

Footpaths

In the parish of

BRIDEKIRK

including

DOVENBY

and

TALLENIRE



The landscape setting

... of this rural West Cumbrian parish is both varied and beautiful. A limestone ridge sweeps down from Tallentire Hill, encircled by farmland dotted with woods and stands of trees, to the steep valley of the Derwent which, as it flows down to Cockermouth, forms part of the parish boundary.

From every footpath in the parish there are delectable long views with intriguing glimpses of mountains and sea, while the immediate surroundings offer closer encounters with trees, hedgerow habitat and vegetation, birds and animals.

Tallentire is centrally placed, a network of paths radiating out to Bridekirk, Dovenby, and beyond the parish to other settlements. Short walks are plentiful, and there are many ways of combining these into longer walks, within and around the parish. We have a heritage which can be enjoyed both by residents of the parish and by visitors. We hope this guide will prove interesting and useful.



Follow the Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against all risk of fire!

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Take your litter home

Help to keep all water clean

Protect wildlife: plants and trees

Take special care on country roads.

Walking the footpaths

... well, they are called "footpaths", but don't expect to see paths across the fields. Access by right of way over private land means that the landowner ensures that the line shown on the map is always available, clear of obstructions and with gates and stiles available where necessary; but underfoot, on the "paths" in our parish, you will usually be walking over grassed farmland which can present real difficulties, such as unavoidable morasses of churned mud at field entrances in wet times of the year, or rock-hard lumpy surfaces after hard frost.

Strong, warm, waterproof footwear is recommended. The progress of small children in wet conditions needs care, they can flounder in heavy going pasture land.

Dogs can be taken over these rights of way, but as almost all of our paths cross grazing land for cattle and sheep, great care is needed to control dogs and minimise disturbance to farm animals. Cattle and sheep on these local pastures are not so used to walkers as they are, for instance, in the Lake District National Park. Also, walkers need to be aware that cows with calf at foot can be aggressive, especially if dogs are present.

Your head may be metaphorically in the clouds, as you gaze on the delights around you on these paths - but remember - your feet could be in the mire!

So take care.

