

# Grand Days Out on the Settle - Carlisle Line

## Armathwaite

Sitting on the edge of the River Eden, Armathwaite is a pretty village of pink sandstone cottages. It has many walks in the surrounding countryside and just south of the village on the river's edge, you can see five faces carved in the pink rock.

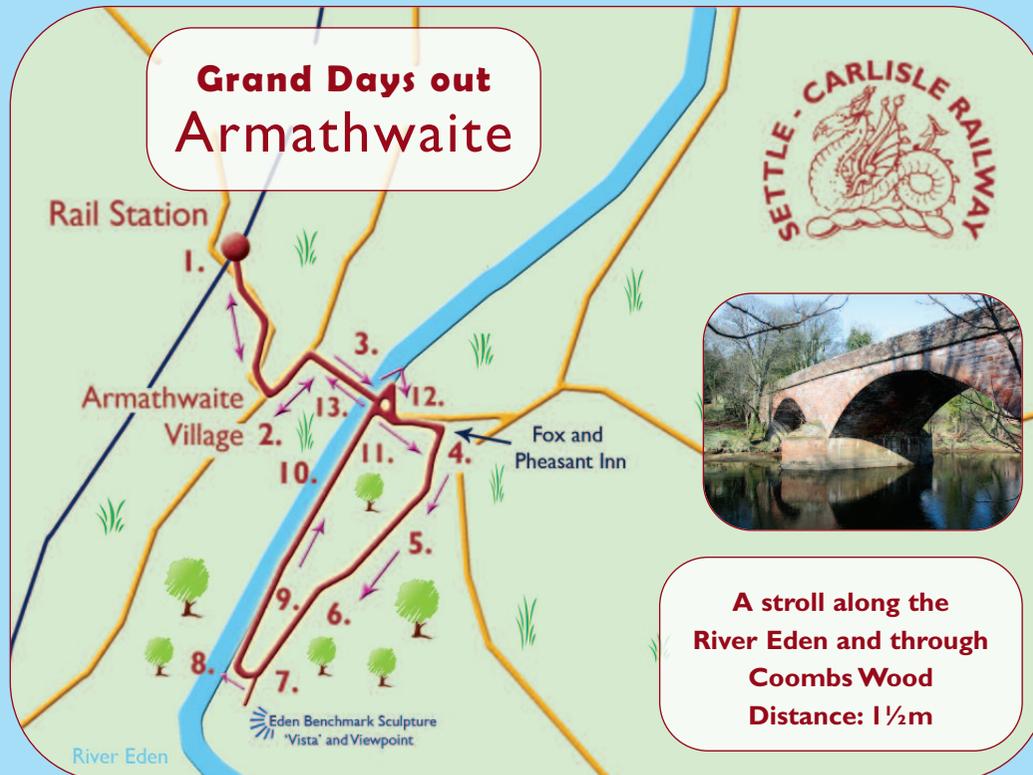
As well as exploring the village there are two signal boxes to see. One is at Armathwaite Station. Built in the Midland Railway workshops and costing £260 in 1899 it closed in 1983. It has been leased to the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line and restored to its original appearance. The signal box is open most Sundays and other times by prior arrangement.

The second signal box is at Low House Crossing, just over 2 miles from the station. Built in 1900 as a type 2 design it controls one of only two level crossings on the line and can only be seen from the outside as it is a working box.

Dry Beck Viaduct just outside Armathwaite



## Grand Days out Armathwaite

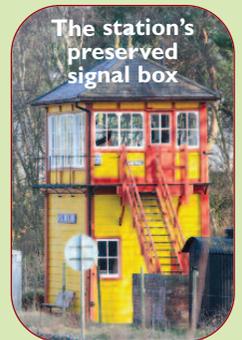


**A stroll along the  
River Eden and through  
Coombs Wood  
Distance: 1½m**

**The River Eden and Coombs Wood from Armathwaite Distance: 1½m Allow: 1¼ hr**  
Paths can be muddy, wear suitable footwear and take warm clothing and a waterproof.

