

POTHOLM & CASTLE HILL

- Circular woodland and hill walk.**
- Follow waymarkers with number 4**
- 9km/5½ miles**
- Allow 2 hours**
- Pavement, hard surfaced track and grass hill paths. Gates and stiles**
- Moderate**
- 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.

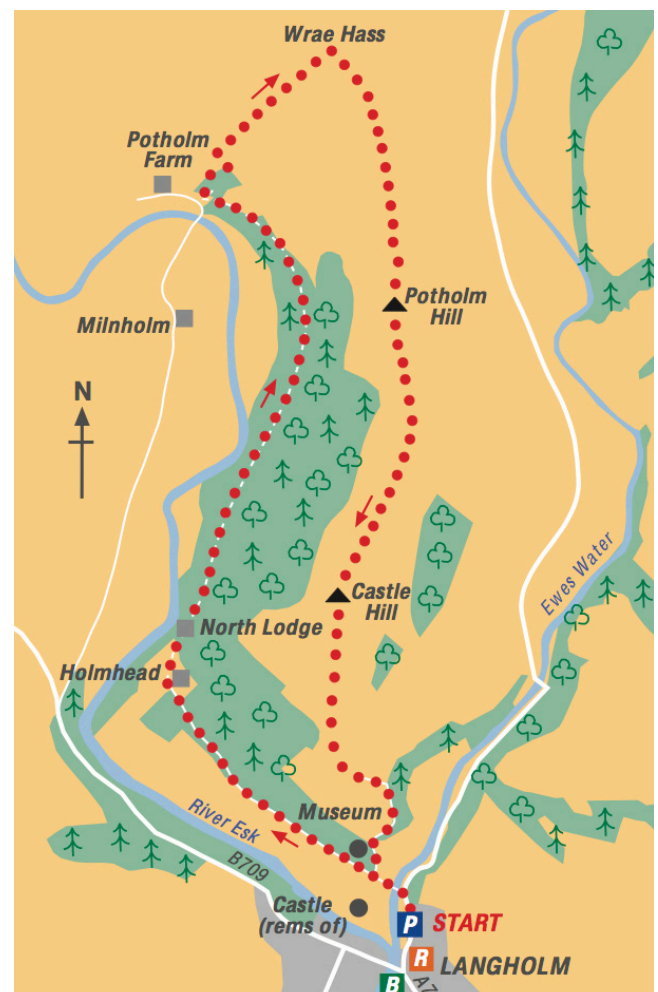
START Walk upstream from the car park and cross the Ewes Bridge. At the Y-junction by the sawmill bear left through the gate pillars and past the lodge. The Clan Armstrong Trust Centre explains the history of this famous family of Border Reivers and the first man on the moon! Seasonal opening hours are 2-5pm, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat and Sun. The ruins of Langholm Castle stand hidden by lime trees to the left side of the cricket pitch. You can take a detour to investigate the site via the kissing gate opposite the Clan Centre.

The walk continues along the estate drive bordered by fine beech trees. At the Y-junction (for Langholm Lodge) keep to the main drive and you will reach Holmhead. Pass to the left of the steading but don't take the left fork. Continue past North Lodge and on through a gate, keeping to the main woodland track. After 1km you will emerge into young woodland with open views to Potholm Farm in the valley and the hills above Eskdale. As you walk this section look across to Milnholm on the far side of the Esk and you should be able to pick out the earthworks of two old settlements close to the farm.

At the junction bear left down to Potholm Farm, keeping above the house. At the T-junction turn sharp right on a track that meanders and climbs steadily before levelling off and turning left. Cross the stile and turn right to follow the line of the fence aiming for the saddle between Wrae Hill and Potholm Hill. This area of ground has the Norse name Wrae Hass meaning 'a good area of land on a pass'.

Just below the ridge turn right over the stile and follow the track to the next stile. Continue upwards, with the grassed over remains of a dyke to your left. You will cross over this green line and continue towards the summit with the tumbled down wall now on your right. On a clear day Potholm Hill affords excellent views including 18 ancient forts and settlements. Follow the dyke off Potholm Hill, climb the ladder stile and continue with a sturdy wall on your left. When the wall turns sharp left keep straight ahead, just off the ridge on a faint path to the summit of Castle Hill. Descend the hillside aiming for Langholm and pass through scattered thorn trees.

When you reach the rough track follow it down to the gate and ladder stile. Continue downhill to join the road passing Pathhead and winding down to the river plain. Pass the sawmill to reach Ewes Bridge that crosses the Esk just above 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.