

5.4 Blencathra 9

Images from the walk to the waymarker tree.



The rowan stand in a picturesque streamside setting, though their numbers now are few. They have been providers in the landscape for well over a century – and now mingle with new associates.



Left: decay has spread throughout the main trunk, sustaining turkeytail (seen as small white-rimmed brackets and other necrotic fungi, at lower centre); and *right:* broken/damaged branches and trunks deteriorate and fail as the tree declines towards death. The decomposition of wood creates opportunity for decay organisms and simple plants to proliferate, in turn providing food for micro-organisms, insects and invertebrates that support a progressive cycling/recycling of energy and biomass.



Planting the gill with native trees brings environmental improvement, increasing woodland cover and creating expanded habitat for a suite of upland animals and birds.