



Things to do and see in Haltwhistle

Be a Time Detective

Pick up the children's Time Detectives Kit to guide you and your family along a fascinating journey through our resourceful and industrious past.

Look out for shops that perhaps reveal a little of their history. Many of the buildings were once Bastles.

Reiver Past

Many of the shops were built onto the fabric of 16th/17th Century Bastles or Defensible Houses. The clues to the town's Reiver past can be seen in the architecture of these buildings.

Celtic and Roman Influence

The 13th Century Church of the Holy Cross links the town to a Celtic and Roman past. The quiet interior of the church reveals other interesting features such as the beautiful stained glass windows which include designs by Edward Burne-Jones.

Haltwhistle Burn

Just north and east of the town runs the Haltwhistle Burn – a delightful walk through beautiful scenery, but in the 1860s, it was a place of intense industrial activity: the powerhouse for much of Haltwhistle's industry.



For more information on things to do and places to stay in Haltwhistle visit:

www.heartofhadrianswall.co.uk



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas



This leaflet is part of Haltwhistle's 'Market Town Welcome' initiative delivered by Haltwhistle Partnership

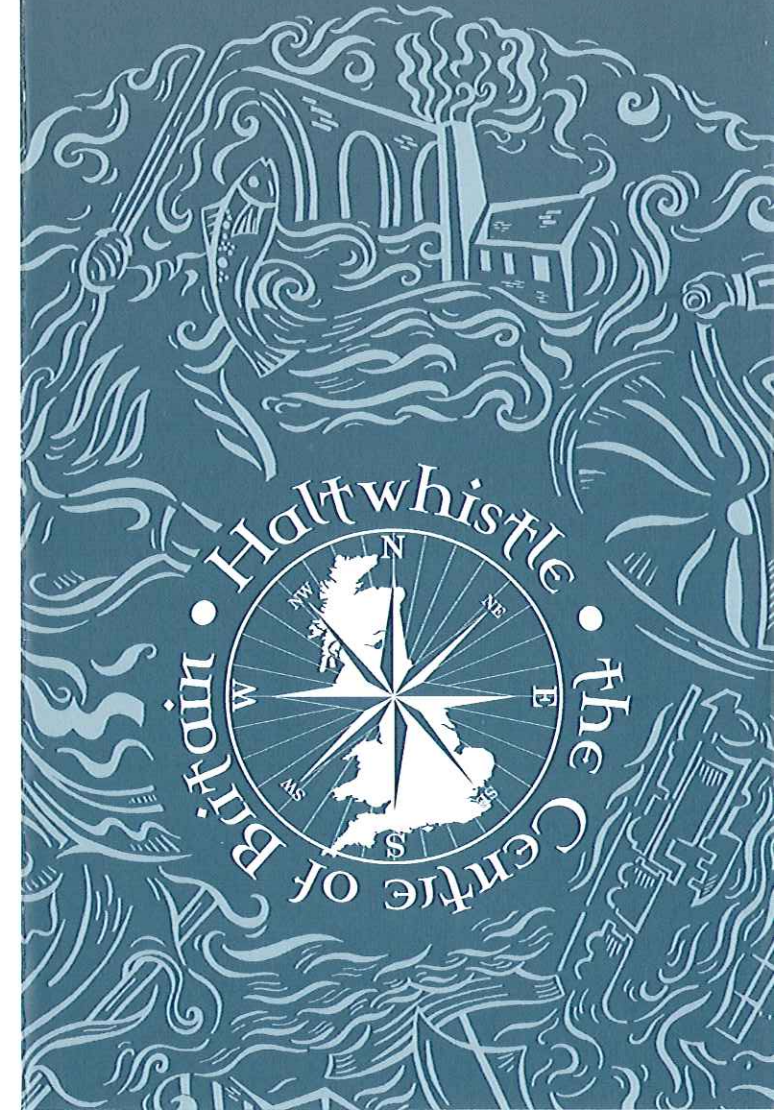
www.haltwhistle.org

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Explore
Haltwhistle's
Coal, Corn and
Courting Couples

Haltwhistle Burn is a delightful walk through beautiful scenery. But, in the 1860s, it was a place of intense industrial activity with blast furnaces, mills and mines.





