

Talkin Tarn, Cumbria



Landscape Detective: Rocks, Ice and Recreation



DETECTIVE MAP WORK

It is suggested that this map work should be done before the visit and then comparisons can be made during the visit. Some introduction to O.S. maps will be needed to get the most from this work. This could be done using the map extract used here but it would be more exciting for the children to prepare with a different map and then present this as a challenge!

Key idea – ‘Detective Work’

- Look at the map and discuss together
- Collect as many clues from the map as possible about what the area is like
- Encourage the children to imagine what the place they are going to visit is like?
- In small groups describe what they would expect to find on their visit. Make a note of this description
- Compare their description with what they actually see when they get there




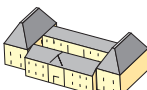
Introduction to map work

Before starting the map work the children will need to know a little about contours, scale, direction, map symbols and grid references. Below is a reminder about grid references.

- O.S. maps have a grid system.
- Each vertical and horizontal line has a number.
- To place ‘My house’ using a 4-figure grid reference take the numbers from the bottom left hand corner of the square with ‘My house’ in it, giving the vertical line number first and then the horizontal line number. In this example it is 2131. The most common way to remember which figure comes first is by the saying “Along the corridor and up the stairs”.
- 6-figure grid references pinpoint features within the squares. This requires the map reader to imagine the grid square is divided in tenths along the horizontal and vertical scale. So ‘My house’ becomes 215315.

Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Introductory Activity 1 - Teacher Resource Sheet

	20	21	22	23
33	<p>Wilde’s Woods</p> 		<p>Mt. Fire</p> 	
32		<p>My house</p> 		
31	<p>Our school</p> 			
30				





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Introductory Activity 1 - Pupil Resource Sheet 1

DETECTIVE MAP WORK

Use the O.S. map extract and the symbols for this site and in small groups complete the following:

1. As a group discuss and attempt the following and be prepared to feed back to the class:

- Point to north on your map.
- What do you think the word 'tarn' might mean? Use a map to help.
- What is the highest point on your map? How high is it above sea level?
- Can you estimate how high Talkin Tarn is above sea level?
- Find Cold Fell (Grid Square 6055). What shape do you think the hill is?
- Use your map to make a guess at what the word 'fell' might mean. What sort of landscape feature is it?

