



# BLENCATHRA - SHARP EDGE

## OVERVIEW

Sharp Edge is one of the Lake District's most iconic scrambles. The route ascends from Scales via Scales Tarn before committing to a narrow arête leading to Blencathra's summit plateau. Although only Grade 1 technically, exposure and conditions significantly increase seriousness. Descent is typically made via Hall's Fell Ridge, forming an excellent circular route.

## KEY STATS



**868m**  
SUMMIT HEIGHT



**OL 5**  
OS MAP NUMBER



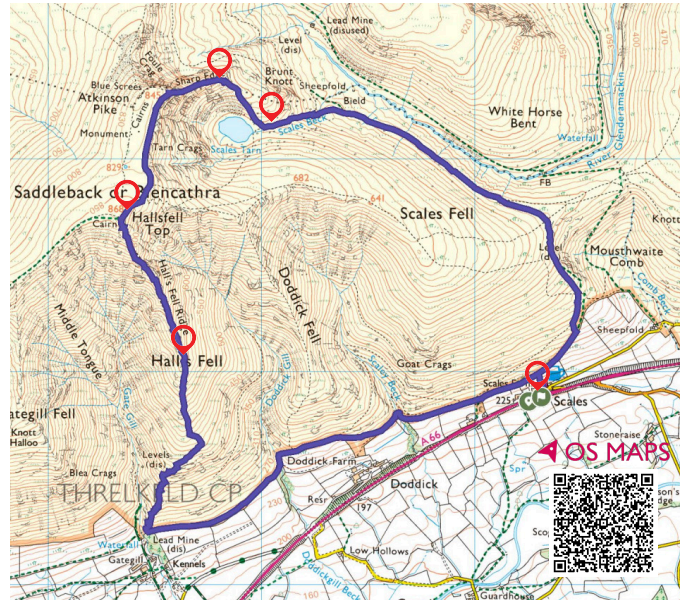
**8km**  
DISTANCE



**756m**  
HEIGHT GAIN



**4-5 hours**  
DURATION



## CHECKPOINTS (OS GRID REF)

CP	GRID REF	HEIGHT	LOCATION
CP1	NY 340 268	200m	Scales
CP2	NY 329 281	550m	Scales Tarn
CP3	NY 328 283	650m	Start of Sharp Edge
CP4	NY 324 283	800m	Sharp Edge Crest
CP5	NY 323 277	868m	Blencathra Summit
CP6	NY 326 271	600m	Hall's Fell Ridge

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

From roadside parking at Scales, follow the clear path North East toward Scales Tarn. The initial ascent is steep but straightforward on a defined trail.

At approximately 2 km (1.2 miles), reach Scales Tarn, a dramatic corrie lake beneath Sharp Edge.

From the tarn, the route climbs steeply onto the start of Sharp Edge. The ridge is severe.

Scrambling begins almost immediately. The crest provides the most direct line but with significant exposure. Slightly lower alternatives exist on the right (north side), though these can be loose and slippery.

The final section involves a short but steep scramble up onto the plateau of Blencathra. The descent is via Hall's Fell Ridge- a steep scramble down.

## WEATHER RISKS



High Crosswinds



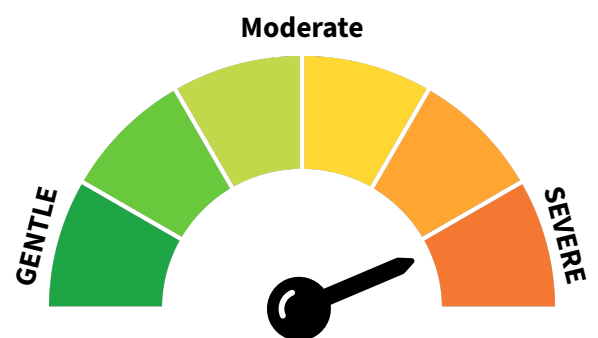
Slippery in Rain



Condition-Dependent

## HAZARDS + CONDITIONS

- Severe Exposure
- Polished Rock
- Loose Scree
- Strong Winds
- Ice in Winter



**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**