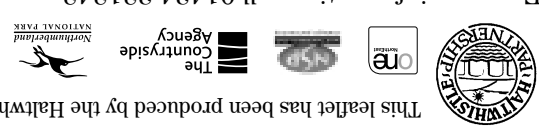




For further information on things to do in and around Hadrian's Wall Country call 01434 322002
 Or visit www.haltwhistle.org or www.hadrians-wall.org
 In planning your transport, please refer to:
 Journey Planner – www.jplanner.org.uk
 Traveline – www.traveline.org.uk
 Walks designed by Mike Swan (www.walking-hadrianswall.com)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

7 miles
11.3 km
Moderate Difficulty

Knarsdale - Kirkcubright - Coanwood
Walk 11

The Haltwhistle Rings

22 Walks in the Historic Parishes of Haltwhistle, Northumberland

A 7-mile walk along the Pennine Way over Lambley Common with great views, over the magnificent Viaduct and back through the wooded valley side to the charming riverside by Eals.

O.S. Explorer OL 43 Knarsdale – Pennine Way – Lambley Viaduct – Towsbank – Eals

‘Water meadow where the green sandpiper plays’

Start Point: By Car.
 From Haltwhistle take the road south off the A69 bypass at Bellister Castle, signposted ‘Alston’. Turn left onto the A689 at Lambley and park on the left off the A689 after about 2km, on the old railway line, just before the bridge beside Burnstones in Knarsdale.

1. Park in the parking area on the old railway line. Go left on the road towards the bridge and turn right up the gravel track to Burnstones (The name means steppingstones over the stream (burn) and was probably a Roman crossing on The Maiden Way). signposted ‘Pennine Way’, which you will be on until Lambley. Before the house, turn right up a stony track, go over a step stile by a gate, then follow the track on through another gate. Until descending to the bridge over Glendue Burn, never lose sight of the wall now on your right. Your route goes up to the left and then curves right round a hollow on your right. Then straight on, first over a ladder stile and then over a step stile by a gate. Ahead you see a ladder stile near to the stone wall on your right. Continue straight on out, first keeping near to a wall on your right, but eventually this veers to the right when the road comes into sight. Your path descends down and to the left to a footbridge over Glendue Burn.

Did you know: Between Burnstones and Glendue Burn you will come across some paved parts of this Roman road, which ran from Whitley Castle to Carvoran near Walltown. Imagine the soldiers who came from many different parts of the Roman Empire, walking along this road 2000 years ago. The same technique of road building had been used to construct it as was being used in the Balkans, Turkey and the Middle East. In 1776 Hutchinson, visiting the area ‘found in this uncultivated country, the most perfect remains he ever saw – it is near six yards wide: the sides are formed of very large pebbles, from whence, in an easy bow, the interior pavement rose to the crown.’

2. Cross the stile beyond and turn right to follow a fence and then a wall up a steep slope to come to a stone stile in the wall on your right. Go over the stile and turn left. Follow the wall on your left for about 2km over four step stiles at field boundaries as you cross Lambley Common. A fence replaces the stone wall on your left. Ignore any way-marks left or right, and descend to a ladder stile leading to the A689.

3. Cross the road and turn right onto the road, signposted ‘Featherstone’. Stop in front of the last house of the terrace on the right. Enter the drive of the house – this is a footpath but not signposted – and walk down the path with the garage on your right to a stile. Continue straight on across three fields, through the tunnel under the Coanwood Road, then keep to the right of a stone wall and with a hedge on your right cross a neatly kept lawn in front of a white house on to the road in Lambley. Turn left and immediately right on to a footpath, signposted ‘Lambley Viaduct’. This path then goes right along the back of some cottages and then left to descend towards the Viaduct. After a flight of steps come to a signpost.

4. Take the right path up the steps to the Viaduct, cross the viaduct. and pass the information board on your right. After 100m come to the end of the trees on your right and turn right 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.

