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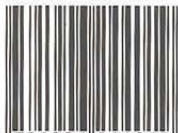


# Appleby-in-Westmorland, Hoff and Great Ormside

a walk with a castle, two churches, two rivers, two water  
mills and a waterfall



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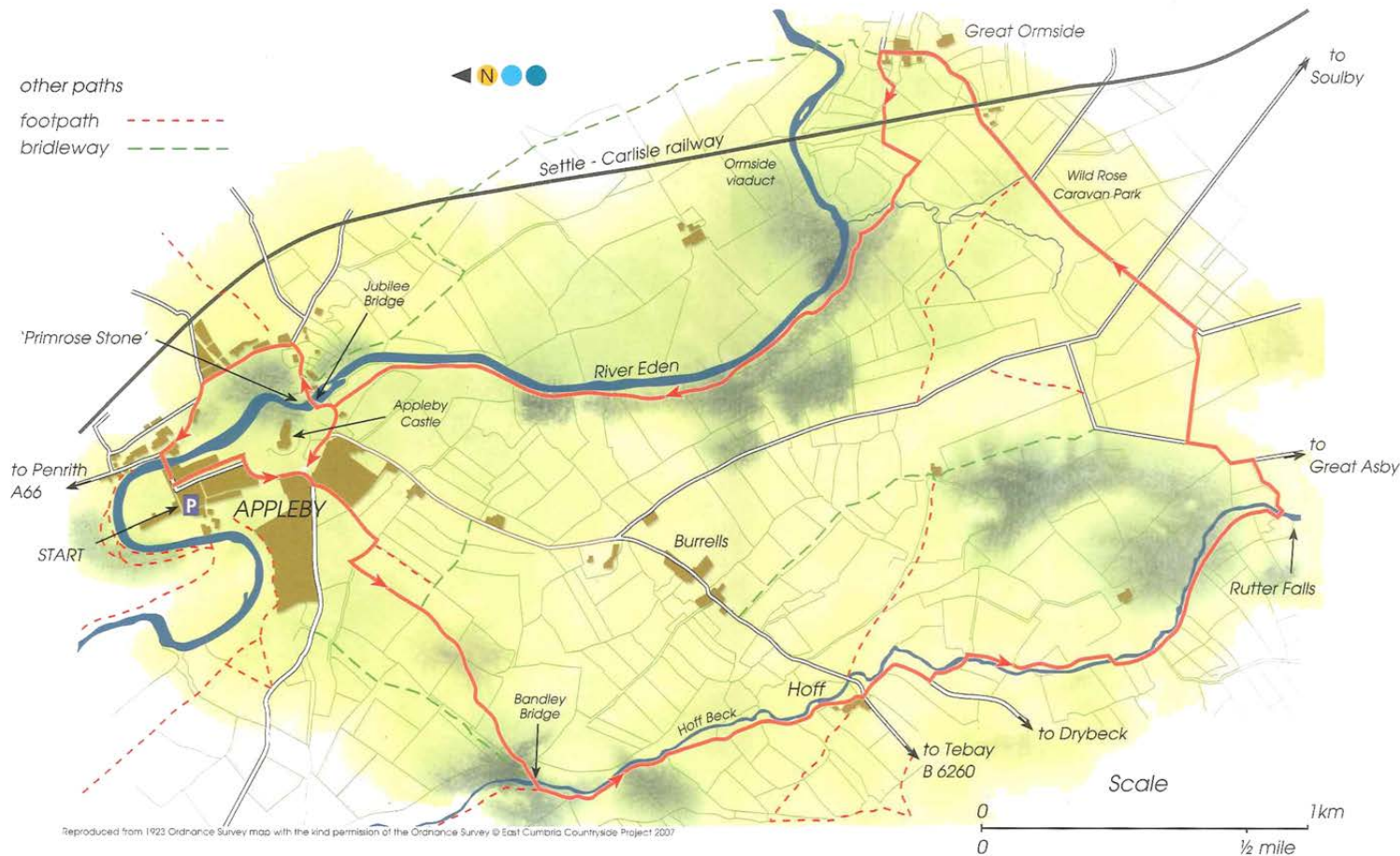
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 inside flap

1. River Eamont 2. Mayburgh Henge 3. 'Red River' Benchmark near Temple Sowerby
4. Mosedale near Caldbeck 5. Haaf netting in Solway 6. Ravenstonedale
7. Appleby horse fair 8. River Eden near Wetheral 9. Pendragon Castle

'Discover Eden' is a countryside recreation and interpretation programme being managed by East Cumbria Countryside Project in partnership with the Eden Rivers Trust supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Fourteen circuital routes at dispersed locations throughout East Cumbria provide an opportunity to explore the great scenic diversity associated with the Eden catchment landscape.