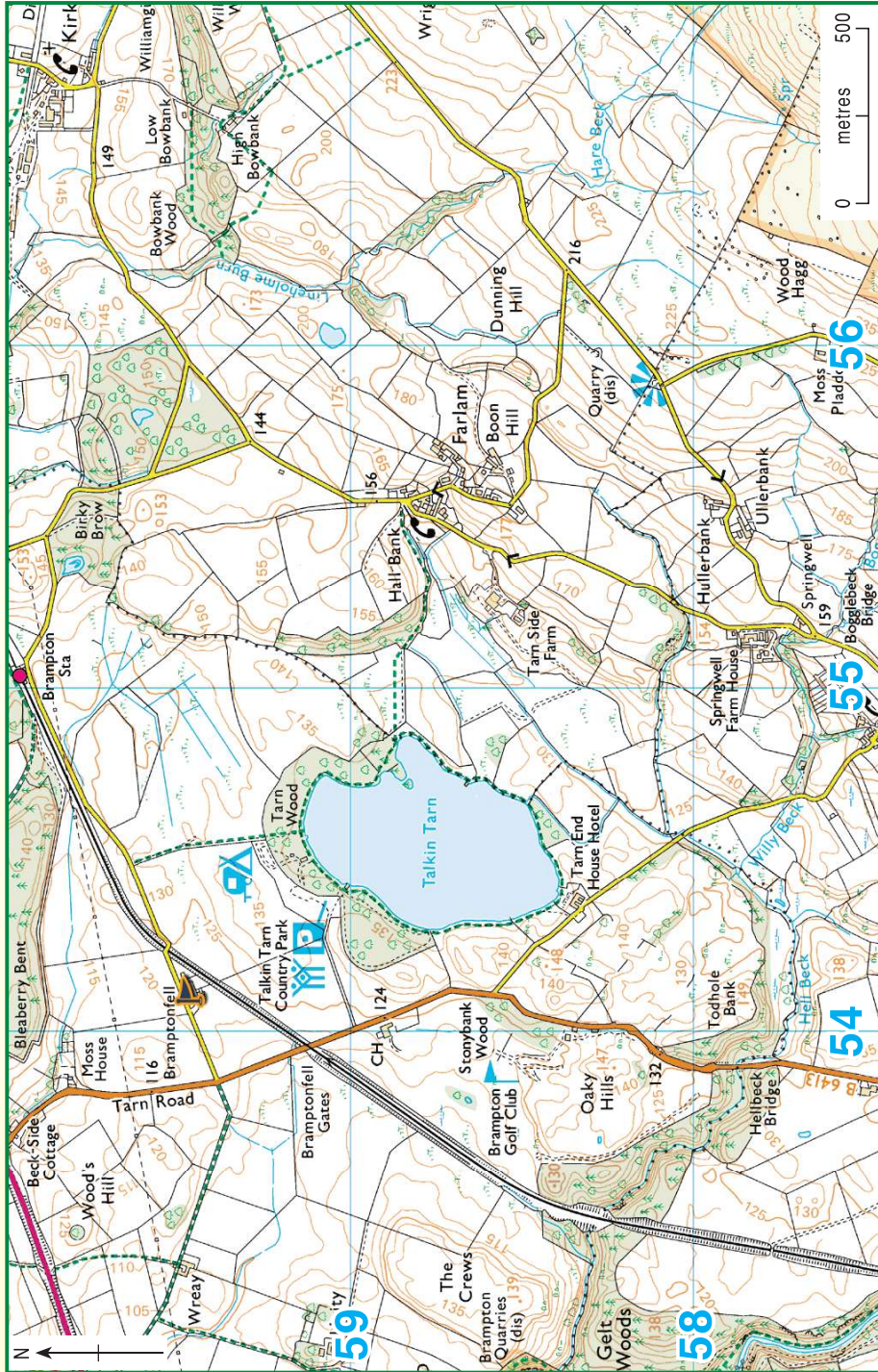
2. Grid references

As a group complete the grid below:

Grid reference	What is there?
5857	
	Talkin Tarn
5558	
6058	
5459	







O.S. Map of Talkin Tarn



Ordnance Survey Map Symbols

Pupil Resource Sheet

ROADS AND PATHS

	Motorway
	Dual carriageway
	Main road
	Secondary road
	Narrow road with passing places
	Road under construction
	Road generally more than 4m wide
	Road generally less than 4m wide
	Other road, drive or track, fenced and unfenced
	Path

RAILWAYS

	Multiple track
	Single track

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

	Footpath
	Bridleway

BOUNDARIES

	National
	County (England)
	Civil Parish (CP)
	National Park boundary

SELECTED TOURIST AND LEISURE INFORMATION

	Parking
	Information centre
	Public convenience
	Telephone
	Campsite / caravan site
	Golf course or links
	Public house
	Walks
	Viewpoint
	Picnic site
	Country park

GENERAL FEATURES

	Place of worship
	Building
	Bus or coach station
	Triangulation pillar
	Windmill
	Boundary post / stone
	Clubhouse
	Footbridge
	Monument
	Post Office
	Police station
	School
	Town hall





ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

Aim of field work

To look at the factors that influenced the landscape around Talkin Tarn and to carry out a survey of visitors' views.

Target Group

Key Stage 2 geography, science, rocks and soils and may be suitable for some aspects of Key Stage 1

Location

Talkin Tarn Country Park, Cumbria

Practical Details

- Parking – There is a large car park at Talkin Tarn that is suitable for coaches. Parking charges apply.
- There are toilet facilities, picnic areas, a

café, a play area and education facilities. Talkin Tarn is owned and managed by Carlisle City Council. For more information visit the Education Centre or Telephone (01228) 817000 or e-mail: customerservices@carlisle.gov.uk

