

Hoff Beck Riverside Walk

The Hoff Beck is a tributary of the River Eden. Its clean waters are brimming with wildlife. On this gentle riverside walk you may spot dippers, herons, sand martins, red squirrels and even an otter or two.

This 3-mile (5 km) riverside path connects Colby and Rutter Force via Hoff and is indicated on OS Explorer map OL19.

Please note that the footpath can be uneven in places, so wear sturdy boots. The ground may also be waterlogged at certain times of year. Sheep and cattle graze in the fields next to the river, so please take care when approaching livestock and keep your dog on a lead at all times.

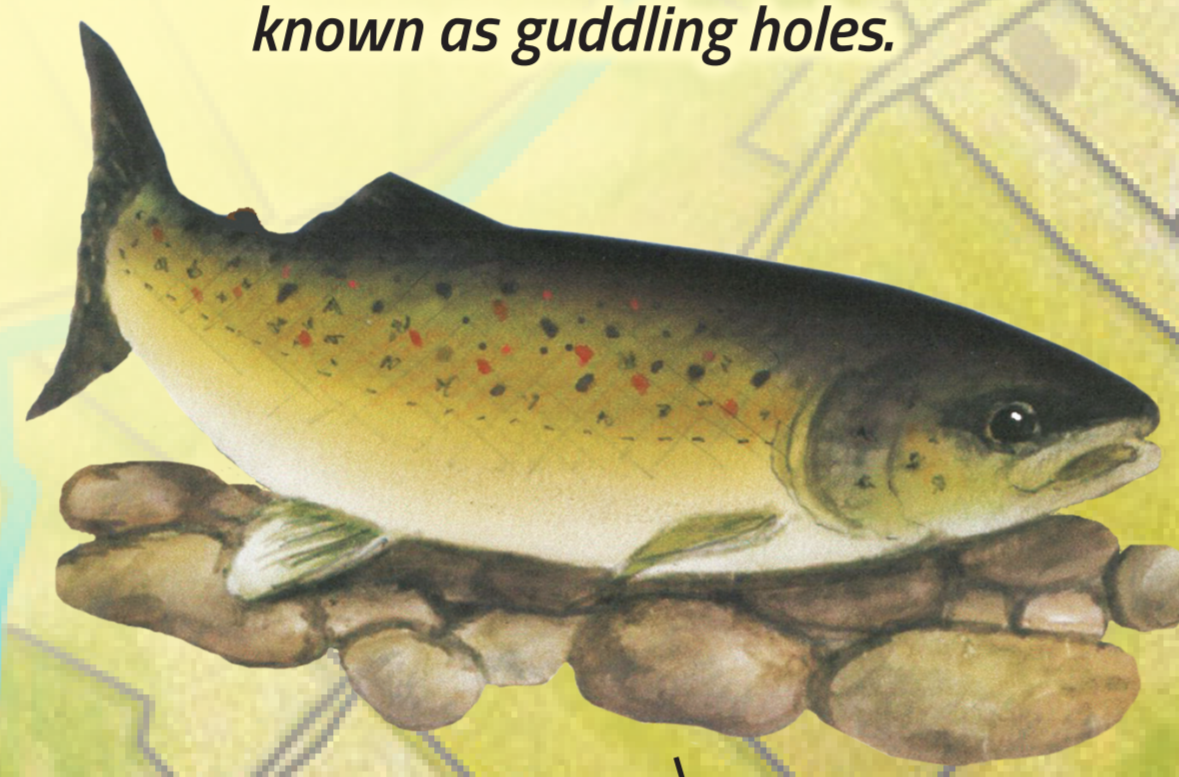
Nether Hoff is a Grade II* listed 17th-century house with an early datestone of 1683. The farm originally belonged to the Cliffords of Appleby Castle. Behind is one of the largest barns in Westmorland (partially converted) with a former corn mill on the far end.



The trees on the far side of the river form a heronry where herons gather to roost at night.

Rafts of white flowering water crowfoot can be seen in the river in spring. The species is an indicator of clean water and helps to oxygenate the river.

