Managing Glenridding Common
Looking after footpaths and protecting precious habitats

We are committed to making Glenridding Common a key hub for conservation activity, ensuring that people of all ages and backgrounds can become involved in enriching the natural environment of this beautiful landscape.

We support residents and visitors as they enjoy and care for the Lake District’s special qualities through the John Muir Award. Our engagement scheme has been firmly established in Cumbria since 2003 and in partnership with the Lake District National Park since 2011.

Local partners like Fix the Fells help us to minimise visitor impacts, keep footpaths in robust condition and safeguard biodiversity.

Properties we manage:
1. Sandwood
2. Quinag
3. Sconser, Strathaird and Torrin on Skye
4. Li and Coire Dhorrcail, Knoydart
5. Ben Nevis
6. East Schiehallion
7. Glenlussa
8. Glenridding Common, Lake District

Wild land quality index

"The mountains are calling and I must go"
John Muir, 1873

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John Muir, 1873

The Trust also helps preserve the industrial heritage of the site, whose character was influenced by the nearby Greenside Lead Mine - a major industrial enterprise between 1825 and 1961.

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Exploring Glenridding Common

The main routes to Helvellyn summit from Glenridding and Ullswater run along Swirral Edge to the north of Red Tarn and the more challenging Striding Edge to the south. A circular route ascending along Striding Edge and descending via Swirral Edge is popular among experienced hill walkers. To avoid the steep ‘edges’ a route to the summit can be taken via Greenside Mine and Whiteside.

From Thirlmere in the west, there are shorter, steeper routes to the summit, which offer a magnificent view across Glenridding Common, with its plunging cliff-line and steep arêtes that connect a chain of lesser peaks and glacial tarns nestled beneath imposing crags.

The map on the leaflet is not intended for navigation.

Glenridding Common

An epic landscape combining history, culture and rugged nature

The property is registered common land and is farmed through traditional methods by local farmers who have rights of communal grazing. This cultural landscape helped the Lake District National Park achieve UNESCO World Heritage status.

A major industrial legacy based on lead mining is reflected in archaeological features across the landscape, such as the Stang End chimney and the Keppel Cove water leat (artificial channel) and dam.

Glenridding Common is part of a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Helvellyn is important for glacial and periglacial geomorphology. Its high altitude crags and coves provide a refuge for rare arctic-alpine flora. Additional biological interest includes large stands of juniper scrub woodland, a variety of montane and upland heaths, grassland and flush communities, and two high-level nutrient-poor (oligotrophic) tarns. Red Tarn is one of four sites containing the rare and endemic schelley fish.

Glenridding Common covers around 1,000 hectares (2,471 acres) of spectacular mountain scenery including a dramatic horseshoe-shaped ridge that crosses the jagged and precipitous Striding Edge onto the broad plateau of Helvellyn summit before curving back along Swirral Edge. At 950 metres (3,118 feet), Helvellyn is the third highest peak in England. Other landmarks include Casterly Cam, Brown Cove and Red Tarn, while on land to the north, the Lake District Ski Club runs a ski tow on the flanks of Raise.

The Trust took on management of Glenridding Common in 2017, following a positive consultation with local and national stakeholders. We aim to work with others to protect and enhance the ecosystem while respecting the area’s cultural traditions.

Introducing Glenridding Common

An epic landscape combining history, culture and rugged nature

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