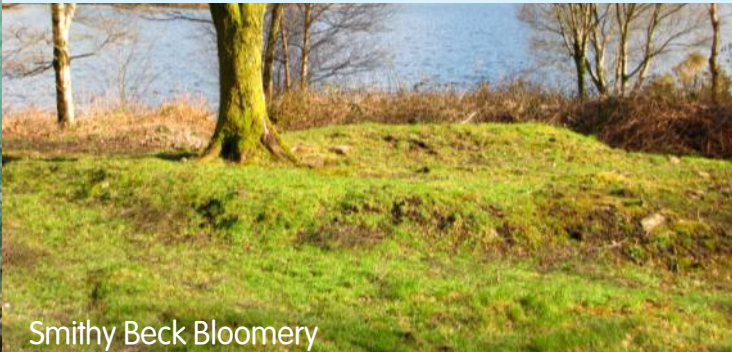


# Historic Sites



**Welcome.** Today, Ennerdale is home to just a handful of people. However over the past 4000 years Ennerdale has been shaped by the ebb and flow of people living and working in the valley. The historic landscape of Ennerdale sets it apart from other Lakeland valleys because of the diversity, complexity, and survival of its archaeological remains. It holds the most impressive collection of valley bottom Bronze Age and domestic medieval archaeology in the Lake District.

**Suitability.** Most of the sites are only a short walk from the forest Road and so can be easily accessed on foot. The road between the lake and the car park and up to Smithy Beck Longhouses is reasonably steep.



Smithy Beck Bloomery

**Wild Ennerdale** is a partnership of people and organisations led by The Forestry Commission, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. Our vision is "to allow the evolution of Ennerdale as a wild valley for the benefit of people, relying more on natural processes to shape its landscape & ecology."

For more information visit [www.wildennerdale.co.uk](http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk) or contact Gareth Browning on 0771 2751060.



Cairnfield East of Gillerthwaite

**Please Protect Our Wild Valley**  
Don't start fires  
Protect and respect wildlife, trees and plants  
Keep dogs under control  
Take your litter home  
Make no unnecessary noise  
Take only memories away



Woundell Beck Vaccary

50p

Smithy Beck Longhouses

**Smithy Beck Bloomery** beside the road is a medieval iron smelting furnace, fuelled by charcoal, which produced wrought iron. Iron ore was heated to remove iron oxide and other impurities to leave a single grapefruit sized lump of metallic iron known as a 'bloom'. The bloomery was constructed here to take advantage of the extensive native woodlands that existed in medieval times and so that the heavy iron ore could be transported by boat on the lake.

**Smithy Beck Longhouses**  
These 'double walled' structures are located 100m up the beck from the bridge. A design unusual in the Lake District these structures were probably the homes of the people working at the Smithy Beck Bloomery.

**Gillerthwaite Longhouses**  
These two houses located below the road just east of the gate are part of a group of 11 medieval houses, with associated cultivation terraces and stock pounds, which extend in a band up the slope from the valley floor. The monuments reflect a sizeable, agricultural community that once lived in the valley some 600 years ago. The house sits on a natural terrace and appears to have two opposing gaps on its longest side that form a 'cross passage', suggesting a domestic function. The house appears to be surrounded by a bank which may have been used as a back stop for tree trunks cantilevered across the inner wall to form a roof covered in branches and heather.

Start at Bowness Knott car park  
Lat:54.5261624  
Lng:-3.3776521  
or Postcode CA23 3AU

**Woundell Beck Vaccary**  
A vaccary is an historical term describing a pastoral cattle farm, typically dating from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, the word comes from the medieval Latin *vaccaria*, derived from *vacca*, a cow. Today the site is used to handle one of our herds of Galloway cattle, an internal wooden fence has been erected to protect the historic walls.

**River Liza Settlement**  
This is a subcircular enclosed settlement that straddles the River Liza footpath. The settlement is thought to have been occupied during the Iron Age, over 2000 years ago. The interior is likely to have contained round houses and animal pounds. The settlement may originally have been circular, but has been cut away by the changing course of the River Liza. Follow the footpath from the road alongside Low Beck FB down to the River Liza and turn west.

**Emergency!**  
**A&E Hospital**  
Whitehaven. 01946 693181  
**Nearest Public Phones**  
Gillerthwaite YHA common room. Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre. Ennerdale Bridge outside the school.  
**Rescue** Phone 999 ask for Mountain Rescue.  
**Mobile Phones.** Poor (west) to no reception (east).

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