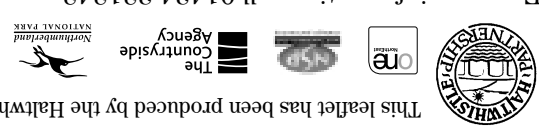




For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
 Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
 In planning your transport, please refer to:
 Journey Planner – www.planner.org.uk
 Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
 Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walkinghadrianswall.com) Tel: 01434 382620
 Photography by David G. Praker – 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 09
 Hartleyburn & Featherstone
 7.5 miles
 12 km
 Moderate Difficulty


The Haltwhistle Rings

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

A pleasant and varied 7½-mile walk beside the Hartley Burn and its mining legacy from its source to the South Tyne with good views, changing vistas and wooded valleys.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Halton Lea Gate – Haining House – Hatleyburn – South Tyne – Byers Hall

‘Coal Mines and Prison Camps!’

Start Point: By Car.
 From Haltwhistle take the road off the A69 by Bellister Castle signposted ‘Alston (A689)’. At the junction with the A689 at Lambley turn right and Halton-le-Gate is approximately 1km west.

Did you know: The earliest railway in this area was Lord Carlisle's 19th century wagonway which carried coal from Hartleyburn Common and linked the collieries of Lambley, Midgeholm and Roachburn with Brampton. Hodgson wrote in 1840 of this township ‘... it presents, in steam-engines and coal pits, a scene of great and unexpected activity.’ You will see evidence of its remains on this walk today. It was a remarkable achievement and sections were still in use in the 20th century. George Stephenson's famous ‘Rocket’ spent its final working days here in Halton-lea-Gate when it was roped in to act as a stationary haulage engine on the inclined-planes. The line was eventually linked to the Alston-Haltwhistle line at Lambley, so coal now went the other way to Newcastle. Please don't forget to use our village shop and Post Office.

1. Park thoughtfully on the road in Halton-lea-Gate. With your back to the shop, turn left and walk east through the village to the house down the bank on the left – ‘Lillyputt’ No.29 – and turn left onto the footpath, signposted ‘Clover Hill’. Pass by the gable end of the white house on your right, over a footbridge, over two stiles and continue on with the wall on your left which you follow – passing over another wall – until you reach the track entering Clover Hill – the best of dog boarding kennels. Go through the half gate, turn left to enter the yard and immediately right through a half gate – signposted. Turn left past the shed and follow the field boundary on your left, crossing another stile and up to the road ahead. Turn left and continue on the road past North Doubledykes Farm and down the hill to the bridge over the Hartley Burn before Byers Hall.

2. Turn left just before the bridge over a novel stile signposted ‘Midgeholm’ and straight on to cross the white footbridge. Turn left and on to a crumbled field boundary at the bottom of a slope and by a raised concrete square plinth – a relic of the days of mining

here – and continue on with the bank on your right – very muddy here – for about 60m before passing between two trees to a stile. After the stile continue on to a redbrick bunker with a steel girder over the entrance and ascend the path to the right of this up through some trees to cross a stile. (NB: The path should go diagonally left across the field to Hill House but a new field boundary has been built but without the requisite stile.) Turn right to follow the fence up to a gate and then diagonally up left to Hill House Farm.

3. Follow the track through the gates of the farmyard and onto a cattle grid with a gate beyond it. At the cattle grid face right, looking towards the house at the far side of the valley, and go diagonally right down across the field – aiming for the lower of the two telegraph poles – and descend to cross a footbridge over Haining Burn and then a stile. Go diagonally left across a small paddock, cross another stile and go diagonally left up the hill, aiming to the right of a group of conifers at the top of the hill at Haining House.

4. At the top of the field at the right hand side of the conifers go through a gate and walk across the paddock to go through a gate to the right of the farmhouse and into the farmyard. Go through another gate to the left of a black corrugated iron barn and then diagonally right down to another – wooden – gate in the corner of the field. Go through and diagonally right (NE), passing the corner of a stone wall 20m to your right, and then continue across boggy ground aiming for a stone wall above which you can see a signpost. Turn left on the road and immediately right onto the bridleway, signposted ‘Burnfoot’. The path is at first like a ditch but then runs alongside a stone wall field boundary – admire the views from here, the highest point on this walk – to cross two more field boundaries until meeting the ‘Pennine Way’ at the third (1 km).

