

Miles Without Stiles



Cumbria
County Council

Longlands Lake

Route Information

Distance 1.2 kilometre or 0.75 miles

Time needed 2 hours (approx)

Terrain Mostly flat, crushed stone path

Start point

The car park is signposted off the A5086 between Cleator and Egremont (**OS Grid Ref:** NX 013 130, **Post Code:** CA23 3AD)

Public Transport

Longlands Lake is served by the Stagecoach 22 bus service, not a low floor vehicle.



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Longlands Lake nestles between Egremont and Cleator Moor on the West Coast of Cumbria and supports an abundance of wildlife within a variety of habitats, which include: broadleaf woodland, unimproved grassland and aquatic vegetation. The lake is important for its bird population and breeding species include mute swan, coot, moorhen, goosander, tufted duck and mallard.

The circular walk provides safe and enjoyable access all year round for walkers, wheelchair users and those with pushchairs and young children. The surface material is finely crushed local quarry stone which provides a hardwearing, compact surface.

The car park surface is predominantly tarmac. The exit from the car park is fine crushed quarry stone with no noticeable breaks. There is a 6° upslope (gradient 1:9) to reach the footbridge which crosses over the River Ehen. The footbridge has an access gate 110cm wide.

On the opposite side of the footbridge you will find an interpretation panel detailing the history of the site.



Interpretation panel at the site entrance

We would recommend that you then continue straight ahead. During this section you will pass the footpath which leads to the picnic area but continue straight ahead towards a gate for the circular walk. This section has a 5° downslope (gradient 1:12) over 30 metres and the useable width of the path reduces down to 75cm in places.

The gate is 156cm wide, self closing and wheelchair and pushchair friendly. As you move onwards from the gate you descend into the woodland and there is a 5° downslope (gradient 1:12) over 20 metres. The path surface remains as fine crushed quarry stone and is 130cm wide, you will pass an exposed culvert on your left hand side.

Following this there is a 5° upslope (gradient 1:12) to reach a rest point which provides glimpses of the lake.



View across Longlands Lake

For the adventurous you can follow a short path right to a lakeside clearing which overlooks a fishing platform and provides a view to the southern and western shores. Slightly further ahead the canopy of the woodland opens and you are rewarded with views across the lake, you may even be lucky and see the resident swan family.

As the route continues through the woodland there are a number of climbs with 6° (gradient 1:9) being the steepest and another rest point providing further lake views.

As you move out of the woodland you will bear right around a corner which does have a noticeable cross camber, some exposed tree roots and large stones and a 4° downslope (gradient 1:15). The section which follows the bottom shore of the lake has a number of bays, and one rest point which all provide excellent views and finishes at another wheelchair and pushchair friendly gate 156cm wide.



Old Iron ore workings

Continue onwards and you see glimpses of some of the old iron ore works buildings and come to a fingerpost, here you should bear right to continue the circuit. There is a 5° downslope (gradient 1:12) over 20 metres and you will pass the old

foundations for some of the mine buildings. If you look right there are impressive views across the lake towards Dent Fell and the Lake District National Park beyond. To reach the next rest point there is a 5° (gradient 1:12) upslope over 20 metres with views across lake, woodland and fell.



View towards Dent Fell from a rest point

The final section has the lake to your right and the River Ehen to your left. This part of the route has the worst surface conditions due to recent flooding by the river.

As a consequence during a 3° upslope (gradient 1:20) over 30 metres the surface is very uneven with substrate exposed (this section is programmed for repair).



View up the River Ehen

You will pass several fishing platforms on your right hand side and one further rest point. Finally there is a 2° upslope (gradient 1:20) over 50 metres as you approach the footbridge which takes you back into the car park.

Useful Numbers and Points of Information

- Egremont Tourist Information Centre 01946 820693
- RADAR key toilet facilities located in the town council quadrant at Cleator Moor and Chapel Street car park in Egremont
- Egremont Library 01946 820464
- Cleator Moor Library 01946 855030
- Traveline 0875 2002233
- Longlands Lake is on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 303
- Refreshments can be found nearby in both Cleator Moor or Egremont

Picnic Site footpath

- The route down to the picnic site does have some encroaching vegetation and the occasional protruding stone.
- There are three picnic benches one of which is designed for wheelchairs.
- There is also a further narrow (50cm) path with a 5° downslope (gradient 1:12) over 20 metres which takes you to the lake's viewing platform.

Route Map Key

-  Disabled Parking
-  Site interpretation point
-  Kissing Gates
-  Cross camber
-  Rest point
-  Picnic site
-  Viewpoints
-  Gradient of 1:9
-  Access road to car park

