

The Otterburn Ranges

Controlled ACCESS AREA

① Ridley Crag and Stewartshiels (lilac route on map)

A walk from the Roman fort of Bremenium at High Rochester around Ridley Crag into Stewartshiels Plantation using rough footpaths and forest roads. Distance 10km (6.5 miles)

Start: The A68 layby opposite the café in Rochester. Cross the road and take the permissive path left of the café for 1km to the Roman fort at High Rochester. Before reaching the road cross a stile and take the path around the W side of the fort until you join a footpath heading NW.

Follow this footpath along Sillos burn for 800m until you reach a forestry plantation at which point turn R uphill. After 300m a stile takes you into Stewartshiels Plantation.

With the forest to your R and open fell on your L continue until you join a forest road. Turn L on the road and after 200m¹ turn L again to follow the forest edge path for a further 1.2km.

At a waymarking post turn R into the forest for 125m and R again on to a forest road. Head S for 1km and at road junction turn L for 450m to join a public footpath. Turn R for 350m and leave the forest by means of a stile².

Continue SW for 1.1km at which point the path joins a farm track. Turn R for 400m and follow the path around the N and W side of Hillock Farm and then head due south for 500m crossing a stream and back to the Roman fort at High Rochester.

Follow the path round the E and S side of the fort and you will rejoin the path back to Rochester for a well earned snack in the cafe.

NB. This route is open all year round if you proceed straight on (SE) for 600m at point¹ above and use the forest edge path to the stile at point².

This walk takes you around the Roman fort of Bremenium, which was the most northerly Roman outpost fort beyond Hadrian's Wall throughout much of its life. Look out for its gateways which are still quite visible.

