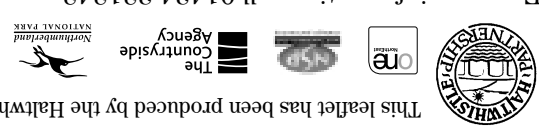




For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
 Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
 In planning your transport, please refer to:
 Journey Planner – www.planner.org.uk
 Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
 Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walking-hadrianswall.com) Tel: 01434 382620
 Photography by David G. 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 02
 Haltwhistle & Greenhead
 6 miles
 9.7 km
 Easy

 HADRIAN'S WALL
 COUNTRY

The Haltwhistle Rings

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

An easy 6-mile walk, mainly through pleasant farmland with good views over to the surrounding countryside and moors and passing Blenkinsopp Hall.
 O.S. Explorer OL 43 Haltwhistle Burn – Comb Hill – Hard Riggs – The Spittal – Woodhead Farm

‘Just a country walk’

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, bearing right all the way.

1. Leave the car park by the main entrance, turn left, then first right along Willia Road. At the narrow entrance to Willia Road the corner of the gable on the right has been chamfered off. This alteration was done at the turn of the century to permit the passage of a large boiler, which was towed by a huge team of horses to the colliery up the burn. Follow this road as it leads up to Haltwhistle Burn past a wooden hut on the right, which is the Scout hut, then stay alongside it upstream. Just past two cottages on the left, go over a stone stile on the left – signposted ‘Comb Hill’. Make for the step stile diagonally to the right across the field. Cross over a small, fast-running stream and make your way up the hill keeping to the edge of the small gorge until you reach the top. Then make for a step stile near a field gate in the fence facing you, just below the farm on the left. Once over, follow the wire fencing on the left until you reach a ladder stile, which brings you on to the road up Comb Hill.

2. Turn right and continue for about ¼ mile up the hill past Edgehill House on your right, and a small wood on your left. The road then descends for a while and in the dip you will notice a step stile on your left – signposted ‘Park Rd.’ Go straight across the field from the stile in a westerly direction until you are level with the farm buildings of Hardriggs Farm to the left. Then turn left and head for the buildings, and go over the step stile into the farmyard. As you make your way through the yard you will see a bungalow to your left – built on the site of the old farmhouse. You have to go alongside the end wall of this bungalow and through a field gate into a small field with a step stile over the wire fence opposite. Once over make for the bottom right hand corner of the field where there is a stone stile into the field below. Beware, you may have to step over some barbed wire stretching across the top corner of this second field. Make for the left hand gate in the wall ahead along the bottom of the field. Beyond, a track leads you down to the road. Turn left down the road until you come to Birchfield Gate Farm.

3. Pass the farm on your left, then almost immediately a house on your right. Just below the house enter a field through a gate and go straight on keeping to the hedge on the right, then go over a stile into woodland – this is all part of Blenkinsopp Hall Estate.

Did you know: Blenkinsopp Hall (not open to the public, but the gardens occasionally are) was originally called Dryburnhaugh and built in 1663. A tower was added in 1835 by John Dobson but demolished in the 20th century. The back of the house was built in 1877 and a stable block added in 1903. J.W. Carmichael tells us in 1838 that the Hall was a ‘seat of hospitality and of Colonel John Blenkinsop Coulson situated about three quarters of a mile north of the railway. The grounds in front of the hall are laid out with great taste and they are bounded on the south by the River Tippalt, which at this place runs nearly parallel with, and separates them from the railway ... About a mile to the westward of the Hall is an extensive colliery, belonging to Colonel Coulson, but leased to a company of Gentlemen, under the title of the Blenkinsopp Coal Company. The coals from this colliery are of a superior quality, and are conveyed in large quantities a distance of 20 miles by the Railway to Carlisle’. The mine closed in 2002, being the second-last drift mine in Northumberland.

Turn sharp left through the wood keeping to the edge of the wood until you spot a bridge and a stile down to your right. These lead you into a narrow field with a gate at the far side, leading on to one of the estate roads. Go straight across the road down a short track alongside a cottage on your left, to the next estate road a short distance away. Cross this road, go over a stile and bear slightly right across the next field to reach a stile next to a field gate near the Spittal Farm. You go left between the farm buildings, then right, then left again on to the farm track which you follow down under the railway bridge on to the main road. Turn left along it – the verge on the right hand side of the road is wider and therefore safer for walking, though you will be turning left again within a few minutes, opposite the far end of the cricket ground signposted ‘Birchfield Gate’. Here, after climbing over a ladder stile, you cross the railway line itself then go over a second ladder stile. Continue up the hill, first keeping close to the trees on the left and heading for a tree on the brow of the hill then, continuing in the same direction, you come to a larger wood. Keep to the edge of it on your right till you reach a gate leading on to an estate road. Cross the road and go through the trees to come out into pasture land. Go straight up the field keeping to the hedge on the right. This leads you to the house on the road where you started the walk through the Blenkinsopp Estate. Turn left, and return to Birchfield Gate Farm.



Copyright: Ordnance Survey (Explorer OL 43)

4. Turn right – signposted ‘Haltwhistle & Edge Hill’ – into the farmyard with the buildings to your left. After passing through the last gate continue straight ahead. Cross the footbridge in the dip, go up the slope and at the top cross another small footbridge on the right leading to a step stile. Turn left and walk through three fields keeping fairly close to the boundary on the left. Just before reaching Woodhead Farm turn left over a step stile, then right to go over another step stile. Continue straight ahead, passing the farm buildings to the right, then turn right through a field gate into the farmyard. Go immediately left through another field gate to walk on a track alongside a huge barn on the right. Continue in this direction through three fields to a ladder stile leading to a path between the Middle School grounds on the right and a modern housing estate on the left. This eventually comes out at the gates of the First School. Next to the school is Greenholme Aged Persons home – built around what was originally the Union Workhouse of the 1850’s. On the opposite side of the road from the workhouse stood the town pinfold for stray animals – clearly this was not the ‘posh’ end of town. Continue straight down the road, cross the end of Aesica Road that branches off to the right, to reach the entrance to the supermarket 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 permitted 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.