

## The Sacred Mountain?



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Rothbury, a bustling market town, nestles at the foot of the Simonside Hills. This walk will take you back in time – from modern day Rothbury to Bronze Age relics on Simonside. For information on the archaeology of the area please visit the National Park Centre, Rothbury.

### The walk

#### 1 Start

From Cowhaugh car park cross the footbridge and turn left. Follow the River Coquet for almost ½ mile (1km).

#### 2 1km / ½ mile

Pass through a wooden gate and follow the path over a small bridge. Continue ahead then bear left to cross another small footbridge. Cross the stile then head diagonally right across the

field towards the footbridge over the River Coquet. Cross the bridge and follow the track away from the river to a group of houses. The last one is Tosson Mill. At the road junction turn left and then right at the next one. Follow the road up the hill to the next junction - turn left here. Follow the road for 1km/ ½ mile to the Forest Enterprise car park and picnic area on the right.

#### 3 4.5km/ 2.8miles

At the car park there is a Forest Enterprise Information Board that gives details of forest walks. Follow the red waymarked trail up the forest track to the right. The track winds steadily uphill for 2.1kms/ 1.3 miles and passes several historic sites along the way. Continue to follow the red route

past the sign for Little Church Rock. Shortly after the turning for Little Church Rock the red route branches off to the left. Follow this path to the point where the small path rejoins a forest gravel track. Turn right and follow the red waymarks up the steep hillside to Simonside summit.

**4 7.3km/ 4.5 miles**

Once on the summit follow the broad path. The route passes beneath Old Stell Crag and then leaves the red waymarked route just before a stile in a fence line. Cross the stile and follow the path towards the last cairn on the ridge - known as The Beacon. The path then winds its way down to a parking area on the road beneath you. This is Lordenshaws car park.

**5 10.7km/ 6.7 miles**

Walk straight across the car park and follow the path that bends slightly to the left keeping Lordenshaws Iron Age Hillfort on your right. The path goes downhill crossing an old wall. Once in the valley bottom go through the gate and bear left after the two ponds. Go left through the gate before the stone house and follow the farm track ahead. Turn right at the junction.

**6 12.5km/ 7.8 miles**

Go past the tower that is Sharp's Folly on your left and a cottage on your right. At the road end turn left and then right through a kissing gate just before the road junction. Follow the path downhill towards some houses and join an access road to the bridge. Just before the bridge into Rothbury turn left and walk to the car park.



**IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?**

**Terrain** grazing land, quiet lanes, forest tracks, heather moorland, and steep, rocky footpaths

**Stiles** 2

**Suitable for**  
Fit walkers

**PLANNING**  
**Start/parking**

Cowhaugh car park, Rothbury, grid ref. NY 057015

**Nearest town**  
Rothbury

**Refreshments** Rothbury

**Public toilets** Rothbury & Cowhaugh car park

**Public transport**

For information on regular bus services to and from Rothbury contact National Park Visitor Centre, Rothbury Tel 01669 620887  
Traveline, public transport information line Tel 0870 608 2 608 (national rate) or visit [www.jiplanner.org.uk](http://www.jiplanner.org.uk)

**MAPS**

OS Explorer Series OL 42 Kielder Water, Bellingham & Simonside Hills

● To order Ordnance Survey maps for this walk contact National Park Visitor Centre, Rothbury tel 01669 620887

