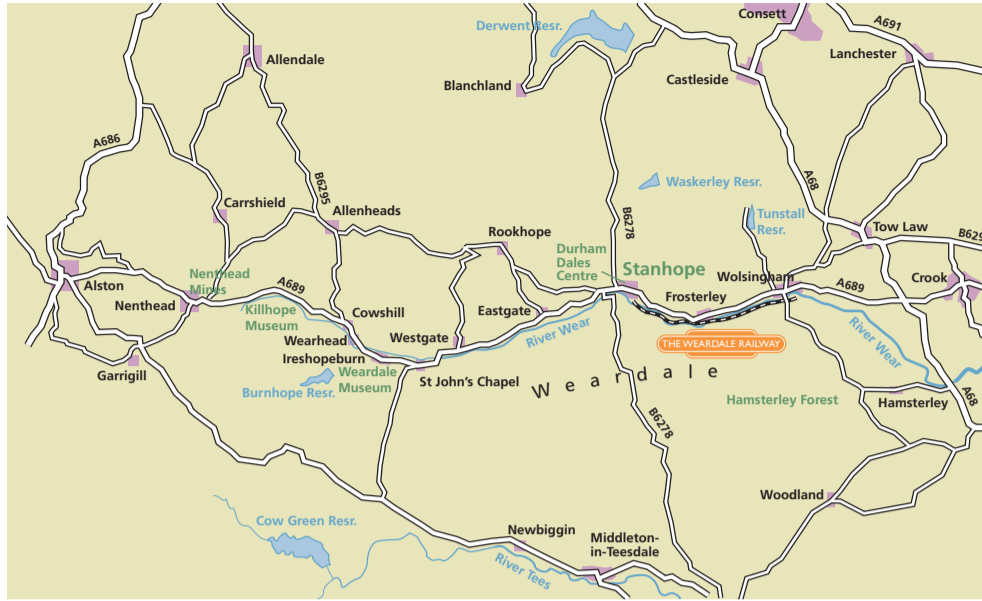


If you have enjoyed these walks, try others in the Mineral Valleys Project Walks series.

Enjoy exploring Stanhope, Weardale and the surrounding area.



Leaflets from the series are available from station offices and tourist information centres in Weardale and Durham County Council.

A leaflet about the Stanhope Fossil Tree is available from the North Pennines AONB Partnership. Tel: 01388 528801, or go to www.northpennines.org.uk

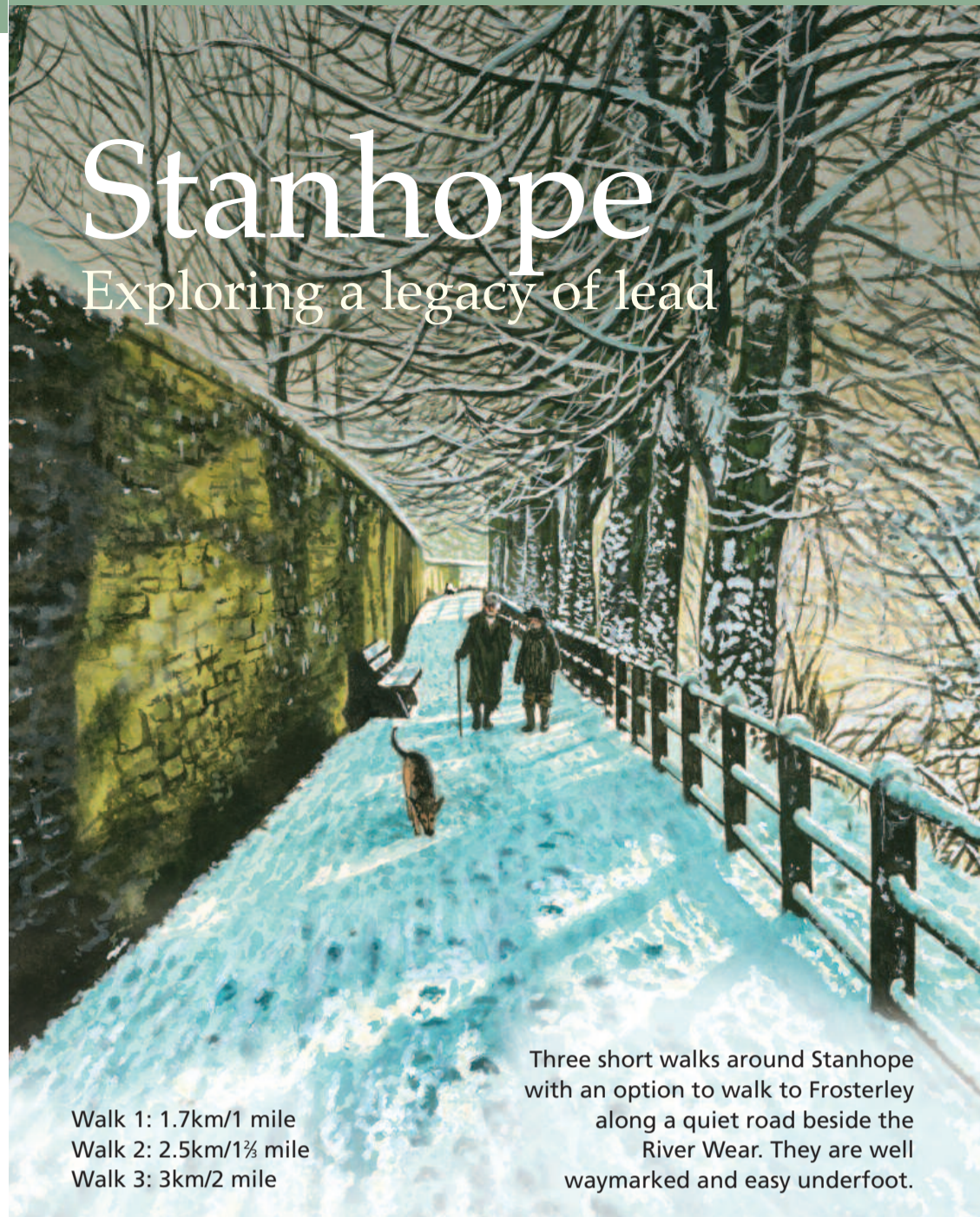
Credits:
The Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope
North Pennines AONB Partnership
Durham County Council

