



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 available NY 558 556

W3W: //unimpeded.reply.
workloads
Postcode: CA8 9NF

Elevation gain: 920 ft/280 metres

Distance: 4.4 miles/7 kilometres

Time: approximately 2.5hrs

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

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

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

1 From 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.

2 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 monk's trod, suggesting a connection with Lanercost Priory. The estate record of the original foundation makes 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.

Hynam Wood is predominantly birch coppice with new deciduous plantings in the clearings. On the lower craggy banks, largely unseen, mature oak survive hinting to a former greater presence in this wood.

3 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.

4 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 the common lekking ground of Black Grouse, a rare moorland species in England.

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 can be seen. The track undulates, passing sink hollows where surface water percolates into the bedrock, giving a further clue to the presence of limestone strata.

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.



Guide to walking

A mixture of track and green-ways 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.

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Talkin Fell

High level walk 4

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



Hill above Langholm, Coldcleugh Head above Hermitage, Christianbury Crag above Bewcastle, The Cheviots, and the Whin Sill scarp of Hadrian's Wall from Winshields, Hotbank and Sewingshields Crag. 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 left-hand 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.

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 rowan tree growing within.

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.

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.



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

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

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 leading down through the bracken