Useful maps

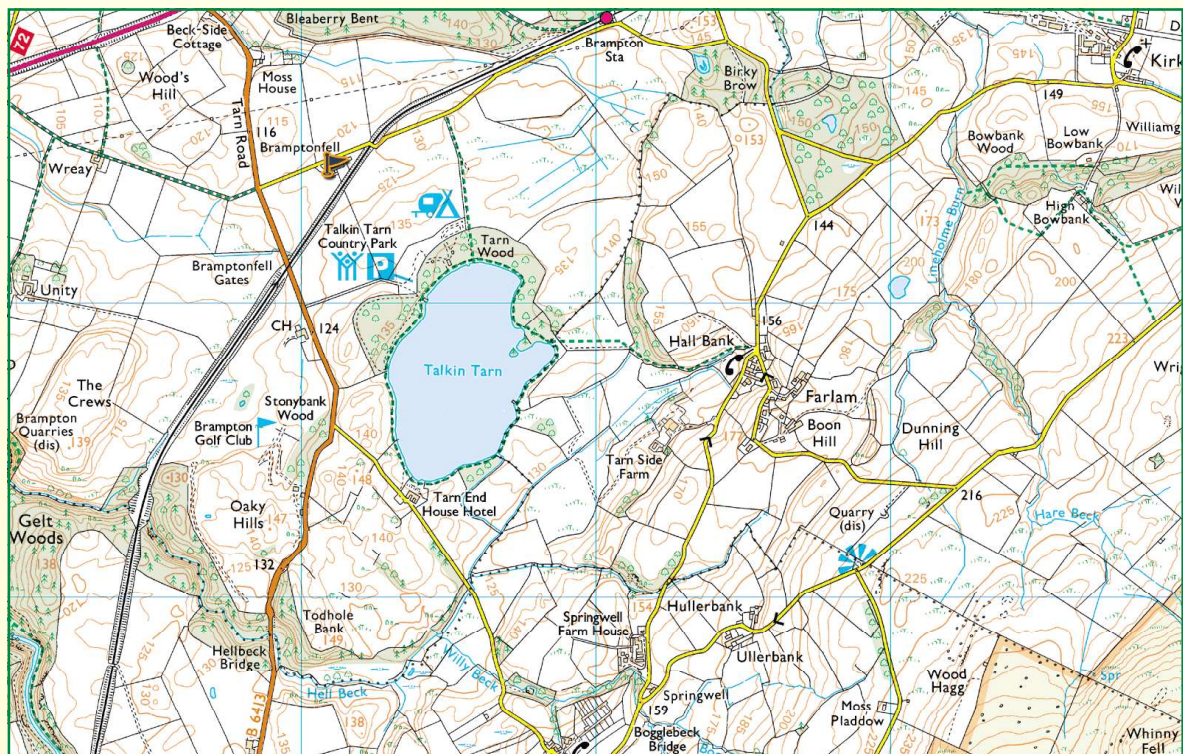
- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Map OL5 The English Lakes NE Area

Safety Issues:

- There is open access to the water all the way around Talkin Tarn.
- Refer to the Hazard Identification Sheet

Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Fieldwork Outline - Teacher Resource Sheet



HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION SHEET

The following notes will help teachers conduct their own risk assessments. This is not a risk assessment and teachers should follow guidelines from the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

Hazard Identified	Risk and to whom	Control measures
Vehicles in the car park	Caution needed when getting off the coach or minibus in the car park. All students and staff.	Supervise students getting off the coach or minibus and gather in a safe place.
Uneven paths	Paths are uneven and may be slippery in wet weather. Students may slip and fall. All students and staff.	Warn about conditions.
Unfenced water	The lake at Talkin Tarn is not fenced Students could fall into water. All students and staff.	Warn about conditions.



UNDERTAKING THE FIELDWORK

1. The landscape of Talkin Tarn

The landscape of Talkin Tarn has been influenced by both physical and human processes. The table below provides information about each stop on the circular walk around the tarn and pupils can record the information on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.