Haltwhistle's 'Lanty's Lonnen' gets its name from the 'lant troughs' which were filled with collected 'lant' or human urine used to cleanse oily lanolin from wool before milling and spinning.
 The expression 'being on tenter hooks' comes from the frames on which woven cloth was stretched out to dry.

Though nature has reasserted her tranquil influence on the Haltwhistle Burn, at one time mills, coal pits, quarries, lime kilns and brickworks lined the banks, plundering the rocks and powering machinery with its waters.

From the first corn mill built by the Romans until the closure of the last fireclay works and narrow gauge line in the nineteen thirties, this small stream was the industrial powerhouse of Haltwhistle bringing employment and prosperity to the people of the town.

Woollen Mills High and Low

Wool has been processed in Haltwhistle since earliest times. A fulling mill ran on Manor lands at Town Foot from the 13th century. The Saint family ran a woollen processing business here at High Mill from 1749 to 1901. They started out as dyers, bleachers and fullers, and the business grew to become a woollen manufactory employing 16 hands at its peak in 1881.

In 1762 two Quakers, John Reay and Daniel Coats, set up a fulling mill known as Low Mill and a weaving establishment at Factory House. According to John Wallis, antiquarian, natural historian and curate of Simonburn,

"There is in it (Haltwhistle) a manufactory of coarse bays (baize), belonging to two worthy Quakers; their fulling mill finished, and approved of buy trial, 17th September 1762; pleasure and cheerfulness appearing in every face on the occasion; giving the prospect of better bread to the industrious poor."

This business was taken over by Thomas Bell, flannel manufacturer and by 1834 was run by William Madgen. By 1848 Madgen had been joined in business by John Pattinson. The Pattinsons ran the Burn mills until 1871. Spanning the transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy, through the Industrial Revolution, the Haltwhistle Woollen



Industry witnessed an eventful and dramatic time. People lived and worked along the banks of the Burn for over two centuries providing for their families through the processing of wool.

Corn Mills

The Romans built a watermill near Hadrian's Wall at Cawfields. We know the stream could generate enough power to produce daily meal for 460 people and animal feed for the garrison at Aesica Fort.

The next evidence of the Burn waters being harnessed comes from the household book of William Howard, Belted Will, who bought the Manor of Haltwhistle in 1611. In 1620 he received an annual rent of £5.5s.8d from the Mill. In 1632 Lord Howard let the Corn Mill to Hugh Ridley,

"The water Corn Mill with all Mulsturs Tolls, Sute Soken Custome &c to ye same belonging"

By Victorian times Thomas Snowdon, miller aged 60, his wife and three children were living in the mill but by 1848 William Pickering was miller employing two men. By 1891 a second mill was running in Park Road - this time driven by steam- owned by "John Liddell and sons, grocers, ironmongers, agricultural implement makers and steam corn millers"

Mines

No-one is quite sure when coal mining first began up the Haltwhistle Burn.

By the mid 1600s Coal mines are mentioned in Lord Howard's household books. These would have been Bell pits taking coal near the surface. Here small pits were dug and excavated outwards in all directions leaving shallow depressions which can still be seen in the fields surrounding the Burn.

By 1837 the pit at the north end of the Burn was producing coal from galleries reached by the drift entrance at Fell Chimney. Miners worked shallow galleries, dragging out the coal in baskets.



In the 1840s The South Tyne Coal Company was operating. In 1906 a 500 foot shaft was sunk to reach deeper coal. The square chimney and an engine house which produced steam to drive the hauler are still standing.

The coal was taken by wagons to Town Foot. Here it was loaded in the marshalling yards ready to join a freight train on the main line.

In 1928, the 600 pit workers were told that the pit was not viable but they agreed to continue work on a day-to-day basis until 1931 when the pit finally closed. Many of these men moved east to work at pits around Ashington. Plenneller pit closed the same year resulting in around 1,000 men losing their jobs.

More information about the history and heritage Haltwhistle Burn can be found at www.haltwhistleburn.org

Multure: Portion of meal or flour kept by the miller in payment for his services. • **Soke:** Land attached to a central manor for payment of dues and for judicial purposes.
Fulling: the process of pounding and twisting cloth by hand or machine • **Sute:** The obligation of tenants to resort to a specific mill to have their corn ground