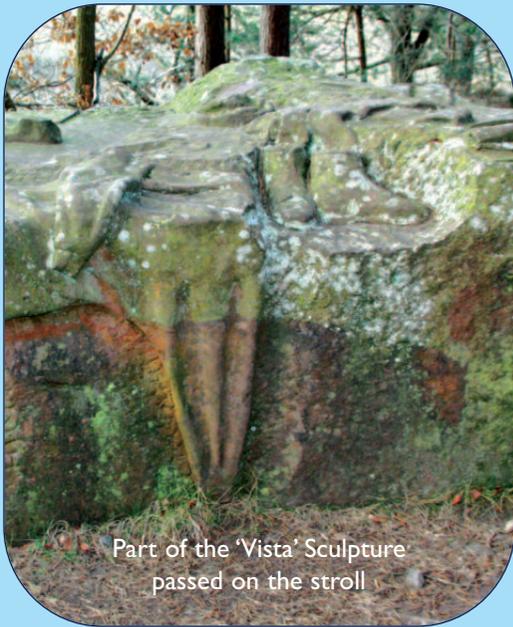
1. From the station turn left down the road into the village.
2. At the T junction turn left, cross the road and bear right in front of the Duke's Head Inn.
3. Follow the road to cross the river and walk towards the Fox and Pheasant Inn.
4. Turn right directly in front of the Fox and Pheasant and follow the track.
5. Go through the gate and follow the path which gradually narrows. The parkland on the right has a fine specimen of a giant redwood sequoia tree.
6. The path enters Coombs Wood and begins to climb gently. Cross the next stile.
7. Continue for a short distance to view the Eden Benchmark sculpture 'Vista'
8. Return to the stile, do not cross it, but turn left downhill alongside the fence towards the river bank. Take care here as the path is quite steep.
9. Turn right and follow the path along the top of the riverbank.
10. The 15th Century Armthwaite Castle across the river, with its later 18th Century additions, is now a private dwelling.
11. When a wooden gate is reached, do not go through but descend slightly to the left and continue along the riverbank towards the road bridge in front.
12. Go under the road bridge and immediately turn right through the gate and up to the stile and steps to emerge onto the road.
13. To complete the walk, turn right, cross the river and retrace the route past the Duke's Head Inn and up the hill to the station.

The station's  
preserved  
signal box

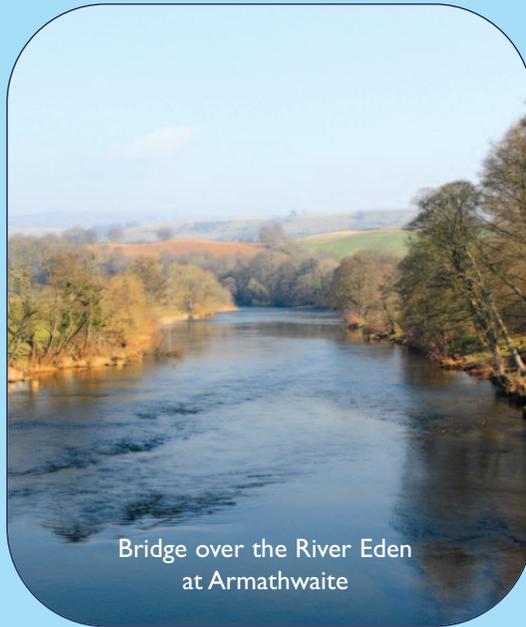


For a more detailed map see:  
Outdoor Leisure map OL 5  
(The English Lakes North  
Eastern area)

This walk is one of a series of *Days Out* for the Settle - Carlisle Line. Produced by the Settle - Carlisle Railway Development Company. For more information and rail timetables visit our website at [www.settle-carlisle.co.uk](http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk)



Part of the 'Vista' Sculpture passed on the stroll



Bridge over the River Eden at Armathwaite

## Armathwaite Station

Station Road, Armathwaite, Cumbria CA4 9PL

Waiting Room on Leeds platform; shelter on Carlisle platform.

