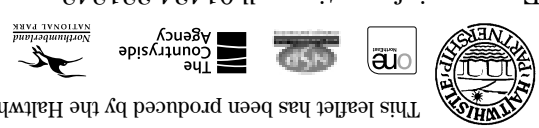




For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
 Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
 In planning your transport, please refer to:
 Journey Planner – www.jplanner.org.uk
 Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
 Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walking-hadrianswall.com)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

 For more information call 01434 321242

HADRIAN'S WALL
 COUNTRY

6 miles
 9.7 km
 Moderate Difficulty

Walk 19
 Henshaw Parish

The Haltwhistle Rings

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

An outstandingly scenic 6-mile walk along the Wall to Crag Lough, down to visit Vindolanda, through rolling fields and up to the highest point of the Wall at Winshields.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Once Brewed – Crag Lough – Vindolanda – Winshields Crags

‘The Roman Wall – Before, During and After’

Start Point: By Car, Bus.

From Haltwhistle Centre take Main Street east past the Spotted Cow pub and turn left up the road for 2k to the B6318 next to The Milecastle Inn. Turn right for 3k to Once Brewed and turn left up to Steel Rigg car park. Bus users take the Hadrian's Wall Bus to the Information Centre at Once Brewed (contact 01434 322002). Cross the B6318 and walk up the road to Steel Rigg car park. Refreshments are available at the pub at Once Brewed and at Vindolanda for those who have purchased a ticket to visit the site.

Did you know: Once Brewed is next to Twice Brewed – in fact they are separated by only eighty yards! In Twice Brewed there is a public house; in Once Brewed there is a Youth Hostel – and this is a clue to how their names originated. After the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion, the English commissioned that a road be built from Newcastle to Carlisle in case the rebellious Scots again tried to invade down an unprotected west coast. A General Wade was given the task and, where he could, he followed the line of the Wall and used much of it as hard-core! His men were a thirsty hard drinking crew and were much relieved when they came to a hostelry where they could clear the dust from their throats. To their dismay the beer was very weak and they demanded that it be brewed for a second time; and the pub became known as the ‘Twice Brewed’. Many years later, at the height of The Temperance Movement, Lady Trevellyen, an avid temperance campaigner, opened the Youth Hostel next door. In her address to the assembled locals she insisted that the only beverage consumed here would be tea, and that would be brewed only once !

1. Take the path at the right hand corner of the car park, go through a wicket gate and on to turn left to join the Hadrian's Wall National Trail beside the Wall to descend past the Roman turret and up onto Peel Crags.

Did you know: Boundaries had not really been the Roman way – they believed in taking the Empire to the world. ‘Join us and be a Roman or be annihilated’ seemed to be the option faced by most of the world's lesser mortals! Hadrian's biographer tells us that, ‘He was the first to build a wall, 80 miles long, to separate the Romans from the barbarians.’ And that is all the written words we have on the matter. So why a Wall? Here's a few ideas.

A: It was about military and economic control. The gates in the milecastles are a clue; no belligerent barbarian could pass through unnoticed or remain armed in the military zone created here. Similarly, no trade could go through without the customs men taking their share for the Emperor.

B: Hadrian was a ‘canny’ (intelligent) politician. He knew that successful Roman generals, adding new lands to the Empire, had a habit of coming home with big heads, even bigger armies and taking over the top job after bribing a few senators or finding a willing assassin. So keep them busy on a building site and that way they can't make too big a name for themselves!

C: Hadrian sought to end Trajan's tradition of adding bits on to the Empire. He decided that the Empire was at its peak and it was time to stop expanding and the economic problems that may arise from this. A man who knew where to draw the line, he set off round his Empire to do just that and drew new boundaries all over Europe.

For the best insight into Roman Britain, visit Vindolanda today – this is a ‘must visit’.

