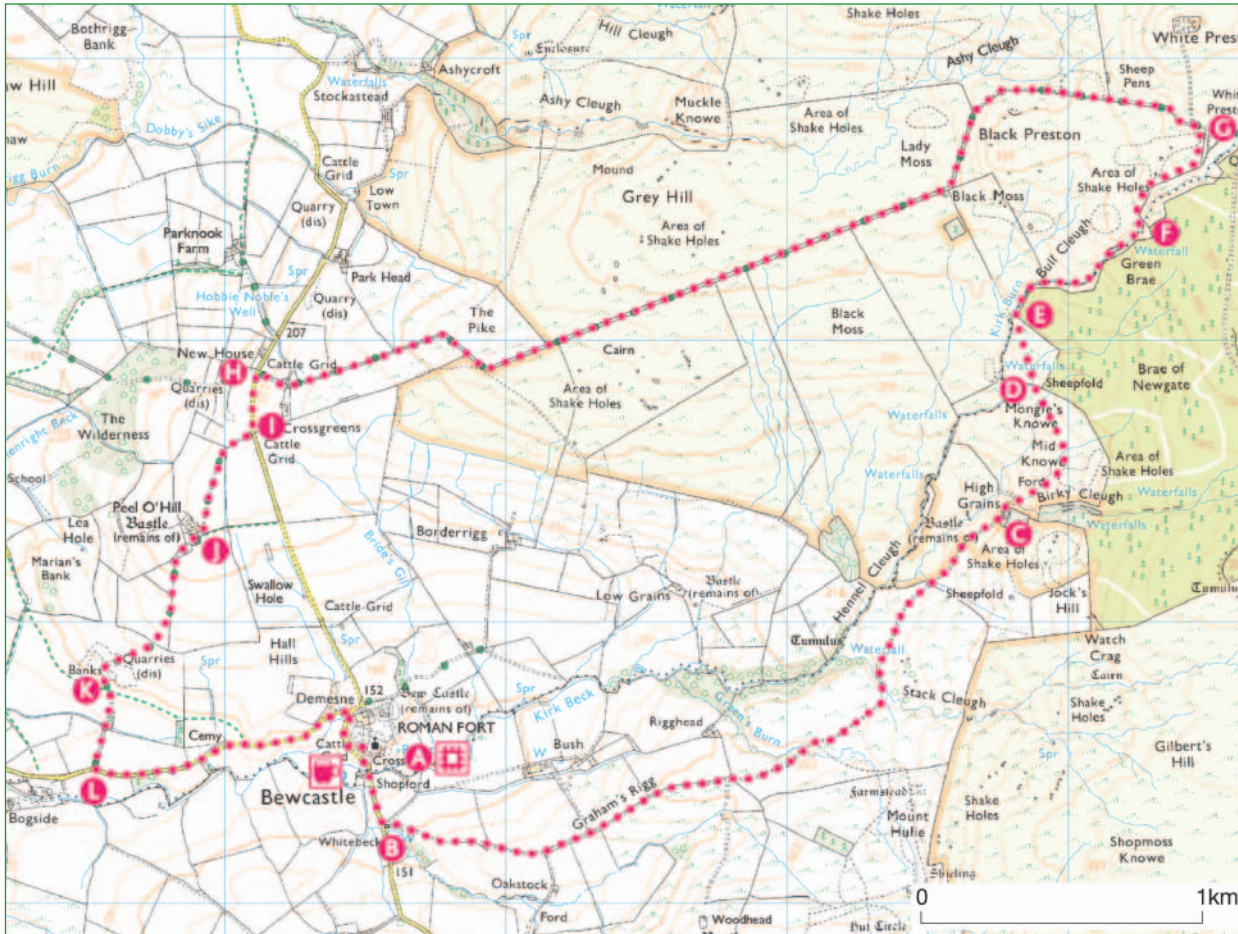


Walk 17: Bewcastle/Bull Cleugh Circular route, Cumbria

Length of walk:
12km / 7.5 miles, 4 hours

Ordnance Survey map:
Explorer 324 (Grid reference: NY 564 745)

1/2



From the site of the old Roman Fort, (Fanum Cocidii) an easy walk leads up to High Grains, followed by a short climb and walk across open rough fell side grazing land to Kirk Beck and the gorge of Bull Cleugh. The route back to Bewcastle follows a track over Grey Hill to rejoin the Bewcastle road. Max height: 381m (1,250 feet) Maps, waterproofs and stout footwear are recommended.

