



Leg 2 – Roof of England Walk

Leg 2: Dufton to Alston – Directions

Length	Ascent	Time	Version	Updated
31.1km (19.3 miles)*	1,030m (3,333ft)*	09:50*	1.1	28/03/25

*Using OS Maps (online)

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OS maps for Leg 2: Explorer – OL19 (N) and OL31 (W); Landranger – 91 and 86.

The route is shown on the maps as a thin red line.

A:



Leg 2 of the Roof of England Walk largely shares the route of the Pennine Way National Trail between Dufton (NY 69073 25030 and [///circle.reference.includes](#)), and Alston (NY 71686 46100 and [///wipe.headlines.passport](#)). The exception is a short (3.1km) diversion between Garrigill (NY 74041 41801) and Low Scilly Hall (NY 71986 43337) to avoid the Dryburn Bridge (NY 72437 42903) which is closed and awaiting replacement.

Start in front of the Methodist Chapel in Dufton.

Where the road bears left turn right, signed 'Pennine Way: Garrigill 15mls'. After a short distance (200m) turn left (signed Pennine Way) through a wooden bridle gate to follow a stone trod shaded by trees.

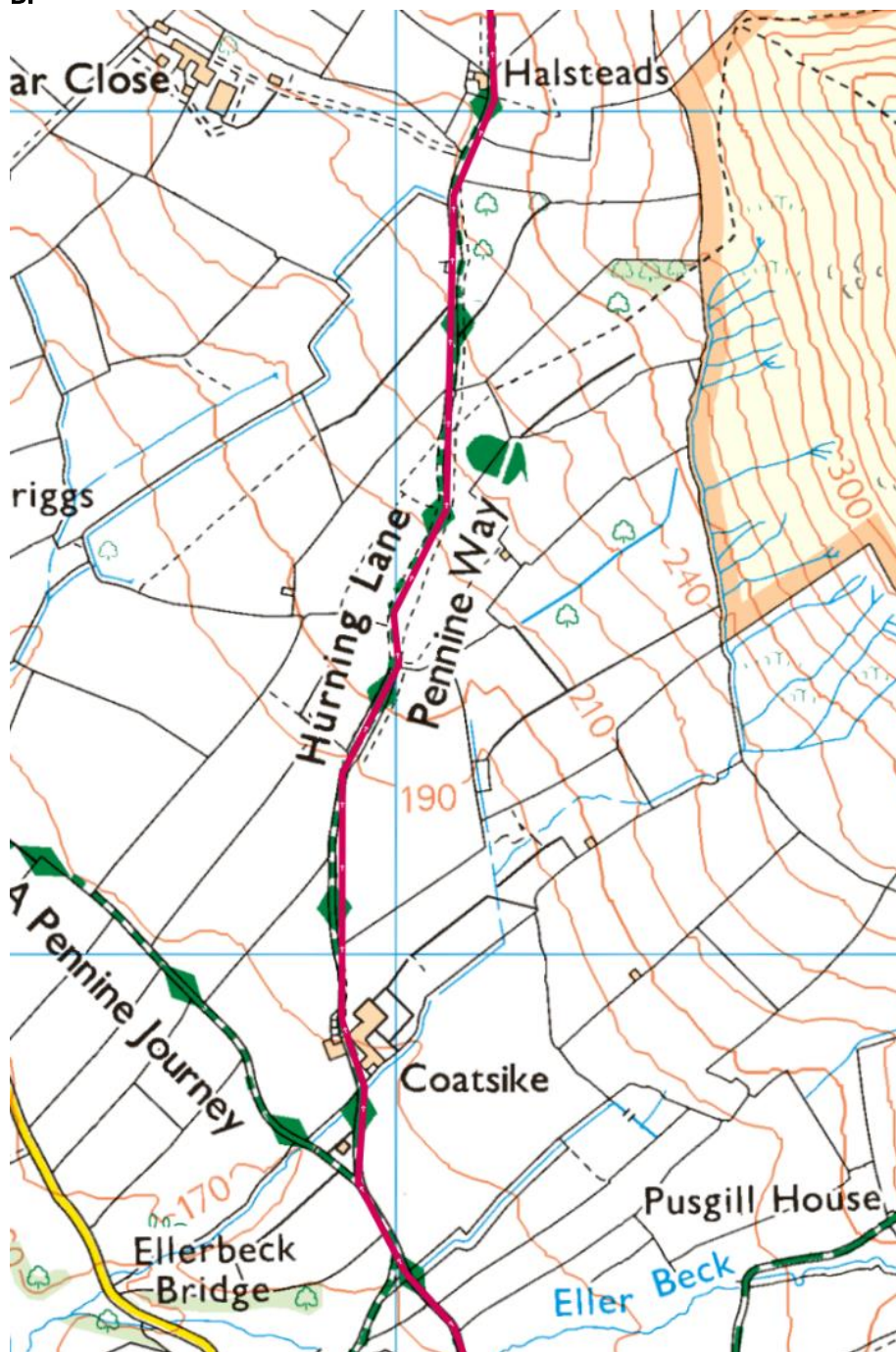
Go through two gates and follow the path ahead, between two fences.

Go through a further two gates and continue ahead. Shortly afterwards cross two stone footbridges over the Eller Beck. Go through another gate and continue ahead with a stone wall on your left.



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B:



When you reach the stone track (between hedges) turn right. After a short distance (100m) you will notice that the **Wainwright's Pennine Journey** route bearing left through a wooden bridle gate. Ignore this and continue following the track – on the **Pennine Way**. *In poor weather you could consider following Wainwright's Pennine Journey from here to the far side of Cross Fell (NY 68386 35206) is an alternative route – thus avoiding the higher, exposed ground.*

