

Get wild at Kielder

This walk links Bakethin Nature Reserve with Kielder Castle. You really are taken off the beaten track. Narrow paths weave through natural woodland where quite often the only sound is the mewing of a buzzard overhead or the startled chatter of small woodland birds.



Look for nibbled pine cones like these – a sure sign that there are squirrels about!



Photos © M Byron

We use Exmoor ponies to graze a scientifically important area of heath and marshy grassland near the eastern end of the viaduct. The ponies keep down tough grasses and shrubs, allowing a more varied mix of plants and wild flowers to grow.

The unmistakable long-tailed tit. These characterful little birds can be seen flitting around in large groups, feeding on insects, or in winter, seeds.



Illustrations © John Walters

How to get there

The walk starts from Kielder Castle. The main car park is nearby.

OS grid ref NY 631 934

Postcode for sat navs: NE48 1ER



Go wild with the app!

You can follow this walk using the Viewranger app. It includes GPS directions, information and audio clips on what to look out for:

www.viewranger.com

Make sure you download before you visit.



web www.visitkielder.com

email info@visitkielder.com

call 0345 155 0236



Thank you to our partner Forestry Commission England for use of the Ordnance Survey based mapping.

All details were accurate at the time of going to print Jan 2019. Please refer to www.visitkielder.com for updates.

KIELDER WILD WALKS

Kielder Castle & Bakethin



2 $\frac{2}{3}$ miles/4.2km (or 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ miles/2.1 km)



Funding raised by
The National Lottery

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



LOTTERY FUNDED

Kielder Castle to Bakethin

The route takes you away from surfaced tracks and on to uneven woodland paths which can be muddy in places. Suitable footwear required.

This walk starts from Kielder Castle and is well waymarked with purple 'Wild Walk' plaques (see right).

The full route is 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ miles/4.2 km. There are two short cuts. Short cut A goes via Kielder Salmon Centre (check for opening times) and is 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ miles/2.1 km. Short cut B allows you to avoid the viaduct and is 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles/3.5 km.

NB This leaflet shows the route in a clockwise direction, but the route is also waymarked anticlockwise from Bakethin Nature Reserve back to Kielder Castle.

www.visitkielder.com/visit/kielder-salmon-centre

The viaduct once carried trains on the Border Counties Line, which ran from Hexham to the Scottish Borders. Kielder was the next station heading north (pictured below in around 1905). From the viaduct look for the tall pole we installed on the island to encourage ospreys to build a nest here. Bakethin is one of the best places to see these magnificent birds fishing; they have come to Kielder each year to breed since 2009.



Image courtesy of the John Alsop Collection



Ospreys : © Forestry Commission

