



LANGDALE

escape to the Lake District

Great Langdale Valley Floor

This straightforward circular walk explores the beautiful wooded south-western edge of the valley floor, before circling back through sheep pastures and along the river. Paths are well-defined and, apart from the initial climb through the quarry, gradients are gentle throughout.

Length: 3 ¼ miles Ascent: 70 metres Map: Explorer OL7

1) Leave the Langdale Estate by Fellside Gate and turn left along the road towards Chapel Stile. Turn left off the road just before Wainwright's Inn, across a footbridge and then right along the bank of the river.

2) Shortly after the path passes through a gap in the wall, it starts to bear left away from the river to wend its way upwards between old slate spoil heaps. At their height, the green slate quarries of Langdale and Coniston employed several hundred workers, and many prestigious buildings made from the stone can still be seen, including the National Library in Edinburgh, the Observer offices in London, and the headquarters of the Bank of Canada in Montreal.

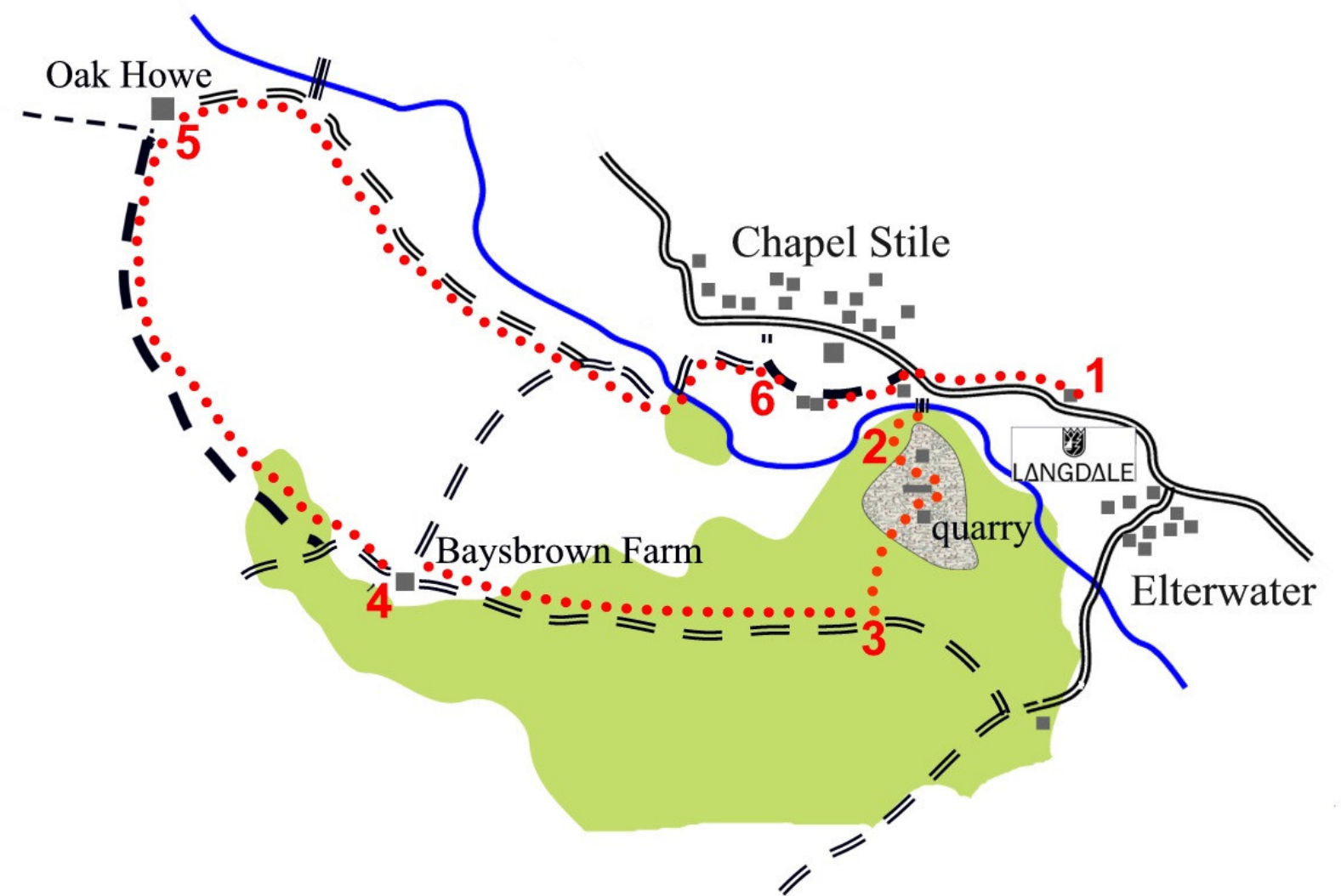
Passing a house on the left, the path enters one of the few remaining working quarries, where it bends round to the right between the quarry buildings (take care for quarry vehicles) before veering left past the Burlington Slate office and along a track leading gently up into woodland.