Each route is well way-marked with arrows and the distinctive 'Discover Eden' kingfisher logo. Watch out for a series of small bronze panels etched with motifs depicting aspects of human and natural heritage. Rubbings can be taken from these using paper and crayon.

By walking all the routes you can eventually collect rubbings of eighty four images.



Brief route details:

*bronze motifs by Pip Hall*

Parking: car park Chapel Street

Length: 7 miles 11 kilometres 3 - 5 hours

Grade: easy to moderate

Route: Appleby - Bandle Bridge - Hoff Beck - Hoff - Rutter Falls - Great Ormside - river Eden - Appleby

Clothing: boots and warm waterproof clothing

**Please leave gates as you find them, leave no litter and keep dogs under close control.**





detail from bow-top caravan





*bridge over river Eden, Appleby*

## Appleby-in-Westmorland, Hoff and Great Ormside

Once the county town of old Westmorland, Appleby adopted the title Appleby-in-Westmorland as its official name after local government reorganisation in 1974, when Westmorland became part of Cumbria.

The walk begins at the Low Cross opposite the Cloisters in front of St Lawrence's church.

*"Now clean, now hideous, mellow now, now  
gruff,  
she swept, she hissed, she ripen'd and grew  
rough,  
at Brougham, Pendragon, Appleby and  
Brough."*

*Attributed to Thomas Gray*

Appleby's history is dominated by the life of Lady Anne Clifford. Born at Skipton Castle in 1590, she lived in London for most of her life until, at the age of sixty, she inherited a vast estate in old Westmorland. Despite her advancing years, she moved north and devoted the last 25 years of her life to managing her estate, including the rebuilding of four ruined castles. One of these was Appleby castle and she spent much of her time in Appleby supervising its restoration, as well as many other buildings in the town including the church where her tomb is located, next to her mother's. She died in 1676 at the age of 86.

The base of the church tower is Norman and the nave dates from the early 14th century. The original 17th century cloisters at the entrance to the church were rebuilt in 1811, but the area around the Low Cross has been a market place since 1203.

