

## English Lake District Holiday Cottages

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 24 September 2013 10:06 - Last Updated Friday, 09 January 2015 13:02

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The stone circle is also on the Little Salkeld/Glassonby walk which we will write about later.

To reach the stone circle from Wetheral Cottages it is necessary to cross the Eden and head for Little Salkeld. The road out of the village climbs steeply and shortly you will see a sign post on your left.

It is also worth noting that there were anhydrite mines in the area with tunnels under the stone circle.

Over the years there have been many stories about the circle, Wordsworth spoke about it and it is also said that the local landlord tried to dynamite the stones until a really strong storm convinced him otherwise.

Long Meg herself is nearly 12 ft tall and she is made of Penrith red sandstone. Her daughters are made of rhyolite (basically a granite).

Long Meg is the main stone within a stone circle which is often talked of as second only to Stonehenge. The circle is 350 ft in diameter and there are reported to be 69 stones although it is often joked that a different number is counted everytime you walk round the circle.

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We often find our guests asking directions to the stone circle which they have heard so much about. Well what they mean is how do they get to see Long Meg and what can we tell them about her. When you take the Glassonby/Little Salkeld walk you will pass the original site, Cave Wood Valley and we often wonder if the miners who dug so far into the hill side underneath the stone circle ever thought of the legends of divine protection for the stones and what the Gods would have thought of them in their tunnels!

These days views across the Eden Valley show a tranquil rural landscape with no sign of industrial use. However it hasn't always been that way .....there is a history of heavy industry....but underground! The Eden valley has long been known of as a source of Gypsum (see the British Gypsum plant at Kirkby Thore as an example). Just across the river from Wetheral Cottages there was once a small anhydrite mine which was started in 1880 by the Long Meg plaster company.