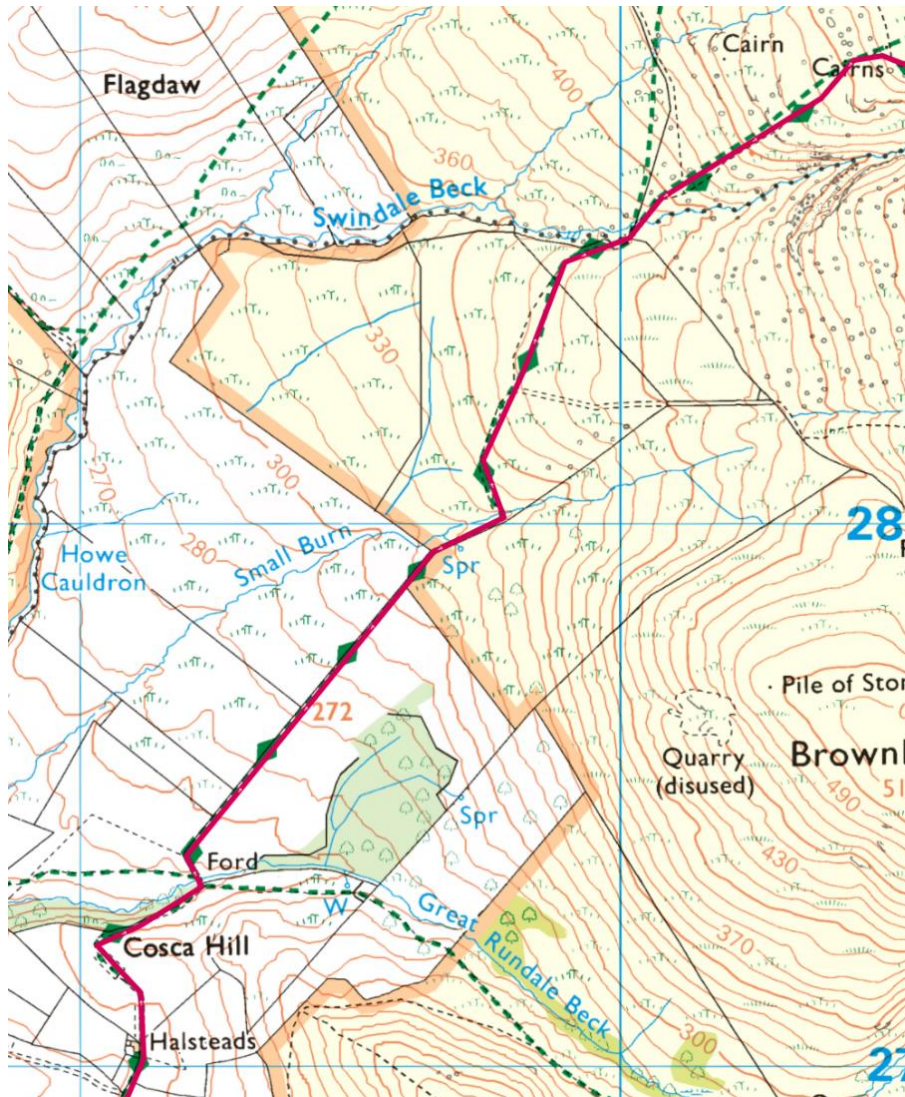
Pass to the left of the farmhouse at Coatsike and go through a metal field gate. Follow the track ahead (wall on left) reaching a stile just beyond the farm.

Climb over the stile and follow the tree-lined track (Hurning Lane) ahead. As you gradually climb you will, in time, emerge from the 'tree tunnel' – continue following the track – keeping a stone wall on your left.



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C:



Pass to the right of the abandoned farm at Halsteads. Beyond the buildings follow the sunken track as it curves round the flanks of Cosca Hill. As you turn right follow the track as it descends to cross Great Rundale Beck.

At the bottom of the hill go through the gate/cross stile and cross the ford over the stream. Continue uphill on the track, with the drystone wall on your left.

At the top of the long straight track section go through two wooden kissing gates in quick succession. Bear right, uphill, above the small stream on your left. After a short climb on the track bear left to cross the stream. Follow the grassy track as it contours round the slope, rising gradually.

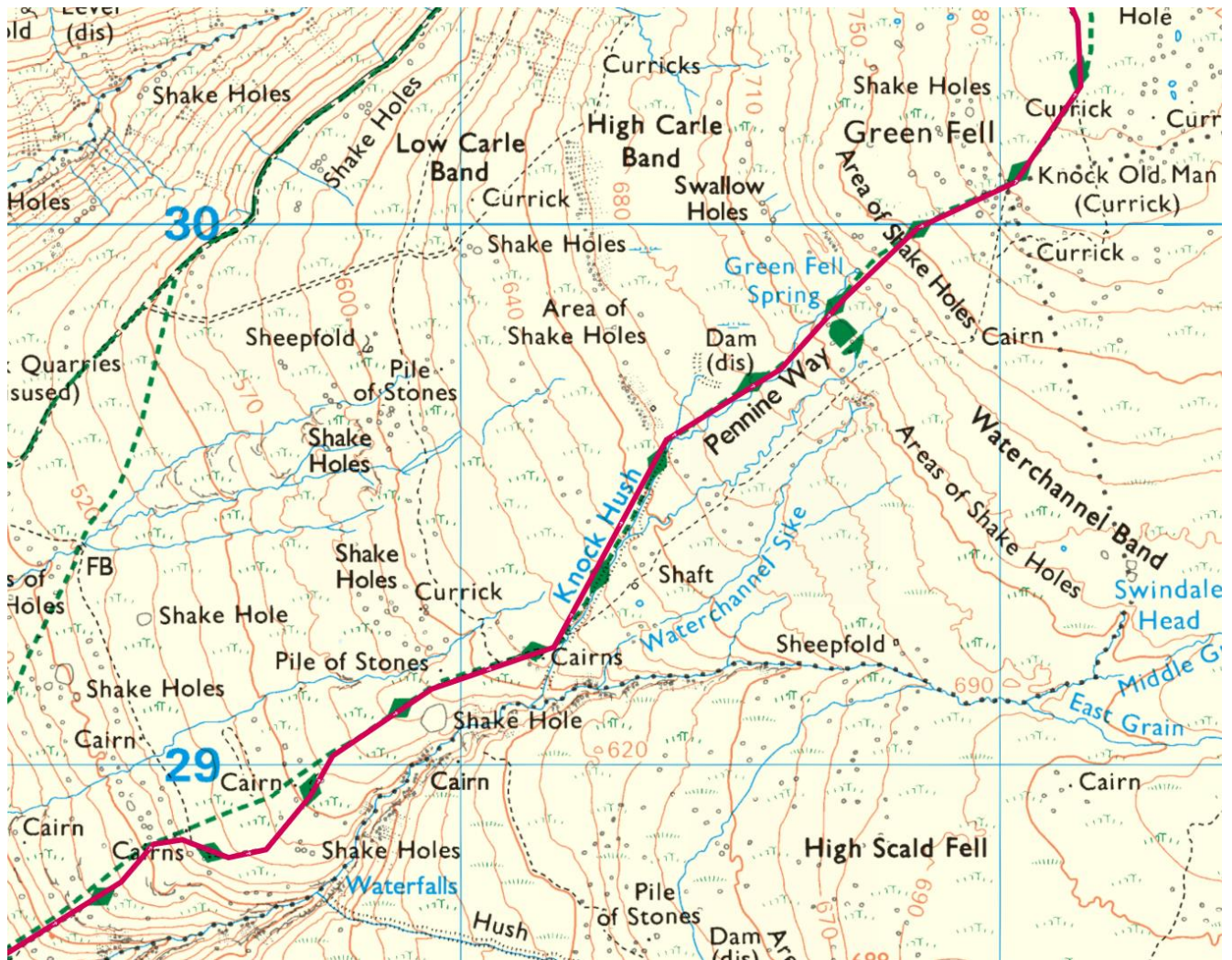
At the finger post (signed 'Pennine Way') leave the track (which continues steeply uphill) and bear left to follow the path which contours round the hillside. Cross a stile through a wall and follow a flagged path to a further stile and then cross over Swindale Beck, using the footbridge.