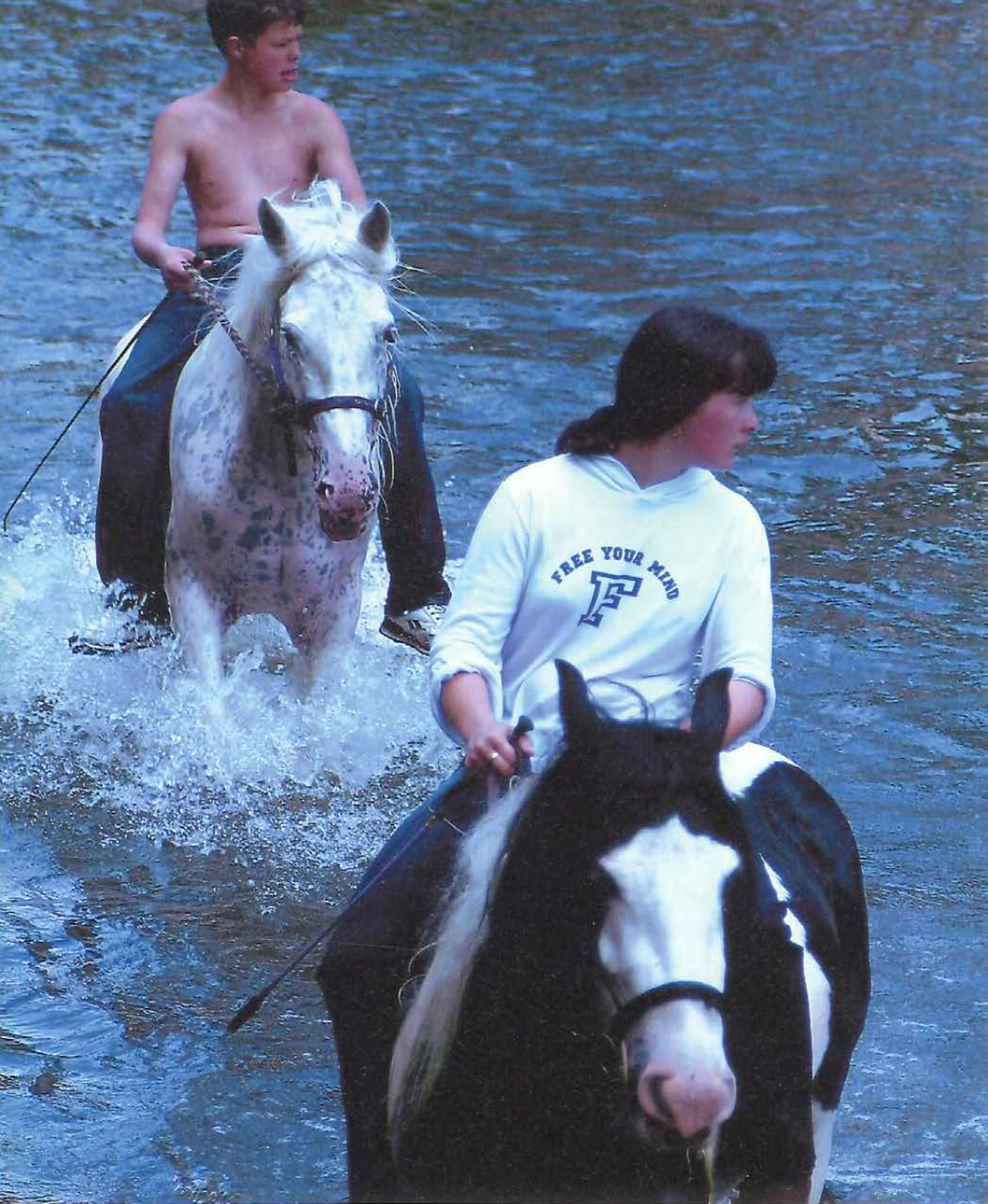
The town is famous for its travellers' Horse Fair, which was first sanctioned by Royal Charter in 1685 and has been an annual event in early June almost continuously since that time. On each day preceding the sales, there are harness races and celebrations and horses are paraded up and down the lanes and brought down to the river in the town to be washed and groomed. It is one of the last surviving gypsy gatherings in the world and many of the participants attend in brightly-painted, horse-drawn, gypsy caravans.

From the market place facing up the hill, cross the road to the pavement on the left side and walk up the hill towards the castle.

Appleby church







*Appleby Horse Fair*

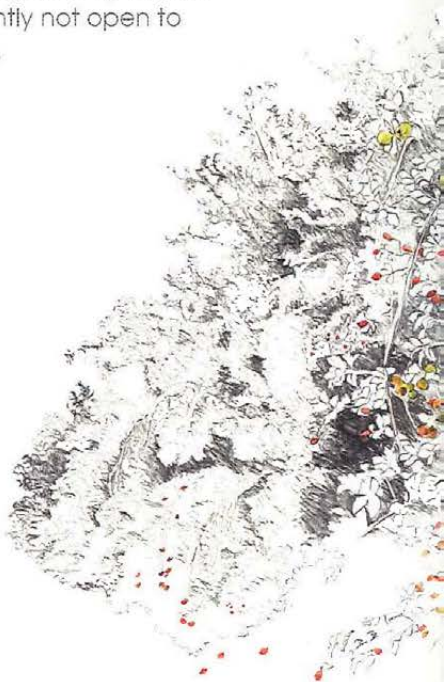




This is Boroughgate where most of the buildings are 17th and 18th century, having replaced earlier Norman timber dwellings. Hidden behind a wall around a quiet courtyard, about half way up Boroughgate on the left, there are some almshouses, founded by Lady Anne in 1651 and occupied to this day by elderly widows of the parish. Visitors are welcome, but please observe the notice in the entrance porch.

The High Cross at the top of Boroughgate marks the upper limit of the original market and was probably erected to celebrate the restoration of the monarchy in 1659. Appleby was a Royalist town.

The castle is privately-owned and currently not open to the public.

