

# *Walking North East*



**Well the first issue** of WNE seems to have gone down very well with a number of favourable responses and quite a significant number of people signing up to receive future issues. Hopefully issue number two will go down just as well, if not better, and, if you do enjoy it, please feel free to circulate this email and the link to the download to anybody in your circle that you think may be interested. From our point of view, word of mouth is the best form of both flattery and promotion.

In this issue we have tried to develop the newsletter further with a couple of new features including a series looking at some of the more "neglected" hills of the region. The ones that really deserve to be visited more often than they normally are. The series opens with Carrs Top in Weardale, a summit full of character that because it does not stand on any right of way rarely sees the tread of a walker's boot. Considering its proximity to Stanhope this is a real shame but does tend to highlight the situation that despite having had CRoW for a couple of years now, many walkers still do not venture far from the footpath.

Anyway look at the picture above, Stanhope as seen from the slopes of Carrs Top. Doesn't that just want to make you venture over that way just a little bit ??

**Good reading .....**

*Passionate* about walking

north east  
england

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### **Walking North East Issue number 2 June 2009**

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Contributions from readers will always be considered for inclusion within this magazine. Please feel free to send any articles, news or other pieces that you feel would be of interest to our readers to [trailguides@uwclub.net](mailto:trailguides@uwclub.net).

#### **Photos.**

Front cover. Taking a lunch break at the trig point on Carrs Top.

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## Walking News :

### **A Walk Round the Lake .... for 27 Miles !!**

A new trail circling Kielder Reservoir was formally opened in March. Known as The Lakeside Way the path is a multi-user trail open to walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders and encircles the entire shoreline of the reservoir. This new facility is part of an integrated access network that links new trails and ferry landings that give the visitor the ability to walk or ride any section of the Way and then return using the ferry.

The whole project has cost £3 million to complete with the first section of fourteen miles along the south shore being opened in April last year and now the second thirteen mile stretch along the north shore being completed in March.

As well as the opportunity to see the Park's abundant wildlife from hides and observation platforms, walkers along the Way can also expect to see various sculptures from Kielder Water & Forest Park's popular art and architecture programme including Mirage, five hundred pairs of shiny discs in the trees and Keepsake, a brass rubbing art trail. An additional six new pieces will be added this coming summer as part of the on-going programme.

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### **Walking Over The Arches**

Not strictly in our area but I'm sure that most of us have done some walking in the Yorkshire Dales and many of us will have been to Ribbleshead Viaduct and passed underneath it. Now the rare opportunity to walk over the top of it has materialised.

Network Rail is staging engineering work on the Settle-Carlisle railway this summer leaving the viaduct free of trains during the month of July. Network Rail and the Settle Carlisle Railway Trust have agreed to repeat the 2007 walk over the structure's twenty four arches. The walk is being timed to celebrate the 20th anniversary of saving the line from closure and will

take place on Sunday 26th July. The walk will cost £15 and there are 3,000 places available with only holders of prepaid tickets will be allowed on to the viaduct. All proceeds of the walk will go towards the Settle Carlisle Railway Trust and its work in restoring and maintaining buildings along this picturesque line.

Further details and downloadable booking forms can be found on

<http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk>

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### **North East Authorities Receive Recognition Over Rights of Way Improvement Plans.**

Natural England sees the country's rights of way network as the key to unlocking public access to the natural environment and during March held their ROWIP Awards Day to give recognition to local authorities across the country for their work in developing the rights of way network. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 there has been a requirement on local authorities to produce rights of way improvement plans (ROWIPS) with three goals.

1. in order to increase the opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding,
2. to provide greater connectivity between routes, and
3. to link up with the public transport network.

Local authorities have been working on these plans for the last seven years and improvement plans are now in place for 90% of the country with the remainder being anticipated for completion during 2009.

And so how did our local authorities fare in each of the eight award categories.

**Best consultation / community involvement:**  
Winner. Lincolnshire

Included in the final nominations. Darlington.

**Best contribution to local prosperity and quality of life:**

Winner. Durham

**Improving accessibility to all:**

Winner. Leicester City

Included in the final nominations. Hartlepool and North Yorkshire.

**Best cycling:**

Winner. East Sussex

Included in the final nominations. Tyne and Wear.

**Best integration with local transport plan:**

Winner. Nottingham City Council

Included in the final nominations. Durham, Darlington, and Redcar and Cleveland

**Best horse riding:**

Winner. Tyne and Wear

**Best local access forum involvement:**

Winner. Tyne and Wear

Included in the final nominations. Hartlepool.

