In and Around the former lead mining village of Rookhope

Areas of old heather are burnt so new young shoots will grow. The seeds of young and old heather, grass and bracken provide food and shelter for red grouse.

Stone walls provide shelter and warm bedding spots for lizards and hares for stoats and weasels.

Redburn Common is mostly mat grass which makes the hillside look white. Look on rocks and under the heather for different types of lichen.

In summer the grass is sprinkled with yellow flowered tormentil and white heath bedstraw used for sheep pastures. Look for red grouse, curlew and short-eared owls.

Follow the Mineral Valleys Walk signs.

**Redburn Common Map**

- Stone quarry for walling and houses
- Track of disused Weardale Iron Company railway to Iron quarries
- Former mine lodging shop
- Village Hall
- Site of Redburn fluorspar mine now gone, once very rich
- The roadbridge over the stream also bridged the railway which was suspended on timbers over the water
- Boltsburn Mine engine shaft and site of large ore dressing plant
- Unusual 3 arm sheep shelter
- Remains of water leat bringing water from up the valley to power the ore hearth bellows
- Site of smelt mill, 1760
- The arch carried the flues over the road and stream
- Pegs Hole Dam
- Old workings probably sandstone
- The bottom of the incline was also a loading bay. The retaining wall is built of stone sleepers from the Stanhope and Tyne Railway
- Head Dyke (wall) separates improved farmland from rough fell
- The Red Burn rises from large Ironstone deposits and runs red at times, hence its name
- Early mine shafts on the line of the best vein
- Long Route
- Short Route

In earlier years Lintzgarth Common was drained to improve grazing. Now part is being actively managed for wading birds. Ditches are being blocked and new shallow pools created to restore the wet upland pasture. Note the big tussocks of grass and rushes Black grouse use this area but they also need woodland for shelter and winter feed, so small areas in the cleugh small valleys are being planted with native trees such as rowan, birch and alder.

Follow the Mineral Valleys Walk signs.
Walking Information

The routes take you onto open moorland, you are strongly advised to:

- tell someone where you are going and your expected time of return
- carry an OS map and use in conjunction with this leaflet
- wear appropriate clothing and footwear (the longer route covers very uneven ground and crosses boggy land)
- respect the local wetlands nature reserve and grouse moorland by keeping dogs on a short lead.

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Open Access

The walk in this leaflet follows public rights of ways however as from 28 May 2005, under the new right of access, many hectares of Rookhope's surrounding moorland became available for people to walk on (shown on the Ordnance Survey Explorer 307 map, published 2005).

Management of ground nesting birds plays a big part in conserving this important and unique habitat therefore, at times, some open access areas will be subject to ‘restrictions’. For more information about

Open Access visit:
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

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History and Industry

Rookhope is a mining village. From Rookhope’s Ely, a large mine, northwards to the Tumbledale, a small marl mine, were railway branch lines. Over both mountains were tramways that allowed the transportation of the mined products. Roads around the village also had tramways of which there are remains at the start of the walk.

For most of the last millennium lead and fluorspar have been mined in the valley. Century Boltsburn mine was one of the richest in England, with its mineral samples being prized by collectors across the world.

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As you walk, look down in the valley bottom and across to the other side and you will clearly see how different management affects the landscape. Small areas of native trees are being planted to increase biodiversity. In places the banks of the Rookhope Burn are being managed to protect ground nesting birds. Some areas have been purchased privately and are now managed to improve their wildlife value.

Literary Links

W. H. Auden, Pennine Poet

Of the Chase (1934) includes the following lines:

Tramlines and slagheaps, pieces of machinery, 

I see lambs feeding. 

The shafts are filled with water, 

I look through the broken arms of waterwheels: 

The mosses grope over the washing floor.

West Riding Trilogy (1939) 

The above information has been gathered from a North Pennines Heritage Trust Publication called Explorer 307 map, published 2005.

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