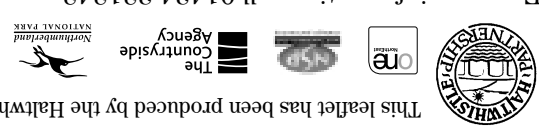




For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
 Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
 In planning your transport, please refer to:
 Journey Planner – www.planner.org.uk
 Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
 Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walking-hadrianswall.com) Tel: 01434 382620
 Photography by David G. Prakeel – PhotoWorkshops Partnership
www.photopartners.co.uk Tel: 01434 322595
 This leaflet has been produced by the Haltwhistle Partnership and part-funded by:

 For more information call 01434 321242

Walk 03
 Haltwhistle Parish
 6 miles
 9.7 km
 Moderate Difficulty
 HADRIAN'S WALL
 COUNTRY

The Haltwhistle Rings

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

This 6-mile walk, which takes you through the heavily wooded valley alongside the Haltwhistle Burn, is both very beautiful and extremely interesting. The stretch along Hadrian's Wall provides spectacular views both of the Wall and the wild open country and forests to the north. When the walk strikes south the way is over semi-moorland with fine views of the moors to the south and of Haltwhistle and the South Tyne Valley below. Watch out for salmon and sea trout up the Burn as well as red squirrels, dippers and heron.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Haltwhistle Burn – Milecastle 42 – Roman Wall – Hallpeat Moss

'The Lovers Walk – Gentle, Beautiful and Lots of Kissing Gates'

Start Point: By Car, Bus, Train.
 Start in Haltwhistle. Train users follow signs 'Town Centre' to start at the Market Square and take the arched alleyway 20m to the left of The Centre of Britain Hotel to the supermarket car park. Bus users start at the Market Square. Car users park at the supermarket accessed by turning into Aesica Road off Main Street signposted 'Swimming & Leisure Centre' and following the blue 'P' signs.