Beyond the footbridge climb the stone steps and follow the path steeply uphill with Swindale Beck on your right - entering the Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve at the top of the steps.



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D:



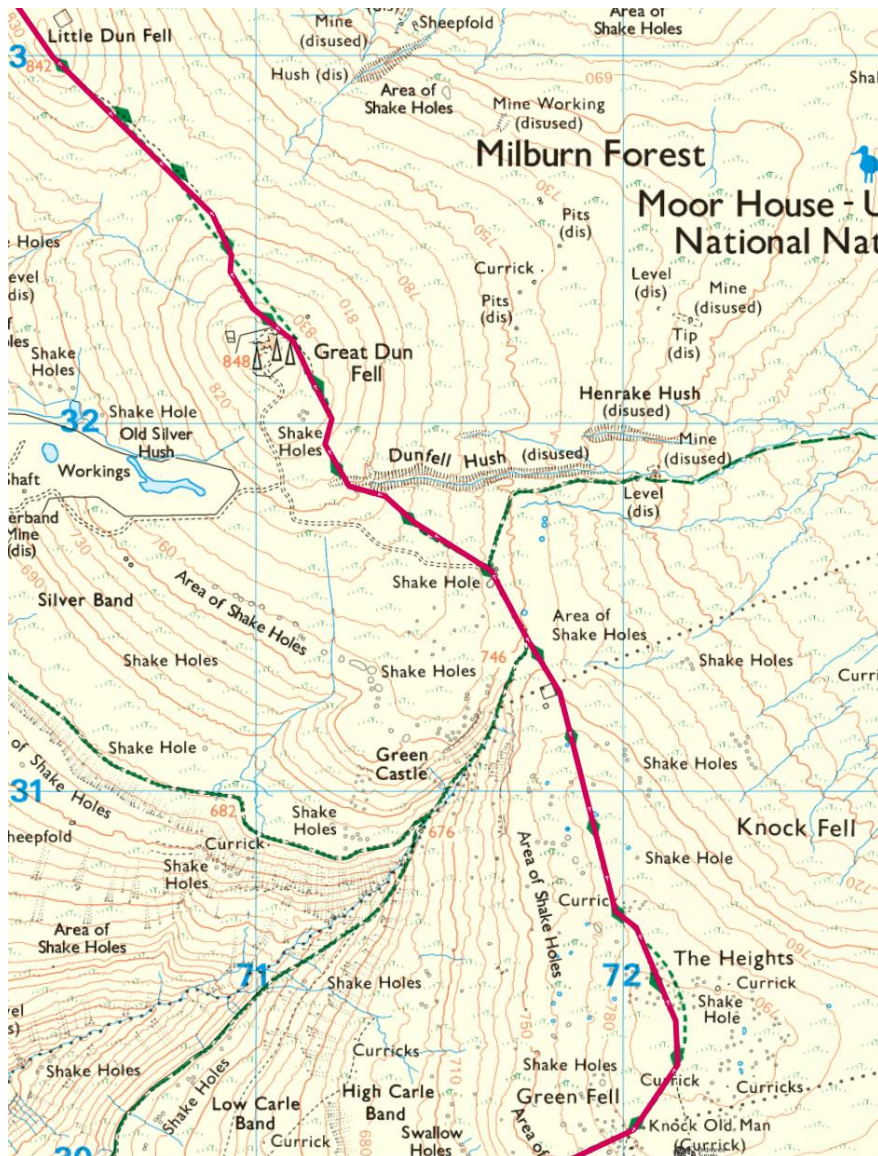
After a while, the gradient eases off – continue following the path uphill, passing cairns on route. You will also encounter gold arrows carved into stone waymarkers.

When you reach a larger stone cairn/shelter the route bears to the left to follow the line of Knock Hush. At the top of the hush bear right, following the golden arrow in the stone waymark. You are heading towards the obvious stone cairn on the skyline. If you glance to the left here, you will spot the 'golf ball' on top of Great Dun Fell and the flat plateau of Cross Fell beyond.



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E:



When you reach the currick at Knock Old Man, bear left (follow the stone waymark) across the fell to a further cairn which marks the top of Knock Fell (794m). From Knock Fell continue to bear left on the faint path, heading gradually towards the 'golf ball' on top of Great Dun Fell. The path is very faint, and it would be easy to lose your way in misty conditions. A map and compass (and the skills to use them) may be needed.

Just beyond a small stony area pick up a flagged path heading just to the left of another stony area and a cairn. Follow the flagged path all the way to the tarmac maintenance road (for the radar station at the top of Great Dun Fell), just beyond a fenced enclosure, which you pass on the right.

At the road turn right. After 200m, just before the metal barrier across the road, leave the road to follow the uphill path – signed 'Pennine Way - Garrigill 9³/₄'.

