

train *trail* 3

HEXHAM TO HAYDON BRIDGE

Ned Coulson of Haydon Bridge

One of the more colourful and eccentric characters born here was Edward 'Ned' Coulson (1754 - 1807). His skills were both musical and athletic and he had the ability to play the violin behind his head whilst running along the road! But his true talents involved covering enormous distances very quickly on foot. He apparently successfully took part in a local sports event after having walked 65 miles (104km) to carry out a job, all in one day.



The Red Squirrel



Northumberland is now one of the few counties in England which still has a high population of red squirrels.

This attractive native mammal is under constant threat, thought to be largely due to loss of habitat and the spread of the larger grey squirrel, an import from North America introduced in the late 19th Century. While preferring coniferous woodland, red squirrels also flourish in mixed woodlands, with their diet including hazel, oak and beech. The grey squirrel, however, can live in a wider range of habitats. It can often be seen in towns and cities, and survives on a very varied diet. To help secure the population of red squirrels in the north-east a special project, Red Alert, has been set up. More information can be obtained from the Northumberland Wildlife Trust on 0191 284 6884.

This **10½ mile (17km)** walk between the stations of Hexham and Haydon Bridge includes field and woodland paths with some sections on minor roads. This is a long walk, with some steep climbs.

Services: Hexham has a full range of shops and facilities while Haydon Bridge has some shops, a post office and pubs. The Hadrian's Wall Bus Service links Hexham and Haltwhistle with Hadrian's Wall. It runs during the summer months, May to September.

The Stanegate

The Stanegate was the main east-west line of communication between Corbridge and Carlisle. The name, meaning stone road, indicates that it was paved and remains of it were frequently found by roadworkers building the new road through Newbrough.

