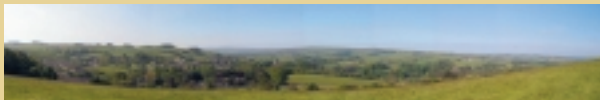


Walks from Allendale Caravan Park



Allendale and River East Allen

Start/Finish: Allendale Caravan Park on the B6295 between Allendale and Catton (Grid ref: NY 833567)

Walking distance: 4km (2.5 miles)

Public transport: There is a regular bus service from Hexham to Allenheads that stops in Allendale. For further information call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

Parking: Park along the B6295 between the Caravan Park and Allenmill bridge

Facilities: Toilets, cafes, pubs and places to stay in Allendale

Terrain: There are some hills, stiles and paths may be muddy

➤ View over Allendale from point 5 on the walk route



This circular walk takes you onto the hillside overlooking Allendale, before dropping down into the town and then following the river East Allen. There are many reminders of the once huge lead mining industry. This is one in a series of three walks.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1988. At almost 2,000 square kilometres it is the second largest of the 41 AONBs. Large areas are internationally recognised for their important wildlife. It is also Britain's first European Geopark and a UNESCO Global Geopark which highlights the global significance of its landscape and geology.

North Pennines AONB Partnership
Tel: 01388 528801
Website: www.northpennines.org.uk



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Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

Route 1

Allendale and River East Allen



09/05/2K

Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

Route 1

Allendale and River East Allen

Route description

- 1 From Allendale Caravan Park lower entrance take the footpath on the opposite side of the road. Follow the path through the field, to the concrete steps and gate through the stone wall onto the B6303.
- 2 Cross the road and take the public footpath directly opposite, which goes up to the left of the last house in the row of houses. Cross the stile at the rear of the houses. Head straight up the field towards the farm at the top.
- 3 At the top take the gate to the right. Follow the stone wall on the left for a few metres and cross the stile on the left. Turn right and walk along the field, keeping the wall on your right.
- 4 At the end of this field go through a gate and turn right. Follow the track as it bends to the left and carry straight on. Go through the metal field gate as the track bends to the right. You are now in a large field. Walk along the top of this field keeping the wall on your left hand side. Watch out for rabbit holes to the left of the path. Where the wall turns a corner to the left, keep straight on, bearing slightly left to a stile at the end of the field.
- 5 Cross the stile and turn right. Cross the next stile and go down the path between two houses to the road, then turn right. At the T-junction with the B6303 to Allendale, turn left into Allendale. Carry on until you reach the road signposted to Whitfied.
- 6 Turn right here and follow the path past the 'Allendale Inn' and the 'Hare and Hounds'. Continue along the path and cross the road to take the public footpath signposted to Allenmill and Oakpool.
- 7 Follow the footpath along the river bank to the B6295. Turn right to reach the start point of the walk at Allendale Caravan Park.

➤ The banks of the River East Allen are covered in ramsons (wild garlic) in spring.



Key

- Walk route
- Other Public Rights of Way



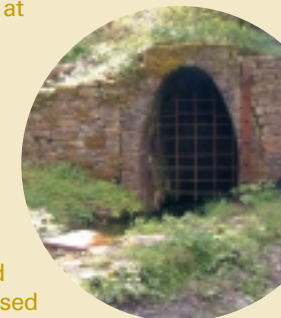
A View of Allendale chimney. The chimneys on the opposite hillside lie at the end of flues from the old smelting mill in the valley below. The flues extracted fumes from the smelters. Lead and silver within the fumes condensed on the walls of the flue and were later removed, often by children, to be re-used.

B Blackett Level entrance. This mine level was started in 1855 and reached a total length of 4.5 miles. It was intended to de-water Allenheads mine and find new veins of lead ore but was never completed due to the collapse of the price of lead.

C The River East Allen winds its way down the East Allen Valley from its source at Allenheads. The old Celtic word for Allendale means 'valley of the shining water', perhaps because the river contains trace silver and lead ore.

D Site of the old smelting mill. The lead from the surrounding dale was smelted here over a period of more than 200 years. It finally closed in 1897 after having been the main source of employment for the local population. At its peak in the 1860s the parish population rose to 6,400. It is now about 1,600.

E In autumn sea trout can be seen jumping the weir.



