



The second option takes an off-the-beaten track which climbs directly from the stile heading slightly north of east by the odd pockmarked quartzite outcrop. There is no path and the going is quite tough over tussocky moor. Pass the odd remnant corrugated iron shooting butts to reach the impressive tumulus marking the summit of Tindale Fell 547m/1795ft.



**7** The railway passes through a cutting enroute to a kissing-gate by a shed, sometimes occupied by donkeys. Continue to a gate leading to Howgill terrace, passing through to reconnect with the approach track via Tortie to complete your tour.

Food and refreshments are available at the Belted Will Inn and the Hallbankgate Hub Community shop.

[northpennines.org.uk](http://northpennines.org.uk)

Walkers new to this area should visit the RSPB's Stagsike information point and the hides at Tindale Tarn to learn of the importance of this locality for wildlife and the efforts being made to improve biodiversity.

### Guide to walking

Some steep walking and stretches through wet peat bogs. Your rights on open access land can sometimes be restricted for nature conservation, land management or public safety reasons. To avoid disappointment, please visit [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk) to get the latest information, before you set out.

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The path, formerly a track created to support grouse management and shooting parties, climbs to a bull-

**2** The track heads up to the row of houses which form the old colliery terrace of Howgill, turn sharp left via the gate. Turn right, signed to Bruntthwaite viewpoint, ignoring the obvious path that will take you to Tindale Tarn.

Notice the Tortie Stone, the large boulder in the field on the left after the cottage. This stone bears small cup marks, prehistoric rock art which is very prevalent in Northumberland but rarer in Cumbria.

**1** The walk leaves the car park heading south via the cattle grid/kissing gate to follow the open track by Tortie Cottage.

Cold Fell is the northernmost hill in the Pennine chain, a two-thousand-foot mountain and a high place of peace for the walker and the ornithologist.

**Public transport:** Hallbankgate has a limited bus service - route 680A Nenthead/Carlisle (<https://legacy.cumberland.gov.uk/buses/680A/>) and route 680 Brampton/Carlisle (<https://legacy.cumberland.gov.uk/buses/680/>)

