

carbon capture. A rich array of birds, such as snipe, red grouse, buzzards and kestrels, are frequently seen on Ford Moss. Roe deer and Exmoor ponies roam the reserve. Also here are an old engine house and chimney, and long-abandoned mine workings – poignant reminders of the area's industrial past. Today, six wind turbines provide renewable energy.

When you have completed the circuit of Ford Moss, either retrace your steps to Ford village (the 5m/8km walk), or follow the additional 3.3m/5.3km route detailed below, returning to Ford via Hay Farm, for spectacular views into Scotland.

E From the information board overlooking **Ford Moss**, take the clockwise route, passing through the 5-bar gate to the left of the board. After about 35 yards (35 metres), bear left following the waymarkers through the gorse patches and across the open field. Keeping the wood to your left, walk to the end of the wood (about 0.6m/1km from the board). Continue with the gorse to your left for a short distance, then follow the well-defined track to the left down the slope. When you reach a path about halfway down the slope (0.7m/1.1km), turn right to walk towards a small pond. Just beyond the pond, follow the waymarkers to the left, keeping a wooden fence and an arable field to your right.

F Pass through the wicket gate into more scrub. At the end of the path, go through the gate into a small wood. Follow the defined path up though the right side of the wood until you reach the **B6353** road. Turn left towards Ford and after about 100 yards (100 metres) cross the road at the sign for **Watchlaw**

Farm to follow the asphalted road up the slope (1.3m/2.1km).

G Where the asphalted road turns sharp right, continue straight ahead on to the restricted byway up the slope. After about 1.8m (2.9km) from the **B6353**, pause at the gate to enjoy the wonderful views of the Cheviots to the left and into Scotland straight ahead. Go through the gate and follow the path down the hill to the road at Slainsfield (1.8m/2.9km). Turn left and take the road down to **Hay Farm** (2.2m/3.5km).

H Turn left on the short road alongside the **Hay Farm** buildings, turn left again at the cottages and follow the signposted footpath to Ford. Keep to the path on the right side of the field, pass through the gate and turn left into the wood to reach **Ford** (2.6m/4.2km). At the road, turn right and walk up the hill to Ford and to the B6353. You can purchase refreshments at **Ford Village Shop** and admire the Pre-Raphaelite murals at **Lady Waterford Hall** (open daily, April to early November).

I The lay-by you started from is across the road to your left (3.3m/5.3km from the Ford Moss). Finish.

Public toilets are located at:

- **Heatherslaw Visitor Centre**
- **Etal Castle car park**
- **Ford Village**

Open daily, April – Nov, 10am – 5pm

Please keep the countryside tidy and take your rubbish home.