**Most enterprising / innovative:**

Winner. Kent, Bedfordshire & Oxfordshire

Included in the final nominations. North Yorkshire and Redcar and Cleveland.

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feeling threatened by the dogs. In such circumstances it is generally considered that the best move is to let the dog off the lead to fend for itself, the dog being much more mobile and capable of avoiding the cattle than the owner.

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## Ospreys Hatch at Kielder.

For the first time in over two hundred years Ospreys have successfully hatched in Northumberland. Three chicks have emerged from the eggs which were laid in a nest made on a specially constructed platform erected by the Forestry Commission last year. The chicks need at least one small fish every day to stay healthy and this will increase as the birds grow but all being well, by the late summer all five birds will be seen hunting round the reservoir.

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## Walker Trampled to Death by Cows.

A woman walker has been trampled to death by cows while walking her dogs on part of the Pennine Way near the village of Gayle in Wensleydale. It is thought that the presence of the dogs had made the cows, who had recently-born calves with them, frightened and angry. The herd charged the woman and surrounded her before she could escape the drystone-walled field.

There has been a number of similar incidents throughout the country over recent years where dog walkers have been injured by cattle that have been protective of their calves when

## ***Guided Walk :***

### **A Day in the Life of a Middleton Lead Miner**

First of all a confession to make ..... I'm not exactly what you would really call a regular participant in guided walks, this being only the second one that I've attended in forty years of walking. However after having been told about the walk by Harry, my regular walking companion, a couple of places were secured at short notice and the pair of us were set.

I've always had an interest in history and lets face it, anybody who goes walking in the North Pennines will know of the existence of lead mining as quite often we are encountered by both the remains and the scars caused by this once prosperous industry. So it seemed to the pair of us that this may be a worthwhile diversion to our normal weekend walks especially as we know, or more accurately, thought that we knew the area around Middleton-in-Teesdale fairly well.

The walk itself is one of a series of guided walks that are organised by Natural England and are held in the North Pennines throughout the year. This one is a six mile walk taking six hours and led by Angie Gillings assisted by her husband Chris and is a grown-up version of one that she regularly leads out for children from the Field Centre in Middleton.

Based on a working day of a lead miner living in Middleton, after an initial briefing, the walk follows the miner's path from their homes through the various company buildings within the town and then up the valley of the Hudeshope Beck to the mines and hushes that provided a harsh and cruel employment for the men and children of the town. The walk then returned back down the other side of the valley visiting another couple of mine sites before returning to Middleton and a short walk through the area of the town set aside for the miner's homes.

Its now more than a hundred years since the valley of the Hudeshope fell quiet from the mines and when you are stood there with the green grass, the sheep and the beck noisily running over its stream



Angie, on the left, describing the scene at High Skears mine.



bed it is very difficult to imagine this being a hive of industry with men and boys toiling both above and below ground. However Angie is fully capable of conveying an atmospheric picture of the scene and with a couple of visual examples thrown in, the hardness of their lives does come across. This reality being conveyed by the one simple fact, the lives and welfare of the men were worth considerably less than that of the ponies that worked alongside them. Ponies had to be bought and paid for whereas manpower was cheap and plentiful and individuals could very easily be replaced from the lines of men back in the town.

Now its not my intention to repeat verbatim all the facts from the walk otherwise there would be little point in embarking on the walk itself and I also don't think that I could do it the same sort of justice that Angie does. However I will say that there were a few surprises that contradicted the things that I thought I knew about both the area and lead mining itself. It isn't until you actually step out with somebody who has an in-depth knowledge and who can actually show you the effect this industry had on the landscape that you can start to truly recognise how the shape of the land has been changed and formed by the action of these miners.

Anybody who goes walking in the North Pennines would benefit from joining this walk. It does quite



I had always thought that this building next to the Hudeshope Beck was a farmer's barn however it is an old shop from High Skears mine. A shop being a composite building comprised of a stable for the mine's ponies, the mine office and overnight lodgings for the miners. This particular small building provided stabling for three ponies on the ground floor and both the mine office and lodgings for up to forty men on the first floor. The size of the shop building was not dependent upon the number of miners lodging there but rather the number of ponies that had to be stabled. Another shop further upstream at Marl Beck mine is twice the size even though it housed only twenty miners ..... the mine owned six ponies !!

literally make you view the landscape with a different set of eyes and the fact that you would have a better understanding of the landforms and the history that you are walking through can't be a bad thing. As a guided walk this was well put together and informative and on top of that was enjoyable. If you do get the opportunity to attend this walk, do go.

