



27 CUMBRIA NINE STANDARDS RIGG

▶ Distance: 4¼ miles/6.7km ▶ Time: 2½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



GUARDIANS OF THE DALES



CHOSEN BY...
JAMES FORREST

Located a few miles south-east of Kirkby Stephen, Nine Standards Rigg is, at first glance, an unremarkable hill. A grassy hump on the moorlands north of the Nateby to Keld road. But, in fact, it is a distinctive and unique place with an intriguing history. Nine

Standards Rigg's summit is adorned with a line of ancient 'stone men', a series of huge, column-like cairns up to 10ft high. Were they built by miners? Or designed as boundary markers? Or constructed to deceive the Scots that a fearsome army was waiting on the ridge? No one really knows - but they are certainly dramatic. ▶



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► OS Explorer map OL19 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

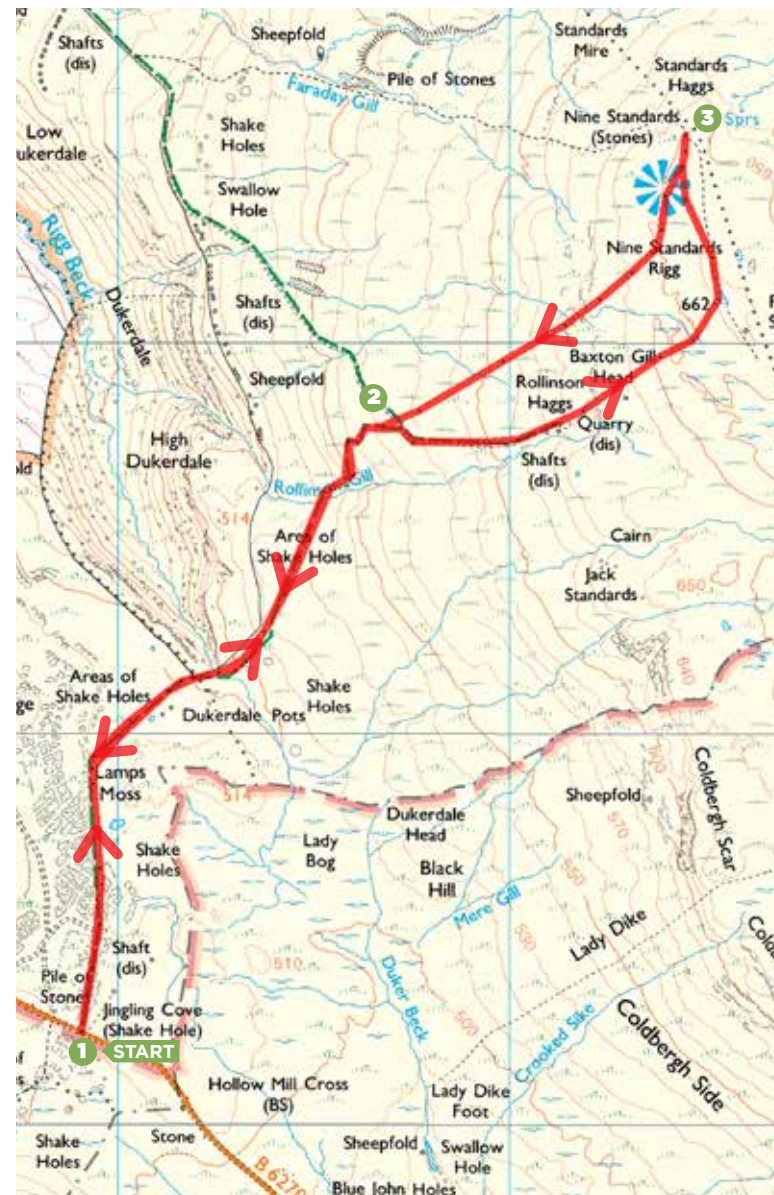


1 Start
From the grass verge car park, next to a Coast to Coast fingerpost sign, head E along the road momentarily before turning sharp L to take a faint grassy trod aiming N. Head along a fence line over a limestone pavement and continue N. Keeping the fence to your L, follow the grassy path – which thankfully becomes clearer underfoot – to Lamps Moss. Veer NE, pass a small pool and drop briefly down to a wall corner. Cross a stream, with views to your L over Dukerdale, and climb NE on the grassy path to arrive at Rollinson Gill. Cross the stream and climb N briefly, before swinging R and heading E on the path. Pass to the L of a ruined structure, now

resembling a large wind shelter, and continue E to a prominent fingerpost sign.

2 1¼ miles/2.1km
Veer R and pick up a narrow grassy trod ascending gently E towards a disused quarry. Pass to the L of a couple of sink holes and continue E until the grassy trod peters out. Here you must ascend NE over pathless, boggy terrain and peat hags, which is tough going, to arrive at the summit trig of Nine Standards Rigg. But the real goal lies to the N. Turn L and head N on a clear path to arrive at another trig pillar, this one marking a viewpoint. Slightly beyond and to the R are the ancient stone men cairns of Nine Standards Rigg, a dramatic sight.

3 2¼ miles/3.5km
Retrace your steps to the viewpoint cairn and fork R on a grassy path not marked on OS Maps. It picks a good line through the boggy, peaty ground, descending gently SW to arrive back at the prominent fingerpost sign. Veer R, as signposted 'Nateby Road B6270 1¼ miles', and descend briefly to the wind shelter. Pick up the grassy trod descending SSW across Rollinson Gill and down to the head of Dukerdale valley. Cross Rigg Beck and follow the path SW to Lamps Moss. Fork L avoiding various gates and pick up the grassy path following a fence S over a limestone pavement and back to the road. Turn R momentarily and arrive back at the car park. **CW**

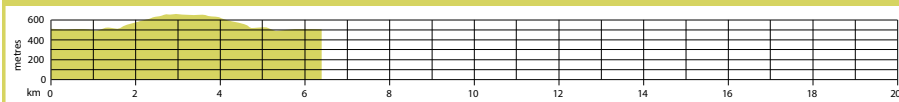


Getting up close to the 'stone men'.



PHOTO: JAMES FORREST

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Grass verge off B6270 Kirkby Stephen to Keld road, NY808042
Is it for me? A relatively simple walk, but pathless and boggy in places requiring decent navigation
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Kirkby Stephen
Refreshments The Black Bull at Nateby, Sedbergh (017683 71588)
Public toilets Stoneshot, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4QU
Public transport Bus or train to Kirkby Stephen, but no public transport to start of walk
Maps OS Explorer OL19, Landranger 91; Harvey Maps XT25 Yorkshire Dales North West

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YOUR RATING
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○