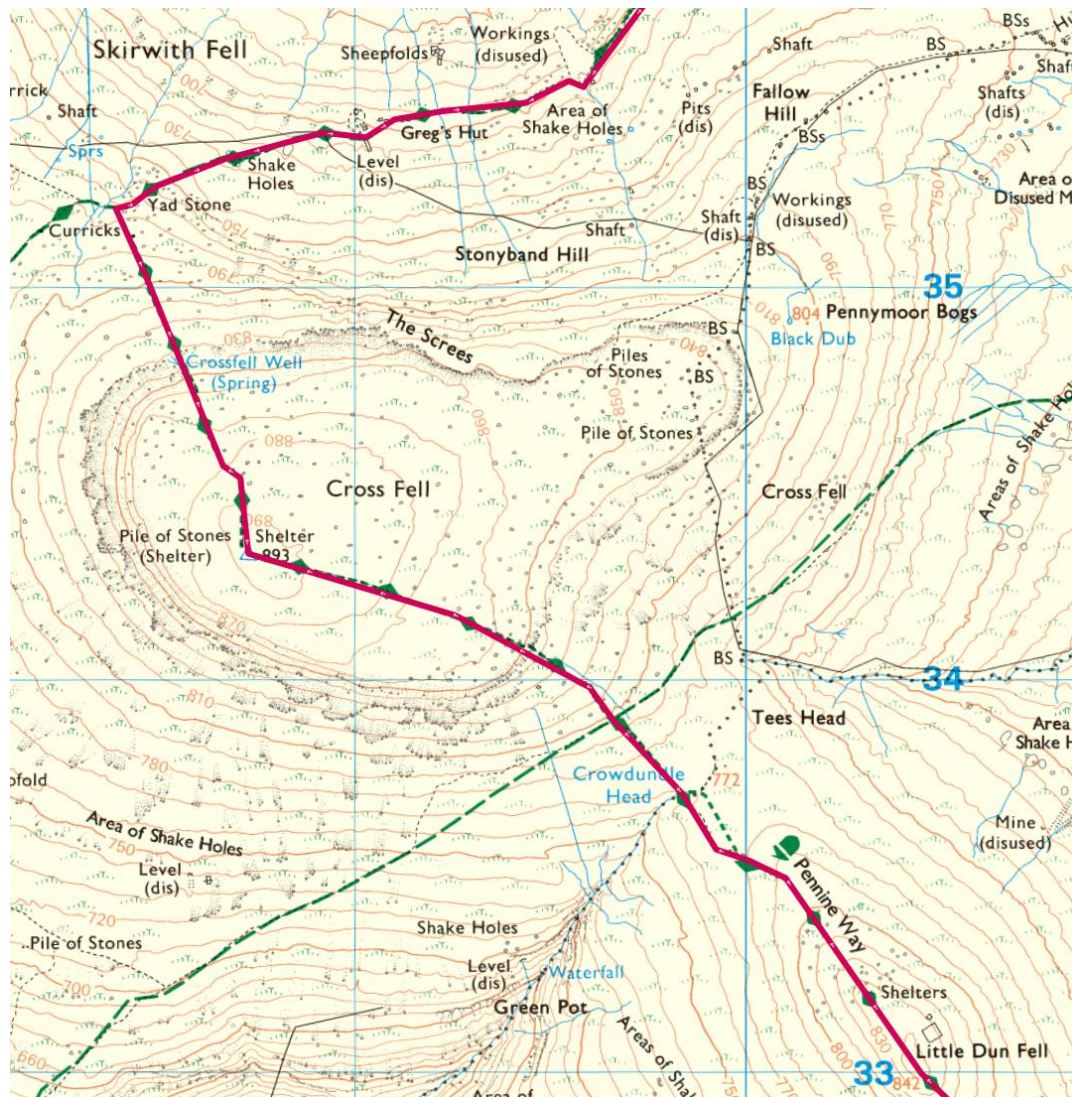
Cross the moor heading for the large 'golf ball'. When you reach the top of Great Dun Fell pass the radar station on the righthand side, continuing to follow the moor path. Before too long you will pick up a flagged path again – heading towards your next summit – Little Dun Fell.

At the end of the flagged section continue ahead, following the moorland path to the top of Little Dun Fell.



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F:



From the cairn on the summit plateau of Little Dun Fell continue ahead on the faint path – heading towards the flat-topped bulk of Cross Fell. You will pass two shelters made out of rocks before you begin the descent to Crowdunle Head. Part way down pick up another flagged path – which you follow part way up the climb to the top of Cross Fell.

When the route crosses a bridleway (a carved waymark in a large flat stone marks this spot) continue to follow the flagged path uphill. When the stone flags run out continue uphill. After a short climb you will reach a currick. Continue across the Cross Fell plateau, heading for a further currick. Continue across the plateau, passing small piles of stones, to the trig point (893m) and the stone-built summit shelter. The path is very faint, and it would be easy to lose your way in misty conditions. A map and compass (and the skills to use them) may be needed.

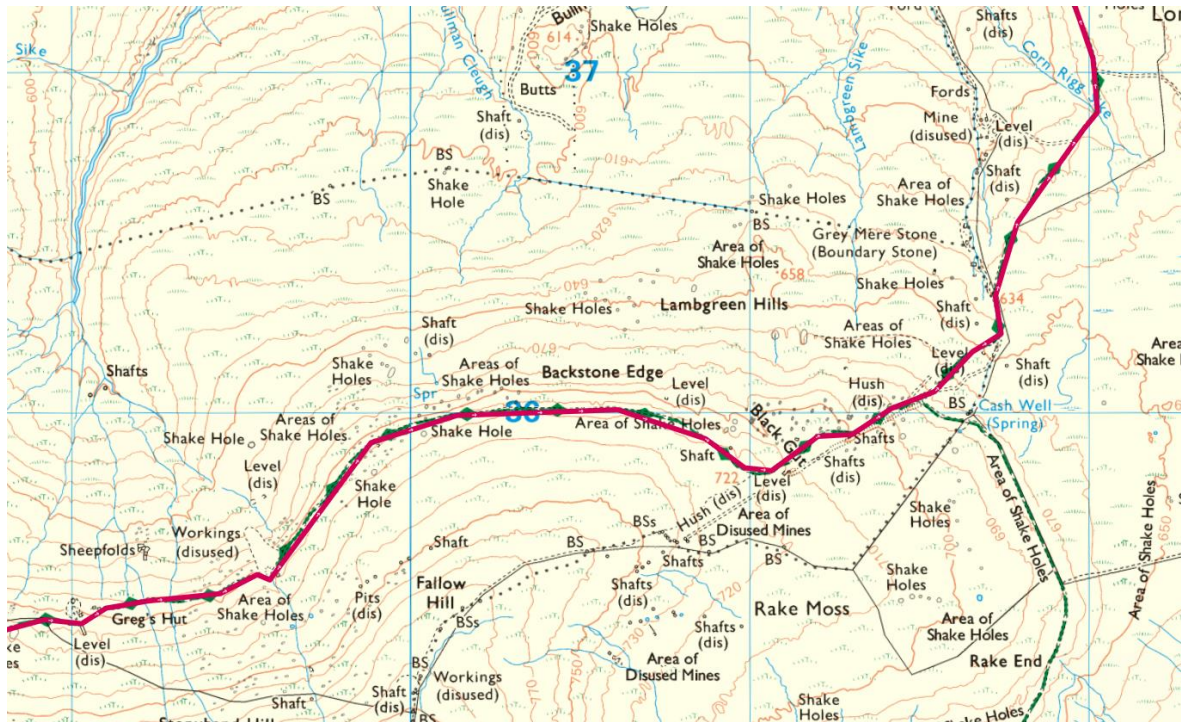
From the top of Cross Fell continue ahead, bearing right, following a line of small cairns. As you descend off the flat plateau continue on the, in places indistinct, path, downhill. Take care as it is boggy in places.