Location and grid reference	Background information
1. Western boathouse (GR: NY 544590)	<p>As you enter Talkin Tarn Country Park from the car park the boathouse is in front of you. Find a place just to the south of the boathouse that gives you a good view across the tarn. Use the O.S. map extract to describe the location of Talkin Tarn - the North Pennines immediately to the east, the Eden Valley to the west and the Lake District further to the west.</p> <p><i>Complete Activity 1a on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p> <p>Look at Talkin Tarn Country Park. The country park covers 120 acres, half of which is the lake or tarn. The rest of the area is covered in beech woodland or farmland. The main rock type in the area is a red sandstone but on top of the sandstone are deposits of other materials that form mounds and ridges.</p> <p><i>Complete Activity 1b on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p>
2. View southeast across the tarn (GR: NY 543585)	<p>Continue the walk westwards around the tarn. About halfway between the boathouse and the Tarn End Hotel stop and look east across the tarn. About 20,000 years ago at the height of the last ice age this area was covered by 1 km of ice. Talkin Tarn is a glacial feature called a kettle hole that was created at the end of the last ice age around 15,000 years ago. Kettle holes are formed by detached blocks of ice, which are left by the glaciers as they retreat, or which are moved by meltwater onto the area in front of the ice. The ice blocks become partially or completely covered with sediments deposited by meltwater. When the ice blocks melt they leave depressions that may fill water to form kettle hole lakes.</p> <p><i>Complete Activity 1b on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p>
3. Esker ridge (GR: NY 546584)	<p>Continue to walk southwards around the tarn. Just beyond the wooded area there is a stile in the fence. Cross the stile and walk back towards the wood. Behind the wood you will see a 'sheep scrape'. This is the next stop. The sheep have exposed one of the ridges that surround the tarn at this point. These ridges are glacial features called eskers. Eskers are elongate, winding ridges of sand and gravel. Eskers are formed by streams flowing in or below the ice sheet. They carry sand and gravel that infill these ice-walled river channels. The material that makes up the eskers will give an indication of where the ice sheet has moved from. It may be possible to use mole hills in the field instead!</p> <p><i>With the help of Pupil Information Sheet 1 complete activity 3 on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p>
4. Sedge Bay - small bay looking south west (GR: NY 547589)	<p>The origins of the tarn and the sand and gravel ridges both relate to the ice sheet that covered this area during the last ice age. However, before this was understood people made stories to explain things in the landscape that they didn't understand. Talkin Tarn has its own myth! The story says that there was an old woman walking from the North Pennines in the east to Brampton, on a very wild and stormy night. The weather got so bad she decided to see if she could find somewhere to stay for the night. She stopped in Talkin village and knocked on the doors of the cottages but no one would let her stay the night. She continued on her way until she reached the edge of the village and there she cast a spell (because she was a witch) that flooded the village. To this day on midsummer's night you can hear a bell and it is thought to be the bell of Talkin church ringing out from beneath the waters of the tarn.</p> <p><i>Re-tell the Talkin Tarn myth using Pupil Information Sheet 2.</i></p> <p><i>Complete activity 4 on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p>
5. Sandy Bay (GR: NY 546592)	<p>People have also influenced the landscape of Talkin Tarn. Talkin is Norse for tear drop and in about 1340 the land around the village was granted to Edward de Talkin. From the mid 1800s the landscape changed with trees being planted on the ridges around the tarn as the Victorians wanted a 'Capability Brown' landscape, which 'perfected nature'. The hotel was built with its own landscaped grounds, a footpath was put around the tarn and a trackway came from the railway station. Victorians came to use the area for recreation – walking, rowing, and taking in the views. Talkin Tarn Country Park is now owned and managed by Carlisle City Council and is still used by the public for walking, boating, picnicking and attending events and activities. A number of places act as 'honey-pot' sites, attracting a lot of people and so need managing to ensure the environment is not damaged. The areas that are under the most pressure are the entrance to the park, the café and information area, the picnic areas and the wooded ridges. Rare plants including orchids grow in the woodland and quiet areas are needed for wildlife. Carlisle City Council are looking at the future of the park and want to develop a plan for the area that will make it "sustainable". By this is meant the park can generate an income to help with the maintenance of the site, provides for the needs of the people who use the site and looks after and improves the environment.</p> <p><i>Complete activity 5 on Pupil Resource Sheet 2.</i></p>

2. The future of Talkin Tarn

Talkin Tarn is now owned and managed by Carlisle City Council who have spent more than £1 million on improvements including new educational facilities, new toilets, a play area, better access for disabled people, improvements to the tea room, with lift access and improved car parking. In the coming years the council wish to develop a management plan for the whole site incorporating the views of user groups. Carry out a survey of people using Talkin Tarn Country Park. Pupil Resource Sheet 2 provides a questionnaire that looks at the views of visitors to the park to find out what they like/dislike and the improvements they would like to see. Pupils could add additional questions to the survey.





