



Responsible visiting

Respect everyone and share the space, co-operating with people working in the countryside. Follow local signs and keep to marked paths.

Protect the environment, livestock and wildlife by keeping dogs under control, taking litter home and disposing of dog waste responsibly. Check the weather and enjoy the outdoors.

Always follow the countryside code.

Guide to walking

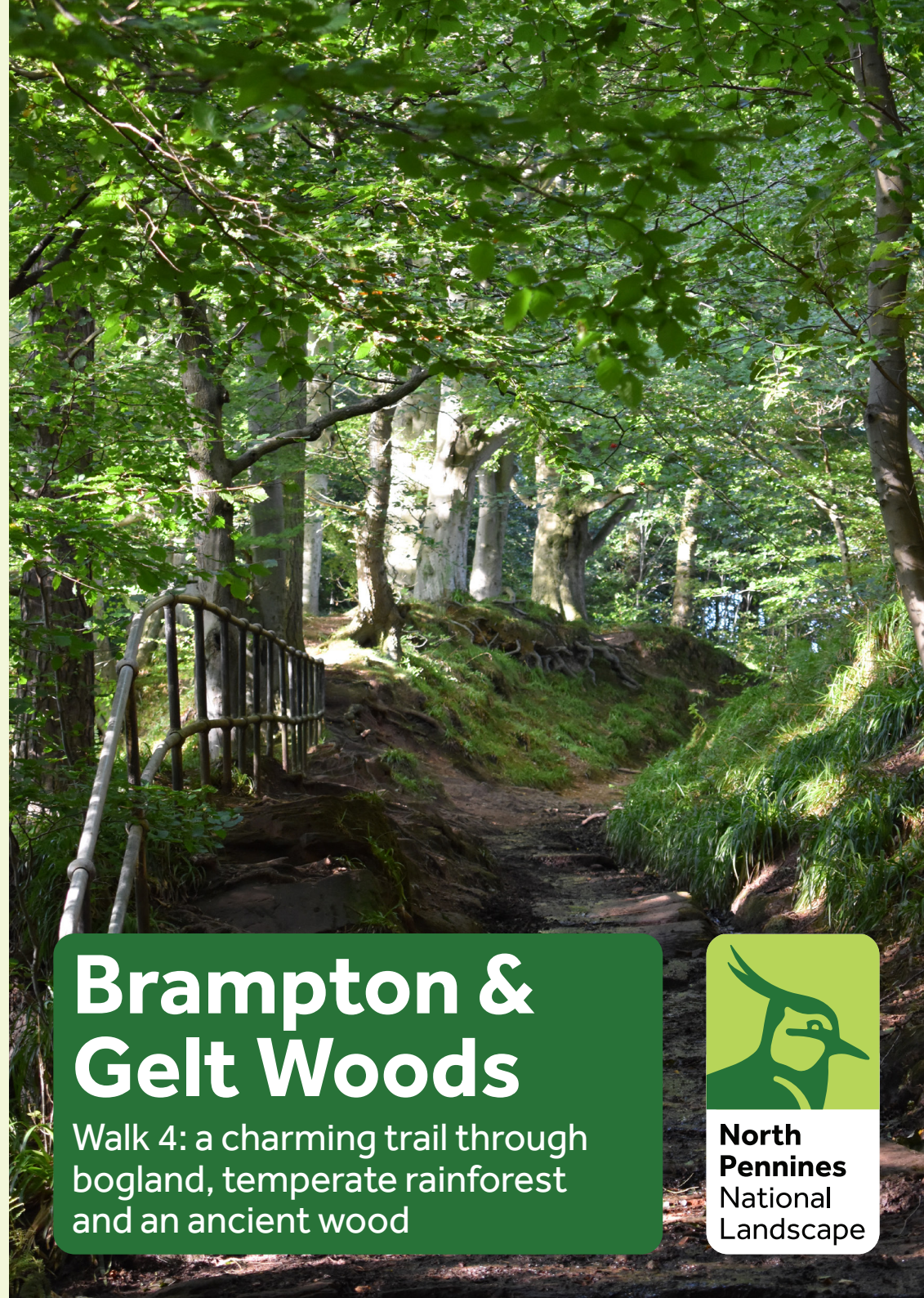
Slippery in places, muddy with exposed tree roots and steep slopes. There is limited mobile phone signal in the ravine.

About Fellfoot Forward

The Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme was led by the North Pennines National Landscape and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



northpennines.org.uk



Brampton & Gelt Woods

Walk 4: a charming trail through bogland, temperate rainforest and an ancient wood



North Pennines National Landscape



North Pennines National Landscape



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North Pennines Global Geopark



Made possible with

Heritage Fund

Enjoy one of our six slow trails and connect with the landscape. Take a rest and listen to the sounds that make these places so special, slow your steps and relax, or reflect on the people that have come before.