When you reach the cairn, turn right onto the rocky path/track (if you turn left, you would be following **Wainwright's Pennine Journey**). After 800m you will reach Greg's Hut (bothy). Greg's Hut can provide some welcome shelter if you have had a rough crossing Great Dun Fell, Little Dun Fell and Cross Fell.



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G:



Continue past Greg's Hut, following the stone track as it contours round the hillside.

As you round the bend beyond Backstone Edge, follow the track downhill through the disused workings.

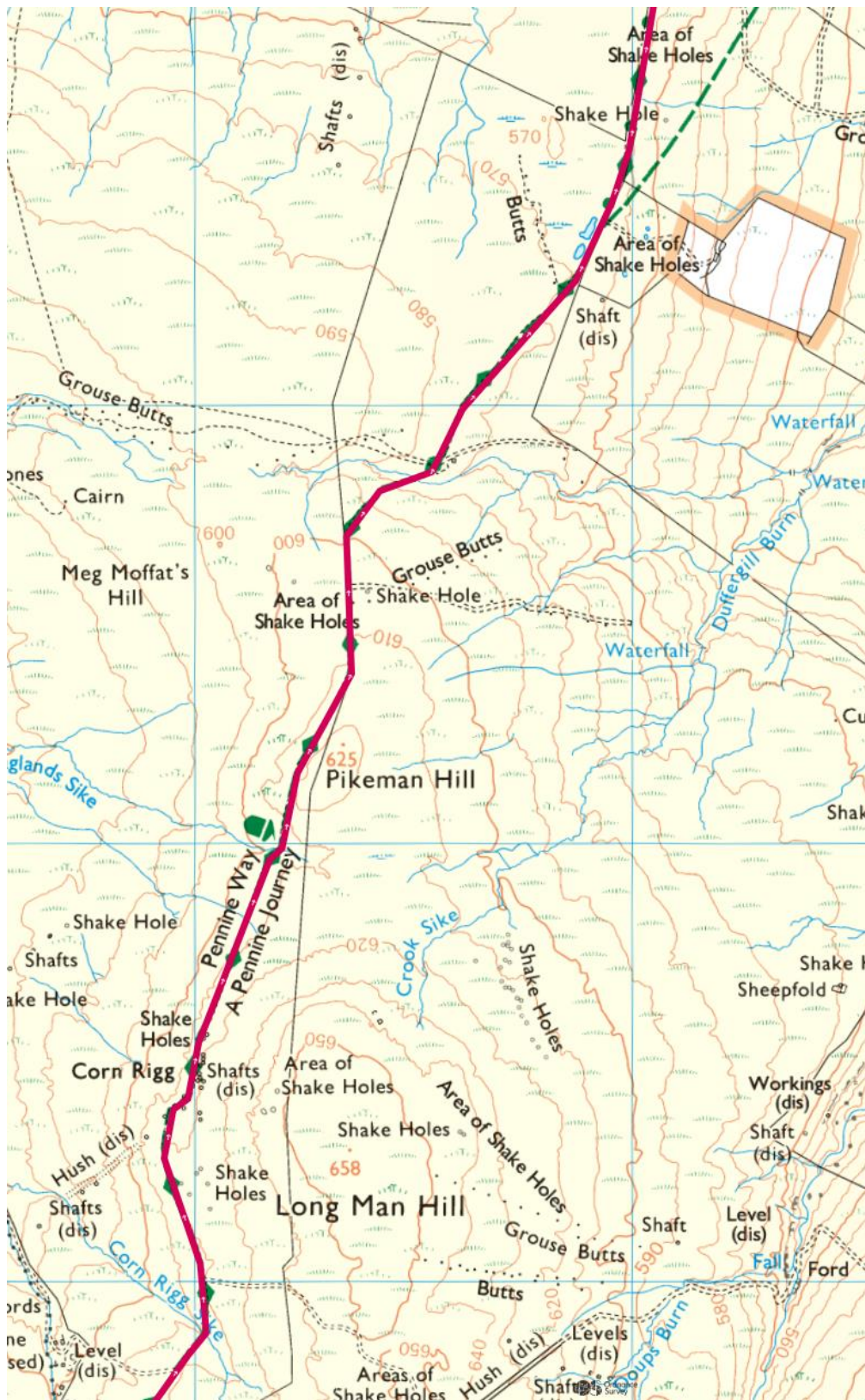
Continue ahead, downhill, on the crushed stone shooting track – all the way to Garrigill – 7km.

After 1.3km ignore the uphill track on your right (at NY 72014 37005), just after you have crossed Corn Rigg Sike, and continue ahead on the light-coloured track.



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H:

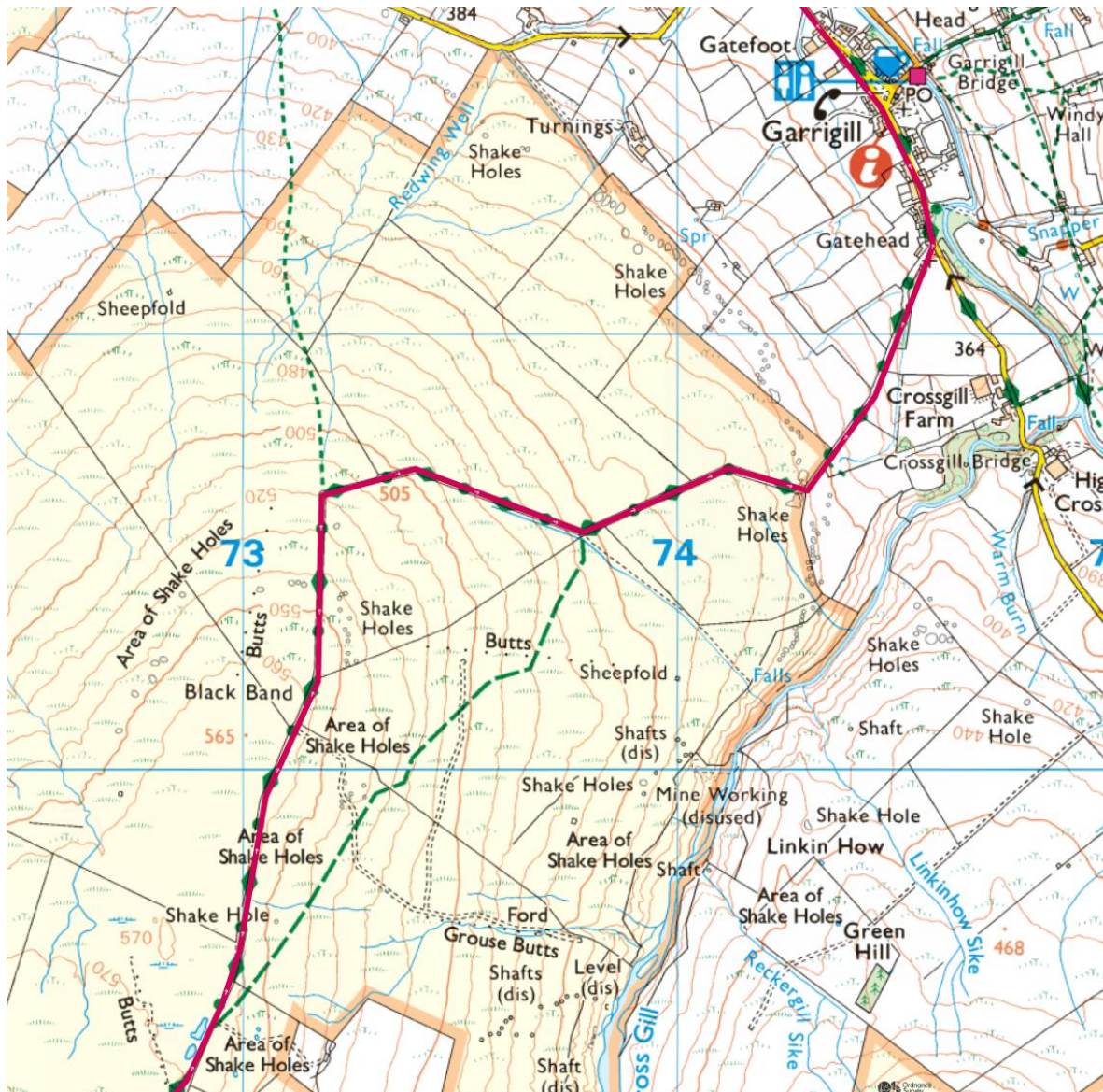


Continue ahead on the shooting track, keeping the wall on your right.



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I:



At the sharp right-hand bend keep following the stone track, signed 'Pennine Way – Garrigill'.

After about two more downhill kilometres you will reach a road. Turn left and walk into the settlement of Garrigill.

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J:



Walk through the village – keeping the green on your right. After about 400m, just as the road turns left uphill, turn right, leave the tarmac, and cross the bridge over the South Tyne River. On the other side turn right and follow the path, keeping the river on your right and the wall on your left.

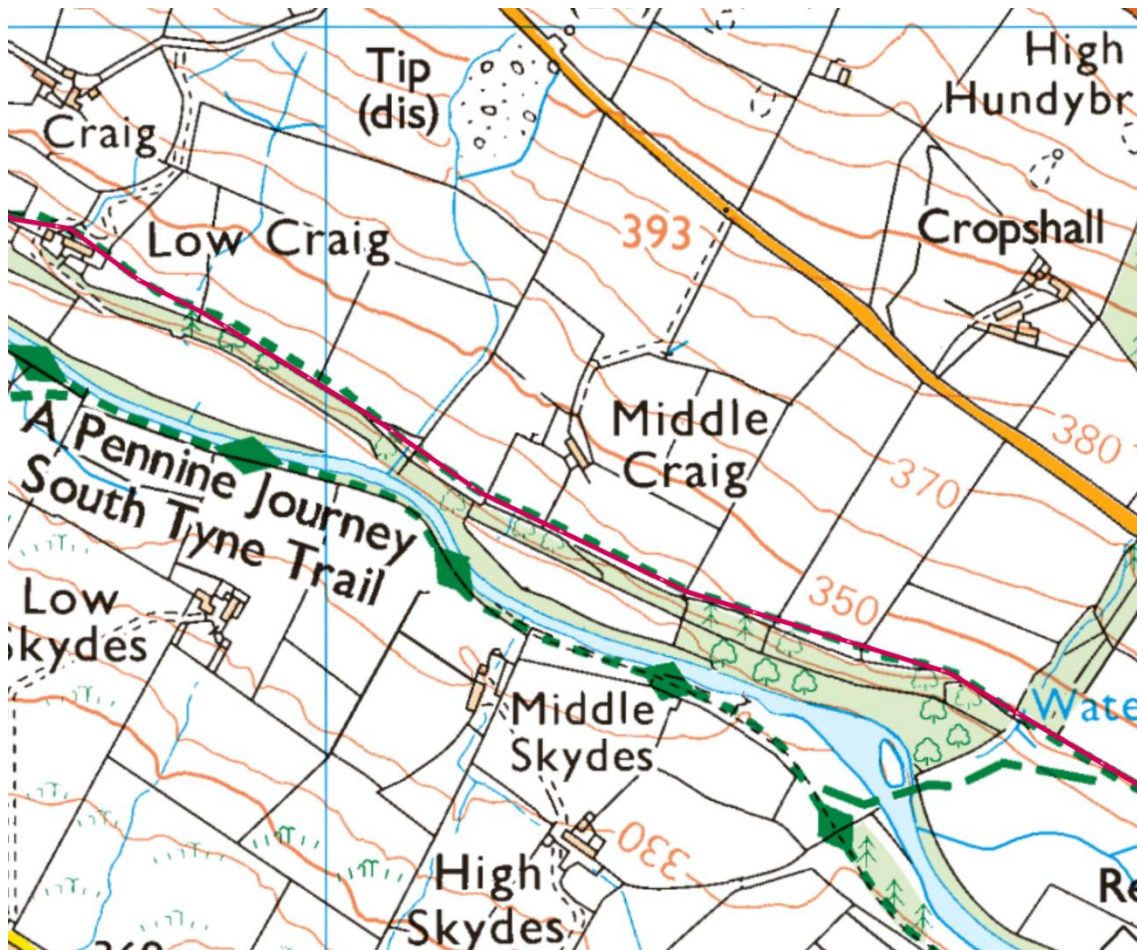
At the road, opposite the old Methodist Chapel, turn left. After 300m, immediately after Garrigill Cemetery, turn left through a wooden field gate – signed ‘Public Footpath – Bleagate 1¾ miles’. Cross a small field and then continue ahead, keeping a drystone wall on your right.