One last fact to emphasise the tough life of a miner. The average life-span of a lead miner was only forty five years, how many of you reading this newsletter are older ??

Contact details for Natural England for information on other walks.

Natural England  
Moor House—Upper Teesdale NNR  
Widdybank Farm  
Langdon Beck  
Forest-in-Teesdale  
Barnard Castle  
Co Durham DL12 0HQ

Tel. 01833 622374

**Words and photos by Keven Shevels.**



Most mines were built with two entrances, the dry entrance and one that was built at a slight angle allowing water from the workings to drain out and this was obviously called the wet entrance.

Ponies used the dry entrance to keep them out of the water and avoid hoof-rot whereas the miners were expected to walk and work in quite wet conditions. The dry and wet entrances to Low Skears mine deep in the valley of the Hudeshope.





# Wanted a Sharp Pair of Eyes.

Walkers are being asked to help out the Durham Biodiversity Partnership by keeping their eyes open for brown hares while out in the countryside. The partnership is conducting a survey into the population of the hare across the area covered by Darlington, Co Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The first brown hare survey was carried out during 2002-2004 and now five years later they need to determine whether and how the local population has changed.

Sightings of the hare can be recorded at [www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk) or by calling 0191 5843112.

The Brown Hare - rabbit-like looking but has proportionately longer legs and ears. The adult has a yellowish-brown coat that is grizzled with grey and black hairs especially on the back. The ears are long and tipped with black unlike those of the rabbit which have brown tips. The legs are also longer than those of a rabbit's. The tail has a dark upper surface with a pale fringe and is whitish underneath. While running the tail is held down.

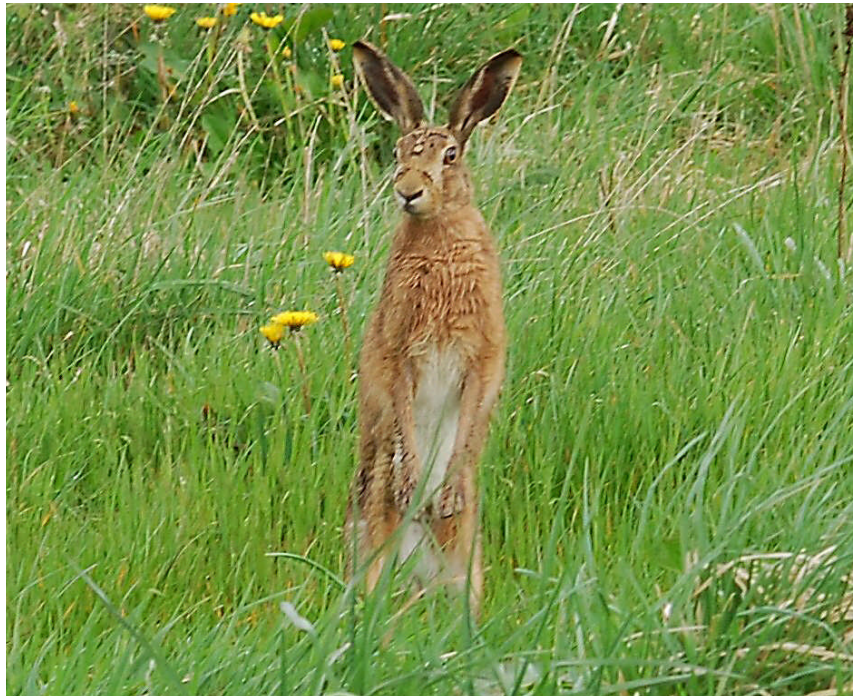


Photo courtesy of Frank Berney, Durham Wildlife Trust

The hare is a fast runner and unlike the rabbit does not burrow instead preferring to hide in a shallow depression called a form which they excavate themselves. The brown hare is essentially a lowland animal being found on arable farmland, meadows and open woodland especially if close to areas of

grassland and arable crops. Numbers have declined considerably over the last fifty years possibly due to changes in agricultural practice.

