

CALFIELD RIG & MID HILL

- Circular town, woodland, quiet road and open hill walk. Follow waymarkers with number 9**
- 10km/6 miles**
- Allow 2½ hours**
- Pavement, minor road, hard surfaced track and hill ground. Gates and stiles**
- Strenuous**
- Boots recommended**

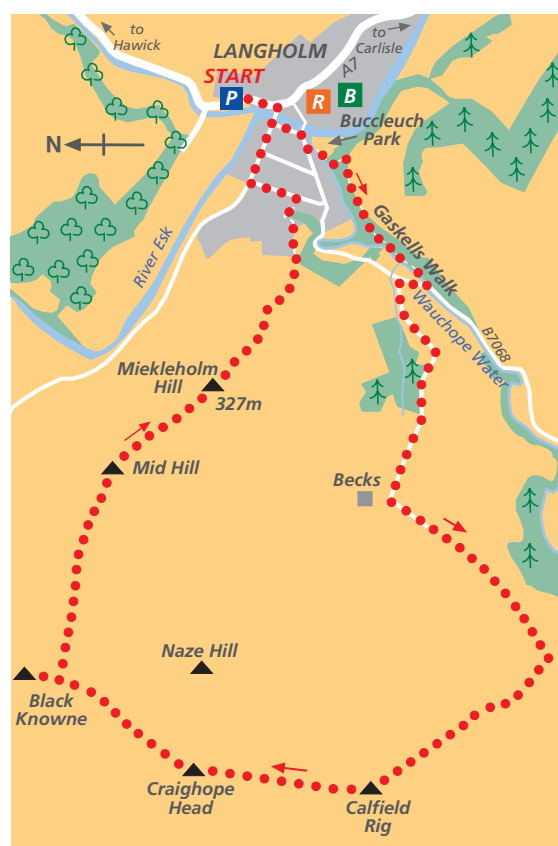
PARKING Kilngreen car park on the side of the River Esk, is the start point for all the Langholm walks and is just north of the town centre on the A7. If you are coming from the south take the A7 to Langholm and pass through the town centre following signs for Hawick and Galashiels (A7) to the far side 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 Return towards the town centre and turn right for the bridge over the River Esk on Thomas Telford Road. At the end of the bridge turn left down Elizabeth Street, bear right into Caroline Street and cross the road, taking the footbridge into Buccleuch Park. Keep to the right following the path along the boundary wall. When the path divides, walk up the small rise to the flight of steps leading out of the park. At the top of the steps pass through the gap in the beech hedge and turn left, turning right in 20 metres on to the Gaskells path. Follow this field side path that soon enters a strip of spruce woodland and crosses various burns feeding the Wauchope Water in the gorge below. At the end of this shady section the path emerges on the Lockerbie road. Take special care on this short section of road that is narrow, with poor visibility.

Turn right and cross the bridge before turning left on the first minor road. Walk uphill through several bends on route to Becks Farm. Look up to your right for an early view of the hill section of this walk. Just after Becks turn left on the track in front of the cottage. Where the main track turns right take the gated track straight ahead and continue through two more gates. At the end pass through another gate and turn right following the path along the side of the gully. By the second corner in the wall climb the stile in the fence line and make for the high ground on Calfield Rig, choosing your own route. This upland ground is home to a thriving population of skylarks and their startled flight and energetic song may well accompany you for a large part of your walk.

At the top you will find a waymarker, follow the broad ridge offering views of the Solway, Criffel and the Lake District. Across the valley to your right is Naze Hill and the route is round a crescent of lower summits at the back of this hill. Your route may share sections with quad bike tracks and drops slightly before a gentle climb, joining a fence before the summit of Craighope Head. Cross the stile at the fence junction and continue to the next fence junction. Cross this for the short ascent to Black Knowe offering fine views up Eskdale. Return to the fence and walk east to Mid Hill, the highest summit on this route and another good vantage point.

To return to Langholm follow the fence downhill, crossing an area of wet ground on a boardwalk. Climb the ladder stile and continue on a grass track to the summit of Meikleholm Hill. Take the right hand of two faint paths passing a public water supply to join a track. Follow the track downhill to a gate at the top of a fenced lane. Descend the lane and bear left to a seat. Take the hairpin track downhill past the garages and at the track junction turn left to reach Eskdail Street. Turn left along Eskdail Street and at the road end turn right to return to Telford Bridge downriver from Kilngreen car park.



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Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.