Bewcastle village.

Bewcastle is an isolated village steeped in Roman and Border history. The church, farm, and castle occupy the site of a Roman out post fort which guarded the Maiden Way, the main Roman road north from Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall some 10km (6 miles) to the south. The fort was dedicated to a local deity, Cocidius, and is unusual in having six sides, rather than the more usual rectangle or square. The fort was probably built around 122AD and occupied until AD 343.

Bewcastle Cross is said to be the finest Anglican Cross in Europe. Dating from the 7th century, it is dedicated to Alcfrith, son of Oswiu, King of Northumberland who ruled from 641 – 670 AD

The stone castle was constructed between 1340 and 1360 using much material from the old Roman fort. During the 15th and 16th century it provided sanctuary for locals during Scottish raids. This area was much fought over by the Border Reivers; feuding, lawless, local families who raided each others farms taking livestock, goods, and possessions. To protect themselves families built peel towers and Bastle houses. The old reiver family names survive today: Armstrong, Graham, Elliot, Musgrave and Nixon.

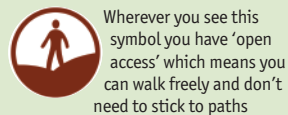
Start and Finish: Bewcastle Church at GR NY564764

- A** After visiting the Church, the local history museum and admiring the Bewcastle Cross and Norman Castle remains, walk down to the road and turn left. Cross the bridge and follow the road for 1/2 kilometre.
- B** Turn left up a track marked "Bush Farm Trail" and take the right hand fork. Follow the track for to High Grains, an imposing house built in 1882. The ruins on the left by the Hennell Clough are of an old bastle house. Clough is an Old English word for a cleft in the hill, a ravine or narrow valley.
- C** At High Grains bear left around the stonewall boundary, and pick up a faint quad bike track, crossing Birkey Clough, and take the faint track right up a steepish climb out of the clough. On gaining the ridge bear left (northwards) along side the edge of a deep clough, cross the clough and head towards two fingers of forestry, a sheepfold and a gate.
- D** By the well-preserved sheepfold, go through the gate, remembering to re-secure the gate. Keep the forestry on your right, cross a second deep clough

Key

- Route of walk
- Car park
- Site of historic interest
- Pub

Information



Wherever you see this symbol you have 'open access' which means you can walk freely and don't need to stick to paths

If you're on access land you need to keep your dog on a lead from the 1 March to 31 July to protect ground-nesting birds

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway
- National trail

Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people



For information on access in **England**: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
Wales: www.ccw.gov.uk and **Scotland**: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

