After arriving at a second gate with a sheepfold to the right, the green-way forks. Keep ahead with the wall to your left, on a lovely turf trail.

5 The track opens at a gate and a change in the underlying geology can be detected. Over to the right, the broken edge of a limestone quarry passing sink hollows where surface water percolates into the bedrock, giving a further clue to the presence of limestone strata.

At the next bend, the valley view opens and offers a lovely prospect for the duration of the climb between the walls. Initially one can see both Blencathra and Skiddaw to the right of castle Carrock Fell. The fields to the right, frequently grazed by cattle, are tight, frequently grazed by cattle, are becommon lekking ground of Black becommon lekking ground of Black Grouse, a rare moorland species in Grouse, a rare moorland species in

Arriving at the gate by Holme Gill, pass through and turn right within the lane. This lane, a category five road, starts from Talkin Head and is accessible from Talkin village, where you can find the Blacksmith's Arms. A further Open Access signboard is sited at the first bend.

monk's trod, suggesting a connection with Lanercost Priory. The estate record of the original foundation anakes mention of Castle Carrock and Geltsdale. There is even one comical reference to a hen called 'Brun' inserted as a cartoon into the margin of the document. Intriguingly the surname Brown is still a prominent one in the village.

Turn left and follow the access track to the entrance of Low Hynam, where you turn right up through the gate into Hynam Wood.

This old track is known locally as the

presence in this wood.

survive hinting to a former greater

banks, largely unseen, mature oak

in the clearings. On the lower craggy

Hynam Wood is predominantly birch

coppice with new deciduous plantings

Trom Jockey Shield follow the track downhill, passing the Open Access information panel. As you cross Hynam Bridge, look over the parapet to view the River Gelt, a beautiful sight whatever the conditions as it rushes through the bed-rock gorge.

This modest walk delivers a real sense of being part of the moorland and Talkin Fell offers excellent views in good visibility.

Public transport: Castle Carrock has a limited bus service - route 680 Brampton/Carlisle (https:// legacy.cumberland.gov.uk/ buses/680/)

> bjaces culoadu ueac

Rating: moderate – steep terrain, through heather and rocky in

Time: approximately 2.5hrs

Distance: 4.4 miles/7 kilometres

Elevation gain: 920 ft/280 metres

Postcode: CA8 9NF

W3W: ///unimpeded.reply.

Start point: from Castle Carrock follow the Geltsdale road up the hill to reach the bend in the road at Jockey Shield where some verge parking is availaable NY 558 556



Guide to walking

A mixture of track and greenways with some steep walking and stretches through heather. 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 to get the latest information before you set out.

Original words and pictures © Mark Richards 2009. Revisions by the North Pennines National Landscape team 2024. Additional photographs © Brian Hinvest and © D&H Photography. All mapping, unless otherwise stated, is based (partly) on Ordnance Survey mapping (c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved Durham County Council. LA100049055. 2024



northpennines.org.uk





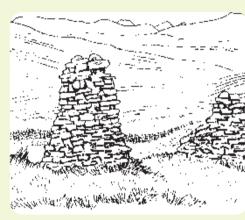




6 As the wall bears left leave the more obvious track, destined for rushes and the low saddle ahead. Veer up left beside the wall climbing towards the upper slopes of Talkin Fell. Cross a low fence at the top of the steep bank. Keeping the wall close on your left follow the path round the corner to a fence which you can cross by the wooden rungs adjacent to the wall. Continue to follow the wall round the corner to a large ladder stile which gives access to the trig point on the summit of Talkin Fell.

7 The humps and hollows of stone quarrying have proved a fertile gathering ground for casual cairn builders over the years, hence the grand parade of tall curricks which line the western brink. A dozen cairns of varying proportions stand proud; there is even a new one set some distance down the right-hand scarp bank. Like Tarnmonath, the curious fell-name Talkin is old Cumbrian and meant 'the top of the gabled brow'. The word 'talcen' exists in modern Welsh.

At 381m/1250ft Talkin Fell is no mountain, but the hilltop view is sumptuous. Ranging from the Helvellyn chain, Scafell Pike, Great Gable, Blencathra, and Skiddaw round to Criffel and the distant hills of Galloway, then on round by the



Manor Hills above Moffatt, the Tinnis



to the settlement site, dotted with a few thorn bushes. There are some ten oblong house platforms (8m x 4m) defined by large stones, with a vertical stone palisade on the south side. These can become lost in the bracken, so are best seen in winter.

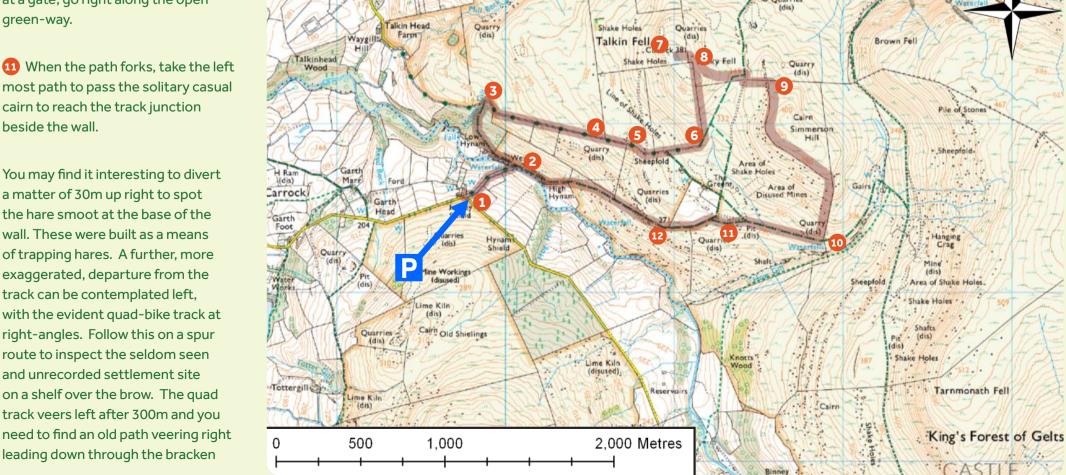
Hill above Langholm, Coldcleugh Head above Hermitage, Christianbury Crags above Bewcastle, The Cheviots, and the Whin Sill scarp of Hadrian's Wall from Winshields, Hotbank and Sewingshields Crags. Tindale Tarn is the sheet of water below the Cold Fell scarp due east.

8 Backtrack over the ladder-stile and at the wall corner take the lefthand forking path down through the heather declining into the hollow. Pass the first gate and reach the second wooden gate, defended by a marshy patch. Go through and follow the path up with the fence on your left slipping through a shallow weakness on the low outcropping.



12 Backtracking, continue with the wall-side green track to the kissing gate. The track pitches down the steep incline and passes High Hynam coming beside the river to reach Hynam Bridge (2). From here it just a short walk up the track to the start point.





9 Bear right onto the growing edge, with several small, quarried bays evident. At the highest point one has a real sense of being on a gritstone edge, the kind of feature one may know from the eastern edges of the Peak District. Follow the quad-bike track down, spot a circular sheepfold down to the right, with a mature

10 On reaching the level green track at a gate, go right along the open green-way.

rowan tree growing within.

11 When the path forks, take the left most path to pass the solitary casual cairn to reach the track junction

You may find it interesting to divert a matter of 30m up right to spot the hare smoot at the base of the wall. These were built as a means of trapping hares. A further, more exaggerated, departure from the track can be contemplated left, with the evident quad-bike track at right-angles. Follow this on a spur route to inspect the seldom seen and unrecorded settlement site on a shelf over the brow. The quad track veers left after 300m and you need to find an old path veering right