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Pupil Resource Sheet 2

THE LANDSCAPE OF TALKIN TARN

ACTIVITY 1 a) With the aid of an O.S. map describe the location of Talkin Tarn Country Park..

b) Draw a field sketch of Talkin Tarn Country Park from the view in front of you. Add the following labels:

Tarn **Ridges** **Beech woodland**
Farmland **Hotel** **Boathouse** **North Pennine hills**



ACTIVITY 2

Use the following words to describe how kettle holes are formed

Covered with sediment **Ice retreating** **Hollow or depression formed**
Block of ice **20,000 years ago** **Ice melted** **1Km of ice** **Filled with water:**

ACTIVITY 3

a) Use the following words to complete the paragraph below describing how eskers are formed:

River **Sand and gravel** **Ice sheet** **Ridges**

Eskers are elongated, winding _____ of _____.

Eskers are formed by streams flowing in or below the _____.

They carry sand and gravel that infill these ice-walled _____ channels. The material that makes up the eskers will give an indication of where the ice sheet has moved from.

b. The sheep scrape or molehills expose what the esker is made of – a mixture of sand and a range of different sized rocks. In groups of 4 randomly choose 30 rocks from the sheep scrape or molehills. Complete the chart below using the rock identification guide on Pupil Information Sheet 1:

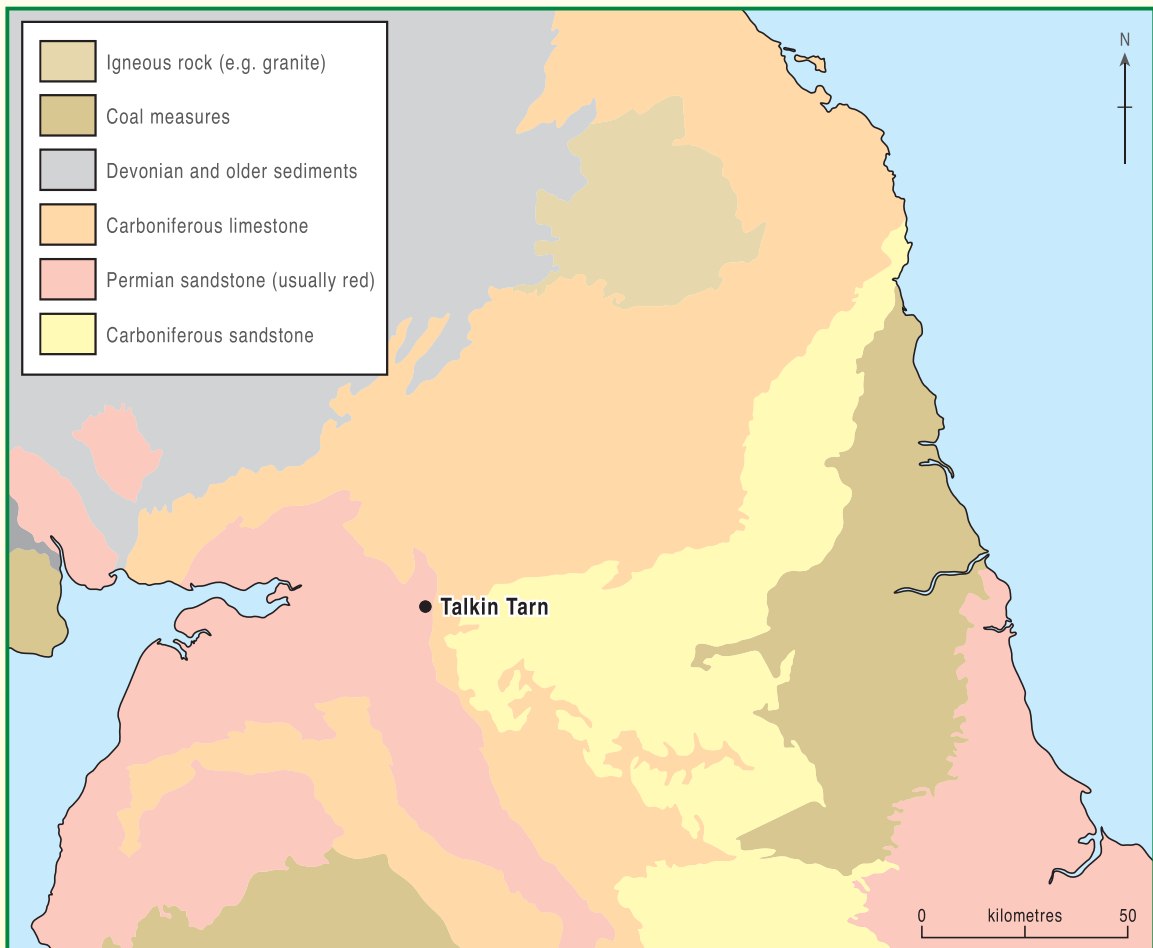
Rock Number	Type of rock	Rock Number	Type of rock	Rock Number	Type of rock
1.		11.		21.	
2.		12.		22.	
3.		13.		23.	
4.		14.		24.	
5.		15.		25.	
6.		16.		26.	
7.		17.		27.	
8.		18.		28.	
9.		19.		29.	
10.		20.		30.	



