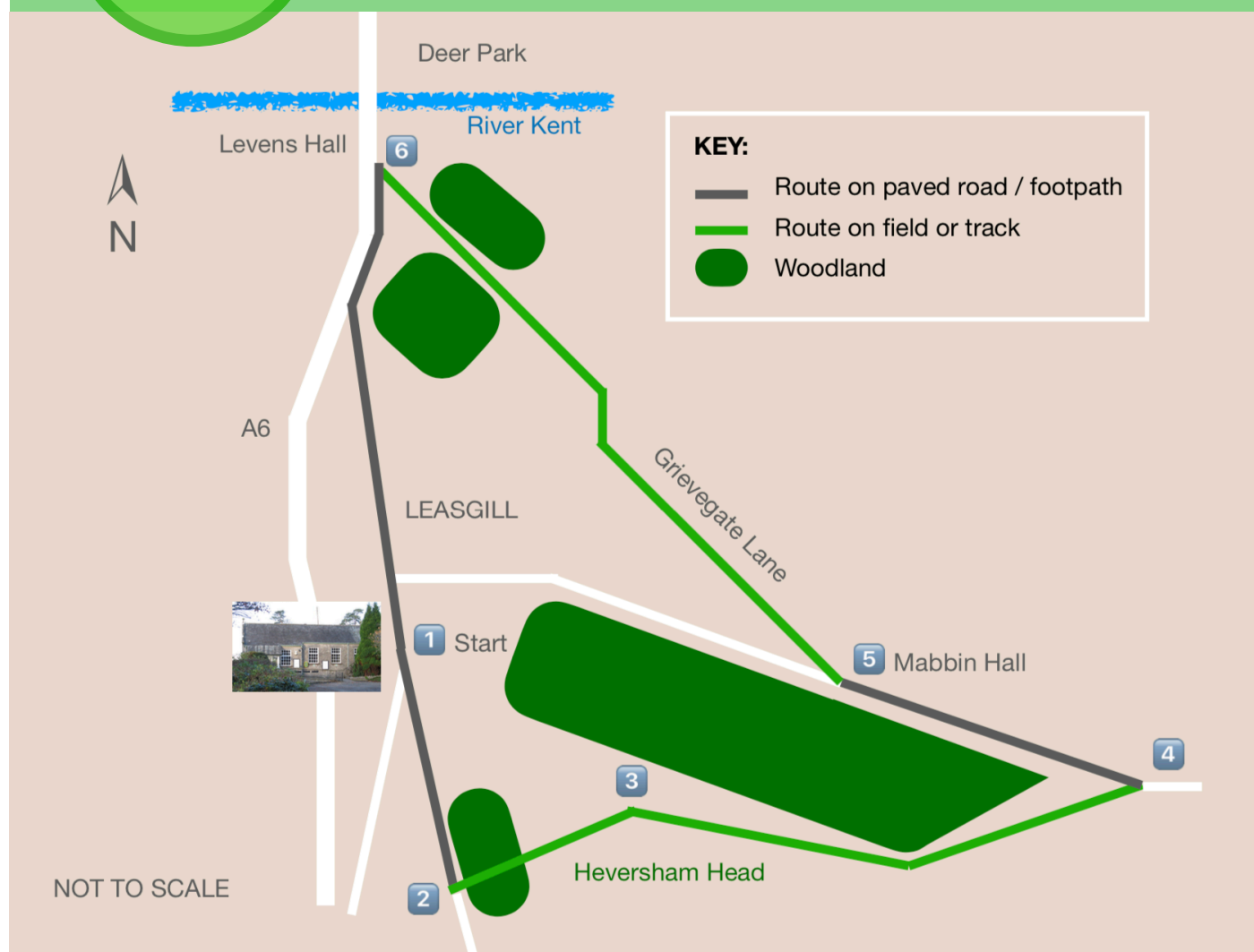


# 2

## Heversham Head



This is one of a series of short walks around the villages of Heversham and Leasgill, near Milnthorpe, Cumbria.