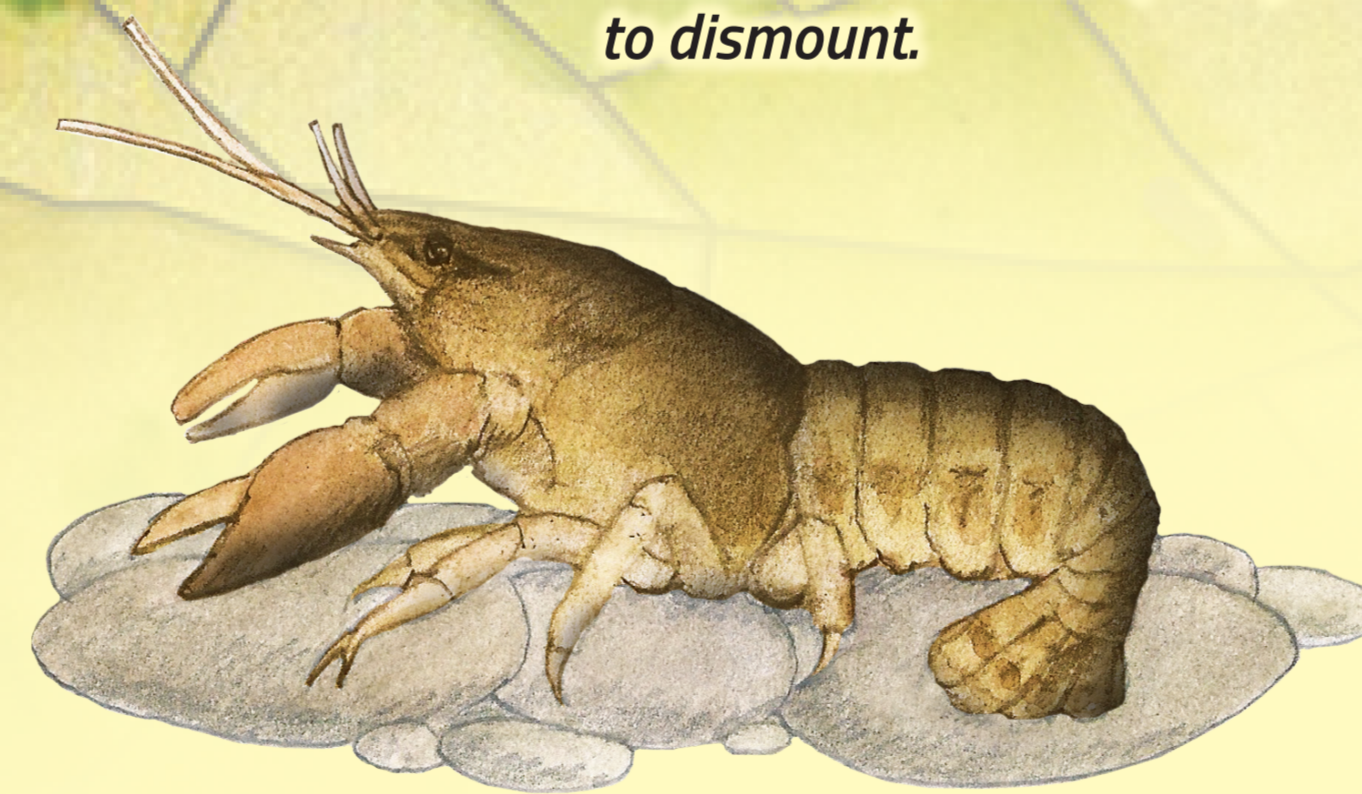
The modern Bandley Bridge replaces an old river crossing point, where several ancient footpaths and bridleways converge. It was recorded as Bangelmibrigg in 1292.