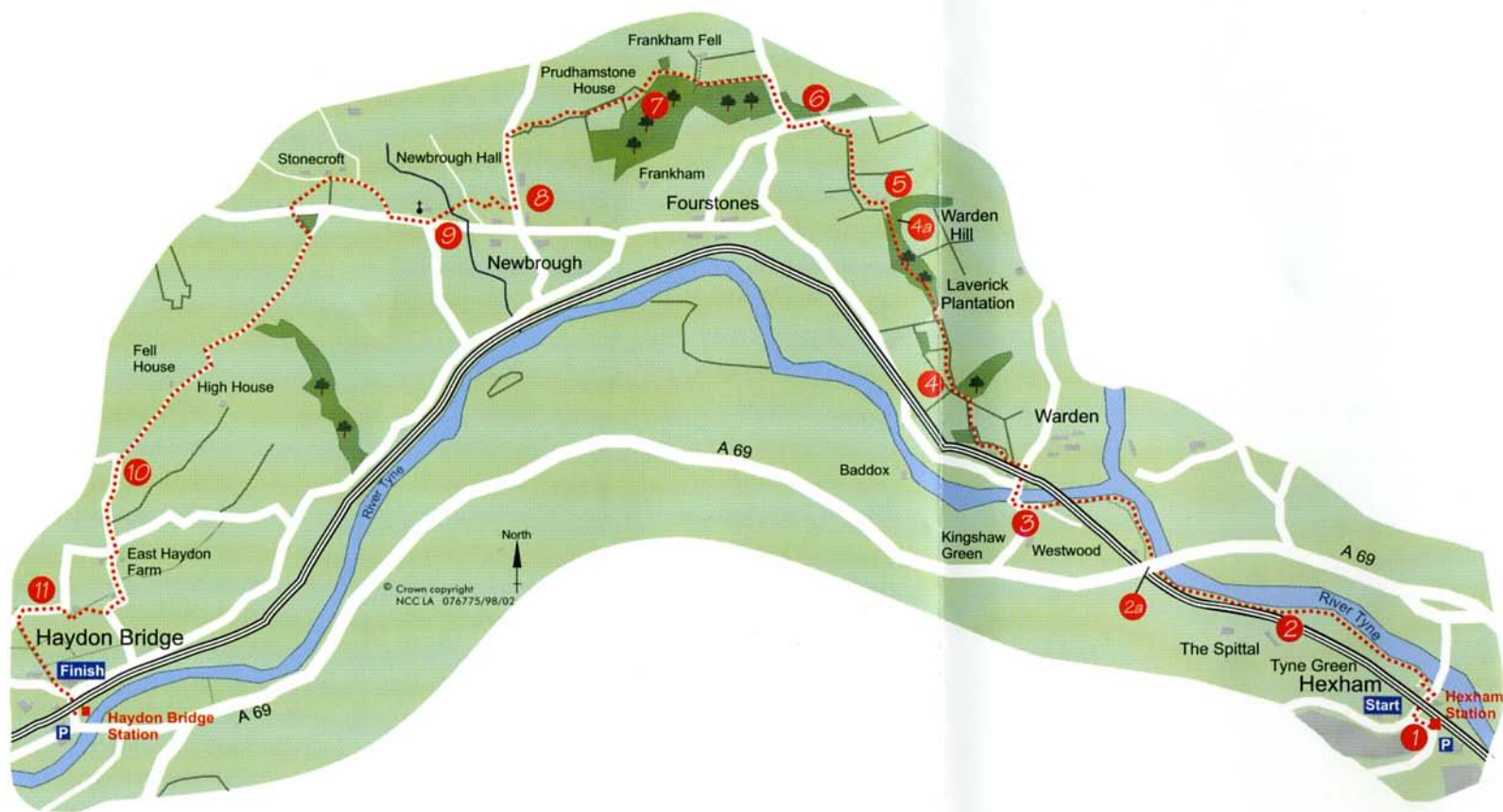
Building a Roman road



Newborough Old and New

The village of Newbrough dates back to the 12th century although the history of the parish goes back further, most notably to the occupation of the Romans. A Roman fortlet lies in the church yard of St Peter's Church, the remains of which were discovered by grave diggers in the 1930's. To the north, lies Hadrian's Wall, now inscribed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in recognition of its world wide historical importance.

Linear Walk *three*



"Sheds at Newbrough"
- by Jane Veitch

1. Leaving the station, cross the road and turn right up to the roundabout, then right again to cross the bridge over the railway line. At the second roundabout, turn left then keep right into Tyne Green Country Park. Cross the Park to join the riverside path, turn left and follow it upstream to join a path by the railway line.

Hexham to Haydon Bridge

2. Follow this path between the railway and river, past some narrow stone steps on the right to a second set of steps leading down towards the river. The path then sweeps slightly to the left over a narrow wooden bridge and continues under the (A69) road bridge. See 2a if the River Tyne is in flood. * The path then continues along the top of the flood protection bank, past the "meeting of the waters" (North and South Tynes) and becomes a narrow riverside path joining a quiet road by some houses.
- 2a. Before the road bridge a double metal gate on the left leads to a path along side the railway line and passes under the A69. Immediately after the bridge take the first right through a wicket gate along a wooded path to emerge on top of the flood protection bank and the original path (*).
3. Turn right, then right again to cross the bridge over the river. Keeping to the right past the pub, continue under the railway bridge. As the road bears right, take the footpath on the left and follow the railway line to join a track by some cottages. Turn right and continue uphill into a field and on up to a second wicket gate. Turn left along a short walled track.
4. As this track opens into a grass field, follow the fence on your right across two fields to a gate. Then, with the fence on your left, continue into Laverick Plantation and follow the track, passing the path up to Warden Hill, to a gate at the edge of the wood. (For a detour up to the Iron Age fort on Warden Hill, follow 4a.)
- 4a. Before leaving the wood, turn sharply right and follow the path uphill to a gate into a grass field. Follow the wall on your right uphill to the site of the fort. Return on the same route to the original path and continue to point 5.
5. From the wood follow the track, bearing left in front of Laverick Cottage and through a field gate. Continue downhill, then bear right and follow the fence, then wall, on your left, past a ladder stile, to reach the road. (If you turn right at this point, a 2 mile (3km) walk brings you to the Roman fort of Chesters. The Hadrian's Wall Bus Service provides a link back to Hexham, from May to September.)
6. Turn left, then take the first turning on the right. As the road rises, take the first footpath on the left along a track past Frankham Fell. As the track bears left, cross a stile into a field. Following the fence and main plantation on the left, the route loses height slowly towards Prudhamstone House.
7. Pass in the front of the cottage, through a kissing gate and follow the wall on the right through two fields. Then, with the wall on your left, the route drops downhill to join a narrow lane. Turn left towards Newbrough and, after Newbrough Hall, take the first footpath on the right, signposted to St. Peter's Church.
8. Follow the narrow path past the Hall to a small stone bridge and turn left along the stream. After a small gate, bear diagonally right across a grass field to a stone stile. Cross the lane and follow the path opposite to cross a footbridge. After a small rise, bear slightly right to cross the field to St. Peter's Church and a wicket gate. In the church yard follow the path to the left to a stone stile next to the Lych Gate.
9. Turn right, up the old Roman Road (Stanegate) and take the second turning on the right towards Stonecroft. At the first junction, bear left down past Stonecroft Cottages and cross the footbridge on the left. Bear diagonally right uphill towards some buildings and a ladder stile in the corner of the field. Cross straight over the road and, with the trees on your left, follow the edge of the field to join a rough track. Turn right and follow this track over the fell until you eventually come to a junction.
10. Turn left and follow the road downhill. Immediately after East Haydon Farm turn left and continue downhill. On the bend after Page Croft take the footpath on the right into a grass field. Bearing right, follow the fenceline sharply round to the right to join the road and turn left.
11. In front of The Tofts, turn left through a wicket gate to follow the field edge downhill and join a tarmac road outside the Church of St. John. Continue down to the junction with North Bank Road, turn left and this leads straight to Haydon Bridge station.