c) How many of each type of rock have you got?

d) On the geology map below mark arrows to show where the different rocks you have found in the esker must have come from to get to Talkin Tarn.

Simplified geological map of Northern England



ACTIVITY 4

Describe how people in the past believed Talkin Tarn was formed:



ACTIVITY 5

Describe how people have influenced the landscape of Talkin Tarn:



Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Pupil Information Sheet 1

ROCK IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Carboniferous limestone from the North Pennines



Carboniferous sandstone from the North Pennines



Granite from the Cheviots



Permian red sandstone from the Eden Valley



Quartz (could be from a variety of places)





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Pupil Information Sheet 2

THE MYTH OF TALKIN TARN

There are dark grottoes in the high mountains. And tarns deep and cold, bottomless pits of murky water. And in some few favoured spots, dark grottoes and murky tarns together.

Such was the site of the Demon's Lair

Tarn of Eternity

By Frank Tymon

There seems to be something very mysterious and magical about Talkin Tarn. Whether this is the affect it has on people's imagination or something altogether more sinister we leave you to decide. Certainly something draws people to Talkin Tarn, sometimes never to be seen again.

The First Legend of Talkin Tarn

In the days long before cars and roads, travellers picked their way through the wild Cumbrian Fells following tracks to drive sheep and geese to the markets in Carlisle and Brampton.

One fine, still summer's day an old woman, a peddler, took the fell top route from Alston to Brampton carrying her basket of animal skins, buttons and ribbons to sell from farm to farm. This route was steep and hard but in the long summer days she preferred it to the valley route as it was shorter.

Everyone in Talkin remembered the day, the day of the storm. While Talkin Fell was still in warm sunshine, dark purple clouds were bubbling and building to the east over Plenmeller and Coanwood Commons.

A sharp wind began to blow from the east and in a trice, day turned to night, summer to winter. Bolts of lightning crackled in the sky over Cold Fell and thunder rumbled through the valleys. The rain sheeted down, lashing the hillsides. Soon the River Gelt from Binney Bank was a raging torrent. The old woman struggled to keep her feet, the sky was so dark and the storm so fierce that it was only by following the river that she could stumble her way forward, towards Brampton.

But this was no ordinary summer storm, furious and short, it was as if by some power, summer had changed to winter. The storm continued for hours, now the rain had turned to hail, driving into the woman's face, at its fiercest the hail fell the size of marbles and the old lady sheltered beneath her basket.

