

BECKS & GASKELLS

- Circular town, woodland, burnside and quiet road walk. Follow waymarkers with number 1**
- 4km/2½ miles**
- Allow 1 hour**
- Pavement, hard surfaced track, beaten earth path and minor road. One gate.**
- Moderate**
- Stout shoes or boots recommended**

PARKING Kilngreen car park on the side of the River Esk, is the start point for all the Langholm walks and is just north of the town centre on the A7. If you are coming from the south take the A7 to Langholm and pass through the town centre following signs for Hawick and Galashiels (A7) to the far side of town. Pass the Lockerbie turn and take the first left into the Kilngreen car park where you will find toilets, information and picnic tables.

START Leave the car park. Turn right and first right over the Telford road bridge across the River Esk. In 1778 Thomas Telford, the famous locally born engineer, had completed his apprenticeship and worked as a journeyman on the construction of this bridge. Follow the road past Langholm Academy and turn left opposite the sports centre. Pass the school playground and into Eskdail Street. On the opposite side to the telephone box take the lane between the houses. At the top turn right and follow the track round a left hand bend to a seat below a cottage with views over Langholm.

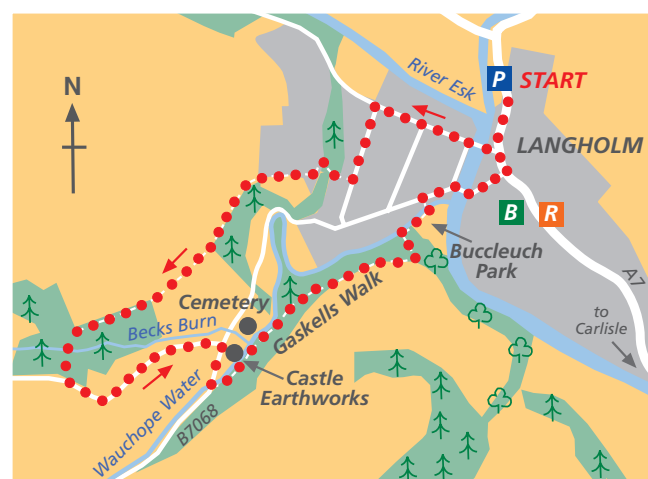
Take the track to the left of the cottage, which soon turns right uphill between the houses and the stables. At the top of the field above the stables keep to the main track along the edge of the wood. The livestock on the smallholdings provide an interesting alternative to the usual sheep and cattle!

At the end of the wood look left along the power lines for a view to the Malcolm Monument and the mast on Whita Hill, the other hill topped by a mast is Warb Law (Walk 4). At the turning area with the bench take the path between the trees that descends to a footbridge over Becks Burn. Climb the steps up the far side to the road. Turn left and follow the road with views across the 'Muckle Toon' and its surrounding hills.

At the T junction the route turns right, but you may enjoy a short diversion to the left to visit the old cemetery set above the Wauchope Water. Return to the route, taking special care on the narrow road sections.

The raised ridge and mound on the left before the bridge are the earthwork remains of Wauchope Castle; built by the Lindsays around 1285 and in ruins by the 1500s. Most of the remains are of the old manse, built after 1580 and abandoned 200 years later.

Turn left just after the bridge to join the Gaskells Walk and follow this popular path through spruce woods above the narrow gorge of Wauchope Water. The path eventually swings away from the river and emerges from the woods above Langholm. Pass under the power lines and at the path junction after the house turn left. After a few metres turn right through a gap in the beech hedge and down the steps to Buccleuch Park. Follow the path around the left hand edge of the park to reach the footbridge. Cross Wauchope Water, turn right and at the turn in the road cross the River Esk on the suspension bridge. Walk along John Street to reach the main road and turn left to return to the Kilngreen.



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