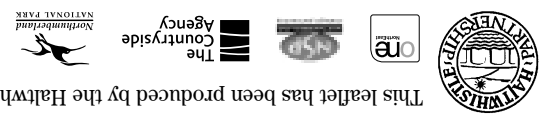




For more information call 01434 321242



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Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk

Journey Planner - www.jplanner.org.uk

In planning your transport, please refer to:

Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org

For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002



8.5 miles
13.7 km
Moderate Difficulty

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

The Haltwhistle Rings

Walk 20
Henshaw & Greenhead

An 8½-mile walk north of the Wall from Cawfields with the opportunity to view the Wall from the undulating, varied and expansive land on the 'Barbarian' side and return along the Wall from Walltown Gap over Mucklebank Crags and Aesica Fort.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Cawfields – Bogle Hole – Great Chesters – King Arthur's Well – Vallum

'The Moss, the Missionary and the Mason'

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 Milecastle Inn on the B6318. Go straight on here to Cawfields car park. Bus users take the Hadrian's Wall Bus to The Milecastle Inn then follow the signs north to Cawfields. (Contact 01434 322002)

This is a great walk for those who would like to compare the intimacy of a stroll by the Wall with the wide and lonely expanses north of it. The contrasts make it more than worthwhile. However, the route from the road above Burnhead Moss and over Bundle Hill to Low Tipalt could be a bit daunting in mist or low heavy rain unless you are an experienced walker with a compass you know how to use!

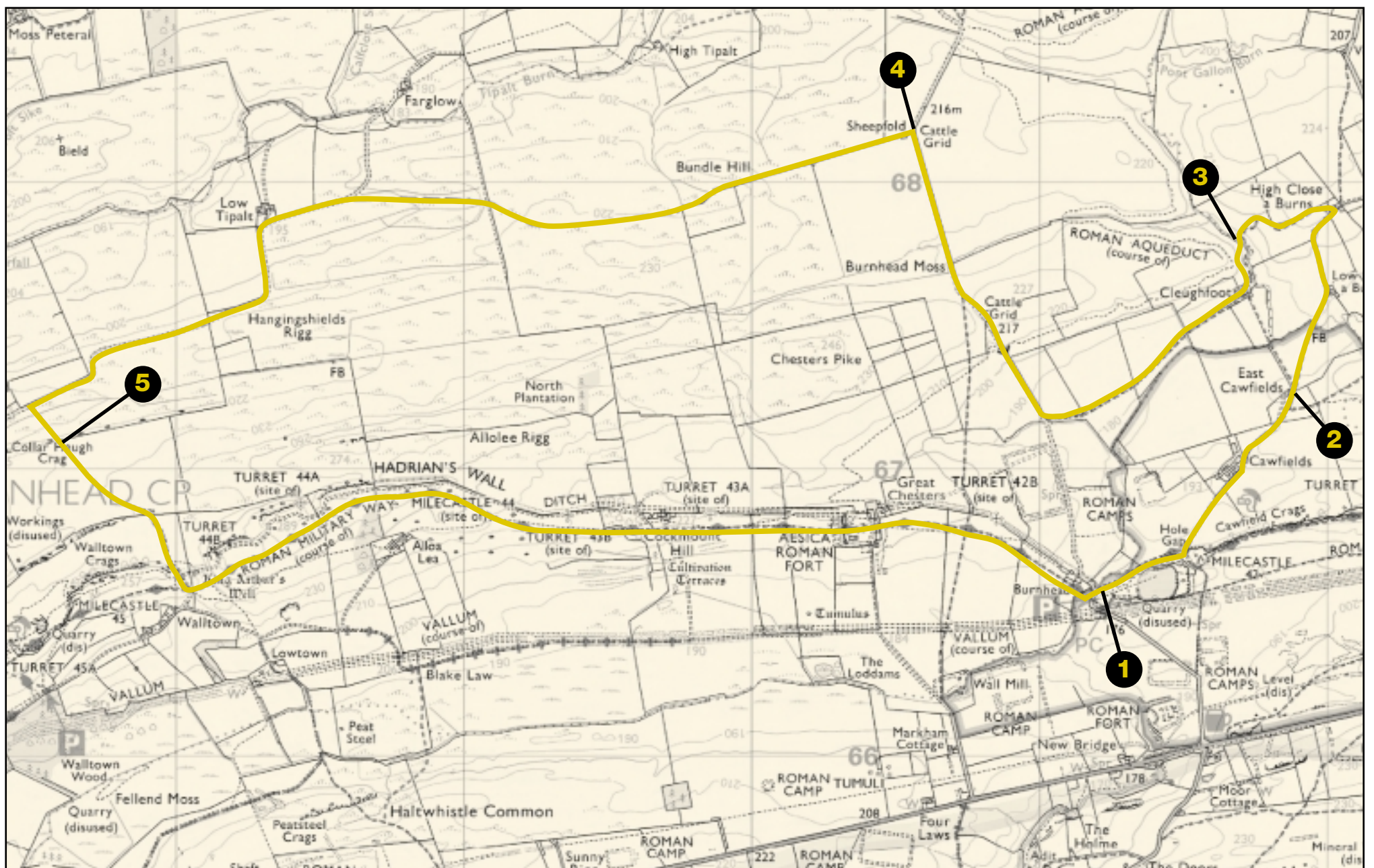
1. From the car park in Cawfields Quarry take the path on the left hand side of the pond up to a kissing gate. This is Hole Gap. After the gate turn left to a farm road and turn right up the road to enter the stone-walled farmyard of Cawfields Farm. Exit through a metal five-bar-gate on your right and then left onto the farm track to pass the farmhouse on your left. Good views to your right of Hadrian's Wall as Picts, Scots, Reivers and Moss Troopers would have seen it. Continue on the track to a metal five-bar-gate, go through and follow on in the direction of the bridle-way sign to the five-bar-gate to the right of East Cawfields Farm. (Ignore the footpath sign going right.)