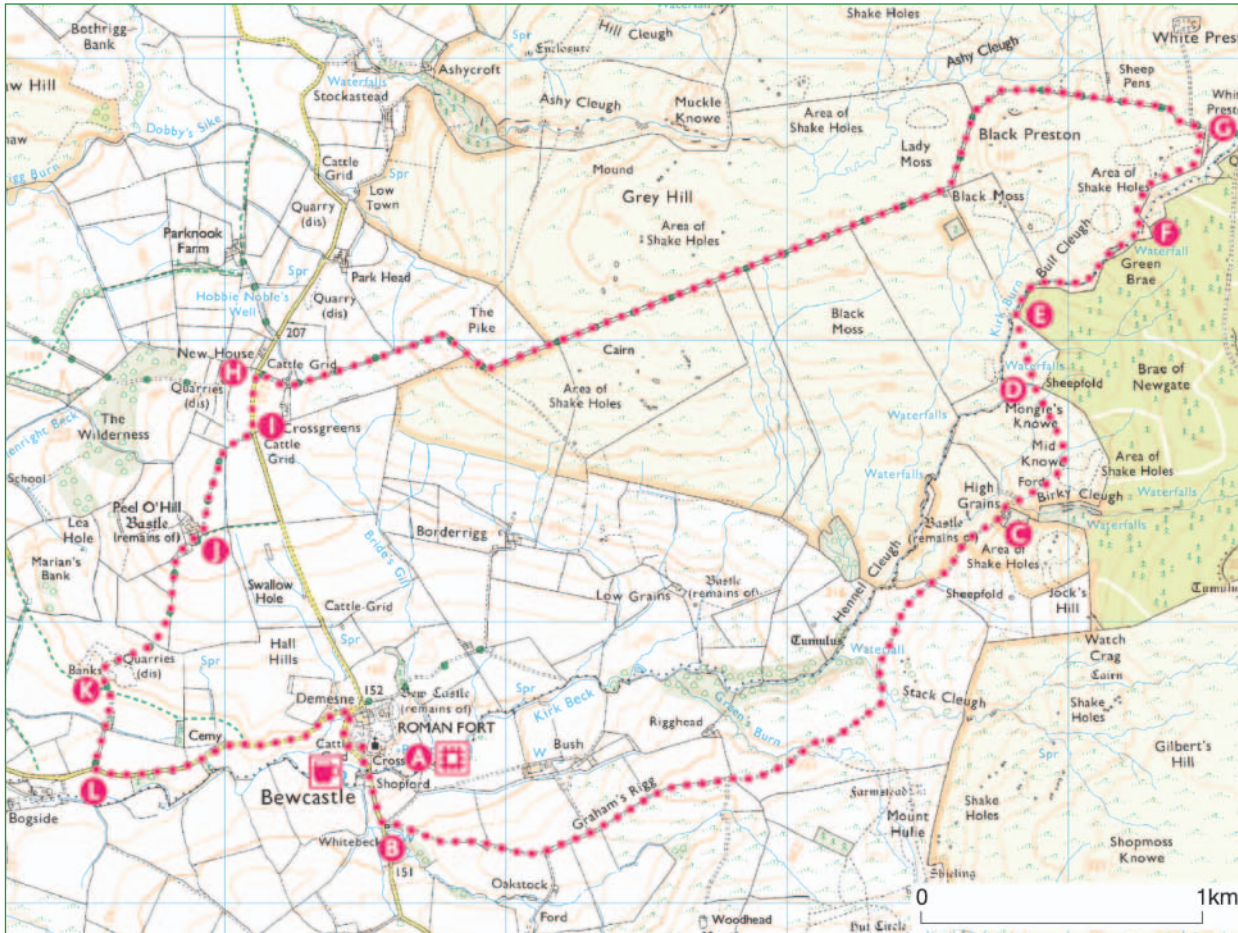
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Walk 17: Bewcastle/Bull Cleugh Circular route, Cumbria

Length of walk:
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and head to the edge of the forestry plantation and the cairn on Black Preston on the skyline. The cairn was built in 2000 by a local farmer to commemorate the millennium.

E At a sharp right angle in the forestry fence follow the Kirk Burn into Bull Cleugh. This deep ravine has been cut through soft layers of sandstone and shales by the stream. Take care in crossing and re-crossing the stream, especially if the stream is in spate. Follow the gorge up for about 800 metres until a rocky outcrop is reached on the right and a fence line ahead crosses the gorge.

F Climb out of the gorge, and keeping the fence line on the right follow the fence to a gate and rough track.

G Go through the gate and turn left onto a moorland track, and follow the direction arrows. Looking ahead (westwards) is the Solway Firth and the Galloway Hills beyond. Southwest are the imposing Lakeland Fells. This open fell road is now followed for 3 kilometres.

H Turn left onto the road, which leads back to Bewcastle. After 100 metres a cattle grid is reached. Either continue down to Bewcastle or turn right.

I Alternative Route. By the cattle grid turn right up a farm road to Peel O'Hill farm. The farmhouse incorporates an old Bastle House. Bastles were fortified farmhouses and are only found in the border region between England and Scotland. Stock would be brought into the ground floor, and the farmer and his family would occupy the first floor. Access to the upper floor was by an external ladder, which was withdrawn at any sign of trouble.

J Go on through the farmyard and through the third silver-coloured gate. Follow a double fence line down to a second silver gate at the end of a re-built stonewall.

K Go through the gate. On the ground to the left can be seen an old gatepost with an OS benchmark. Follow the track to Banks Quarry to join another track and head left down the hill past the limekiln on the left. Lime was produced in kilns like these, both to improve the soil, and for sale outside the area. Coal and limestone was mined locally to fuel the kiln.

L Rejoin the road and turn left past the Cemetery back to Bewcastle.

Key

•••• Route of walk

P Car park

■ Site of historic interest

■ Pub

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