

Hawes Bridge and the River Kent

Start at [1] War Memorial: Walk down Market Place to Riverside path to **Romney Bridge** and descend the footpath to the water's edge on its west side (**below Ford Terrace**). Follow the path south along the river bank, around the



waste water works (recently modernised) up a few steps and into **Scroggs Wood** (Woodland Trust). At the southern end cross the minor road (Scroggs Lane) to a stile/gate opposite. Head straight across the pasture to



the **footbridge [2]** across the flood barrier. Cross the next field in the same direction reaching the riverside again at a stile. Use this, and a further wicket gate and two stiles to follow the **clear riverside path,**

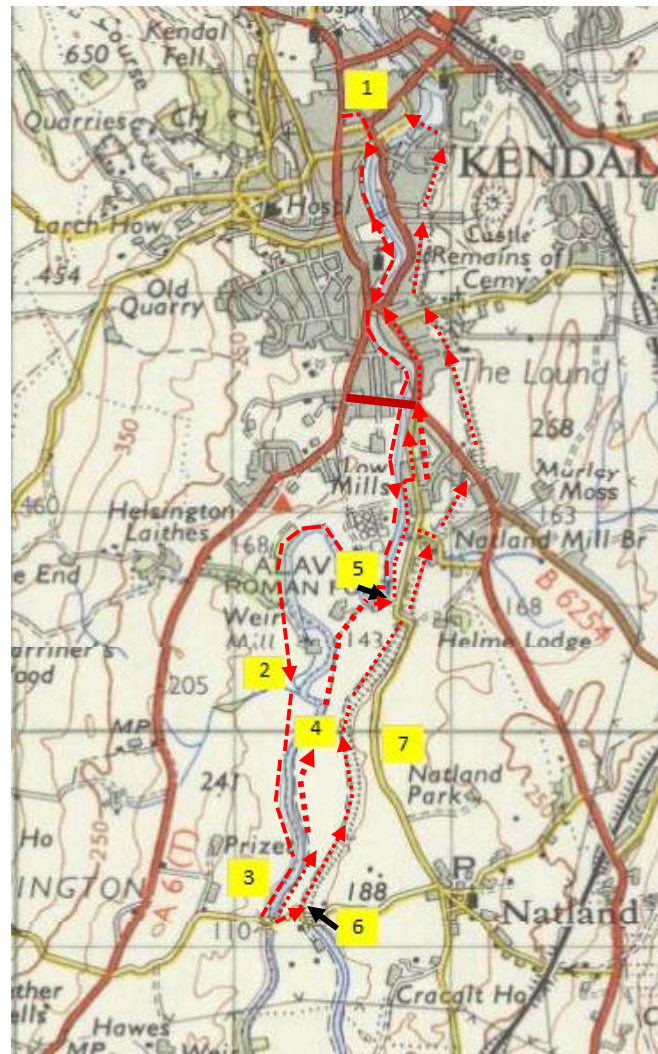
which rises and falls as it passes over old river terraces at two different levels as well as the **present flood plain** (a place to see a Kingfisher?) **The second stile [3]** is directly below



the mansion **Prizet House** (now apartments) standing high on the west valley side and, part way across the next field, note the remains of a mill race on this side of the river. A further stile soon leads to the gate and stile to reach **Hawes Lane**. Turn



left onto Hawes Bridge, and note how the **River Kent here runs in a ravine** through scars of limestone. In



summer the bolder youth jump from the bridge into the now very deep water on the downstream side.

This is the southern limit of the walk and you can now **choose between two alternative** routes for most of your return.

Riverside route: Continue over the bridge for about 70m and take the signed footpath to Kendal on the left. This drops down to the river bank over boggy ground and then follows an undulating course beside the Kent as far as its first 90° bend **[4]** Here follow the trod path straight ahead initially towards a white bungalow, then across a second field to arrive at the lane to

Watercrock Farm. Now turn right uphill to reach a waymarked path on the left **[5]** This follows the Kent behind factories before turning right to join **Natland Road** which is now followed north past the site of the former K Shoes factory to **Romney Bridge**.

B. Canal route Continue over the bridge passing the riverside path to follow the road as it ascends round a sharp bend to reach a wicket gate **[6]** giving access to the former canal towpath. Head north along this, soon passing under an attractive stone arch bridge and with wooden step stiles to facilitate the crossing of field boundary walls, enjoy the views west to **Scout Scar** and ahead to the Cumbrian mountains. Beyond the fourth step stile



[7] a post and wire fence separates the path from the former canal almost to **Natland Road**. Here, go left for 100m before crossing the road and joining the

footpath/cycleway which continues along the former towpath into Kendal. (Note that here gardens have encroached onto the former canal in a way which could prejudice its proposed restoration.) Proceed until the first bridge and take the steps up to **Natland Mill Beck Lane**, walk down to **Natland Road** and turn right to reach **Romney Bridge**. Cross the bridge and take the riverside path to the town centre, **Kent Street**, **Branthwaite Brow** and the **Market Place**. Alternatively follow the canal path to the town centre, and on reaching the end by the recycling centre, cross to the path opposite over the green area to **Little Aynam** (go left) leading to the footbridge over the river. Go left through the car-park to **Miller Bridge, Kent Street** etc.

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be Safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



SAFETY INFORMATION

- There is no such thing as bad weather! Wear clothes appropriate for the weather on the day
- It is always advisable to wear a pair of boots for support and to keep your feet dry
- If walking on your own always inform another person where you are going and what time you expect to return
- Always take a small amount of food and drink in case you start to feel tired
- If possible, carry a mobile phone or some small change in case of an emergency
- Carry any personal medication and a first aid kit for blisters and minor cuts

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This walk is derived from one of a set of ten short walks. These are available together with booklets “Walks in South Lakeland” for purchase from Bookshops or directly from Kendal Ramblers Website: <http://kendalramblers.weebly.com>



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Prepared by Kendal Ramblers on behalf of Kendal Town Council

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Distance: from Market Place 9.5km 5.9m
From Romney Bridge 6.5km, 4.0 miles
Height Gain: 56m, 184 feet
Time: allow 1hr 45mins to 2hrs 30 mins
Start: Market Place or Romney Bridge
Map ref: SD 5176 9150



This walk to Hawes Bridge is a peaceful saunter with the opportunity to see the river bird life, a remarkable change in the pace and depth of the river Kent and a reminder of the shoe-manufacturing industry which made Kendal so renowned in the past.