

The Otterburn Ranges

Controlled ACCESS AREA

④ The Eastern Boundary

(green route on map)

A challenging walk over rough terrain requiring navigation skills, with one long stretch of military road. Rewards with views across to the River Coquet and Simonside. Distance 17.5km (11 miles)

Start: Park at the lay-by by Ovenstone Plantation. After the gate join the wall NW for 500m until the wood. Go through the gate for 500m through the wood, keeping parallel to the wall.

After the wood follow the waymarked path N for 1km up to forest below The Beacon. This will be hard going!

Follow path 1km around the forest which climbs to The Beacon (301m). From here the way is clear along the fence line for 3km.

At the forest follow the path which skirts its perimeter for 2km. Cross the bridge over the Holystone Burn. 100m to a gate to join the track along the edge of the wood. Follow the track for 1km to the metalled 'Burma Road'. Turn left.

Take 2nd left, after 800m. Follow the road down into the valley and up to the wood 2.5km.

Continue 700m to Craig. Take the footpath SE through a field, 600m down to cross the stream and recross after 75m over a ford, to head up the hill to a gate.

After the gate keep on the rough track 1km, until the bridleway heads E for 2km back to the starting point.

Crags and Craig

350 million years ago a shallow, tropical sea washed against the bare volcanic Cheviot hills. Massive river deltas fed into it, pushing great fans of sands and silts westwards. This compressed into the rocks of the Carboniferous period (about 354 to 290 million years ago) that form the crags and hills on the Controlled Access Area. The craggy outcrops of Fell Sandstone that you can see from the walk along the Eastern Boundary Path were once sands swept along in the currents of these ancient rivers.