**W3W:** //steadier.stutter.settled

**Postcode:** CA8 2PN

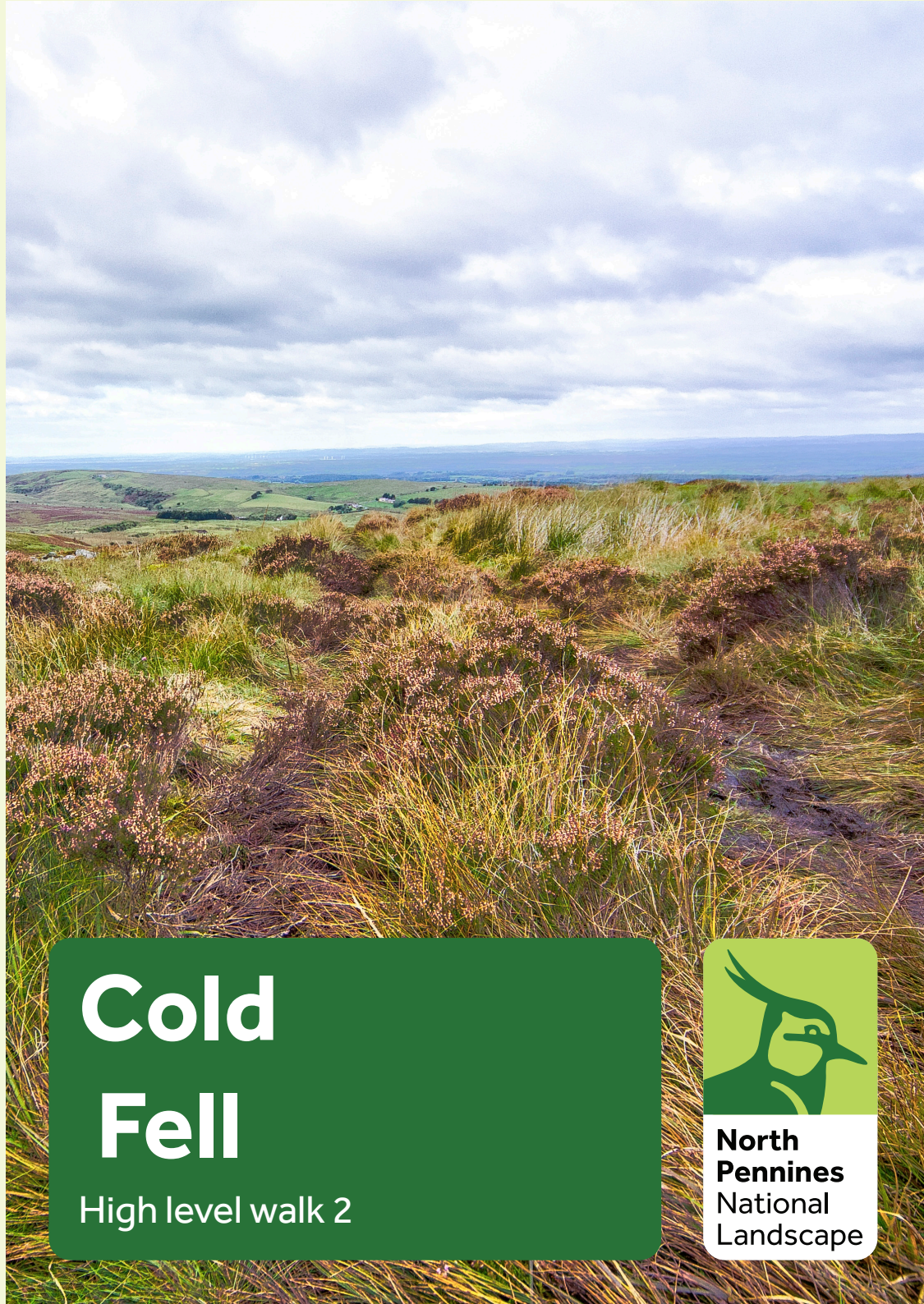
**Elevation gain:** 1450ft/440metres

**Distance:** 6.6miles/10.6kilometres

**Time:** approximately 4hrs

**Rating:** hard - steep, boggy in places

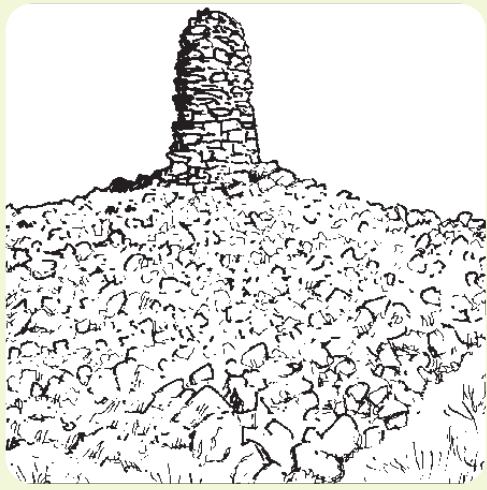
**Start point:** road-end car park beyond Clesketts (NY 589 585). From Hallbankgate on the A689, branch off at the Belted Will following Crossgates Road via Park Terrace to reach the car park.



**Cold Fell**  
High level walk 2







south from the A69. It is a good viewpoint to the Cheviots in the north-east, beyond the Whin Sill of Hadrian's Wall, and north-west to the hills beyond Bewcastle and to Scotland. The term currick derives from the Welsh 'careg', also surviving in various forms in the local village names Castle Carrock and Croglin. The place-name Tindale shows a link with the River South Tyne.

**3** The massive, elevated heap of stones, presumably the resting place of Bronze Age chieftains, is surmounted by a handsome currick. This cairn is a landmark, the visual high point seen by travellers looking

To rejoin the main route, head south on the clear path, crossing the line of an old dyke which straddles the fell. Continue following the ridge to meet the main route.



The main route continues uphill, crossing peaty ground and passing several stakes as the path rises gently to meet a fence at an angle. Approximately 250m down the fence line there is a large broken sheepfold and a currick formed into a throne. Follow the fence uphill to reach the stile and the summit tumulus of Cold Fell 621m/2037ft.

**4** The ancient cairn is set deep in the peat and the dome-shaped cairn is of modern construction (built in memory of Joe Fotheringham). A wind shelter stands on the east side of the OS pillar. The majority of visitors see the Bronze Age tumulus as a heap of stones, rather than an ancient mausoleum, which has resulted in stones being moved. A smaller cairn