Walks from Allendale Caravan Park



Oakpool and East Allen

Start/Finish: Allendale Caravan Park on the B6295 between Allendale and Catton (Grid ref: NY 833567)

Walking distance: 6km (4.5 miles)

Public transport: There is a regular bus service from Hexham to Allenheads that stops in Allendale. For further information call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

Parking: Park along the B6295 between the Caravan Park and Allenmill bridge

Facilities: Toilets, cafes, pubs and places to stay in Allendale

Terrain: There are some hills, stiles and paths may be muddy

➤ **Water vole.** Rivers and wetlands in the North Pennines still support good numbers of water voles, Britain's fastest declining mammal. Best known as 'Ratty' from Wind in the Willows, this charming mammal likes to live in lush bankside vegetation.



This walk takes you to Oakpool along the River East Allen before crossing the route of Allendale's former railway line, and then returning on the other side of the valley through farmland. The walk is on Rights of Way with stiles to cross. This is one in a series of three walks.

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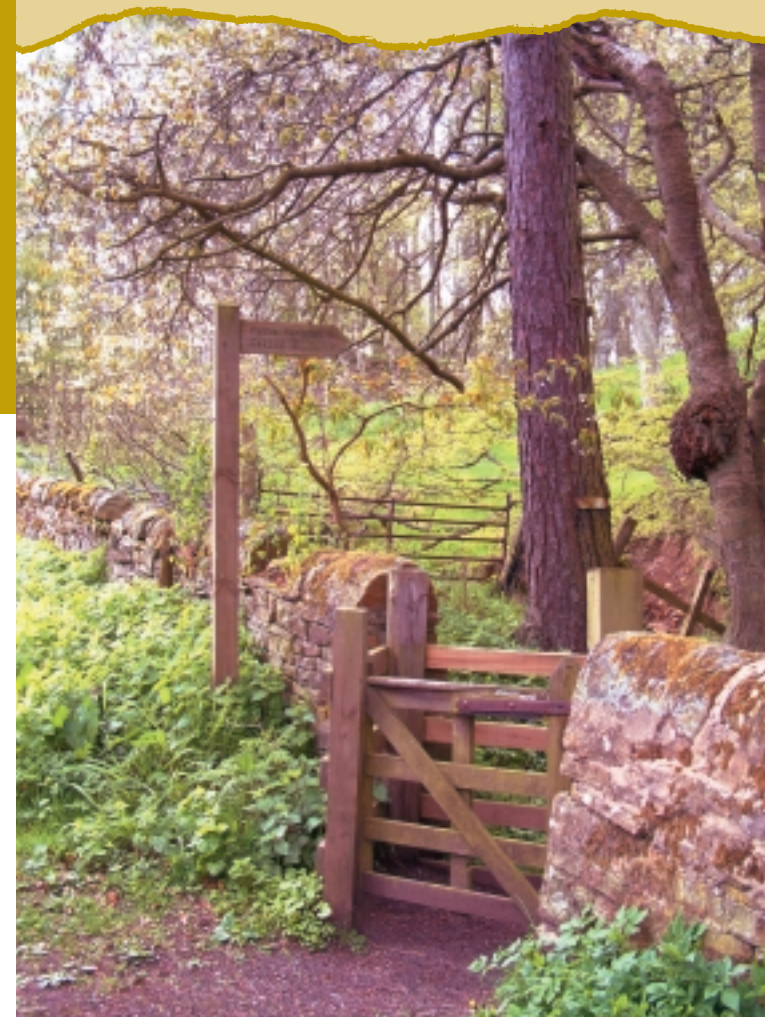


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Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

Route 2

Oakpool and East Allen



09/05/2K

Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

Route 2

Oakpool and East Allen

Route description

- 1 From Allendale Caravan Park turn right to reach Allenmill bridge.
- 2 Follow the footpath to the south of the River East Allen signposted to 'Oakpool'. Follow this footpath until you reach a kissing gate.
- 3 Go through the gate and walk straight on for approx. 1 mile until you reach two old cottages at Bridge Eal. The path passes to the left of the front garden. Cross the stream and continue straight on to a stone stile. Go over the stile and turn left to cross the footbridge over Crockton Burn. When the footpath diverges take the right fork to follow the river.
- 4 Continue on past the house at Kittygreen until you reach Oakpool Farmhouse. Go through the gate, turn right at the tarmac road and cross the stone bridge over the river.
- 5 Continue up the steep hill, passing through the abutment of the arch for the old Hexham Railway, until you reach Staward Villa Farm. Just beyond the farm turn right to cross a stile signposted to Catton and continue straight on to cross two more stiles over walls and through a metal gate to reach Old Town.
- 6 Go through a field gate to enter the yard next to the farm. Turn right through another field gate and follow the edge of the field, to a stone stile keeping the wall on your left. Cross the stile and turn right. Cross a wooden stile over a wall then head diagonally left across the field to a kissing gate.

