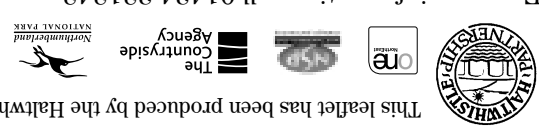





For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
In planning your transport, please refer to:
Journey Planner – www.jplanner.org.uk
Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walking-hadrianswall.com) 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:


Walk 15
Coanwood - Featherstone - Plennellor
Moderate Difficulty
8 miles
12.9 km



22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

The Haltwhistle Rings

An amazingly varied 8-mile walk with outstanding views, open moorland, waterfalls, a wooded railway walk and much of interest.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Yont the Cleugh – Burn House – Low Todhillwood – Lynshields – South Tyne Trail – Asholme

‘Quakers – a Walk for Friends’

Start Point: By Car.
From Haltwhistle take the A689 road south off the Haltwhistle By-pass at Bellister Castle signposted “Alston”. At Rowfoot, turn right at the Village Hall, pass the Wallace Arms, and almost immediately turn left into a car park behind the disused railway line which now forms part of the South Tyne Trail. .

1. Follow the South Tyne Trail towards Lambley Viaduct past Coanwood Station and, after passing two houses on your left, come to the start of a copse of trees on your left. (Lambley Viaduct is 100m ahead and worth a visit for the views.)

Did you know: Coanwood is from the Celtic ‘Collen-gwydd’ meaning hazel trees, or a hazel wood. The demand for charcoal consumed the bulk of the hazel woods here even before the railway, the new road and the coalmines had their impact on the neighbourhood.

Turn left up a bank beside a wooden fence of five bars and through the broken fence to follow the path through the woods. This is not signposted. The path passes Castle Hill on your right and then bends left and ascends to a stile out of the wood. Cross the stile and follow the fence on your right for about 200m.

Did you know: Castle Hill was probably an early Iron Age Celtic settlement of the Brigantes tribe and later used by the Romans as a signal station to link with the one on Lintley Farm to the south and Carvoran to the north.

Where the fence turns sharply right, go left heading for a gateway in a broken-down wall. Then continue up across the field in the direction of the houses (Asholme,) aiming for a ladder stile over a stone wall in the right hand corner. Go over the stile and turn left up the track to the road by Asholme. Turn left to walk past some houses – one of which is ‘The Jerry’ which used to be a pub – turn right on the main road and immediately left up the hill – signposted ‘Whitfield’ – with the Beaconhill tree plantation on your left.

Did you know: Described in 1820 as ‘snugly seated under banks clothed with luxuriant woods ... defended by this great projecting headland (Castle Hill) from the north winds, and from the east and west by the river banks,’ the original Asholme must now lie beneath the trees of Hag Wood and Low Asholme. In 1637 the estate of Asholme came into the possession of Thomas Wallace who built a ‘sweetly sequestered residence’ but later died at the Battle of Worcester in 1651 while serving in Sir Timothy Featherstonehaugh’s Troop of Horse. Somewhere on this estate was the ancient chapel of Sandyburn Sele, the location of which is unknown ... or is it? A note of 1820 states ‘the last millstone quarry that was open in this parish was in West Coanwood, at a place called The Chapel, which is now a public house.’ Could this be ‘The Jerry’ at Asholme?

2. Where the plantation ends, take the footpath over the ladder stile – signposted ‘Yont the Cleugh’ – and go diagonally right across the field, over a stile passing Dykehead on your left, through a field gate and diagonally left to a track over a bridge. The track goes right up to the road, left through a field gate to a house but ahead of you is a small wicket gate that makes up part of a wooden barrier across what was once a field entry. Go through the gate and straight across the paddock over a stream to a ladder stile. Straight on, with a barn on your right, to a way-marked gate and into the yard of East Stonehouse. Turn left and keep to the main track through the farm buildings as it continually bends to the right until you see a way-marked telegraph pole on the left as you leave the farmyard. Go through the gate next to the pole and straight across the field to a half gate beside some conifer trees. Descend by the burn, turn left over the bridge and ascend to the courtyard of Yont The Cleugh Caravan Park (Yont The Cleugh simply describes a ‘Farm on the Far side of the Ravine).