Witchcraft is how the people of Talkin explained this storm. Witchcraft was strong in the fells and the villagers protected themselves by carving symbols in the fire posts, for it wasn't unknown for witches, in the form of a bird, to enter houses through a chimney. Witches could take the shape of many creatures. Cottage doors were protected by hanging circular stones or Rowan branches. So when the old woman stumbled to the door of Talkin Head Farm, exhausted and bedraggled, seeking shelter, the door was locked in her face by the frightened farmer's wife and the children were taken to the safety of their bedroom.

The old woman staggered on and still the storm raged. She crossed Hell Beck, normally one stride, but on this day as wide as a house and waist deep. She knew that beyond Hell Beck, on the lower ground to the north, lay the village of Talkin. Here surely she could find shelter for the night.

Candles flickered and fires glowed behind the windows of the houses but every door



was kept firmly bolted despite the old woman's hammering and her called out pleas. For whatever reason, selfishness, ignorance or fear, no one opened their door to the desperate old woman.

Even the church door was locked firm against the storm, the wind now so strong that it was moving the huge bell in the tower, so that it rang out eerily amid the howling of the wind.

"Help me, I'm no witch!" screamed the old lady, but her voice was lost to the howling gale. She staggered from the village to the higher ground to the north, turned to look at the cottages, raised her arm and yelled at the wind. "A curse on you all, let the waters take you!"

The old woman was never seen again. Her basket was found along with her torn cloak. The shepherd from Farlam looked out from his cottage when he heard what he thought was the scream of a wounded animal. He swears he watched as the old woman dropped to the ground and a hare bounded away, though the night was too dark to be sure. Most think she slipped and the river took her.

The storm raged for 20 days then stopped abruptly on midsummer night when summer resumed. The whole of the valley and the village that had been Talkin was now deep under water, Talkin Tarn was born.

In time a new village was built on the hillside to the south of the tarn. On midsummer night when the weather is calm, the faint sound of the church bell can be heard from deep below the murky waters and there is always a healthy population of hares!

Other legends of Talkin Tarn

Over the years there have been other stories and myths about Talkin Tarn...

"The Apparition"

In September 2002 23 people claimed to have seen "a bloody apparition" walk from the lake in broad daylight. This apparently made front page news in the local papers.

People linked the "ghost" to a story of a murder; A local, rich nobleman promised to marry his sweetheart, Jessie. However, he was also engaged to another woman. When Jessie discovered this, she threatened to visit his house near Talkin and spill the beans. The man persuaded Jessie to go for a romantic stroll around the tarn. There he murdered her and buried her in a shallow grave. However, the lake rose in heavy rain and uncovered her body.

The crashed helicopter

In 2007 a helicopter flew from Carlisle and for some reason crashed into the tarn. Is it still there?

World War II boating death

Two servicemen on leave from the war were fooling around in rowing boats. One fell in and his body was never recovered.

Divers investigate

A diving expedition in 2008 searched the lake for the helicopter parts, signs of the old village and anything else interesting. They found fish, pond weed and old bottles from Brampton brewery but nothing else.





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Pupil Resource Sheet 3

VISITOR SURVEY AT TALKIN TARN

Location: _____ Day: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

1. How far do you live from Talkin Tarn?

- Within a mile Half a mile to 1 mile away 1-5 miles away
5-10 miles away 10-40 miles away More than 40 miles away

2. How often do you visit Talkin Tarn Country Park?

- Most days Once a week Once a month
A few times a year A one-off visit

3. What do you like best about Talkin Tarn Country Park?

- The landscape The walks The woodlands
The tarn Boating The café
Educational facilities Other

4. What improvements would you like to see at Talkin Tarn Country Park?

- More extended walks More events and activities More educational visits
More leisure facilities More shops More interpretation
Other (please specify) _____

5. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the future plans for Talkin Tarn Country Park?

Thank you for your co-operation







Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Follow-up Activity 1

An information leaflet for visitors to Talkin Tarn Country Park (opportunities for literacy genres and oracy).