**Disclaimer:** Walkers are responsible for their own safety, particularly when on public roads, and are asked to observe the country code when crossing farmland.

**Starting Point:** The Athenaeum village hall on the main village street Leasgill LA7 7ET. The hall has a car park, but this is intended for users of the hall. There is free parking on the surrounding roads.

**Terrain:** 4km / 2.5 miles. Mix of tarmac, pasture and rough track. One short, steep climb.

**1** From the Athenaeum, take the lane leading uphill away from the village street, passing the now closed primary school

Points of interest on this leg:

- As the lane rises, you will see off to your right St Peter's church. Grade II\* This has been a religious site since the 7th century. The present church dates from the 11th century and has been expanded and remodelled many times, particularly in the 19th century, when the tower was rebuilt and the interior restored by Lancaster architects Paley & Austin
- Beyond the church you start to see the top of Morecambe Bay, with Sandside, Storth and Arnside along the left bank of the estuary
- At the cattle grid, the lane continues ahead to the old grammar school founded in 1613 (now a private house). We turn off just before the cattle grid.



**2** Immediately before the cattle grid, turn left up a short length of rough track. When this track turns right, instead you go straight ahead, following the path through the small wood, through two small wooden gates, emerging onto pasture. Heversham Head is straight in front, a steep climb of approximately 300 feet.



You will see the view marker straight ahead. From the top, there are extensive views to the west, south and east. A beacon is lit on the summit to celebrate jubilees and the like. Note that the hillside is used for cattle in the summer, so dog owners should take care.

- The stone view marker near the summit explains what you can see
- Trig point at the summit



**3** Continue parallel with the woodland on your left, descending slowly to pass through a gate with a step stile in a stone wall. Then aim for the far end of the woodland where you will find a squeeze stile through a low wall. Head out onto the road, Mabbín Hall Lane.



**4** Turn left and head uphill along Mabbín Hall Lane.

**5** After the first building, a barn conversion called Low Mabbín Hall, fork right at the footpath fingerpost and pass the farmhouse, Mabbín Hall, to continue straight ahead down a bridleway, Grievegate Lane.





#### Points of interest:

- Grievegate Lane was originally part of the packhorse route that led east to Crooklands and Kirkby Lonsdale
- Stone guide post ??? Dated 1757 indicating Kirby, K for Kendal and M for Milnthorpe. Such posts were erected following the Scottish uprising of 1745, when the English army apparently had difficulty finding its way.

**6** Emerge onto the A6 near Levens Hall. Turn left and follow the main road, turning off at the left fork signposted Leasgill and Heversham. Continue up the village street to return to the Athenaeum.



- Levens Hall. As you emerge from Grievegate Lane, across the A6 and off to the right, is this imposing Elizabethan house, home to the Bagot family and with a celebrated topiary garden. The house is open to visitors from April to October, although the kitchen café and shop are open throughout the year. Facing the hall, on either side of the River Kent, is the deer park, home to a herd of black fallow deer and a herd of rare-breed Bagot goats.
- The A6 at this point is Prince's Way, opened in 1927 by Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) as a bypass, taking the traffic to and from Scotland off the Leasgill and Heversham village street. Locals claim that the prince arrived late and tipsy, having enjoyed a good lunch in Kendal.

- The Leasgill village street was once the main road from Lancaster to Scotland, with a turnpike house near Levens Hall.
- Eversley. This is the large house on the left shortly after you leave the A6. This was built in the mid 19th century by Frank Argles, a wealthy Liverpool businessman, who converted a barn and workshop in Leasgill into a penny library, which he named the Athenaeum, after the club in Liverpool of which he was a member. Eversley is now split into four residences. There is an impressive giant redwood in the grounds, visible from the road. The Athenaeum is now the village hall for Leasgill and Heversham.
- Boundary stone on the right, opposite Leasgill cottage. Indicating Levens to the north, Heversham to the south, probably dating from the turnpike improvements of 1804.



#### End of walk

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