As you enter the trees cross a footbridge, over a stream, and continue with a stone wall on your left now.



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K:



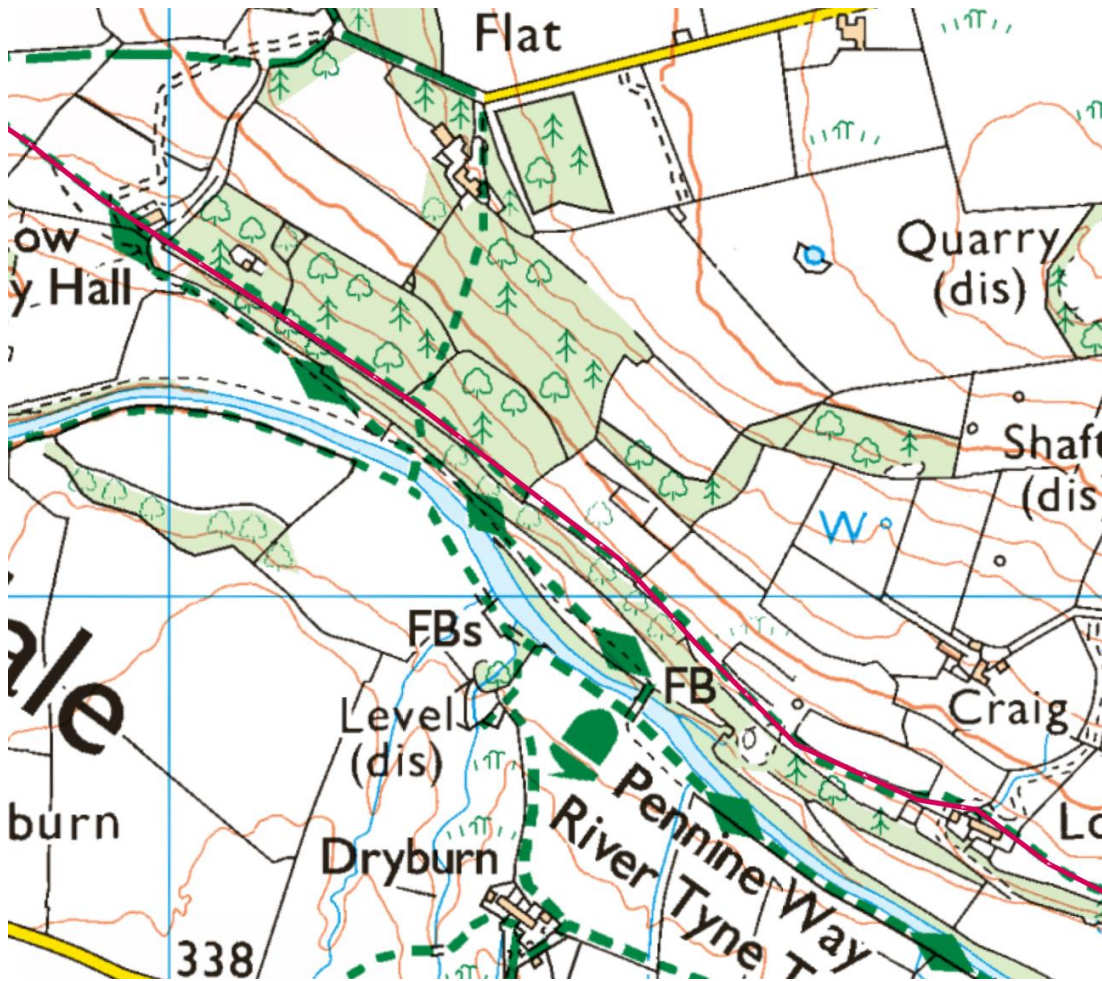
After 150m go through a stone squeeze stile and continue ahead – keeping the drystone wall and wood on your left. Cross seven more fields, via stone stiles, in quick succession.

Cross another stone step stile and bear slightly right across the next field. Pass the buildings at Low Craig on the right-hand side. Beyond the uninhabited farm continue ahead, keeping the wood on your left.



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L:



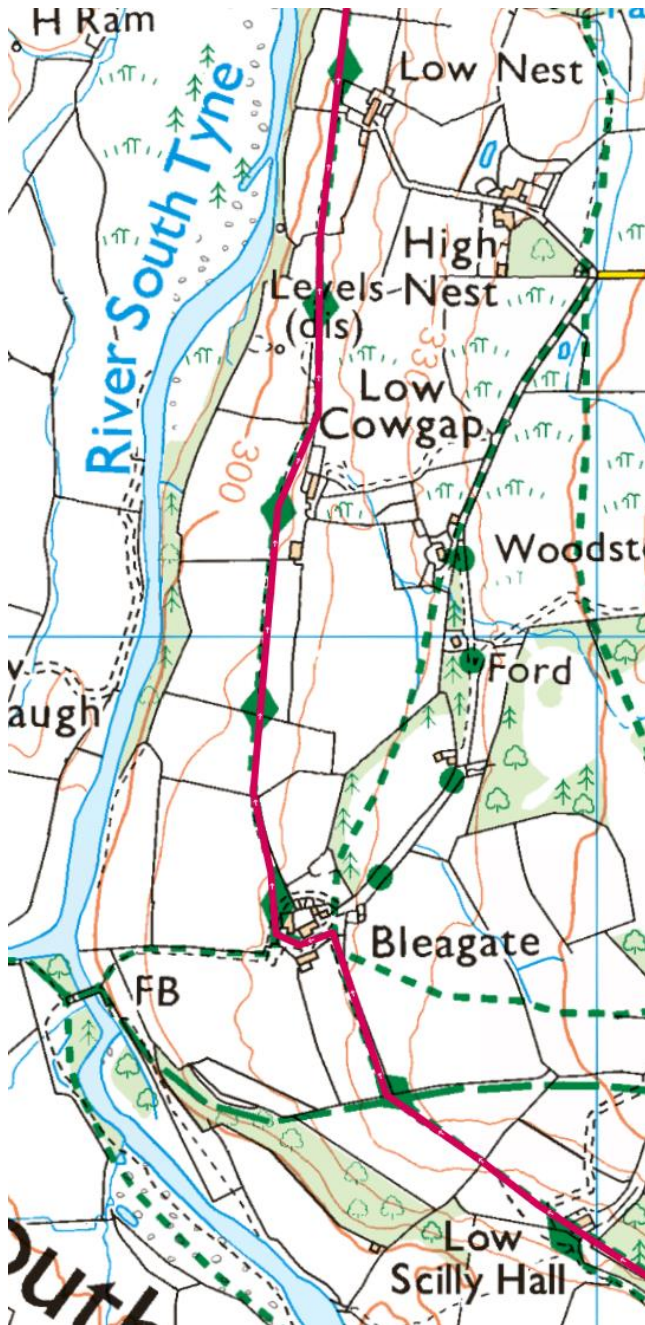
After 50m you will arrive at a small, ruined stone building next to a blocked up mine entrance (the top of a stone arch is visible). Bear left following the path – initially between two stone walls.