Ford Village to Ford Moss Nature Reserve



Walking Route

Distance: 5 miles (8 km) or
8.3 miles (13.4 km) with extension

Grade: Moderate, circular

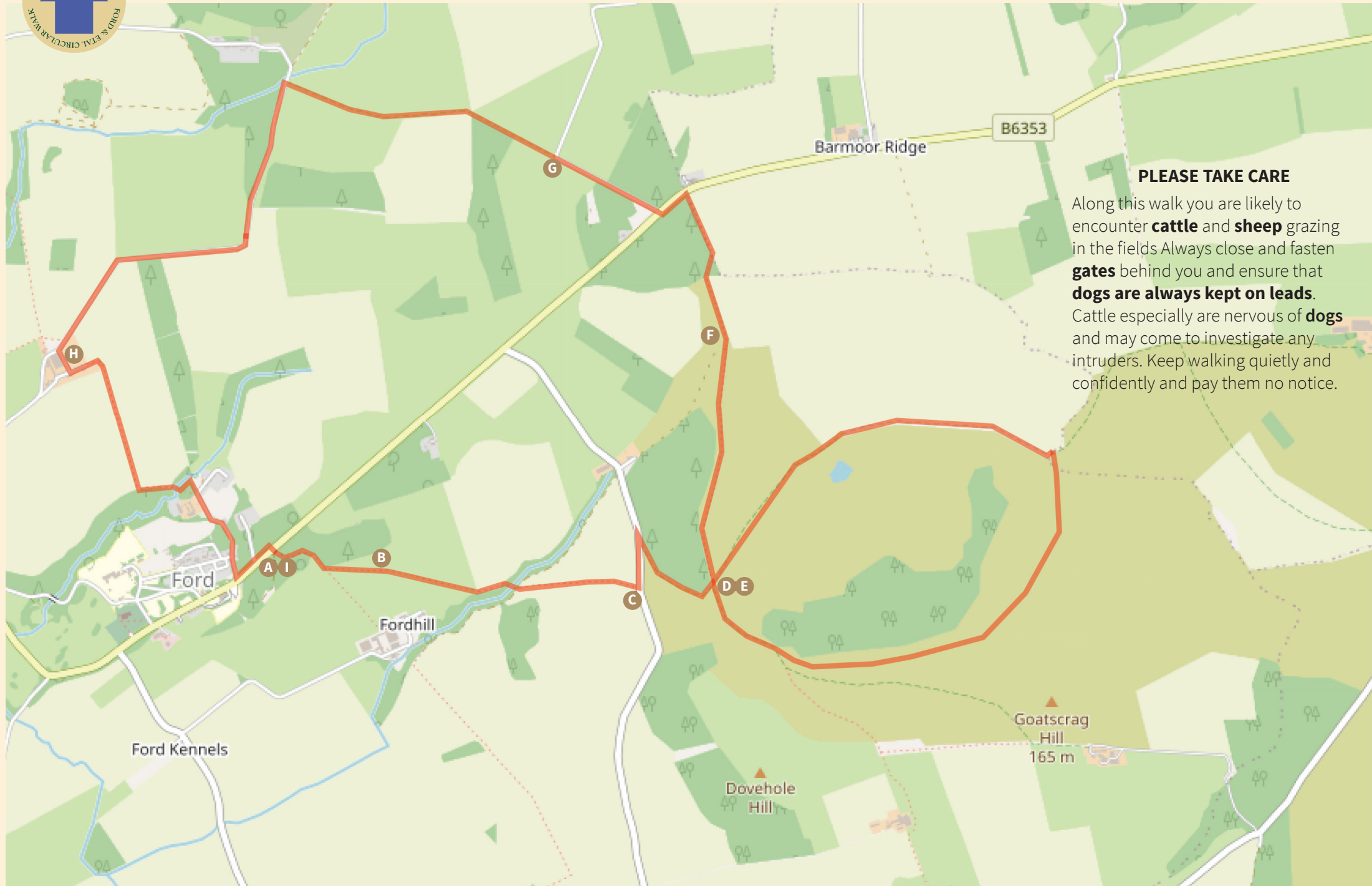


Follow the directions below in conjunction with the map inside and the colour-coded waymarkers along the route.

- A** Start in Ford Village or at the lay-by on the **B6353** that leads out of the village. From the lay-by, follow the signed footpath through the wood towards **Ford Hill**.
- B** After going down a few steps and over a stile, walk diagonally across the field to a 5-bar gate. Continue following the signs for **Ford Moss**, passing through a second field, a gap in a copse of trees and across two fields to a road (0.9m/1.5km from the start).
- C** At the road turn left. The gated entrance to **Ford Moss Reserve** is on your right after about 200 yards (200 metres). Go through the gate and follow the track.
- D** At the top of the slope an information board gives details of **Ford Moss**. The 3-mile (4.8km) circular walk around Ford Moss can be taken clockwise or anticlockwise. Please keep to the marked path, which will take you through a series of stiles and gates. There is a high stile to get over about 1.2m (1.9km) from the start on the anti-clockwise route and the ground can be very marshy at the far side of the reserve, about 1m (1.6km) from the board in the anti-clockwise direction.

Ford Moss is formed of a deep layer of peat that has been built up over thousands of years. The wetter areas are home to precious sphagnum mosses, which play a vital role in the creation of peat bogs, in turn enabling

Ford Village to Ford Moss Nature Reserve



PLEASE TAKE CARE

Along this walk you are likely to encounter **cattle** and **sheep** grazing in the fields. Always close and fasten **gates** behind you and ensure that **dogs are always kept on leads**. Cattle especially are nervous of **dogs** and may come to investigate any intruders. Keep walking quietly and confidently and pay them no notice.