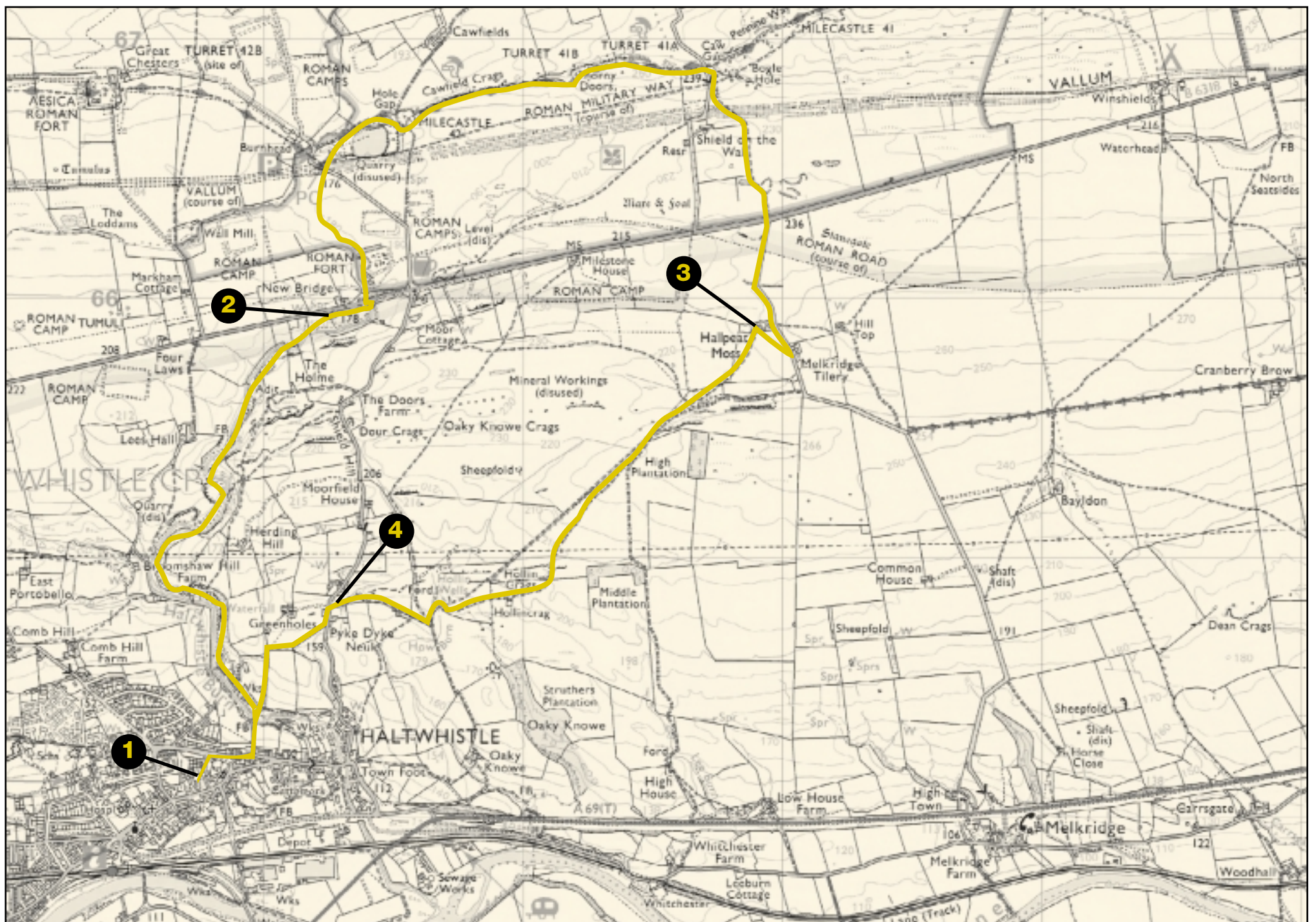
1. Starting at the supermarket car park just behind Main Street, leave the car park by the main vehicle entrance, turn right up Fair Hill, and at the top – about 200 yards – turn left onto a footpath between a new housing development and a detached house. Note the inscription on a stone wall bordering the front of the housing estate: Haltwhistle District Schools 1875. When a new First School was opened in 1984, the old Board School was pulled down and the new houses and flats built, but this stone was retained to commemorate the site. The path is signposted, "To Pyke Dyke Neuk". Proceed on this path through a kissing gate, then onto a well-defined path alongside a playing field on the left to another kissing gate at the bottom of the field. Turn sharp left, and keeping Haltwhistle Burn on your right, proceed to a metalled road. Turn right, and after a short distance turn right again to cross the Burn. From here onwards there are many indicators of the industrial activity that flourished in the 19th century: woollen mill, pottery, brickworks, coal mine and old mineral railway which carried stone from Cawfields quarry down to Haltwhistle. The tall brick building beside you was the South Tyne Fireclay Brickworks. Turn immediately left and go through a kissing gate. A well-defined path that is the line of the old mineral railway now takes you right up to the Military Road. En-route you will pass a picnic area (a mill once stood on this site) on your left, before crossing a footbridge where the old mineral railway lines are still in place. Continue with the Burn on your right through another kissing gate, over a footbridge (the Burn will now be on your left,) past a tall chimney and the remains of an engine housing associated with a disused drift mine.

Did you know: The chimney provided steam for the engines which pulled the tubs out of the coal mine, which had its main entrance lower down the valley. Built about 1850, the chimney was refurbished in 1996 with the help of British Telecom, English Heritage and European Funding.

Go through another kissing gate and finally over a footbridge and up a fairly steep grassy slope to a final kissing gate giving access to the Military Road.

