

## Follow the Country Code

KEEP YOUR DOGS UNDER CLOSE CONTROL

TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME

LEAVE LIVESTOCK, CROPS AND MACHINERY ALONE

KEEP TO PUBLIC FOOT PATHS ACROSS FARM-LAND

PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND TREES

USE GATES AND STILES TO CROSS FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS

TAKE SPECIAL CARE ON COUNTRY ROADS

GUARD AGAINST ALL RISK OF FIRE

MAKE NO UNNECESSARY NOISE

ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE AND RESPECT ITS LIFE AND WORK

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# Walking around Great Strickland

This is a free walks booklet but generous donations to the Village Hall repair fund will be very welcome, a donation box is in The Strickland Arms



Two Circular walks, each about three miles long. From the centre of Great Strickland which explore the surrounding countryside. The walks can be combined to give a longer figure of eight.

Most of the route passes through farmland, including fields used for lambing. You are asked to be especially careful between February and April, and keep dogs on a lead.

If you arrive in Great Strickland by car or bicycle you are welcome to park in the Strickland Arms car park in the centre of the village.

Distance: 3 Miles      Time 1.5 - 2 hours for each walk

## Melkinthorpe Wood Circular

A circular walk of about 3 miles linking the villages of Great Strickland and Melkinthorpe. This walk combines forest rides with paths over pasture land and gives excellent views over the surrounding countryside.

From main village street, take the path beside 'The Hollies' signed 'Public footpath Melkinthorpe'. Go straight down the field to a wooden stile, down the next field and through the gate at the bottom; down the next field to a stone stile in the hedge.

*These long fields are the remnants of the medi-aeval village where the fields or 'Strips' lay at right angles to a linear street. At some places around the village signs of 'ridges and furrows' can still be seen in the fields*

Go across this field to a wooden stile into Hodge Wood. Follow the path



through the trees to another stile. Cross the track and follow the forest ride through Melkinthorpe Wood.

*Look out for buzzards circling overhead and for the Red Squirrels or the stripped fir cones they have left behind.*

Ignore tracks going off to left and right and follow the ride until you come to a wooden stile leading into a field. On your right hand side the path goes between a fence and a hawthorn hedge. Cross the track into the field and with the fence on your left go through a gate into a sunken lane in the wood.

*This sunken lane is one of the ancient routes leading to 'Strickland' Hall. This manor house or hall was situated on the banks of the River Leith just on the edge of the wood. Only a few bumps in the field and earthworks in the wood now remain.*

Turn left and walk along the road until you come to a sharp bend. Go over the stone stile sign posted 'Public Footpath Sandriggs Farm'. Follow the wall on your left around the corner and past the gate to a stone stile. Turn right and follow the wall again until you come to a gate. Walkers have been given permission to continue around the edge of this field to the next gate to avoid the farmyard. Turn left to face back to Great Strickland and follow the fence until you come to a stile. Follow the wall on your left and go through the gate to join the track to Blands Farm.

Go through the gate and turn left to pass in front of the farmhouse. Continue along the track until you come to a stile on your left just before the farm track joins Inmoor Road. Go across the field to another wooden stile and across the next field to a stone stile. Follow the hedge on your left and go through the gate facing you.

*In the early 1930's the farmers wife at Sandriggs saw what she thought were hay ricks on fire at the small farm to the east. In fact it was the farm house burning with the farmer and his wife lying murdered inside! As you head back to Great Strickland from Inmoor Road you will be on the footpath the murderer took. It had snowed and his tracks were there for all to see. The man was tried at Appleby and hanged in Durham.*

*The small clump of trees to your right marks the site of a cottage. When alterations were being carried out about 100 years ago, the body of a twelve year old boy was found in the casement. An unsolved mystery!*

*As you walk across this field you will see a line of swallow holes where the ground has*