3) After passing a metal gate, the track reaches a T-junction at a metalled lane, near an isolated house. Turn right along this lane, contouring northwest along the side of the valley, through mixed woodland of larch and sessile oak. After ¼ km, the lane leaves the woodland briefly to reach Baysbrown, which has been the site of a farm since mediaeval times.

4) Continue through the farmyard and a gate on its far side, and follow the track – now rougher and mainly unmetalled – towards a second wood. As the track reaches the trees, it veers sharply uphill to the left; turn right here onto a bridleway that undulates through the woods. Eventually the bridleway leaves the woodland and continues along the side of the valley through rough pasture dotted with trees, before gently descending to a T-junction of paths by an old barn.

5) Turn right, following the sign to 'Great Langdale Road 1/3 mile'. The path bears left past a house called Oak Howe and becomes a vehicle track as it sweeps round to the right. Follow this, ignoring the footbridge to the left. The track begins to run adjacent to the river on its left after a while, and continues to do so until it reaches a picturesque slate bridge. Follow the track as it turns left over the bridge and then winds towards the nearby houses of Chapel Stile.

6) Just before the track reaches the Langdale road, turn off right onto a footpath that leads to cluster of houses on the right, where it turns into a lane. Past the houses the lane forks; turn right to skirt the south-western edge of the village before reaching the road between Langdale Village Hall and Wainwrights' Inn. Turn right onto the road and return to Fellside Gate.





escape to the Lake District

Walking Tips and Advice

Walking Advice – Valley Walks

1. Walking the valleys and fells is a potentially dangerous activity. Any individual following the route on this card is responsible for his or her own safety.
2. Walkers using these guides will need good walking boots, waterproofs, spare food and clothing, and reasonable map-reading skills. Walkers should go equipped for bad weather at any time, as the climate in the Lake District is highly changeable.
3. The map on this route card has been digitally drawn from pre-1950s Ordnance Survey maps and direct observation. It gives an approximation only of the route and terrain, and must be used in conjunction with the appropriate Ordnance Survey map.
4. Please note that changes occur to footpaths and the countryside from time to time, over which the author has no control, but which may affect the accuracy of the information contained herein.

Walking Advice – Fell Walks

1. Walking the valleys and fells is a potentially dangerous activity. Any individual following the route on this card is responsible for his or her own safety.
2. Beautiful though the Lakeland fells are, they require a respectful approach. Standing in the path of every front from the Atlantic Ocean, they can experience weather more extreme than one might expect on such modest-sized mountains. Walkers should go equipped for bad weather at any time, as rain and hill fog can appear out of a blue sky remarkably quickly.
3. Walkers using these guides will need good walking boots, waterproofs, spare food and clothing, and reasonable map-reading skills. For those routes that take to the fells, walkers should be able to navigate with map and compass where necessary, and will require a greater degree of physical fitness and sure-footedness. In winter conditions the Lakeland hills should only be tackled by those equipped for, and experienced in, winter mountain walking. Before venturing onto higher ground, always check an up-to-date weather forecast.
4. Whilst it is assumed that anyone venturing onto the hills will have the skills to get themselves back down safely, in an emergency the local Mountain Rescue team are available via the police by calling 999. In the absence of phone communication, the emergency signal is 6 blasts on a whistle or flashes of a torch, repeated at 1-minute intervals.
5. The map on this route card has been digitally drawn from pre-1950s Ordnance Survey maps and direct observation. It gives an approximation only of the route and terrain, and must be used in conjunction with the appropriate Ordnance Survey map.
6. Please note that changes occur to footpaths and the countryside from time to time, over which the author has no control, but which may affect the accuracy of the information contained herein.