Did you know: The magnificent viaduct itself is over 100 feet high and was getting ruinous before a thorough repair and facelift in 1996 restored its old strength but not its trains. It is a frequently ignored tribute to the great Victorian bridge builders. The Haltwhistle-Alston railway was opened in 1852 and the viaduct eighteen months later but the line was never a commercial success. The lead mines in Alston were already in decline and it had to depend on lime, coal, agriculture and foundry products from Alston. The line remained open until 1976, when the Lambley to Coanwood Road was opened, in order to guarantee access to Alston in the winter when the roads were frequently blocked by snow. Look down from the viaduct to the meadow beside the river. This is Waughhold Holme and an interpretation by Godfrey Watson in his book ‘Good Wife Hot’ of this name is ‘water meadow where the green sandpiper plays.’ It must have reminded our Nordic forebears of home as this bird is a migrant from Scandinavia!

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

Cross the stile and follow the fence on your right for about 200m. 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 right onto a grassy track to descend towards the woods again. At the entrance to the woods go through the five-bar-gate and turn left to follow the path through the top of the woods. Continue on, over a step stile and stream, ignoring a metal field gate on the right and a track up



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left, keeping straight on beside a stone wall. When the wall ends cross another stream that runs down from Towsbank. Go over the ladder stile and at 10m take the narrow footpath, which descends steeply to the South Tyne.

5. The path eventually descends to the meadows beside the river. Cross the footbridge over the burn and turn left to walk upstream, over a ladder stile and on the track to the footbridge over the river just north of Eals.

Did you know: The word means an 'island' or 'floodable land.' Hodgson in 1840 wrote 'gardens stocked with old plum trees, remain as evidence of its descent through a race of yeomen who tilled their own paternal farms ... into variegated stripes of land, after the old town-field fashion, speaks little of any increase of knowledge ...' The land is certainly 'floodable' – in October 1829 a major flood changed the course of the river leaving the southern part of the vale on the west side of the river.

Cross the river, up through the clearing with conifers on your right, turn right to cross a footbridge over Glendue Burn. Turn left upstream to a marker post at the top of a slight incline and straight on to the stile and steps up to the old railway line – South Tyne Trail. You now have a choice.

Option A: Either: Turn left to follow the railway line back to Burnstones passing the chimneys of Knarsdale Hall on your left just before the bridge (2km).

Did you know: The present Knarsdale Hall is on the site of the tower built by Reginal Pratt in 1177 when he was appointed by the King of Scots William I – this area was then what was known as the Tyndale Liberty and held by the Scots – to be head forester of Knarsdale Forest, a royal forest where the principal task of the forester was, like today's gamekeepers, to stop locals pinching the game of lofty visitors; things don't change much! Perhaps the Hall is more famous for 'The Spectre of Knarsdale Hall', a ghost of a long haired young woman seen gliding from the rear door of the Hall to a pond in the yard on the anniversary of her death, leaving the door hanging on its creaking hinges. She was the niece of the Lord of the Manor and had discovered that her brother was having an affair with the Lord's young wife. Fearful that his sister would betray him, although she had no intention of so doing, she was drowned in the pond on a wet and windy night and has haunted the Hall ever since. Only no-one knows the date of her death!

Option B: Go straight on, signposted 'Whitwam Walk'.

(OED: 'hwamm' meaning a corner or snug; i.e. pasture protected from the weather where the white grass grows.)

Over the stile and diagonally left up across the field to a marker post. At the marker post continue on to a gate, with a wall on the right and fence to the left, through the gate and diagonally right aiming for the end of the trees on your left that flank Glendue Burn. Cross the road – A689 – by two ladder stiles and straight on up the field – west – to a marker post. Ignore the arrow pointing right, go straight on towards the wall and turn left onto the Pennine Way. Retrace your steps to Burnstones.

For food or drink go under the bridge by Burnstones and turn left to The Kirkstyle Inn for great food, and beers. (Closed lunch times Mon – Wed during the winter.)

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.