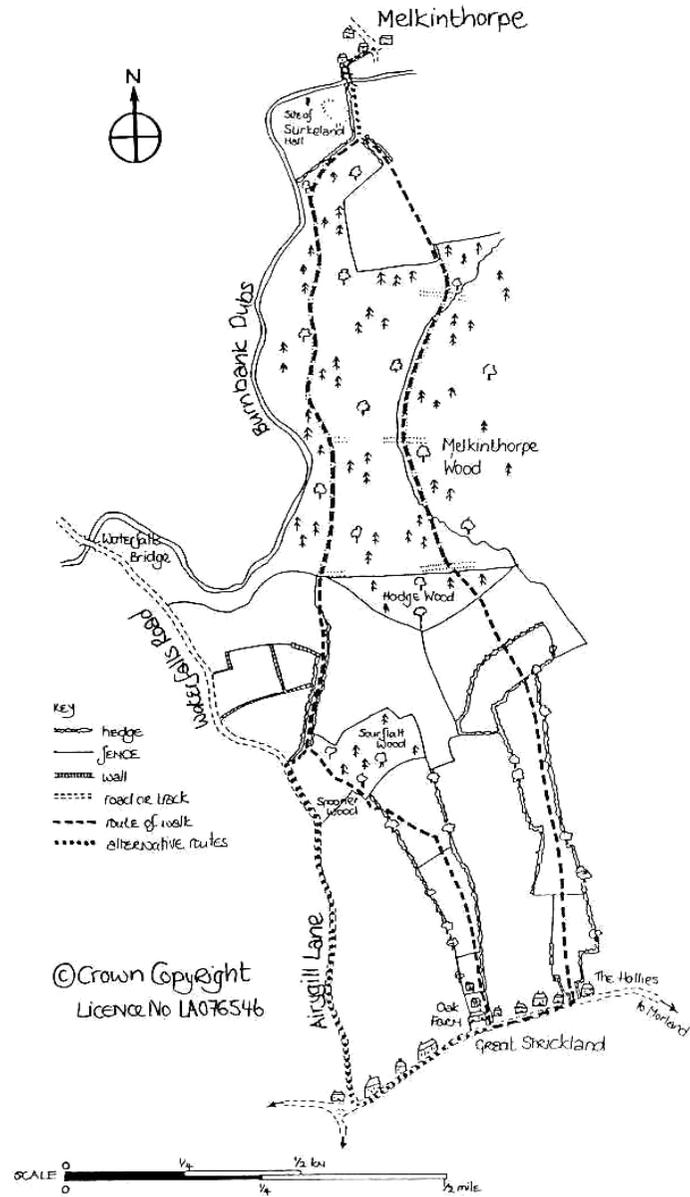
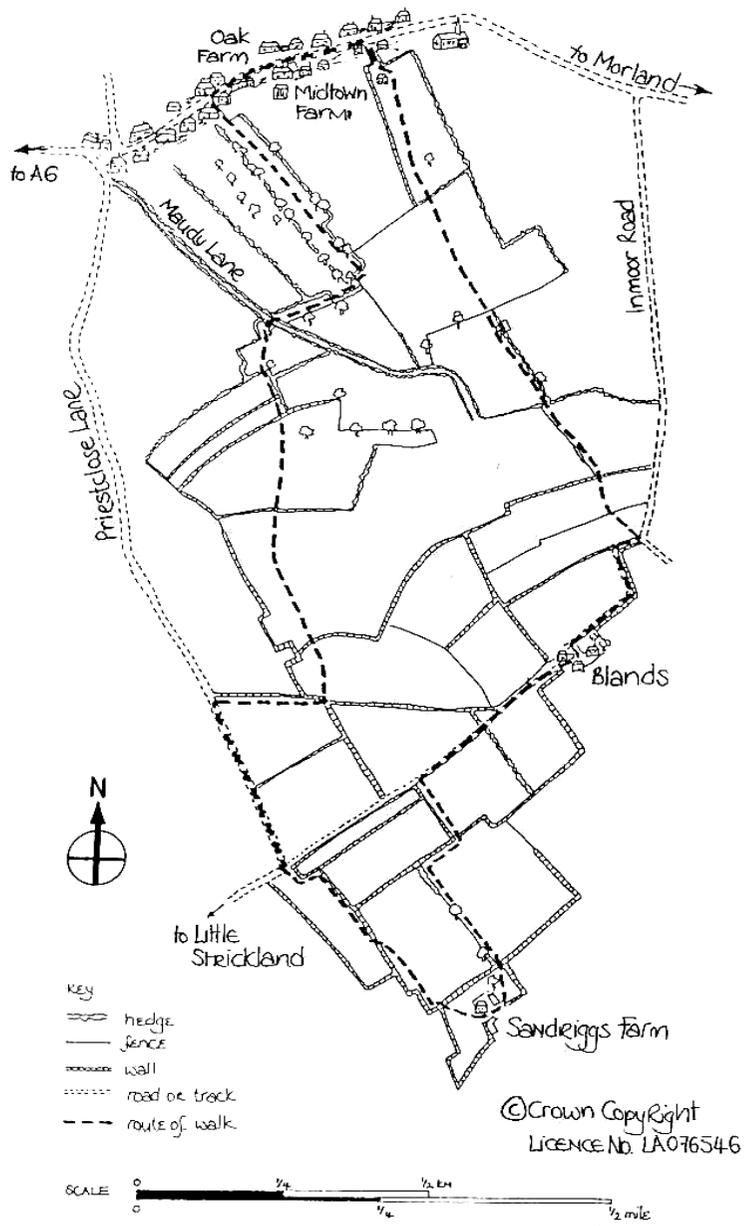
*dropped into the underground water courses in the limestone.*

*The beautiful free-standing oak trees around Great Strickland, were planted by the Longrigg family who lived at Sunnyside in the late nineteenth century. They owned most of the land on this walk. The stumps in this field mark the one year that Midtown Farm fell into the hands of a farmer who did not like trees.*

Follow the fence to your right to a gate. Head straight down the field to another gate and walk up the field bearing right between the two large trees. At the top of the field go over a wooden stile into a small paddock then over another wooden stile to join a drive leading down to the road. Turn left to be back at the start of your walk.