Go through the wooden gate and continue ahead with a drystone wall/fence immediately on your left. Walk through the wooded area until you reach Low Scilly Hall (about 0.5km).



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M:



When you reach the buildings at Low Scilly Hall climb the wooden steps and go through a wooden gate – continue ahead with the buildings on your right. Bear right and then left across a field to a stone step stile/small gate through a wall. Cross the stone step stile and follow the grassy path ahead. Just over the rise go through the gateway and continue ahead with the wall on your right.

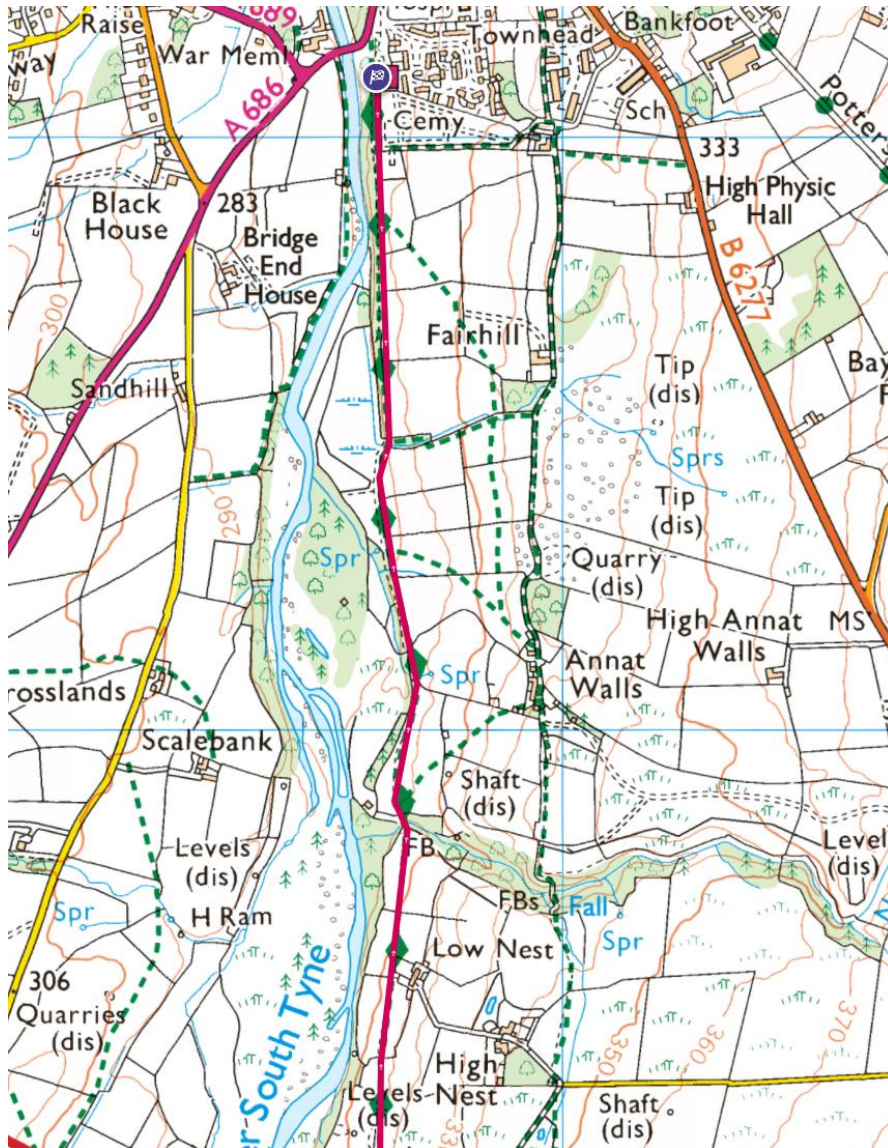
At the farm (Bleagate) go through the small wooden gate and turn left. Go through the farmyard to a stone step stile ahead. Cross the stile and turn right. Follow the edge of the field, with the wall on your right.

Cross the stone step stile in the corner of the field and follow the path ahead, across two fields. In the third field bear right to a stile in the top corner, just beyond the house at Low Cowgap. Cross the stone stile and continue ahead with the tumbled down wall first on your left and then on your right, and then back on your left.



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N:



Climb over a stone step stile and then cross two fields and then pass to the left of the buildings at Low Nest. After crossing another two fields you will reach a wooden footbridge. Cross it and go up some steps to another stile. Continue ahead, with the wall on your left. After crossing two more stiles, continue ahead with a fence immediately on your right. Another stile and a kissing gate follow in quick succession. After the kissing gate follow the path between a fence and wall.

When you reach a wooded stream go through the squeeze stile, via a little wooden gate, and continue (signed 'Pennine Way') on the stony path. Follow this path all the way to the end of Leg 2 in front of Alston Youth Hostel, just on the edge of the town.

Roof of England Walk – a journey around the North Pennines. This is Leg 2 (of 14) of this multi-day 301km (188 mile) route. The whole trail takes you on a fantastic journey exploring the North Pennines National Landscape and UNESCO Global Geopark. Find out more at www.roofofenglandwalk.org.uk