- 7 Pass through the gate, cross over a track and through a second gate, signposted to Catton. Continue across a field, bearing slightly to your right, until you reach a stone wall. Cross this wall via the stone stile. Walk alongside the wall on your left. Pass through the first gate to your left and immediately turn right.
- 8 Go through another gate, onto a rough track. About 200m further on cross over the stone stile in the wall to your right. Follow another stone wall which runs slightly downhill.
- 9 Cross the stone stile here and turn left on the rough track. After 100 metres turn right down a lane leading to the old railway track. Pass over a stile and head diagonally left downhill to a further stile in the fence on your left, situated just as the field drops steeply away. Cross this and continue downhill until you arrive at a stream.

- 10 Cross over the small bridge. Carry on to go through a kissing gate and turn right onto the footpath. Continue along the path following the river on your right, until you emerge at Allenmill Bridge on the B6295. Turn left to reach the start point of the walk.

- A** Hay meadows – the traditionally managed hay meadows of the North Pennines are internationally important. In summer they are bursting with colourful flowers such as wood cranesbill, yellow rattle, marsh marigold and lady's mantle.

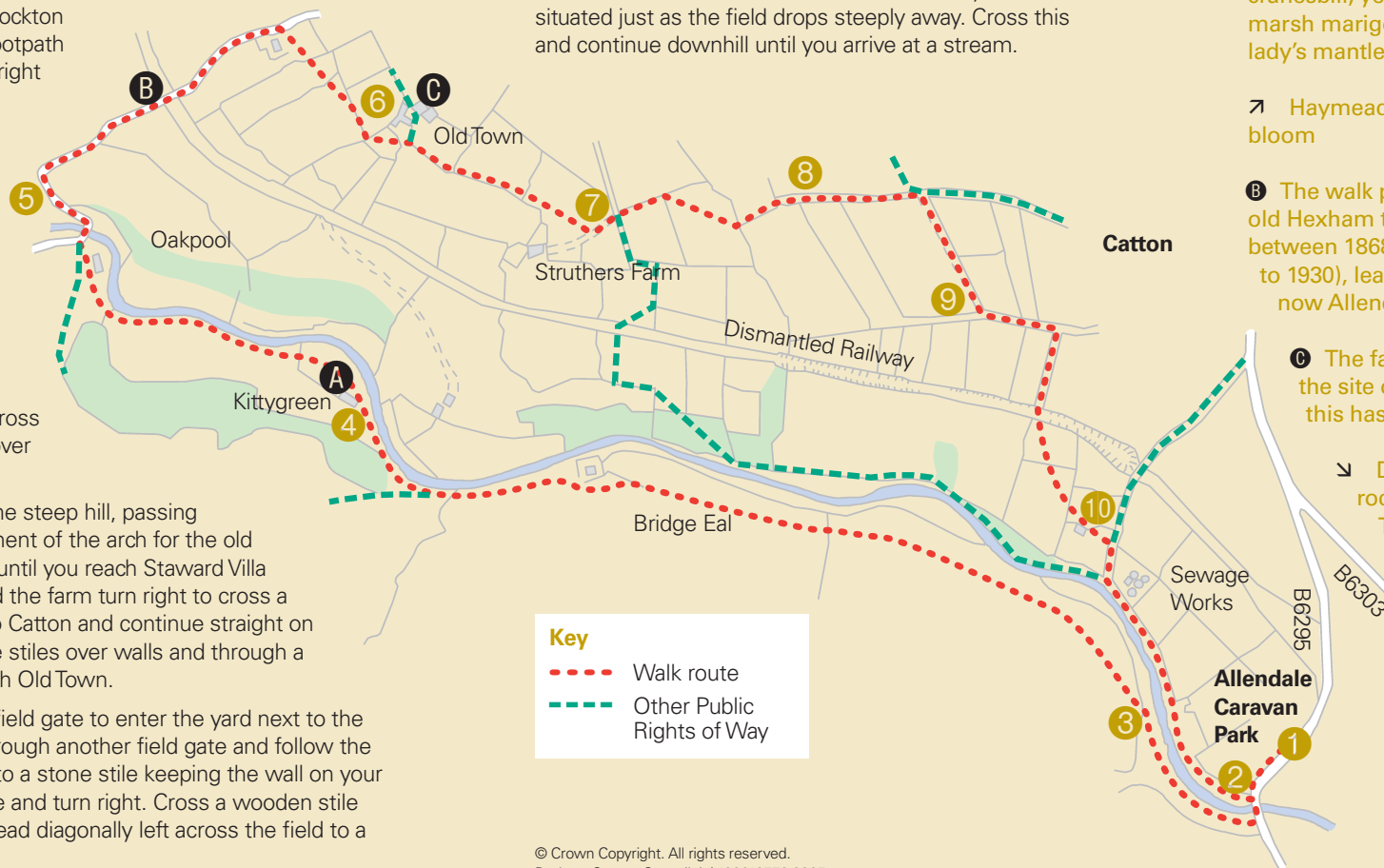


- Haymeadow in bloom

- B** The walk passes the abutment of the arch for the old Hexham to Allendale railway. The railway operated between 1868 and 1950 transporting passengers (up to 1930), lead and coal. The site of Allendale Station is now Allendale Caravan Park.