## The High Hills of Teesdale Receives Favourable Comments in the Summer Issue of the Rambler's Walk Magazine.

### **The High Hills Of Teesdale: Durham Walker 4**

Keven Shevels £7.50, [www.trailguides.co.uk](http://www.trailguides.co.uk), ISBN 978 19 0544 420 5

The latest in Trailguides of Darlington's range of high-quality guidebooks to the North East contains eight detailed walks of 10–19km/6–12 miles in the North Pennines, plus lots of technical information. *Also look out for Walks from Wooller: Northumberland Walker 3 by Geoff Holland (£7.50, ISBN 978 1 905444 25 0)*



## ***Forthcoming Challenge Walks.***

The countryside of the North East is host to a number of long-distance challenge walks over the course of the year. While not claiming to be fully comprehensive, the list below shows the name of the event, distance and contact details of all those that we are aware of. If you are a walk organiser and wish your details to be included feel free to email us at [trailguides@uwclub.net](mailto:trailguides@uwclub.net).

### **Saturday July 4**

24 or 14 miles from Twice Brewed.

### **Hadrian Hike Challenge Walk**

[www.hadrianhikechallengewalk.piczo.com](http://www.hadrianhikechallengewalk.piczo.com)

### **Saturday July 4**

20 miles from Wooler.

### **Chevy Chase**

[www.woolerrunningclub.co.uk](http://www.woolerrunningclub.co.uk) entries before June 1st.

### **Saturday August 15**

24 or 13 miles from Guisborough.

### **Hanging Stone Leap**

[www.ldwa.org.uk/cleveland](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/cleveland)

### **Saturday August 29**

26 or 16 miles from Robin Hoods Bay.

### **Smuggler's Trod**

[www.ldwa.org.uk/YorkshireCoast](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/YorkshireCoast)

### **Saturday August 29**

24 or 18 miles from Alwinton.

### **Cheviots Challenge**

[www.cheviotschallenge.org.uk/](http://www.cheviotschallenge.org.uk/)

### **Saturday October 10**

26 or 13 miles from Stape Outdoor Centre

### **Saltergate Circuit**

[www.srmrt.org.uk](http://www.srmrt.org.uk)

### **Saturday October 10**

25 or 15 miles from Comondale

### **Pathfinder 25 Challenge**

[www.ormesby-pathfinders.org.uk](http://www.ormesby-pathfinders.org.uk)

### **Sunday November 22**

23 miles from Askrigg

### **Wensleydale Wedge**

[www.ldwa.org.uk/Nidderdale](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/Nidderdale)



In Durham the word “Carrs” within a place name can have two different meanings. In the eastern part of the county it normally signifies low lying boggy ground such as Bradbury Carrs. By contrast, in the dales it means a collection of boulders and stones normally on the slopes of a hill. These are part of the carrs forming a horseshoe around the summit of Carrs Top in Weardale.

## *The Neglected Hills :*



### **Carrs Top.**

Carrs Top stands on the south side of the River Wear in the hills opposite Stanhope and is clearly visible from any of the higher points of the town. On the face of it this has got to be an unlikely choice for a favourite hill. It's not very tall, it's not that remote and even to get there on the obvious route from Stanhope includes quite a lengthy road walk and sat on the ridge separating Weardale from the Bollihope valley this little hill is unlikely to feature in any peak-baggers lists. However it is one of those hills that are full of character and anyway is there any real downside from not appearing on any of those much vaunted lists.

I first went up this hill many years ago, too many to actually remember which year it was but that could also be a sign of age. In those days I was younger and fitter and passionately into fell running and I was taken up the hill whilst on a run with a friend who lives in Stanhope. The factors that make it such a nice hill to walk up also make it a great hill to run over and especially to

Photo above. Looking out over Catterick and the Bollihope Valley from the stone carrs surrounding the summit of Carrs Top.

This is the first in a periodic series featuring some of the lesser-known hills of the region. As with everything nowadays the cult of celebrity holds sway and that goes for hills too. We all know about the more prestigious ones, the likes of The Cheviot, Simonside, Roseberry Topping etc that are all on our visit list but there are many hills out there that may not be fashionable and whose name is not exactly familiar but which can offer an experience of their own that makes them well worth the effort to visit.

As they run, you'll see that the articles in this series will encourage you to leave familiar ground and try a walk to the top of these unsung joys of the walking world. So go on and give them a go you may be pleasantly surprised.



run down and many further visits followed. In fact Carrs Top was the location of the very first fell race that I organised and even though the race only lasted the one year I'd like to think that it is still fondly remembered by those who took part.

Over the following years I periodically went up Carrs Top both running and walking and can truthfully say that I never really had a bad day on its slopes. There are some hills where you can just develop an affinity with and never tire of going up and in my case Carrs Top is one of those. I've always enjoyed being on it and it always seems to have enjoyed having me there or at least, shall we say, it has never decided to show its disapproval by chucking the weather down at me.

