



Things to do and see in Haltwhistle

Look for Bastles

Look closely at the tops and backs of the buildings that have been converted from Bastles.

Look for Reiver Names

Look for some Reiver names in the church yard of Holy Cross such as Armstrong, Ridley, Bell, Graham and Robson.

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 interesting features such as the beautiful stained glass windows which include designs by Edward Burne-Jones.

Centre of Britain

The Market Place dates back to the 13th Century. King John granted a Market Charter in 1207 for weekly markets and fairs to be held twice a year.

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



HALTWHISTLE



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

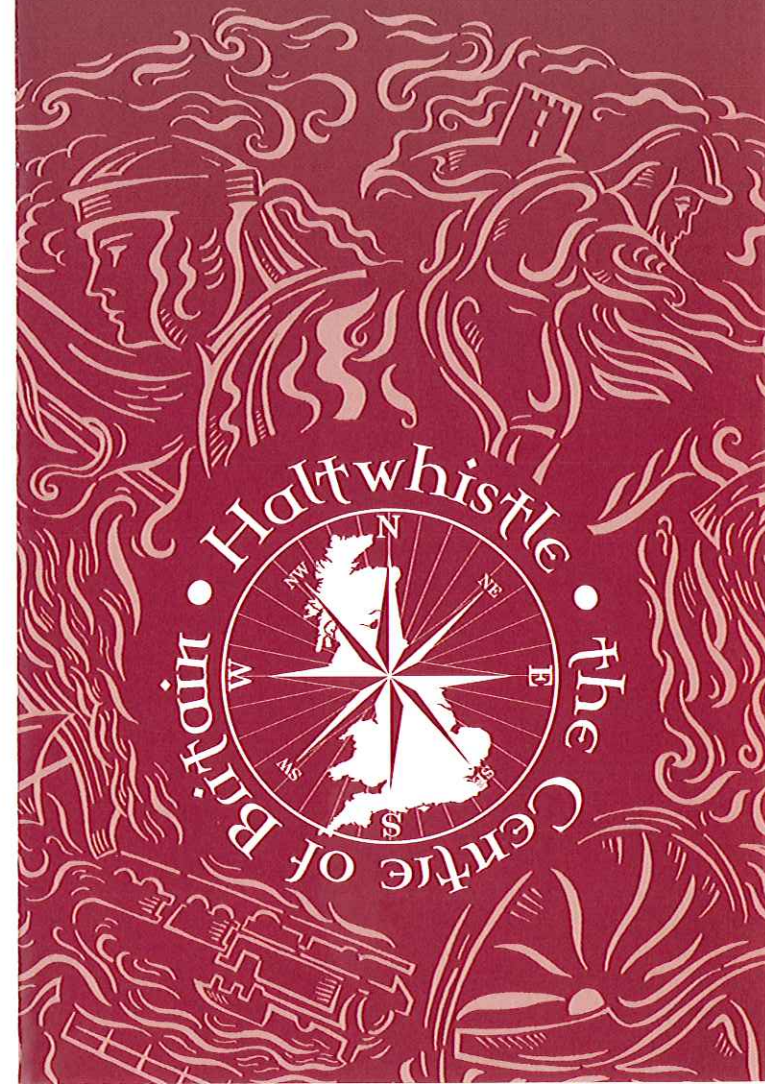
www.haltwhistle.org

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Explore Haltwhistle's Turbulent Past

From the start of the Scottish Wars of Independence in 1296 and for many centuries later, the constant marauding of English and Scots caused turmoil throughout the Borders.



It is believed that the last public hanging in Haltwhistle took place in 1597.
Cart wheels were made in the Market Place - can you see where?

From the start of the Scottish Wars of Independence in 1296 and for many centuries later, the constant marauding of English and Scots caused turmoil throughout the Borders.

Haltwhistle has the highest number of surviving Bastles - 16th/17th Century defensible houses - in England.

Manor Houses began to be fortified in the late 1200s when Edward I (The Hammer of the Scots) and land hunger led to National and Border conflicts. From Edward I to Henry VIII English Kings spent much of their time trying to hold on to their Dukedoms in France leaving England open to Scottish raids. In 1285 the Scottish Border towns were plundered by the English; in 1307 Edward I stayed over at Braidley Farm on the Roman Wall on his way to Scotland via Lanercost and the Solway taking all the stock off the neighbouring farms to feed his army.

In 1513 the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Flodden Field in north Northumberland and in 1598 the infamous Armstrongs of Liddesdale fired and plundered Haltwhistle. The Border ballad, 'The Fray of Haltwhistle' recounts the event which was followed by years of feuding between the Armstrongs and the Ridley's of Haltwhistle.