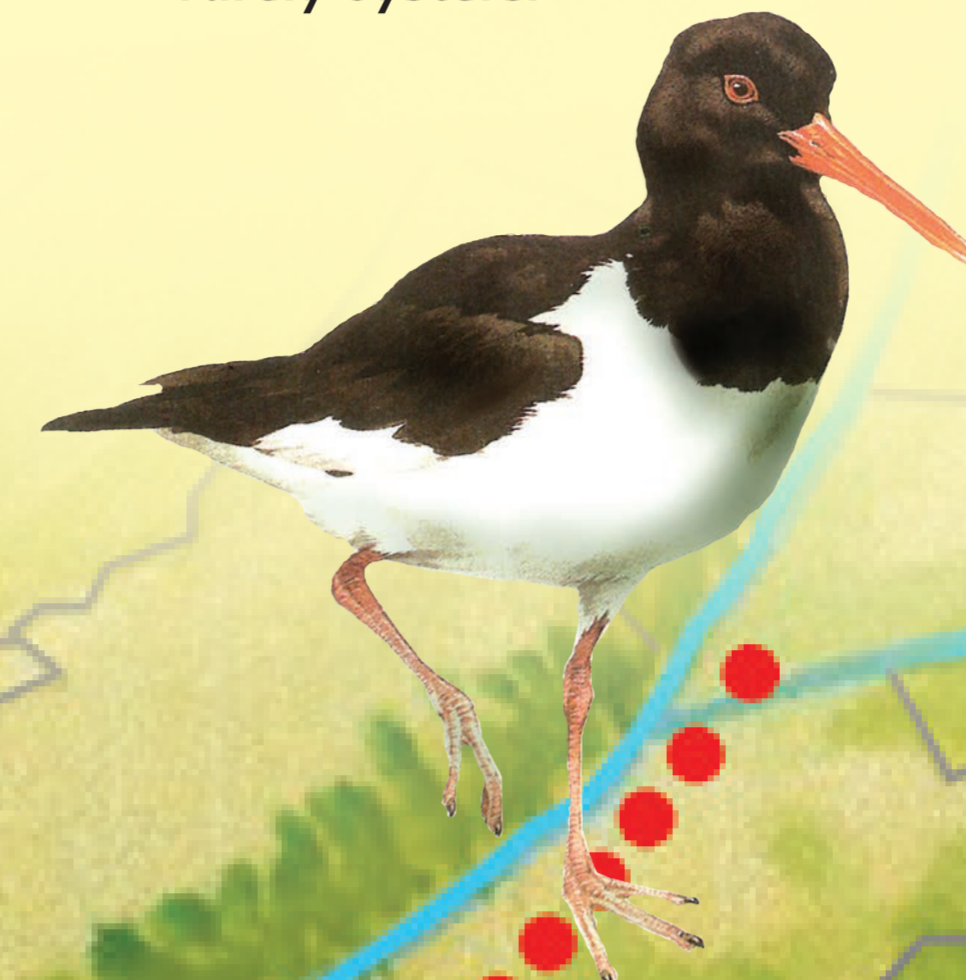
The Cuddling Hole is where trout were 'tickled' or 'cuddled' in order to catch them. In Scotland they are known as guddling holes.

Coppicing is a form of woodland management. The trunks of hazel, alder and other trees are cut near ground level. Around the stump several new shoots grow, which are harvested after several years depending on the required diameter. This sustainable practice lengthens the life of the tree and is highly beneficial to wildlife.

Oxbow lakes are remnants of former meanders that were abandoned when the river changed its course. They survive as curved depressions in the landscape, often containing water.



White-clawed crayfish lurk under stones in clean rivers and are the only species of crayfish that is native to Britain.



Oystercatchers have long orange-red bills designed for prying open or smashing shellfish such as cockles and mussels but rarely oysters!

Hoff

The New Inn dates back to the mid-18th century at least and was originally a thatched building with cruck beams. It is said that mounted horsemen were served pints of beer directly from a hatch at the back of the pub so they didn't have to dismount.



Butterbur is a common riverside plant with striking pink flowerheads in the spring. The large leaves were once used to wrap up pats of butter – hence the name.

Sand martins are summer migrants that nest communally in burrows along sandy river banks.



Red squirrels are becoming endangered, but a breeding colony still thrives in the woodlands around Rutter Force.



Low Rutter Farm



Look out for dippers along the river. These pert birds dart from rock to rock and swim underwater in search of aquatic insects.

Rutter Force is an impressive cascade that once provided power for the adjacent corn mill (first mentioned in 1579). It continued to operate as a threshing mill up to 1851, when it was converted into a saw mill and a bobbin mill. In 1928, a turbine was installed to supply electricity to the nearby village of Great Asby but proved unreliable at times. Until the National Grid arrived in 1952, Rutter Force was the only source of electricity for Great Asby.

Rutter Force

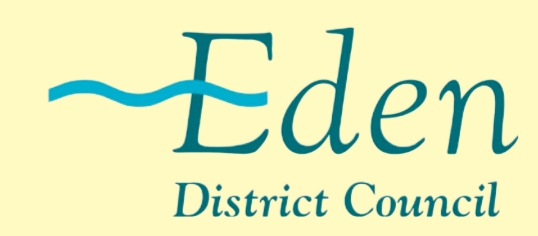
YOU ARE HERE

Key

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- ≡ Footbridge

Scale 1:25,000

Commissioned by Bandleyside Parish Council with financial assistance from Heritage Lottery Fund, Eden Rivers Trust, Eden District Council and Cumberland Building Society.



Commissioned by Bandleyside Parish Council. Produced by Anna Gray Associates (www.annagray.co.uk). Designed by Sutton Design (www.suttondesign.co.uk). Map and illustrations by John Hills.