



Hollin Crag and Hollin Wells

The name Hollin is derived from the Old English for holly and this area may once have been covered with this evergreen tree. Hollin also referred to an area of holly regularly cut and used as a nutritious cattle feed in winter, a practice that was common up until the 18th Century. Much superstition is attached to the plant and there is still a widespread belief that it is bad luck to cut down a holly tree. This, too, could have originated in farming practice with holly providing essential shade for stock in the summer months and shelter in winter. In some areas, it was believed that holly should be left to develop into a tree, when grown in a field hedge. This was because it prevented the passage of witches, who were known to run along the top of hedges!



The Hedgehog

One of the most unmistakable of all British mammals, the hedgehog is a close relative of the shrew and mole. Often found in hedgerows and woodlands, they hibernate during the winter in a nest of leaves, sometimes waking to feed or build a new nest. In times gone by, they were considered a delicacy, with gypsy recipes covering them in clay to bake in hot ashes. Now they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

This 6 mile (9.5km) walk between the stations of Bardon Mill and Haltwhistle is largely along field paths with some road walking mainly in Haltwhistle. This walk crosses the A69 - please take care.

Services: Bardon Mill has a general store and pub while Haltwhistle has a full range of shops and facilities. The Hadrian's Wall Bus Service links Hexham and Haltwhistle with Hadrian's Wall. It runs during the summer months. May to September.



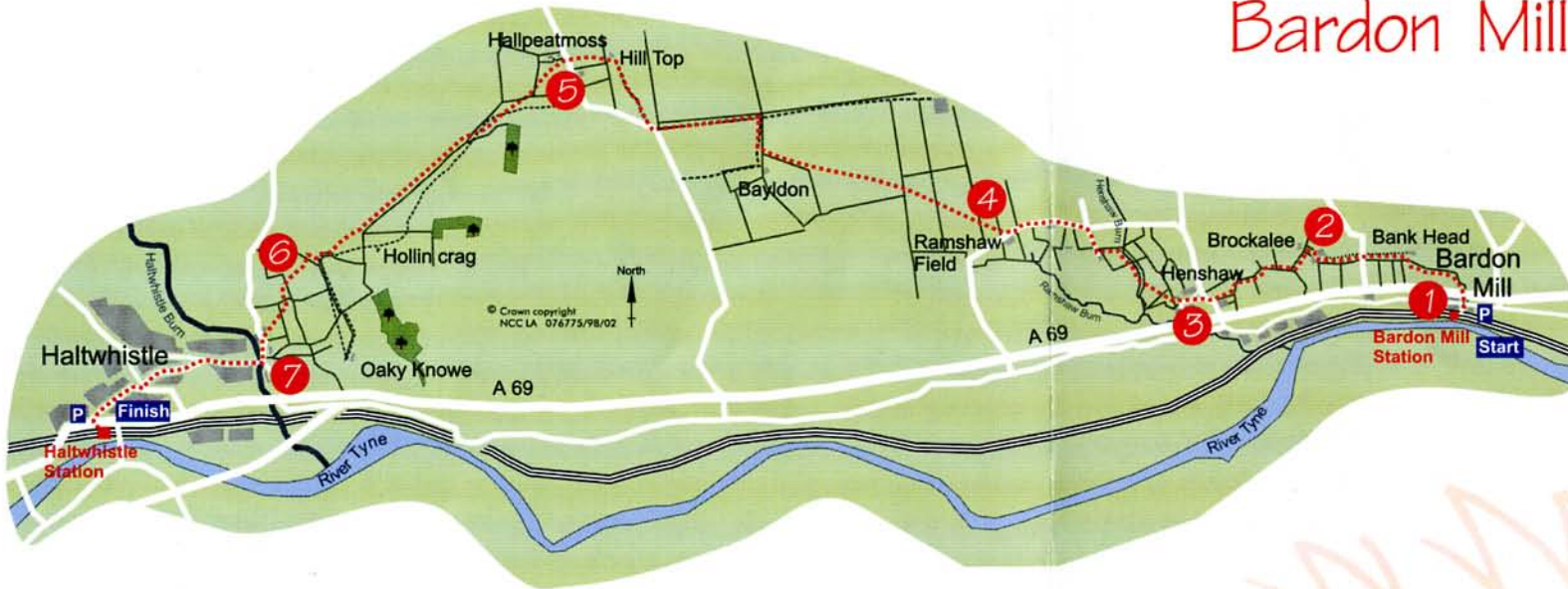
train trail

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BARDON MILL TO HALTWHISTLE

Linear Walk *five*

Bardon Mill to Haltwhistle



1. Leaving the station by the main exit, follow the lane up to the village and cross the road. Continue straight through the Pottery yard to a wicket gate and follow the path up the main road (A69). Carefully cross and continue up the path into a field. Follow the wall to a gate and turn left onto a farm track. Walk down this track until you meet the road, cross straight over and continue up the drive to Brockalee Farm.

2. At the farm bear right in the yard then left around the end building into a short, walled lane. At the bottom, turn left through the field gate and follow the fence line on your right to a kissing gate. Cross the field to the gate ahead and follow the track with the fence on your left. Where the track narrows, take the kissing gate on your left and continue through two further gates with the fence on your right. Finally, follow the fence on your left towards the houses ahead and on to the road.

3. Turn right up Well Bank, take the first left into Henshaw and continue up through the village beyond the church. At the end of the road, pass in front of Henshaw Farm and cross the stone stile into the field. Bear diagonally right to the field corner and continue straight ahead to a gate next to a stone wall. Turning right uphill, cross a small footbridge. Follow the field edge, initially by the burn, then bearing left along a hedge towards a farm. Turn right up the farm access track, then left at the road junction. As the road bears right, continue straight ahead, past some houses to turn right into a field opposite Ramshaw Field farm.
(If you follow the road as it bears right, a 1 mile (2km) walk brings you to the National Park Once Brewed Visitor Centre while a 2 mile (3km) walk brings you to the Roman fort of Vindolanda. Both these sites are linked to Haltwhistle by the Hadrian's Wall Bus Service, from May to September.)

4. The route then bears diagonally left, across the hillside over a series of stone stiles towards Bayldon Farm in the distance. Follow this line over the brow of the hill then, keeping a wall on your left, join a rough track up to the field gate. Turn right up a grass lane and then left along a hard track to join the road. Follow the road right, then take the first field gate, also on the right, and follow the track up to Hill Top. Passing in front of the buildings, cross straight over the next field to the road. Cross the road diagonally left and pass through a narrow shelter belt of trees into a field.

5. Bearing diagonally left, cross the field to a ladder stile, then continue over second stile and join a grass track bearing right, uphill under the crags. Before the first field gate turn right over the wall then immediately left to follow the wall on your left. At the end of the wall, keep this line diagonally down hill to join a track which follows a wall round to the left. At the junction of tracks turn right then left over a stile.

6. Bear right across the field to another stile and turn left. Before the gateway bear right and slightly uphill to a further stile. Continue in this direction, through a metal kissing gate and diagonally down a steep hill to a terrace of houses. The path then goes around the back of a house to bring you out onto the road where you turn left.

7. At the junction, turn right to cross the bridge over the Haltwhistle Burn and continue up Castle Hill. Keeping left, follow the main road through the centre of Haltwhistle and on down to Haltwhistle Station.



"Hadrians Wall Country"
-by Judy Brown