The local people could only survive by defending themselves in Pele Towers and Bastles against Scots or English raiders.

Although Haltwhistle had been in England the Regality of Tynedale was held by a Scottish King for a time and Haltwhistle Church had been built by the Monks of Arbroath from Scotland.

The Border Reivers

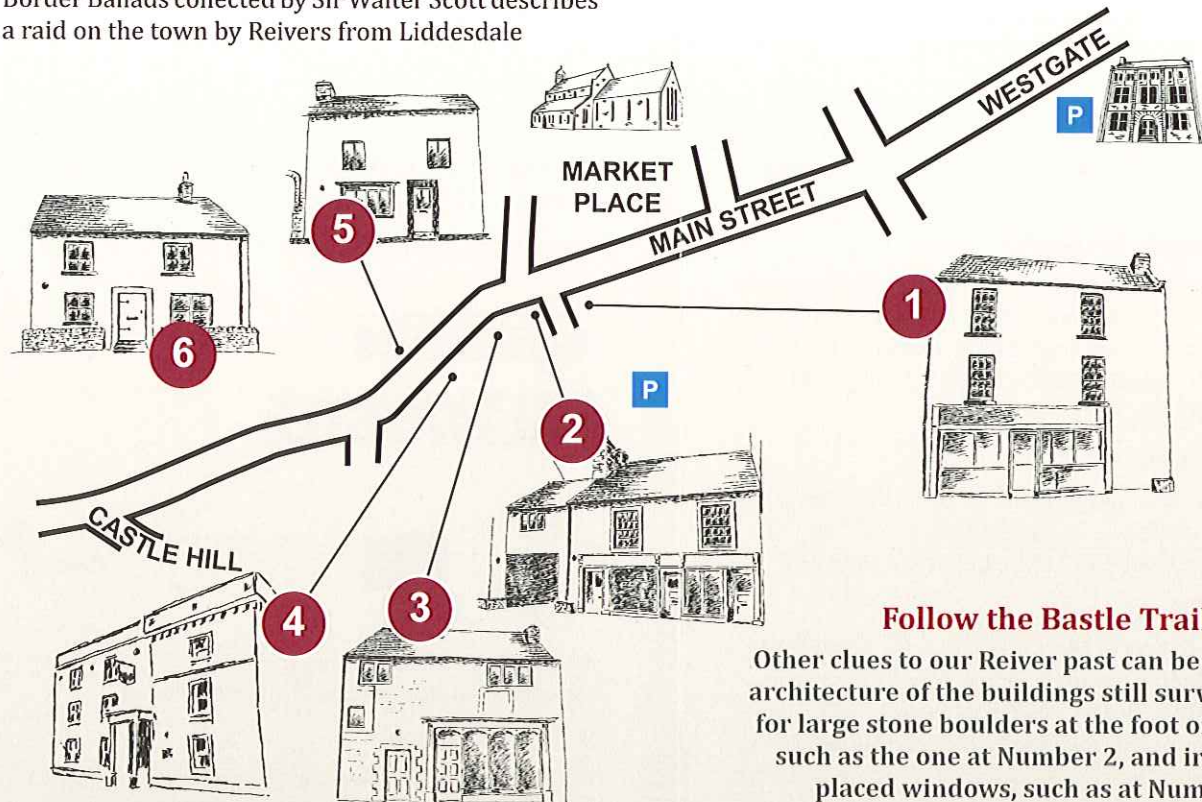
The legacy of the Border Reivers can still be seen in these Border lands - from the Pele Towers and Bastles, to the local culture and its people.

The family names of the Reivers can be found all around the area - Armstrong, Ridley, Bell, Graham and Robson are just some of the names still with us today.

The Border Ballads

An extract from 'The Fray of Haltwhistle', one of the Border Ballads collected by Sir Walter Scott describes a raid on the town by Reivers from Liddesdale

*Then cam Wat Armstrong to the town,
Wi' some three hundred chiels or mair,
An' swore that they wad burn it down;
A' clad in jack, wi' bow and spear.
Harnessed right weel, I trow they were;
But we were aye prepared at need,
And dropt ere lang upon the rear
Amangst them, like an angry gleed.*



Follow the Bastle Trail

Other clues to our Reiver past can be seen in the architecture of the buildings still surviving. Look for large stone boulders at the foot of buildings, such as the one at Number 2, and irregularly placed windows, such as at Number 3.