Start point: informal layby at A69 underpass

W3W: ///strapped.ground.nutty

Postcode: CA8 1QL

Elevation gain: 452ft

Distance: 2.3 miles (slow trail route)

Time: approximately 1hr

Rating: hard – steep, slippery in woods

Alternative start points:

Brampton market square or River Gelt car park

1 Bat spotting

Begin your walk at the A69 underpass. On summer evenings this is a favourite spot for bats to forage and both common and soprano pipistrelles can be seen flitting to and fro.

2 Unity Bog

Take the left path past Unity Bog which is a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). Created over thousands of years, the decay of sphagnum mosses and bog plants slowly form a dome of peat up to ten metres deep.

Enter the woods through the gate and turn left, heading down towards the river. Look out for roe deer.

3 Ancient quarries

Walking down the relatively steep, and often slippery, path towards the river, spot the stunning vertical face of one of the many ancient quarry workings to be found throughout the woods. First worked by the Romans, stone was taken to build bridges and many of the red sandstone houses locally.

Hidden high in the sandstone cliffs above the river is Roman graffiti. This scheduled monument, surveyed and exposed in 2019 by Newcastle University and English Heritage, has been allowed to be reclaimed by the moss and ferns.

4 Gelt Woods

At the bottom of the descent, turn right to follow the riverside path downstream. Gelt Woods is a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees, and a SSSI, protected to preserve the flora and fauna. You can take a rest here on one of the carved benches.

5 Temperate rainforest

The ancient woodland is a diverse home to mosses, brackens, ferns, and lichens that grow everywhere, even in the trees. This incredibly rare habitat is thought to be more threatened than tropical rainforest.

6 The mad river

Walk alongside the fast-flowing River Gelt, from the Gaelic 'geilt' meaning 'he who goes mad from terror.' Further downstream, the ravine becomes more dramatic. Look down on the soft red sandstone, honeycombed with potholes, made by the action of swirling water and small stones. Looping right, you leave the river and climb to join a wide path that enters a beech wood.

7 The black path

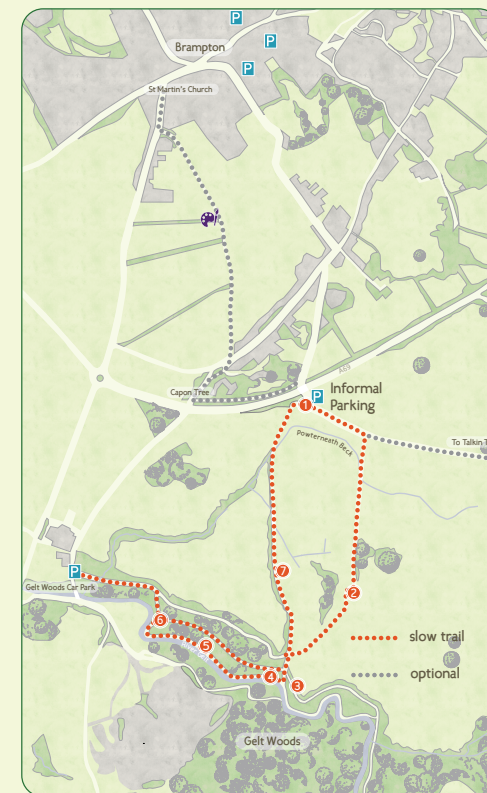
Continue along the meandering path through the trees, to the point where you entered the woods. Turn left onto the 'black path', made up of generations of old cinders, dotted with pottery ware. 'Brampton ware' was made from a local white clay that goes a honey colour in a salt firing. The large quantity of coal needed to fire the kilns was readily available.

The Capon Tree

Walking the optional northern route, on Sandy Lonning you will pass a stone cross which marks the location of the 'Capon Tree'. Here, in 1746, the judges of assizes sentenced six Jacobite rebels to execution.

St Martin's Church

The architect of St Martin's Church, Philip Webb, is sometimes described as the father of the Arts and Crafts movement. The church's beautiful stained glass windows were designed by Pre-Raphaelite artist, Edward Burne-Jones.



Content and cartography by Sara Hayes, The Public Art Company.

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Special thanks to Jeremy Melling and Brampton Walkers are Welcome.

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The Romans quarried stone for Hadrian's Wall in Gelt Woods.

The wood's lush conditions are perfect for plants, lichens and fungi.