



Responsible visiting

This walk takes you through sheep and horse fields. Please keep dogs on a lead at all times.

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

Flat but muddy walking along the Raven Beck with one steep climb leaving the river on the way to Haresceugh Farm. Mobile signal is patchy along the river.

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



Kirkoswald

Walk 5: a walk through waterside woodland and meadows, home to roe deer and red squirrels



North Pennines National Landscape



North Pennines Global Geopark



Made possible with

Heritage Fund



North Pennines National Landscape

Join us on one of a series of six slow trails, designed to encourage you to 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: Kirkoswald

W3W: ///auctioned.vessel.minder

Postcode: CA10 1DQ

Elevation gain: 625ft

Distance: 4.1 miles

Time: approximately 1 hr 40mins

Rating: moderate – muddy, you may encounter farm animals

1 Breeding swifts

If you are here in spring and early summer you will see swifts circling overhead. Arriving from Africa, they will be nesting in the new swift boxes installed on houses by the local community and Penrith Swift Group, supported by the Fellfoot Forward scheme.

2 Mill race

In the village, turn on to Ravenghyll, close to the community shop. Continue alongside a raised culvert system, first on your left-hand side and then on your right. After passing between this 'mill race' (directing water to the local mill) you will encounter the weir on Raven Beck, before entering almost immediately into woodland.

3 Millie Bank Pasture

The field that opens up to your left is Millie Bank, an old hillside pasture traditionally managed by grazing ponies. In mid-summer it is ablaze with wildflowers including betony, common spotted-orchid and birds-foot-trefoil. Look out for butterflies including orange tip, red admiral, small copper and common blue.

4 Red squirrels

Head along the woodland path, walking over river cobbles, that winds its way along the river's edge, opening out to watery meadows. The woods are home to red squirrels, and there is even a squirrel ranger looking out for them.

5 Raven Beck

Crossing the wide fields, following the Raven Beck on your right. Follow the path through boggy meadows, past piles of moss-covered branches dotted along the river, through this stunning waterside woodland.

6 Roe deer

Keep the face of the steep ravine on your left and follow the river. Enjoy the beauty of the woodland and, if you are quiet, you may see a roe deer hind or stag scarp across the trail ahead of you. They are most active at dawn and dusk.

7 Leaving the river

Don't cross the bridge over the Raven Beck. Instead, turn left and start to climb up the hill, picking up a worn sheep track. At the top of the hill, follow the wall on your right as you go through gates until you turn left onto a grassy track that takes you to the road. Follow the road left, keeping right into Nether Haresceugh farmyard.

8 Nether Haresceugh Farm

Hens, dogs and horses live here. Keep dogs under close control and pick your way carefully through the farmyard. Head back down through the pasture, with the woodland to your right. Join the riverside path and retrace your steps back into the village.

St Oswald's Church, the Bell Tower, Mill Wheel & Kirkoswald Castle

Take time to wander round Kirkoswald, a village rich in medieval history. There is a great picnic spot down between the houses where you can see the old mill wheel. Ask in the community shop if you need help to find these treasures.



Cartography by Sara Hayes, The Public Art Company.

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Swift numbers have fallen by 50% in the last decade.

Swifts stay on the wing for most of their lives, even when they're sleeping.