2. After the gate go diagonally right down to cross a footbridge over Caw Burn and diagonally left up a bank and on to the left edge of the ruin at Low Close a Burn. Turn left here to climb gently up the slope following the line of a row of trees and an old field boundary to cross a ladder stile with High Close a Burn on your right. (The footpath now goes right to the entrance of High Close a Burn, left following the fence to a wire fence, left again following the fence down to where the fence turns right and on to a free-standing wooden post. In other words it goes round the inside perimeter of the field but I'm sure no one will mind if you follow the directions after this bracket.) Go diagonally left with a slight slope on your left to a free-standing wooden post next to the corner of a wire-fenced field. From here look down into the gully on your left and you will see a ladder stile over a stone wall. Good views all round here and the line of the Roman Aqueduct, supplying the fort at Aesica, above the stile below. Your path winds down the bank and over the stile.

3. Turn left, cross the stream, over the ladder stile beside a gate and diagonally right to go through a green five-bar-gate between the farm buildings. Cross a concrete covered area and turn right to exit Cleughfoot, passing the farmhouse on your right, and follow the farm track for about ¾ k to the road. Turn right onto the road for 1k, up the hill, (good views behind you), over a cattle grid and on over the next cattle grid.

Did you know: When you turn off the road at the cattle grid above Burnhead Moss you will be walking across a wide open, expansive almost desolate part of the Moss north of the Wall. As you will see, most of it has been drained over the years but imagine how impassable it would have been before. It was this almost impenetrable barrier that worked to the advantage of the Reiver families and, after the Civil War, the Moss Troopers; both were basically outlaws, like a middle ages Mafia, and operated on both sides of the border, indiscriminately robbing and looting from their neighbours as well as their sworn enemies on the other side of the Wall. It was in their interest to know the routes through the Moss and on many occasions this knowledge enabled escape from their pursuers. Their sure-footed ponies (known as hobbies) could pick their way safely over the treacherous land. On the other hand it was often their demise. Frequently, during the digging of drains and the planting of the forests to the north, bones of both men and their 'hobbies' have been found; testament to the fate befalling the Reiver who lost his way. Many reasons have been given to account for the behaviour of these gangs. Firstly it must be admitted that from before the times of Edward I they had been encouraged by the governments on both sides of the border to cause havoc where they could, but by the time of Elizabeth I and then the Act of Union they had become a major menace to the economic development of the area. Another reason was population and tradition. The population of the main Reiver Valleys was probably 200% greater than it was in 1900 and the ancient tradition of 'gravelkind' was still practised. This was division of the father's land equally between his sons. This led to decreasing incomes and more mouths to feed. Hence the famous picture of the hungry wife presenting a spur on the dinner plate, implying that it was time to go out 'reiving'.