*All the footpaths followed on this walk originated when the farm workers living in the village walked to work at the outlying farms.*

*If you have enjoyed these walks, or just enjoyed reading about them, you will perhaps feel inspired to use other footpaths around the village. Please make maximum use of them. A lot of effort has been spent on improving and restoring these paths in 1992 and 2007*



*In the early part of the thirteenth century, the manor was occupied by the Strickland family. Sir William de Strickland married Elizabeth Deincourt of Sizergh Castle, Near Kendal. They decided to leave Great Strickland and live at Sizergh, where the family has lived ever since. The Manor passed to the Fallowfield Family, who let it fall into disrepair.*

To return to Great Strickland turn left where the lane joins bridleway. (If you turn right the path leads to a footbridge over the River Leith and turning right brings you to the small village of Melkinthorpe

*This bridleway would have been one of the main routes to Penrith, as well as linking the Manor House to Great Strickland.*

*Listen to Burnbank Dubs, which flows unseen on your right hand side, and look out for herons flapping lazily away after feasting on crayfish in the river Leith.*

Follow the main ride again ignoring tracks off to the right and left, until you come to a wooden gate into a field. Follow the fence on your right and go through a gate, then follow the fence on your left to the bridlegate in front of you

*Look out for a little stone stile on your right. This was built for the Methodists who walked from Melkinthorpe to the Chapel at Great Strickland. Apparently they did not like walking in the lane (I wonder why?) and this stile was built so that they could walk up the field.*

Walk up the sunken lane and turn right where it joins another lane. At the bend in this track turn left up the bank and go into Spooner Wood. When you join another path turn left. When you join a lane go across it and follow the fence opposite

until you come to a wooden stile into the field. Walk diagonally across the field bearing left to the wooden stile through the hedge. Turn right and walk up the field. Near the top of the field bear left to a gate, go straight on by the side of the Oak Farm yard and farmhouse to join the main village street

Alternatively, you could return to Great Strickland by following the track to join Airy-gill Lane. You will be walking in the footsteps of Thomas Lawson, the famous seventeenth century botanist and Quaker schoolmaster. Lawson kept records of the plants he found, Airy-gill Lane and Waterfalls Bridge (where the lane crosses the River Leith) feature frequently in his lists. Sadly many of the plants he found no longer grow here. One that does is 'Saw wort' (*Serratula tinctoria*) which grows on the banked roadside verge of Spooner Wood. The lane is still beautiful and flowers you may see include: Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Lords and Ladies (*Arum mac-cielatum*), Goldilocks (*Crinitaria linosyris*) St Johns wort (*Hypericums*), Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*).

## Great Strickland (SOUTH) CIRCULAR

A circular walk of about 3 miles through pleasant farmland to the South of Great Strickland village, giving extensive views of the surrounding countryside and the Pennines.

From the middle of the main village street go through the gate opposite Holly House. Go through the wicket gate and walk straight up the field to the wooden stile in the top left hand corner. Turn right and go through the gate ahead. Go straight on passing two standing stones on your left (these commemorate the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak on Midtown Farm) Go over the wooden stile and up this small narrow field which is a Bull Field and through a gate to Maudy Lane.

*Great Strickland has two other 'Bull fields' larger than this one. Originally they were let to the lowest bidder to keep a bull to service cows in the parish.*

*This system, stopped in 1950 when no bids were received for the fields. The trustees decided that the land should be let to the cow keepers of the village for summer grazing. The money is used to keep the fields in good condition and the surplus is donated to village organizations eg Church and Village Hall*

Go across the lane and straight across 'Maudy Square' towards the gate facing you, do not go through the gate but turn left and go through the wicket gate in front of you. Head diagonally right towards a tree with a forked trunk. Turn left and follow the hedge to a gate. Go straight on along the end of this long narrow field and over the stone stile just to the left of the gate. Go diagonally right aiming for a stone stile over a high wall with a wooden handrail above the wall. Go straight across the next field to a gate which is rather hidden by a corner in the wall Turn right and follow the field edge to come out on Priest Close Lane.