No toilets. No Disabled Access.

**Northern 0800 200 6060**

[www.journeycheck.com/northernrail/](http://www.journeycheck.com/northernrail/)

For more information about the line [www.settle-carlisle.co.uk](http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk)

and Facebook [www.facebook.com/setcarrailway](http://www.facebook.com/setcarrailway)

For more walks see [www.foscl.org.uk/guided-walks](http://www.foscl.org.uk/guided-walks)

The Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust has three holiday cottages, two within the main station building at Kirkby Stephen and also the Station Master's House at Ribbleshead, for details call Rachel on 01768 800 208 or visit: [www.sandctrust.org.uk/stayatastation](http://www.sandctrust.org.uk/stayatastation)

Supported by the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company and Friends of the Settle - Carlisle Line

Design, ImageRail.com June 2019

## Things to see and do

Follow the steep road a ¼ mile down to the village centre. Turn left at the bottom for the Village Shop, two Pubs and riverside walks.

The excellent **Village Shop** has a great range of produce and serves take-away teas, coffee, soup and bacon baps. Open daily until 1730 except Saturday 1600, and Sunday 1500.

Keeping on the same side of the road as the shop, continue along to the small chapel of **Christ and St Mary** includes stained glass windows from the William Morris Company with one of Mary the mother of Jesus, designed by the eminent pre-raphaelite Edward Burne-Jones. Continue along this road to see the Low House signal box.

Back in the village and on the opposite side of the road is the **Dukes Head Inn**. The Inn offers comfortable rooms and a locally sourced menu. Tel: 016974 72226 or visit [www.dukesheadarmathwaite.co.uk](http://www.dukesheadarmathwaite.co.uk)

Following the road past the Inn and away from the shop you will pass over the River Eden. There are lovely walks in either direction, wooded and winding on one side and sweeping countryside on the other.

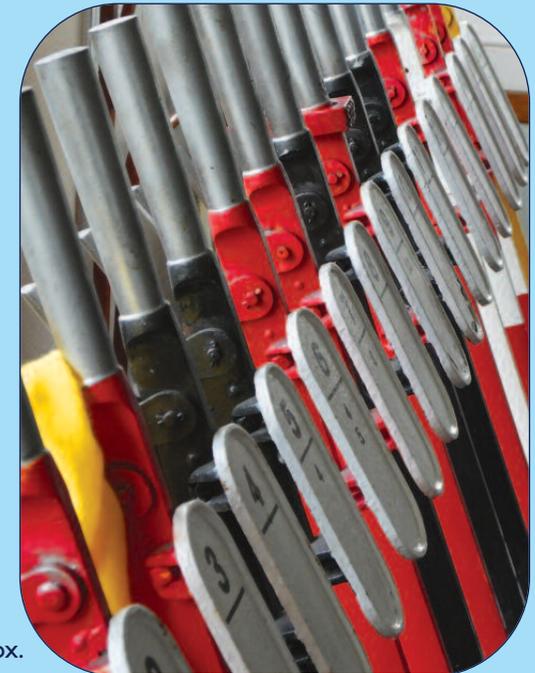
Just over the bridge is the **Fox and Pheasant**. Also offering comfortable en-suite rooms, they serve a hearty menu and real ales.

Tel: 01697 472 162 or visit [www.foxandpheasantarmathwaite.co.uk](http://www.foxandpheasantarmathwaite.co.uk)

Back at the station just beyond the southbound platform is Armathwaite signal box. With FREE entry, it is open on most Sundays it is worth a visit to see the original lever frame that used to operate the railway's signals.

The same mechanism was originally used throughout the country and operated on a simple wire system.

To join a 7 mile circular signal box walk (4 per year), or to check if the box is open contact John Johnson on 01228 593 943



The Lever Frame in Armathwaite signal box.