local legends associated with Swinside stone circle. The circle is also known as Sunkenkirk, from a legend that when attempts were made to build a church here the Devil pulled it down. A variant of this tale is that local people tried to build a church on the site but that every night the Devil would knock down what had been constructed and place the stones in a circle. Similarly, because of the influence of the devil it was considered impossible to count the stones.

Limited excavation was conducted at Swinside by CW Dymund in 1901. The only findings were charcoal and decayed bone.

Heritage Stone walk Stones to Stones

A scenic and varied route incorporating a 21st century standing stone and Swinside stone circle, one of England's finest ancient stone circles.

Distance: Approximately 5.5 miles with options for shortening or extending the walk. For detailed route information refer to OS Explorer sheet OL6 and the Millom Without Parish Council website millomwithoutparishcouncil.com

Public Transport: There is a train station at Green Road, approximately 1 mile from the start of the route. At present there is no regular bus service to The Green.

Parking: There is limited parking at The Green, the location of the new standing stone. There is an EV charging station here, at Thwaites Village Hall. If following a shorter route to Swinside unofficial parking can be found around the area. Driving up the Fell road is NOT advised as the road is single track, there are few passing places, and no designated parking available.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN PASSING PLACES OR AT GATEWAYS TO FIELDS

Supported by



A New Standing Stone in The Green

Cross Black Beck via the road bridge and turn left to follow the road towards Hallthwaites.

B Footpath from Hallthwaites to Thwaites Mill

Leave the minor road and follow the footpath to Thwaites Mill (do not cross Black Beck via Jerry Bridge). Initially the path heads to and then along Fox woods. Do not go in the woods but follow the path alongside. Cross a stile. After you cross the stile head straight on (don't follow footpath leading to your right, you can come back this way) and follow the footpath through a series of fields to come out at a track leading up to the busy A595

C A595 crossing to Thwaites Mill

Take care: Very busy road crossing!

D Route avoiding stepping stones across Black Beck

Go along Fell Road past Broadgate

D1 Black Beck crossing via stepping stones



Only use this route if Black Beck is not running full and you are comfortable balancing on stepping stones.

At Beck Bank farm follow the footpath to the farm buildings and go to the far side of the buildings to reach Black Beck. After crossing head up the hill to join the minor road from Broadgate.

E Cook's cottages

Suggested and alternative routes meet just past this row of white houses.

F Bridleway from Cragg Hall

Leave the fell road and follow the track (note: authorised vehicles only) to Swinside Stone Circle.