4. Turn left here – signposted Low Tipalt – go through the five-bar-gate and on following the line of the wall on your left. Wide, expansive views of openness and wildness here – well it was before man arrived! Come to a five-bar-gate below the flat summit of Bundle Hill, go through and follow the line of a semi-ruined stone wall boundary on your left that bends left then right and ends with twin stone gate posts on your left and a free standing wooden post beyond. Go straight on here (west) across featureless moss for a short while, before Allolee Rigg becomes visible on your left and Low Tipalt Farm ahead to the right. Look for a marker post to your right and when you reach it go diagonally right to a five-bar-gate. (If you miss the marker post turn right when you reach a fence and follow until you come to the five-bar-gate). After the gate go straight on, towards the farm, down a shallow gully, eventually following the direction of a wire fence on your right, to the road. Turn left here and continue on the road (1k) past Low Tipalt, up the hill, over the cattle grid until you come to a signpost on your left –



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Hadrian's Wall – 150m before High Old Shield. Turn left to cross the footbridge, up the slope and over the ladder stile on Collar Heugh.

5. Go diagonally left, after avoiding the gully on your left, up and over the rough pasture, aiming for the lowest dip in the skyline ahead where the tops of trees are visible, to descend to go through a wall opening with stone posts but no gate. Follow a rough farm track on to Walltown Gap and King Arthur's Well where you will see a ladder stile over a stone wall on your left.

Did you know: This fort was the home of 500 infantrymen of the 2nd Cohort of Asturians from north-west Spain. It was built around 132 and not much remains save parts of the walls and the underground strong room vault in the centre. The remarkable thing about this fort was its water supply. There was insufficient water nearby for the population of the fort, so the engineers built an ingenious aqueduct from 'Fond Tom's Pool' on the Caw Burn, three miles away as the crow flies but six miles as the aqueduct followed contours to ensure a steady flow. You can make out the line of the aqueduct by Cleughfoot.

Did you know: There are many legends linking King Arthur to this area; indeed there are not many parts of England that do not have them! But here the name has stuck but the story is not about our mythical King. It is linked to the early years of Christianity and the opportunism of the missionary Paulinus, one of St. Augustine's right-hand men. In 596 he accompanied Princess Ethelberga of Kent, already a staunch supporter of the faith and St. Augustine in particular, to her marriage with King Edwin, the ruler of Deira which, with Bernicia, formed the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria. Ethelberga was persuaded by Paulinus to insist that Edwin converted as part of the marriage deal, and as the marriage was a good political move for Deira, Edwin agreed. The baptism apparently took place here and, wishing to have people share his new-found faith, he had the bulk of his subjects baptised as well.

Publius Aelius Hadrianus was born in Spain and nominated by adoptive uncle, Trajan, to succeed him – which he did when Trajan died in 117AD. He was generally thought to have been a 'good guy' – chatty if you met him in the public baths, loved his wife as well as his boyfriend, and loved building things. (Well not him really – he stood aside when they mixed the mortar!) He built himself a Hollywood style mansion at Tivoli outside Rome, the Pantheon in Rome and new towns and a few walls all over the Empire. He also ended Trajan's tradition of adding bits on to the Empire. He decided that the Empire was at its peak, it was time to stop expanding and enjoy the fruits of conquest. He set off round his Empire to do just that and apart from having a good time, drew new boundaries all over Europe. When he got to Britain in 122 AD, the hooligans in the north were doing what they do best after a good party – having a riot, so Hadrian decided it was a waste of time fighting them all the time just for the sake of owning some pretty scenery and a lot of midges and instructed the Wall to be built.

Turn right after the stone stile, over the bridge and left into the car park. Bus users return to the Milecastle Inn for the Hadrian's Wall Bus.

This is the Hadrian's Wall National Trail. From here to the car park at Cawfields (3½ km) I shall not describe every stile or gate as the route is very obvious following the line of the Wall. Cross the stile to ascend to Turret 44B, along the Mucklebank Crag, just before Allolee farm down to your right, on through the tree plantation at Cockmount Hill, down through Aesica Roman Fort past Great Chesters Farm and down to the road past Burnhead Cottage.

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.