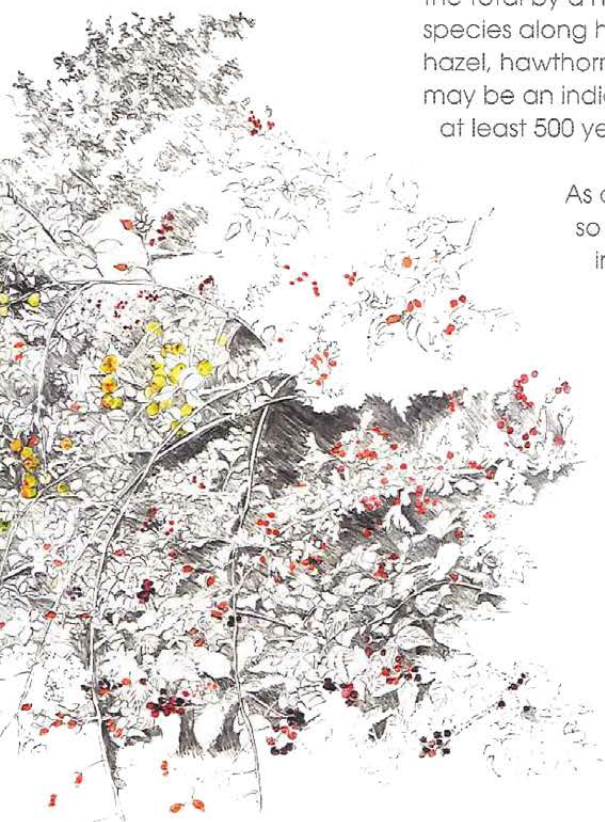


Bear right onto the left hand pavement, along Shaws Wiend. Stay on the pavement, beside the high wall and continue to the end where you cross the road along Colby Lane. A little way along, turn left onto a footpath, signposted 'Public footpath to Bandleby Bridge', just past the white cottage. Cross over the wooden step-stile into the field and follow the hedge to the other side of the field, where you cross over another step-stile, and turn right, along a wide track. When you get to a junction with another track, turn left up the hedged laning.

You can calculate the age of a hedge by counting the number of different trees and shrubs in a 30-metre section and multiplying the total by a hundred. The variety of species along here includes blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn, sycamore and ash, and may be an indication that the hedges are at least 500 years old.

As our woodlands disappear so hedgerows are all the more important for wildlife, as they provide a woodland edge habitat and sheltered 'corridors' which enable birds and animals to move safely around the countryside.

*hedgerow bounty*





Duffton Pike



*view of the North Pennine fells*

Go over the step-stile into a field and follow the side of the field until you come to a wooden stile on your right. Cross this stile and bear left diagonally across the field. Once over the next stile, go slightly right.

From the brow of the hill there are good views of the surrounding landscape, including the Pennines behind you and a pattern of ancient fields ahead, once worked by tenants of the Lords of Appleby castle. The rolling, small hills are mounds of stone and soil called 'drumlins', deposited by glaciers in the ice age on top of the sandstone and limestone bedrock.



Continue down towards the field corner, cross the ditch and then the wall-stile on the right. Turn left and cross Bandley Bridge over Hoff Beck.

Hoff Beck flows north from here, curving west around Appleby and into the River Eden at Colby; but our walk takes you upstream to Rutter Falls.

Go through the gate and turn left into the meadow. The path bears slightly away from the river, through a second gate, and up through the trees. Some way up, cross the stile over the fence, then keep left, descending again to the river, along the lower slope of the wooded bank, to the stile by the riverside.



Continue by the river, cross another stile and follow the fence near the river's edge.

To the right is a dried out 'oxbow lake'.  
Now wooded, it was formed and left  
behind when the river changed its course.

Proceed alongside the fence as it bends right to the  
next stile, past the remains of another oxbow lake on  
your left, which is now a copse of willow and ash.

In early summer there is a  
profusion of wild flowers,  
including orchids and  
ox-eye daisies. Birds  
you might see include  
swallows, sand martins,  
dippers and the  
majestic heron.

Keep near the river, over a stile  
and continue by the river to a  
second stile, just before the farm  
buildings in the hamlet of Hoff.  
At the far end of  
the little field, go  
through the farm  
gate on your right  
and onto the road.

*bugle and  
ox-eye daisies*



Cross the road with care, go down the lane opposite - signed to Oakbeck and Drybeck - and shortly turn left along a hedged track, signposted to Rutter Mill. At the end of this track bear left into the field, go over the footbridge and turn right to follow Hoff Beck upstream, along its left-hand bank. Cross a step-stile, ignore a large bridge on the right and continue along the left bank, over two more step-stiles and then across a second footbridge to the other side of the river.