This activity is based on designing an advertising leaflet or flier for Talkin Tarn Country Park:

- Collect examples of tourist advertising leaflets and fliers from local Tourist Information Centres.
- In groups of 3-4 look at the example leaflets and fliers and list the essential kinds of information they contain. For example maps, website and other contact details, background information about the place, persuasive sections encouraging the tourist to visit, opening times, facilities etc.
- As a class feedback the essential details needed to produce a leaflet or flier and list the information on the board.
- Orally, with the whole class consider the different styles of writing that are used for example persuasive, factual, bulleted etc. During this session the sub-tasks within the whole task are identified and clarified. For example one paragraph of description, one factual paragraph to outline facilities and a small sketch map.
- In groups decide on the sections and styles that your leaflet will contain. Divide up the sections so that individuals in the group write different sections.
- As a group design your leaflet or flier (use the examples to help you decide on the style).
- Each group presents their leaflet to the class explaining why they chose their design.







Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Follow-Up Activity 2 - Pupil Resource Sheet 4

TRADITIONAL TALES AND MYTHS

(Opportunities, literary genres and oracy)

There are many traditional tales told from the North Pennines of witches, kings, treasure, magic and enchantment. You have already heard the myth that surrounds Talkin Tarn! You are going to produce your own traditional tale or myth.

- Working in pairs. Search the map for places with names laden with magic. We have chosen some from the map we liked:

Toppin castle

Bowbank

Cleasketts

Midges holme

Green riggs

Theifside cottages

Unthank

Scarrowmanwick fell

- Make your own list of places from the map whose names conjure up exciting ideas for stories (or use some of ours if you want to).
- Choose the name or names that will have an important role to play in your tale. For example we would write a tale of "The Old Man of Scarrowmanwick Fell"!
- Use a writing frame to plan a traditional tale, which must contain magic!





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Follow-Up Activity 3 - Pupil Resource Sheet 5

- a) Use the boxes below to compile the results of your responses. You may also want to produce a set of class results. Use tally marks as you go through each questionnaire and after you have gone through all your results add a total to the box at the end.

	Tally box	Total
1. How far do you live from Talkin Tarn?		
Within a mile	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Half a mile to 1 mile away	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
1 - 5 miles away	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5 - 10 miles away	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10 - 40 miles away	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
More than 40 miles away	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. How often do you visit Talkin Tarn?		
Most days	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Once a week	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Once a month	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
A few times a year	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
A one-off visit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Who have you come to Talkin Tarn?		
On your own	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
With a group of friends	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The woodlands	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
As a family	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
With an educational group	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. What do you like best about Talkin Tarn?		
The landscape	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The walks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The woodlands	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The nature reserve	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The river	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The shop	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
The play area	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (list)	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	

5. What improvements would you like to see at Talkin Tarn?

More extended walks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More events and activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More educational visits	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More leisure facilities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More shops	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More interpretation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>list</i>)	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	

5. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the future plans for Talkin Tarn?

b) Write a short report on what visitors would like to see at Talkin Tarn, presenting your results as graphs.





Talkin Tarn, Cumbria

Follow-Up Activity 4

TALKIN TARN - THE FUTURE

How should Talkin Tarn be developed? Should it be kept the same or changed?

- In groups of 3-4, look at the information the class collected on their visit to get an idea of why people come to Talkin Tarn and what they like/dislike or would like to see developed.
- Summarise the main results of the visitor survey as a class.
- Discuss what the pupils themselves would like to see at Talkin Tarn.
- Introduce the idea that Carlisle City Council is wanting to develop the site in the next 5 years. Emphasise that this is a real task as Carlisle City Council really do have to decide how the Tarn will develop in the future. Maybe if the task is done really well the plans could be forwarded to the council. We have had these ideas suggested:

Developing a new water skiing centre

Building a new lakeside restaurant

Banning all the boating activities to encourage birds and other wildlife

Different people's ideas are often conflicting!

- Pupils may have a really good idea of how Talkin Tarn should be in the future or they may want to develop or contest one of the suggestions above. Try to encourage a really thoughtful approach. What makes Talkin Tarn unique? Why do people come? What might be the consequences of any development, wanted or unwanted? Having decided on the ideas they would like to see developed at Talkin Tarn, they need to present their argument in a letter to persuade them to accept their idea. The letter should be no longer than one and half sides of A4 and should also include a sketch map and perhaps a drawing.