2. Turn right and walk on a wide grassy verge. Immediately after the farmhouse on the left look out for the footpath sign and descend the slope to a ladder stile over the stone wall below, after the bridge over the Burn (The slope is difficult and the ground ahead very marshy. As an alternative, stay on the wide grassy verge to the crossroads. Turn left down the road signposted "Cawfields" and, after a few hundred yards, take the signposted footpath on the right to Milecastle 42 on the Roman Wall which is clearly visible). Once over you will find you are between Haltwhistle Burn on your left and a steep slope on your right, which is the site of a former Roman fort. Follow the Burn round choosing your route carefully to avoid the marshiest patches of ground. Just before the road bridge that crosses the Burn, there are the remains of a Roman Water Mill, now buried by waste from the quarry. You will come to a step stile leading onto a road. Turn left along the road then right to enter the car park at Cawfields. Picnic tables and toilets here! Nearby is a small lake formed on the site of a disused quarry. Take the path on the left of the lake up to Milecastle 42. Milecastle 42 was built by the Second Legion, and a Hadrianic inscription has been discovered. The Vallum was a steep, flat-bottomed ditch with a mound on each side of it; its purpose was to determine the military zone. Between the Vallum and the Wall ran a military way linking forts, milecastles and turrets. To the south, at the foot of the slope, runs one of the most clearly visible sections of Vallum. Turn right at the Milecastle and walk alongside the Roman Wall passing turret 41B and 41A before dropping down to reach a metalled road. Cross over and bear right almost immediately to cross the Vallum, and make for the left corner of the stone wall facing you, where you will meet a farm track which will take you back to the Military Road. The Farm on your right is Shield on the Wall. The frequent use of Shield (shiel, shieling) in place names hereabouts, always has the same derivation. From the Middle Ages into the 19th century, main farmsteads in the valleys had summer grazing of "shieling" grounds on the uplands, and a shield was a dwelling on those grounds. Cross over the Military Road and take the metalled road as far as Hallpeat Moss, a farm on your right. Hallpeat Moss is a really well preserved Northumberland farmhouse with a traditional stone-slatted roof and stock buildings attached.

3. Immediately after the farm take the stiles on your right – two in quick succession, signposted 'Haltwhistle' – and strike out diagonally left for the far bottom corner of a large meadow, where you climb a ladder stile over a stone wall. Follow the stone wall on your left to reach another stile, after which you climb slightly to the right to reach



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a rough farm track. A ruined lime kiln and the entrance to a disused mine down to the right are the only clues to the industrial nature of this area's past. Bear right uphill along this track until you reach a field gate. First keep to the stone wall on the right, and then gradually leave it, and aim to cross the line of overhead cables just to the right of the pylon, before crossing a small stream at a rough ford. Aim for the field gate on the skyline. Go through the gate and bear right over rough pasture, pass just to the right of an old cottage called Hollincrag, then through a field gate. Walk down a well-defined farm track which eventually goes left then bears right passing two gates in walls on the left, before going through another metal field gate. The track continues until you reach the highway by way of another metal field gate. This is the Shield Hill.

4. Turn left, and after a short distance take the footpath – signposted Haltwhistle Burn – on the right. Keep near to the stone wall on the left to the far corner. At a dogleg in the path a small stream runs under the path and then flows on the right of the path. Go through a metal kissing gate and follow the stone wall on the left steeply downhill to a metal kissing gate at the bottom of the field. Cross a rough track and descend a flight of wooded sleeper steps to a footbridge over Haltwhistle Burn, then up a steep flight of stone steps with a handrail to a metal kissing gate at the top – which you should recognise! Take the path to Fair Hill, turn right, and at the bottom enter the car park.

Whilst Walking in and around Hadrian's Wall Country please remember that "every footstep counts" particularly during the wet winter months. You can help protect Hadrian's Wall Country and one of the great wonders of the world by following the simple advice below:

- Many of the routes are permissioned by landowners - enjoy the countryside and respect the livestock and the land
- Always follow the signed paths
- Guard against risk of Fire at all times
- Fasten all gates
- Keep dogs on a lead
- Remember walking on Hadrian's Wall can cause it to collapse
- Try to avoid walking alongside the wall in very wet conditions.