Now with the river on your left, follow the path along the riverbank and cross a stile into an area of rough pasture.



This area is being left undisturbed by its owners as a nature reserve to encourage wild flowers and birds.

**Please keep to the way-marked path.**



*flowering verge*





*Rutter Mill and waterfall*

Rutter Mill, once a working watermill, has been here for hundreds of years. Now converted to provide luxury, self-catering holiday homes, it was originally a corn-mill and later served as a bobbin-mill and a timber-mill. Then, in 1928, the Great Asby Electric Light and Water Company installed a turbine, which generated electricity for the village of Great Asby and surrounding farmhouses for 23 years. Apparently the power-supply was very variable and unreliable, however, and residents tended to switch on their electric lights just long enough to see whilst they lit their candles and oil lamps and then switched the electric lights off.

The waterfall at its quietest pours over on just the right hand side of the cliff, but in full spate it spreads right across, in a raging wall of white water.

Two smaller streams, Scale Beck, from near Gaythorne Hall, and Asby Beck, from the limestone potholes at Great Asby, join together just above the waterfall to become the Hoff Beck.



From the Mill, cross the footbridge and go up the tarmac lane to its junction with the road. Watch out for fast vehicles coming around the bend, cross to the other side of the road and turn left alongside the grass verge. Turn right over a small footbridge and wooden step-stile where there is a public footpath signpost to Ormside. Keep close to the fence and hedge and continue along the edge of the fields, which are muddy in places, crossing over three stiles and out onto a quiet lane.

Turn left along the lane and keep going with the Warcop army range on the Pennines in the distance ahead. Cross the Appleby – Kirkby Stephen road and continue on the lane to Great Ormside. Go under the railway bridge, to the far end of the village and up to the church.

Just past the road junction, stands a sycamore tree surrounded by stone steps, where at one time there would have been a stone cross. St. James' Church dates back to the 11th century, although the tower and nave were built in the late 12th century and the porch contains some very old stones, including a mutilated roman altar. The oak roof and much of the furnishing are 17th century.

The neighbouring Ormside Hall, a private residence with no public access, was originally a 14th century pele tower, with walls two metres thick, where inhabitants could withstand the border raids that were so prevalent at the time.



*Ormside sycamore*





From the churchyard you can just about see Ormside viaduct through the trees. Built between 1870 and 1875, it is 182 metres long and 27 metres high and is the southernmost of the Settle – Carlisle railway's crossings of the river Eden.



*churchyard and Pennine fells*



Return to the sycamore tree and its surrounding steps and turn right along the farm track. Access along this section is by kind permission of the landowners. After the track goes under the railway, cross the concrete ladder-stile on the left, into a small field. Go straight ahead then left along a hedge-lined lonning. Go over the step-stile by the gateway at the end; bear right along the field edge into the steep-sided gill, over another wooden step-stile. Continue along the path between the trees with the deeply-cut stream-bed on the left. Go over a wooden footbridge and follow the fence up to the right until you get to a step-stile. Cross to the other side of the fence.

In the spring and summer there is an abundance of wild flowers along here, such as bluebells, crosswort, bugle, water avens, common spotted orchid and meadowsweet.



*"Let him (Cromwell) destroy my castles if he will, as often as he levels them I will rebuild them so long as he leaves me a shilling in my pocket."*