3. Cross the main courtyard to a half gate – way-marked – through a playing field with a row of conifers on the left. Go through the gate and playing field and straight on where the conifers end, and across a paddock of caravans to a stile onto the road. Cross the road and follow the track into Dykes Farm and in the yard, with the farm on your left, through a five-bar-gate at an angle on your right, and left to follow the field boundary on your left to the end of the field. Good views to the north here – your left – to Hadrian’s Wall and the Cheviots, and behind you – west – to Cold Fell. Cross the stile and follow the wall on your left to join a farm track at a five-bar-gate. Very boggy here (it is hoped a stile will be in place here shortly!) and the gate is difficult to open but once you have got through continue on the track, past a ruined farm building, through a gorse gully and gate to pass Burn House on your left, and down on the track and over the bridge to the road. The Friends Meeting House on your left before the bridge is a must visit!



Copyright: Ordnance Survey (Explorer OL 43)

Did you know: The Meeting House stands beneath Burn House and is essentially as it was when built in 1760. The simple wooden benches inside are a rare survival of the historic Quaker layout. A panelled partition with hinged shutters subdivides the interior to the right of the entrance. There used to be a small library comprising of 106 books with a catalogue and loan record dating from 1824. The whereabouts of these books now is not known. In the burial ground there are typically Quaker, round-headed gravestones, commemorating the Wigham family who helped to found the Meeting House. Round the side is a classic example of an old privy. The Twelve Friends who founded the Meeting House were mostly drawn from the family of Cuthbert Wigham, and included his children, grandchildren and their wives. Nearly all of them became ministers, travelling far and wide throughout England, Scotland and Ireland. Notably, many of the ministers were women including Cuthbert's own daughter, Mabel, who was a minister for 25 years and died in 1781. Hannah, the wife of his son John, Dorothy the wife of his son Thomas, and Rachel, the wife of his son William were all ministers too – the latter reportedly an 'able minister of the gospel' for 65 years until her death in 1813 at the age of 91. Hodgson, writing in 1840, speaks of 'several families of the Society of Friends among the freeholders of this township, the principal of which was of the name of Wigham, some of whom still remain, and others who have tried their fortunes in the world of commerce have fondly cherished the hope of returning to and closing their days among the woods and wilds of nature.' Please leave a donation to help its upkeep.

4. Turn left at the road and immediate right down the road/track past Low Byer, on and over the bridge to the ruins of the school house below Low Todhillwood and High Ramshaw ('Tod' being the word for a fox). Turn left before the entry to the school and follow the fence on your right to a ladder stile and then on along a dyke to the next one. Over the stile and on, slightly right of straight on, aiming up for the end of a stone wall on your right. The path then goes along the side of the wall and then narrows into a muddy track with walls on both sides, at the end of which is a gate into a paddock beside Low Ramshaw Farm. (A 'ram' was the old word for raven, 'shaugh' was another word for a copse. So this area covering Low and High Ramshaw was a wooded area inhabited by ravens).

5. Go through the gate, and follow the wall on your right to another gate on a farm track. Go through and continue on the track which descends and bends right and left and right again to enter a paddock/bale storage area enclosed between two five-bar-gates. Go through and straight on to a marker post. Go diagonally left here across the rough pasture of Ramshaw Fell – no obvious path here – keeping to the left of a lone tree as you descend to a marker post beside Park Burn. To your left here you will see a footbridge. At the marker post turn right (but if you miss the post just turn right when you come to the burn). Follow on beside the burn – an erratic path this – to a ladder stile. Go over the stile and on towards your left to see the waterfalls, and then on along the ridge above the burn to ascend to a ladder stile.

6. Over the stile follow the path alongside a tree plantation on your left. Go over a step stile at the end of the plantation, then straight on past Lynnshild Farm on your right, to a ladder stile on your right, over a wall beside the barns. Cross the stile, turn left then right through a gate, through the barn and then left out of the farmyard. Take the gate – way-marked – 30m on the left having left the farmyard, straight on across the field and then beside a fence above trees on your left to a kissing gate. Turn left after the gate descending into a meadow, and then right to a ladder stile beside a gate and onto the road.

7. Turn left and continue on the road to the 'T' junction at Featherstone Rowfoot. Turn right here for The Wallace Arms – food and drink! – and on to your starting point.

Did you know: Featherstone gave its name to the family of Featherstonehaugh, which was originally Fetherstanhalcht. This means Low Ground by the River where there was a 'Fetherstan'. This was a standing stone, like those at Stonehenge with two uprights and a lintel over the top; a reminder of our prehistory!

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.