

MEGGAT WATER

When I was trying to decide which walks to include in this book I enquired, through an advert in disabled magazines, if anybody wished to suggest one. It is fitting, therefore, that the ultimate walk, Meggat Water, was one suggested by a fellow wheelchair countryside enthusiast, who lives at the Samye Ling monastery. And to my mind it is one of the best.

If you are seeking to be at peace with nature and to ramble along an easy trail going well up and into a river valley amidst the rolling hills of the Borders then this valley is a good place to start. There is a Car Park for ½ dozen cars at Bentpath but this adds 3 miles ® to the trail and we wanted to do at least 8 miles ® and I wanted to leave enough in the battery to explore further. So we parked at the side of the narrow tarmac road near Westkirk Mains (see map).



Road along Meggat Water

For the first 4 miles it is the access road to 4 or 5 houses, only 3 of which appeared to be occupied and during 4 hours we were passed by one tractor and one car. There are two cattle grids, one a mile up and then a mile further on, but there are side gates which are easily opened. At the end of the tarmac road there is a fine piece of interpretation describing Glendinning, birthplace of Thomas Telford, the famous engineer. We continued up what was now a rough track for 1 mile and I for one could have kept going and going and going, well into the more remote countryside but time and weather dictated our

return.

I am not a "twitcher" but I do love watching birds and with our guide from the Langholm Initiative I was able to identify a variety of birds some of which I would not have recognised without her help. We saw two large buzzards, a flock of fieldfare, identifiable by their flight pattern, swallows, housemartins and many small the river birds.

I end this book with a feeling of real excitement for I know I will return to the Borders to explore their wonderful valleys.

Further information from:

Langholm Walks: 013873 80914 walks@langholm.initiative.co.uk

FACTFILE	
MAP	Ordnance Survey map 79
GRID REFERENCE start/finish	NT 296916/301984
PARKING	1½ miles northwest of Bentpath
TOILETS	Langholm: see previous map, walk 49
DISTANCE	5 miles (10 return)
LANDSCAPE	Rolling valley with a river