*Lady Anne Clifford*

### Lady Anne Clifford

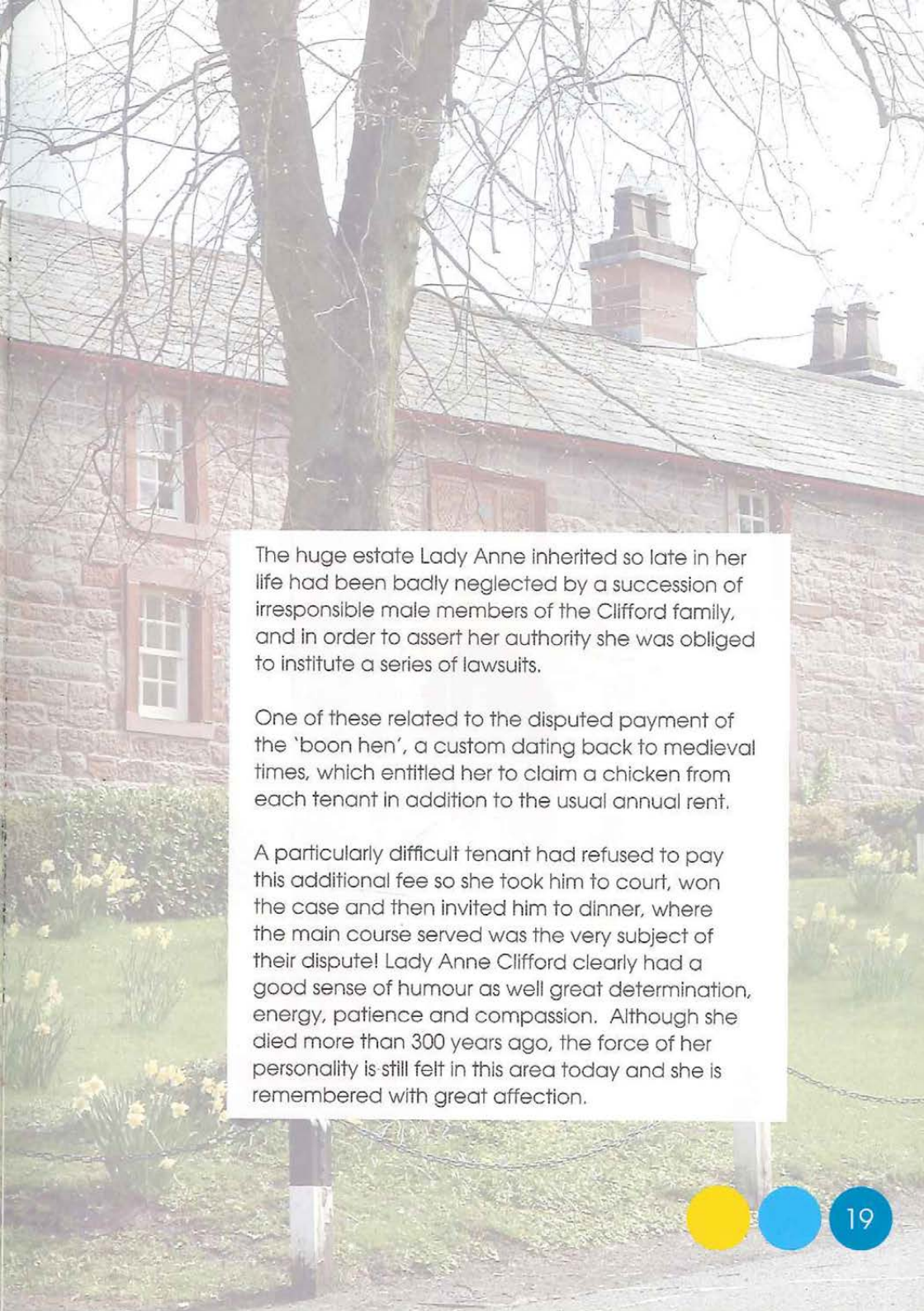
Despite seemingly impossible odds during the last 25 years or so of her life, not least the civil war, Lady Anne Clifford's achievements in the upper Eden valley included the rebuilding of four castles, several churches and the 'Alms Houses' in Appleby.



*Third section of  
'The Great Picture', 1646,  
attributed to  
Jan van Belcamp, reproduced  
with permission of the Abbot  
Hall Art Gallery, Kendal*

*Lady Anne's alms houses*





The huge estate Lady Anne inherited so late in her life had been badly neglected by a succession of irresponsible male members of the Clifford family, and in order to assert her authority she was obliged to institute a series of lawsuits.

One of these related to the disputed payment of the 'boon hen', a custom dating back to medieval times, which entitled her to claim a chicken from each tenant in addition to the usual annual rent.

A particularly difficult tenant had refused to pay this additional fee so she took him to court, won the case and then invited him to dinner, where the main course served was the very subject of their dispute! Lady Anne Clifford clearly had a good sense of humour as well great determination, energy, patience and compassion. Although she died more than 300 years ago, the force of her personality is still felt in this area today and she is remembered with great affection.





riverbank woods

Continue left along the path until you get to some steps on your right. These take you down to the river Eden. Turn left along the riverbank through the woods until you emerge over a step-stile into a field.

All the river valleys of Cumbria were once thick with woodland and the Eden derives great ecological benefit from the trees growing on this stretch of the river bank. They provide shade, which keeps the water cool and well oxygenated, while their leaves and branches falling into the water add nutrients and cover for invertebrates. Insects are a vital source of food for so many river creatures both above and below the water.