This leaflet is funded by HLF with a partnership of funders through the Mineral Valleys Project designed to bring communities together to enhance and celebrate their natural and social history.



Stanhope

Exploring a legacy of lead



Three short walks around Stanhope with an option to walk to Frosterley along a quiet road beside the River Wear. They are well waymarked and easy underfoot.

Walk 1: 1.7km/1 mile
Walk 2: 2.5km/1½ mile
Walk 3: 3km/2 mile

WALKS FROM STANHOPE RAILWAY STATION

Before you start, you need to know:

The walks:

Walk 1 is a 1.7 km/ 1 mile route and takes approximately 35 minutes. It crosses fields and returns via the road.

Walk 2 is a 2.5 km/ 1½ mile route and takes approximately 1 hour at a leisurely pace. This route goes through fields, along a surfaced riverside path and loops around the village to take in the market square, St Thomas' Church and the main row of shops.

Walk 3 is a 3 km/ 2 mile route, with an option to extend to Frosterley and back along a surfaced minor road (an extra 7km/ 4½ miles). Allow approximately 1½ hours.

P Durham Dales Centre or Stanhope Railway Station

Bus Weardale Motor Services bus 101 provides a regular service between Wolsingham, Frosterley and Stanhope

Cup There are many cafes, pubs and tea rooms in Stanhope

i Tourist Information Centre at The Durham Dales Centre

Person Durham Dales Centre or Stanhope Railway Station

THE WEARDALE RAILWAY www.weardale-railway.org.uk or 01388 526203

Cautionary note about cows and calves...

Cattle may be inquisitive and approach you, especially if you have a dog. Please:

- avoid walking through a herd of cattle and never come between a cow and her calf
- keep your dog under close control, preferably on a short lead
- if you have a dog with you and feel threatened by cattle, let the dog go and retreat.

All information correct at time of printing.



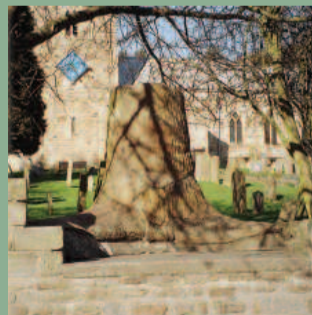
For anyone wanting to find out more about Stanhope and Weardale, The Durham Dales Centre is an excellent place to visit.

The Richest Living in England

Lead mining was the dominant industry in Stanhope for over two hundred years. It created the employment and wealth to form a well-to-do small market town with a thriving parish church with 'the richest living in England' due to the tithes (rent) paid to the Rectors of Stanhope in return for the rights to explore and dig for lead. Stanhope owes most of its former wealth to the lead mining era with quarrying and coal mining making significant contributions to the employment opportunities.