5. At the gate where you meet the Pennine Way go straight on with the remains of a field boundary on your left to a marker post, through some trees to another marker post – you can see Featherstone Castle to your left – and down the spur, with the land sloping away to your right and left, to a gate by the road. Turn left and continue until the road turns sharp left. Go straight on the track past High Burnfoot – on your right – and then – on your left – Low Burnfoot, and where the track ends in front of a gate on your right go straight on off the track to a footbridge. Don't cross the bridge but go straight on with the burn on your left to a very photogenic gate and straight on with the fence on your right to a stile by the river. Continue on beside the riverbank – opposite the remains of the WWII POW camp on the other side – to cross a stile by a gate into a wooded area, over a stream running through a large pipe and continue on with the fence, trees and river on your left, over a stile, through another gate and across a meadow to a gate in a dry stone wall.



Copyright: Ordnance Survey (Explorer OL 43)

Did you know: World War II Prisoner of War Camp – No. 18. This is situated in Featherstone Park and remains of it can clearly be seen. It housed thousands of German officers during and after the Second World War. The late Queen Mother visited the camp, and many prisoners became highly thought of in the area. An interpreter in the camp, Captain Herbert Sulzbach, a German Jew and officer in the German Army who fled to Britain in the 1930s, was awarded an OBE because he “dedicated himself to making this camp a seedbed of British-German reconciliation.” Prisoners worked at local farms and soon were not required to return each night; indeed some returned briefly to Germany only to come back here and continue working.

Did you know: During the reign of Henry II this area, encompassing the Hartley Burn, then called ‘The Byres’, was held by the monks of Hexham as tenants of Adam de Tindale. The monks had a lot of problems with the locals taking advantage of their distance from the land they held, and issued the following edict to be read in local churches. ‘And if any one depastures with his beasts within the said lands and pastures at any time of year without the license of the prior, he ought to be attached by the bailiff of the prior, and judged in the prior’s court for the damages.’ The local nuns at the convent in Lambley were the exception but within strict limits that ‘the said nuns and their servants throw down, take, or carry away nothing, nor do no damage in the woods, nor enter the park there with their cattle any where but on the south side of the said burn.’ The local Prioress had a reputation for grazing her cattle illegally! (See Walk 10.)

6. Lambley Farm is ahead of you and to your left is the road bridge over the river.

Re-trace your outward route to return to Halton-lea-Gate.

Did you know: The village of Lambley had its own Benedictine Nunnery, founded by Adam de Tindale and his wife Heloise in 1173 on the site of what is now Lambley Farm. In 1296 it was destroyed by the Scots during William Wallace’s biggest marauding venture into England when they laid waste large parts of Northumberland. “In this raid they surpassed in cruelty all the fury of the heathen,” wrote the monk-chronicler of Lanercost. “When they could not catch the young and strong they imbrued their arms with the blood of infirm people, old women, women in childbed, and even children two or three years old, proving themselves apt scholars in atrocity inasmuch as they raised little span-long children pierced on pikes to expire thus and fly away to the heavens.” But the convent was restored – for a time at least – though there were only six nuns in residence when Henry VIII suppressed the place in 1538. What Henry left was sold not long after to one of the Featherstonehaughs – of Featherstone Castle – in 1553 and it was converted into a farmhouse using much of the remaining stone. Its bell still hangs above the 19th century church in Lambley Village.

Turn right onto the farm track, through a gate to ascend through Crow Wood to go through another gate into a field and straight on to the next gate. Continue right and straight on to descend past a sheep pen and on up to the road. Turn right along the road and continue to the bridge over Hartley Burn. Turn left off the road opposite a barn – signposted – and walk diagonally right to the far right corner of the field. Cross the stile, up the bank to a marker post – you are on The Pennine Way – and go diagonally left to a stile. The Pennine Way goes right here – you cross the stile, over the footbridge and aim to pass a copse on your right before descending diagonally left down the hillside into a river-level meadow to go through a gate near the point where the field boundary meets the river. Continue on by the river (burn) until it bends left then straight over the field to meet the road by the bridge at Byers Hall.

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.