Continue to the next area of woodland over a stile and footbridge and on over two more stiles and fields, where you bear left, away from the river, to a stile onto a fenced path, which ends at a kissing-gate. Turn right down to the river and over Jubilee Bridge.

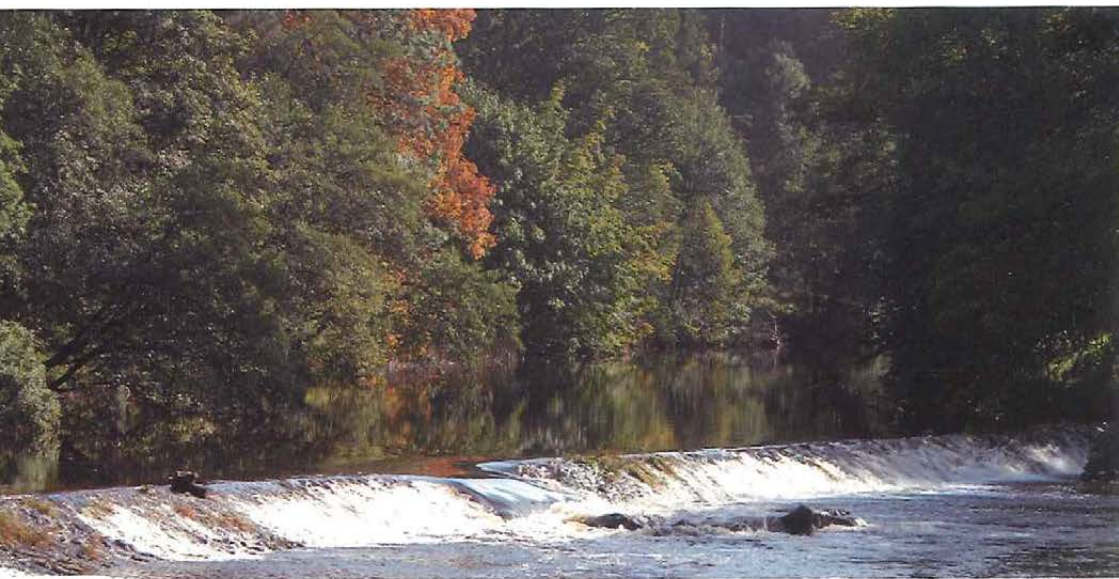


kingfisher

Illustration based on © Image Nigel Blake (rspb-images.com)

The present bridge replaced an older bridge, which was built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. It was washed away by floods in 1968. Bongate Mill, now a private home, was once a corn-mill built in its present form in 1838. It originally had three identical water-wheels, parallel within the building but on three separate shafts. Each was nearly five metres in diameter, a metre wide and set between sandstone axle-supports.

The weir upstream provided a level of water to feed the mill-race along which water was channelled to drive the water-wheels. Salmon can be seen jumping the weir in the autumn. Downstream, the back of the castle towers above the river and, opposite, a sandstone cliff bears witness to the tons of stone removed for its construction.



*Bongate weir*



The 'Primrose Stone', carved by sculptor Joss Smith, is one of the sculptures in the Eden Benchmarks series, commissioned by East Cumbria Countryside Project to provide places to sit for quiet contemplation of the river and its surroundings.

It is worth visiting the river at dusk, as many river creatures only come out at night. Bats are an obvious example, taking advantage of the flies associated with the river, but you might even be lucky enough to see the elusive otter. Badly persecuted for centuries and brought to the brink of extinction in the 1950s by agricultural pesticides, which have since been banned, otter numbers have recovered in the last few years.



*primroses*





*the 'Primrose Stone' by Joss Smith*

Lady Anne Clifford, lino print for bronze panel



Continue up the lane to the main road. St. Michael's Church on the left is now a private home and artist's studio and gallery. Turn left along the pavement and follow the main road towards the town.

At Howgate Foot, the road opens out into an area known as the Sands. The old magistrate's court standing on the right was built as the Shire Hall in the 1770s. The police station beside it was the county jail and the last building on your left before the bridge was a house of correction, built in 1639, where criminals were made to walk a treadmill. (Those were the days!)

Cross the bridge and proceed along Bridge Street back to the Low Cross, concluding the walk.





## River Eden catchment area

Scottish Border