- C** The farm at Old Town is reputed to be built on the site of a camp, most likely a Roman fort, but this has never been fully investigated.

- Dippers can often be seen standing on a rock in the middle of the river, 'bobbing'. They fly fast and low along the river defending their territories.



Walks from Allendale Caravan Park



Stone Stile

Start/Finish: Allendale Caravan Park on the B6295 between Allendale and Catton (Grid ref: NY 833567)

Walking distance: 4km (2.5 miles)

Public transport: There is a regular bus service from Hexham to Allenheads that stops in Allendale. For further information call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

Parking: Park along the B6295 between the Caravan Park and Allenmill bridge

Facilities: Toilets, cafes, pubs and places to stay in Allendale

Terrain: There are some hills, stiles and paths may be muddy

➤ There are many walls to cross on this walk. Dry stone walls are made without cement or mortar. Locally they are made from sandstone and limestone and are an important landscape feature in the North Pennines. Most of the walls in this area were built in the 18th and 19th centuries. If properly maintained they will last for many more centuries.



This circular walk takes you along the River East Allen before turning towards Catton village and then onto the edge of the moorland. In spring and summer there are many different birds to see. The walk is on Rights of Way with many stiles to cross. This is one in a series of three walks.

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Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

Route 3

Stone Stile



09/05/2K

Route 3

Stone Stile

Route description

- 1 From Allendale caravan park entrance turn right to reach the Allenmill bridge. From the north side of Allenmill bridge follow the public bridleway signposted to Catton.
- 2 After 0.5km the bridleway becomes a tarmac road. Turn left and go over a stile to follow the footpath signposted to Catton.
- 3 Go over the wooden bridge and follow the path uphill. Cross the stile over the wall and head diagonally left across the field to reach a wooden field gate between two houses.
- 4 Go through the gate and walk straight ahead towards the phone box, to cross the main road through Catton. Continue straight on following the footpath sign to Stone Stile.
- 5 At the end of the track go through a metal field gate. Continue straight on and through another metal field gate and cross a wooden stile over a wall, followed by another stile over a wall.
- 6 Turn right. Walk downhill next to the wall and then over the wooden bridge and the stone stile (to the left). Head uphill following the stream on your right. Turn right to go through a metal field gate and then through another gate. Head up the field towards the farm buildings. Cross the stile over the wall, then head diagonally left across the field towards the metal gate.
- 7 Cross the road and go through the wooden field gate. Head diagonally left to cross a stile over a wall. Continue straight ahead, following a wall on your right, and over another stile. Head uphill to meet another stile over a wall.
- 8 Cross the stile and turn right on the tarmac road. After approx. 50m turn right onto the footpath signposted to Housty. Go straight downhill keeping above and to the left of a gully. Just before the farm buildings take the stile over a wall on the right (to avoid a wet area). Turn left and cross another stile over a wall at the farm.



With its down curved beak and bubbling song, the curlew is one of the most distinctive birds of early summer in the North Pennines.

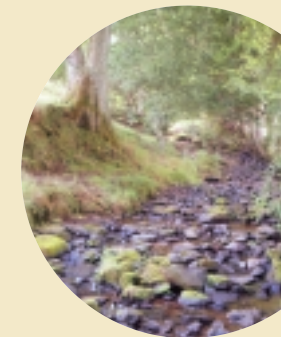


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- 9 Skirt around the farmhouse and cross the stone stile. Head downhill and cross the wooden stile to the right of the houses. Follow the lane to the B road. Cross over and continue downhill to reach another B road. The Caravan Park is opposite.

➤ Catton Burn

A Rushy pastures, such as the fields here, are a speciality of the North Pennines. They provide ideal nesting ground for waders such as curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher and redshank.



➤ Rushy pasture

B Take in the spectacular view across the East Allen Valley from the seat by the forestry plantation. This part of the walk is on the edge of the moorland. Many of the North Pennines moorlands are carefully managed for red grouse. They also support meadow pipit, merlin, short-eared owl and golden plover.



In spring you can see lapwings in their aerobatic display flights.