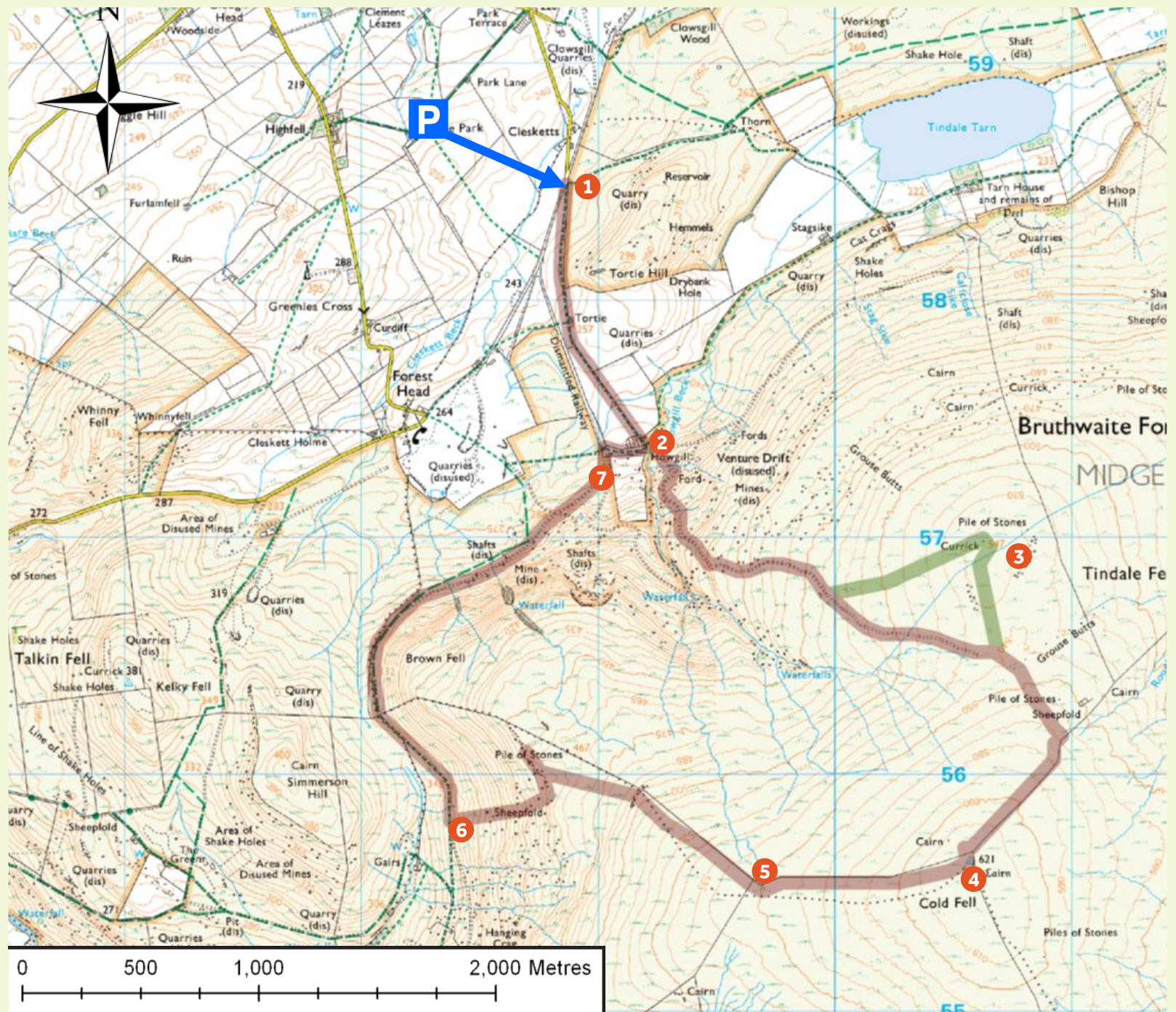
stands tilted on the northern edge, a sighter for the summit from the valley. Nine miles away as the crow (or curlew) flies, is the Hartside viewpoint – the equivalent of fifteen sluggish miles for anyone contemplating the trek across the zig-zag ridge and boggy Open Access terrain.

**5** Head west with the fence close right upon a narrow trod in the heather and bilberry. At the fence junction take care not to head left, as the fence leads over Tarnmonath Fell. Be mindful not to linger at the junction as it is a floating sphagnum raft - fine for individuals but not for a stationary group. Cross the fence at the junction and keep north-west on a quadbike track until a shoulder gives a short heathery step down.



**6** As the track diminishes, leave the fence line to pick your way down the steep bank off Brown Fell and reach the old railway used by miners at the Gairs Colliery. At one time it was one of the steepest railways in Britain. The miners at Gairs were allowed to freewheel down the line back to Hallbankgate in empty trucks after work. The record for the four miles was four minutes.

Turn right and pass through the first gate at the foot of the fence. The Gairs Colliery Railway gives easy walking. You may notice the deciduous plantings in sheaths on the hillside where the RSPB are recreating Bruthwaite Forest, a diverse habitat for the benefit of wildlife and birds in particular.



**P** Parking Place      Line of Route      Alternative Route