

A Walk around the Outskirts of the Village of Broughton in Furness

The Duddon Valley Local History Group 2020



1. Start in the Market Square

The Square is a planned development, an unusual feature in a Cumbrian village. It was laid out by John Gilpin Sawrey, the Lord of the Manor, in 1760. The Market Hall was built in 1766. Broughton had an important market in earlier times – a centre for wool and cattle. The village was granted its Charter in Elizabethan times.



2. Go down the hill on Market Street past The Manor Arms

Look right as you reach the second turn and you will see the station buildings, now converted into houses, and the Auction Mart. Before 1962, you would have crossed the railway line at a level crossing here



3. Turn 3rd right into Foxfield Road

Broughton was a centre for the making of swill baskets. These were woven from strips of oak and were used and used for carrying all sorts of goods in farming, industrial and domestic situations. This was one area where workshops were concentrated (See No19)



4. Follow the road until you get to the Quarry – Donkey Rocks Geological site

425 million years ago, this was a shallow tropical sea bed. Currents caused hollows that filled with iron rich deposits which hardened into solid rock. Later pressures pushed layers into an upright position. In the early 19th This was a public quarry for walling the enclosures on the mosses



5. At the Barn, turn sharply left up a grassy lane. Follow the wall through an iron gate and down to Miller's Cottage



6. Short diversion: Turn right after the cottage and follow the path to the gate



7. Eccle Riggs is the prominent building across the golf course. Return to the cottages

Built for Viscount Cross of Broughton in Furness in 1865. The house is designed in the Tudor style. Lord Cross was an MP and became the Home Secretary in 1874 in Disraeli's government



8. Take the Eccle Riggs Lane up the hill

Properties here were the staff quarters for Eccle Riggs



9. On the right is the old coach house and coachman's cottage for Eccle Riggs

Apparently the coachman was summoned by pulling a bell-wire which led from the main house across the fields directly to the cottage



10. On the right, through the trees, you may get a glimpse of the round tower for the windmill

This was a corn mill which was in use in 1786 but disused by 1890



11. From the top of the lane there is a view across the village nestled in its hollow and across to the Coniston Fells

Follow the lane to the main road. Cross carefully and go down the hill



12. Turn right through a gate on to the old railway line

This was the branch from Foxfield to Coniston. It was used for both passengers and materials from the slate and coppermines. The line closed to all traffic in 1962. There is interesting graffiti with names and dates on the final slabs of the cutting to your left at grid ref SD210 863



13. Turn left at the end of the cutting across a slab bridge and go through the gate into East Park. Go straight across the field towards the wall

This wall and ditch feature is called a "ha ha" and was designed to keep stock out of the grounds without having any vertical barrier to spoil the view from the house



14. To shorten the walk: turn left along the wall, through the iron gate, passing the Children's Playground and into the Market Square (2.5 miles)

To continue the walk: carry on to the crest of the hill



15. Broughton Tower

In the centre you see the 14th century peel tower. The house was extended in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was the seat of the Lords of the Manor of Broughton. Robert Rankin, who died in 1947, was the last person to hold this office



16. Turn left between the gate posts and follow the track above the first pond into West Park

There are fine views across the end of the Duddon Valley and the skyline across White Combe and Black Combe towards the sea



17. Staying above the second pond, follow the field into the far corner to a gate that leads on to the road. Take care crossing the road at this blind corner



18. Walk down New Street into the village passing the building that used to be the cottage hospital

New Street was built in 1740 so horses and carts did not have to climb the steep hill up to the High Cross. On the left is the building that used to be the cottage hospital



19. Looking to your left, you will see more yards and workshops where swill baskets were made





20. Return to the Square. Our walk was about three miles and, looking at the clock, took one hour and twenty minutes!

The obelisk was erected in 1810 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of George III



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Local History
Group**

Dave Hughes and Stephe Cove
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