Continue along the Wall on Peel Crags, passing through Sycamore Gap – made famous in the Kevin Costner film Robin Hood – to Highshield Crags and past Crag Lough. Descend to the farm track from Hotbank Farm and turn right onto this and continue down to the road. At the road turn right for 300m. – CAUTION: cars tend to go very fast along here!

2. Take the signposted path on your left to go diagonally right across a field, aiming for the left of the buildings at High Shield. Cross the stile, and follow the path with the field boundary on your left, cross a stile and descend to the road. Note the Roman milestone on your right just before the gate at the road. This was on the Stanegate Roman Road, which predates the building of the Wall.

(If you want to visit Vindolanda Roman Fort – turn left and then right to take the path down to Chesterholm.)



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3. Turn right here and follow the farm track past the farm and the north wall of Vindolanda Fort, past the car park on your left and, when the track becomes tarmac, take the footpath through the gate on your left – signposted ‘Henshaw & Bardon Mill’. Continue on through another five-bar-gate and, with a stone wall on your left, descend to a stile on your right 20m before the junction with another farm track from the left. Go over the stile and straight on across rough pasture to a copse of thorn and birch trees behind which you will find a stile. Cross the stile and Kingcairn Burn and ascend the field to the left of the building ahead – Kit’s Shield – to descend over a stile into the gully of Bean Burn. Climb the well-worn path up the other side of the gully, with a ditch and fence on your left, and cross the stile ahead. Go straight on with the field boundary on your left and over a stile into a tree plantation. Exit over a ladder stile and diagonally right across the paddock to go over a stile to the right of a metal five-bar-gate into the courtyard of Layside. Go straight ahead to join the track out of the courtyard and on to the road.

4. Cross the road, turn left and almost immediately right over a stile in a stone wall and diagonally right across the field on the footpath sign posted ‘Military Road’ to descend to the far right corner. (Don’t take the track to Cranberry Brow’). Cross the stile and go diagonally right up the field aiming for the left of the house on the top of the rise ahead – ‘Seatsides’ – to go over a ladder stile by a five-bar-gate. Go diagonally left down across the field, aiming for the farm buildings ahead, to cross another ladder stile, diagonally right over another ladder stile visible ahead and diagonally right towards the farm. (I’ve just won a prize for the most ‘diagonallys’ in one sentence; if, indeed, it is a sentence!). Aim for the right of the farm, go over a stile over a fence, diagonally left across a small paddock, over another stile into the farmyard and right to exit the farmyard through a gateway, over a bridge and up to the road opposite Winshields Farm and camping site.

5. CAUTION: cars tend to go very fast along here! Cross the road, turn left for 20m and then right onto the footpath sign posted ‘Hadrian’s Wall’. Cross the stile, pass the farm on your right, through a five-bar-gate and continue on this track up towards Winshields Crags – the track bends left and then right as you near the top – to meet the Wall ahead of you. Turn right onto Hadrian’s Wall National Trail and up to the summit of Winshields Crags, the highest point on the Wall, and enjoy the views.

Did you know: When you pause on the Wall to admire the views remember that, as wild and wonderful as the landscape is, it is all the result of man’s activity over the years. The end of the Ice Age left a landscape of bare rock, ice pockets and small lakes (loughs). Alpine plants slowly made inroads in the tundra conditions and by 6000 BC the region was covered by a dense natural forest of oak, alder, birch and elm. Neolithic man began the demolition of the forests about 6000 years ago in order to make room to grow crops and graze cattle, and as the climate became wetter and cooler the upland became moorland where the trees could not regain their foothold (roothold?) as they had before because of the deterioration of the soil. The better quality soils adjacent to the farms have maintained their fertility because of the widespread use of fertilisers. The area north of the Wall was known as the Forest of Lowes (Loughs), which disappeared during the Reivers years for firewood in both Realms!

Continue on along the line of the Wall, through several field boundaries, to descend over a stone stile onto the road and Steel Rigg car park. From here, follow the tarmac road back to the Once Brewed Visitor Centre.

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.