Built on the site of a ruined medieval manor house, Stanhope Castle was rebuilt in 1798 and is now private residences.



Brought to Stanhope in 1962 by Mr. BG Beaston, this section of a fossil tree is about 320 million years old.



Kelly's Directory (an early form of Yellow Pages) of 1879, lists 97 entries for Stanhope and between them, they signify a prosperous and rapidly developing town. A National School endowed by Bishop Barrington had been built. A concert hall and reading room erected in 1867. In 1879, the town enjoyed gas lighting and an excellent public water supply.



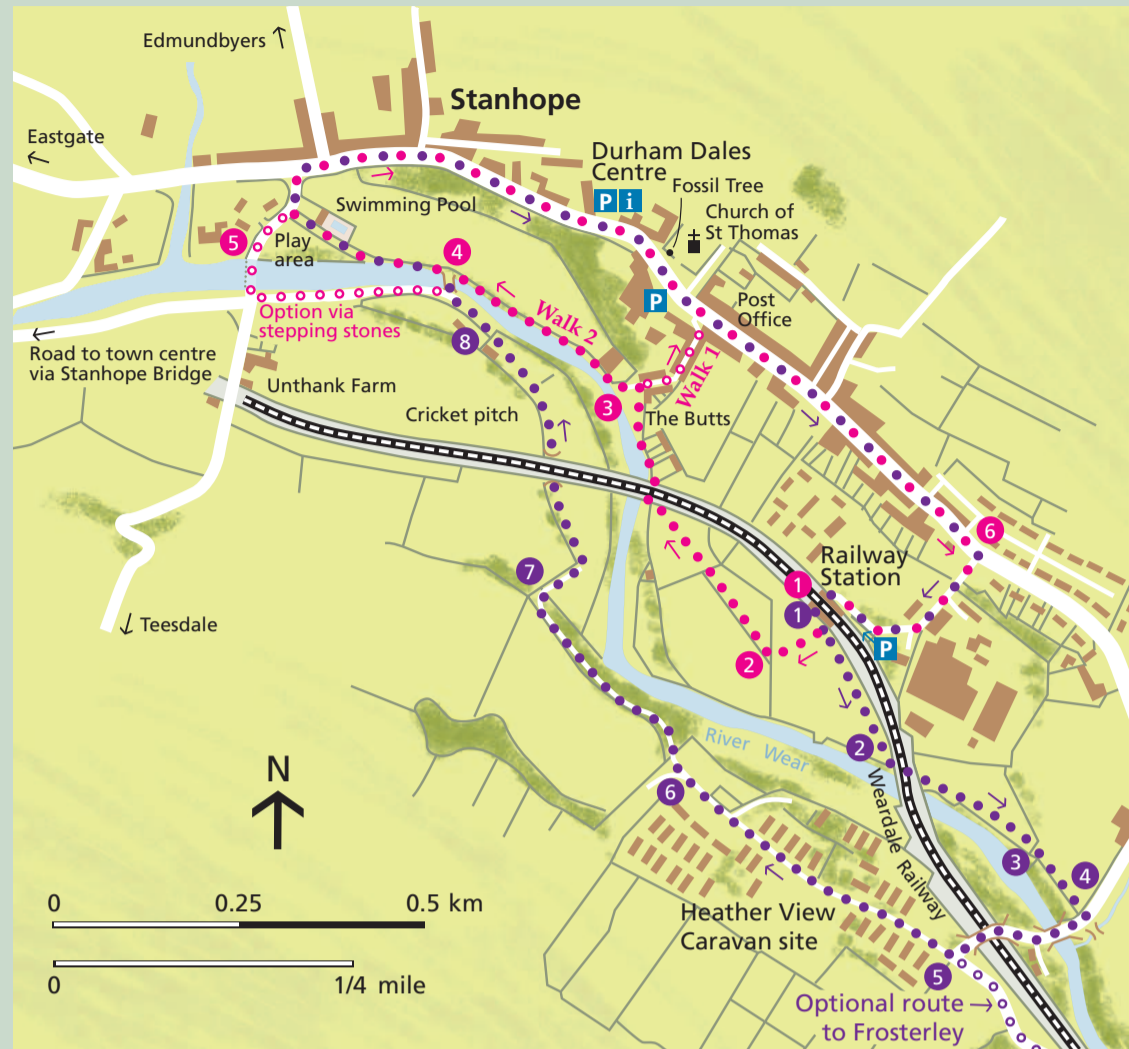
With thanks to Durham Record Office

Exploring a legacy of lead: three walks from Stanhope Railway Station

Directions

Walks 1 & 2:

- 1 Start from The Weardale Railway's Stanhope Station. If you arrive by train, go through the kissing gate into the playing field (if you do not arrive by train, you need to cross the footbridge first to reach the kissing gate). Follow the direction of the finger post pointing you across the football field (please divert around the field edge if the pitch is being used). Go through a kissing gate in the wall opposite.
 - 2 Walk along a grassy path through two small fields, going through two more kissing gates. Cross the Weardale Railway Line, go through a kissing gate which brings you into Wear Terrace, a small lane with a row of cottages next to the River Wear. Walk along to the road end – this is The Butts.
 - 3 At the T junction, the walk routes diverge. For **Walk 1**, turn right, up to the Market Square (St Thomas' Church and the Fossil Tree are diagonally to the left, over the main road). Walk down the main road, past the Post Office and follow the directions at 6. For **Walk 2** (you are about halfway), turn left to a small triangle of grass and the riverside footpath. Walk along here for about 300 metres and you will reach a footbridge.
 - 4 Here, at the footbridge, you may have a choice of routes. If the River Wear is low enough for you to see the stepping stones 200 metres upstream, you may like to cross the footbridge, and recross the river by the stones. If the river is high, DO NOT attempt to cross the river by this route. Instead, take the all-weather route along the lovely riverside path until you reach a children's play area on your left.
 - 5 Turn right at the road, pass the Weardale Swimming Pool (open air) and turn right again at the T junction along the main road. This will take you past The Durham Dales Centre with an Information Centre that carries an excellent range of books on the rich industrial history of this fascinating area and staff happy to help with all enquiries from outdoor recreation to accommodation and places to visit.
- Opposite The Durham Dales Centre is Stanhope Castle which is privately owned. The next landmark you pass is the Church of St Thomas next to the Market Square with the outstanding fossil tree set back from the wall.
- Continue along this road, making time to browse in the main row of shops.
- 6 About 400 metres past Stanhope Post Office turn right down a minor road signed 'Weardale Railway' and 'Stanhope Industrial Estate'. Head down this road for 200 metres, to return to the station.



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The Butts

It is thought that the name refers to the historic use of the area for archery practice. This was compulsory when the long-bow was a weapon of war.

Walk 3:

- 1 Start from The Weardale Railway's Stanhope Station. If you arrive by train, go through the kissing gate into the playing field (if you do not arrive by train, you need to cross the footbridge first to reach the kissing gate). Through the gate, ignore the footpath sign that points across the pitch and instead turn sharp left to head alongside the railway to the white metal kissing-gate at the field corner (next to the River Wear).
- 2 Observe the safety warning signs and cross over the railway line, through another white kissing-gate to a narrow path alongside the river.
- 3 After 200m go through another kissing gate and keep straight on, with the fence on your right. This brings you to a stile onto the road.
- 4 Turn right along the road to cross the river, heading uphill and over the railway.
- 5 On the corner ahead is Heather View Caravan Site. For a longer walk of an extra 7km/ 4½ miles (there and back to this point), turn left and follow the lane to Frosterley (turn left at the end of this lane into Frosterley itself). Otherwise, turn right into the Caravan Site, following the site road, which is a public footpath. Keep to the site road for about 500m.
- 6 At 'Hazel Corner' bear right and leave the Caravan Site by a stile next to a gate (marked 'Weardale Way'). This takes you into a strip of woodland, with the river below on the right. Follow the path through down to a stile.
- 7 Cross the stile and follow the field edge to go under the railway line via a small tunnel, then keep to the next field edge. As you approach a large barn, bear right to a field gate beside Unthank Mill.
- 8 Go through the gate onto a tarmac track and keep straight ahead for 100m. Turn right to cross the river bridge, turn left along the riverside path until you reach a road. Follow directions for **Walk 2** from 5 onwards to get you back to the station.



The Wear Valley Railway line was initially built to transport limestone to iron-works on Teesside. The line closed to passengers in 1953 and to freight in 1993 when the Eastgate Cement works closed, it was mothballed until 2004.



Steam special crossing the Wear at Broadwood.



Habitat creation work along the River Wear is a core aim of the Minerals Valleys Project and is designed to improve and conserve riverbanks from rapid erosion.