G Swinside Stone Circle

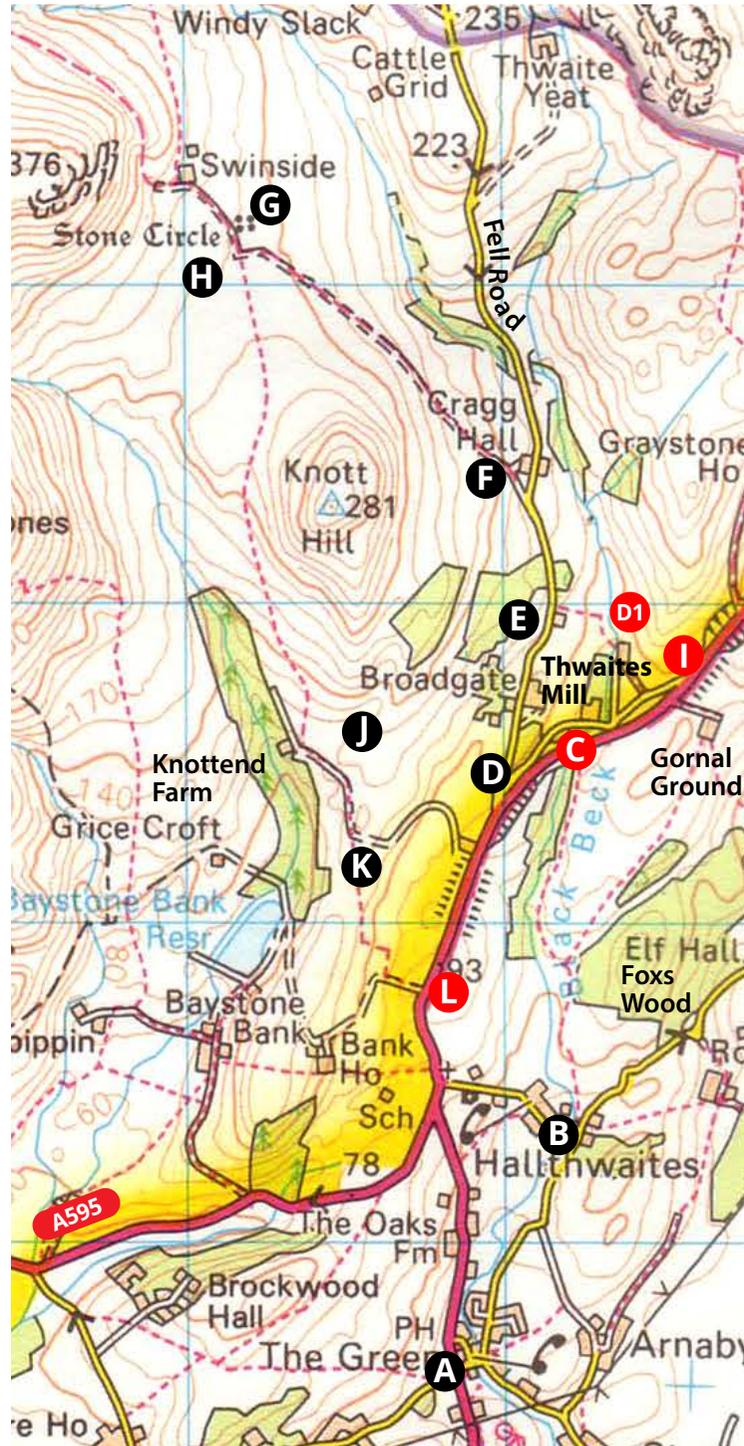
There is permissive access to the field in which the Stone Circle is located. This is a scheduled monument and has been here thousands of years so do not climb on or deface the stones.

H Recommended return option via Gornal Ground

The safest and easiest return route is to retrace your steps to I on the map.

I To Gornal Ground Take care: Very busy road crossing!

Cross to the drive for Gornal Ground. Pass in front of Old Gornal Ground house, go through the gates into the field. Follow the ridge to a tall stile and head down through the field along the top side of Fox Wood to the stile crossed on the way out. At this point you can retrace your steps to The Green.



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H Alternative return via Knottend Farm

For this route it is necessary to cross and walk on the verge of the A595 for 300 metres. This is not recommended for children, dogs, or the faint hearted! Also, the track can be rough and boggy as well as difficult to follow.

Cross the track from Cragg Hall and head across the field to a footbridge with a hand rail. At the bridge you can discern a path and follow it to reach a gate in the far wall. Go through gate into the next field again heading for a gateway in the far wall. Pass through this gateway and enter a 3rd field, heading for a gap in the wall. The view opens up at this point. The easiest option of the various tracks through the gorse is straight(ish) on from the gateway heading towards Knottend Farm.

J Knottend Farm

Abandoned farm with remains of extensive outbuildings

K Path from Knottend Farm to A595

At the farm go through the wooden gate with a LDNP marker to a wide farm track. Look for a path to head right from this track to head along the fields towards a drive leading down to the A595.

L Junction with A595



To return to Hallthwaites you need to walk along the verge of the A595 for 300m. This is a busy road with fast cars and heavy quarry wagons: this section is not recommended for children, dogs or the faint hearted. From Hallthwaites retrace your steps to The Green.

HAZARDS AND OBSTACLES: The route from The Green to Swinside stone circle involves 2 crossings of the busy A595. A shorter route to visit Swinside stone circle and avoid these crossings can be started from Broadgate (D and I on the map).

There is the option to return via Knottend farm to Hallthwaites or The Green. However, this route requires walking along the verge of the A595 for 300m which is NOT recommended for those who are cautious or with children or dogs.