The last time I was there was the summer of 2008. That wet miserable summer where the list of towns that were being flooded-out was just getting longer and longer. Somehow the day that I'd picked turned out to be one of the better ones that year, however, it could be just because the sun shines on the righteous but who am I to say that.

The trig point on the summit was the half-way point on the walk before we descended down into Bollilhope and was chosen as a suitable point for a twenty minute lunch-break. That day visibility was nearly perfect and we were able to look down onto Weardale on the left side and Bollilhope on the right with the fall of the ridgeline down over Catterick and leading away to the Wear valley straight in front. I've long been of the opinion that with hills, size isn't everything and it isn't really the height but rather the location and its surrounding landforms that give a hill its personality. Believe me, on that day Carrs Top rose head and shoulders above the taller hills of the Dales.

Some days things can only get better and as we sat in the sunshine with our backs against the trig point two large shapes drifted into view in the sky above. A pair of red kites, presumably the pair from the Northern Kites project up at Gateshead that have moved south and settled in the vicinity of Mid-Teesdale, soared above us and provided free entertainment for the lunch-break. Watching these massive birds glide effortlessly on the thermals, first above Weardale and then over Bollilhope was hypnotic and it was a full twenty minutes over our allotted break before they disappeared from view



Heading across the slopes towards the cairn on the summit plateau.

back home over Teesdale and we got up, slung our packs back over the shoulders and got back on with the walk.

Considering its closeness to Stanhope and the B6278 road, Carrs Top is surprisingly under-visited. In all these years I've never seen anybody on the top other than the people that I've ran and walked with. It's not a particularly tough hill to climb, the slopes are clad in a nice tussocky grass rather than peat bog, the slopes are more gradual rather than steep and there are a number of different directions from which the summit can be reached. Historically there may have been a reluctance to visit this hill as there are no rights of way across any of its slopes but now with the advent of CRoW this whole area has been opened up and it is possible to include Carrs Top within the route of a number of different walks.

So take my advice and give it a go and have a wander over it this summer. On a warm sunny day with good visibility this hill can give some of the best views in the Durham Dales.

For the more adventurous who don't mind a touch of peat and bog-hopping it is possible from Carrs Top to follow the ridgeline up to the watershed and then do a complete circuit of the head of the Bollilhope valley.

## **Carrs Top**

**Height 1,772 feet / 540 metres**

**Trig point grid reference NY 962 355**

**Words and photos by Keven Shevels.**



The stone cairn on the shoulder of the hill. The trig point is a little higher and further along the ridge.



## ***Focus on :***



## **Wooler and Glendale.**

The small stone-built town of Wooler is a natural gateway to the Cheviot Hills and also to a large portion of Northumberland National Park. Set high above the Wooler Water, Wooler is the focus of the area known as Glendale which covers 250 square miles of north Northumberland with Wooler itself being a pretty and historic market town with a high street full of independent shops, cafes and galleries and well-worth a visit in its own right

The Cheviot Hills form the backdrop of Glendale. These are England's most northerly hills and cover an area of some 400 square miles, rising and falling along the northern edge of England as they roll down into Scotland in small, green, rounded waves. In 1926 W. Ford Robertson wrote in his book "Walks from Wooler", "The main features of the Cheviot Hills that make them a paradise for the pedestrian are their peaceful, lonely glens, their wide expanses of bracken-clad hillside ..... And their broad heathery moors". Not a lot has changed since then and those same virtues that pleased walkers then still apply now, this is indeed an area where you can walk all day and be very unlucky to meet another walker.

But Glendale is not just about the Cheviots, magnificent though they may be. This is very much a rural landscape bringing all that offers to the walker. The Cheviots themselves flow down into the vales of the Cheviot fringe where the waters of the rivers Breamish and Wooler Water flow to

become the Till which in turn heads through the fertile farmlands of the Milfield Plain to become one of the main tributaries of the Tweed. On the other side of the vales the landscape rises once more to become a range of sandstone hills that cut a wide arc of high ground separating these valleys from the Northumberland coastal plain. The broad plateau summits of these hills undulate in a series of ridges characterised by their north-west facing scarp slopes giving a bold, distinctive skyline. In places the slopes of these hills have been extensively planted with conifer plantations.

This is a countryside that could be almost purpose-designed for walking, so what is the attraction in the Glendale area for the walker. Well once there that question answers itself. However ask yourself what does a walker want from a walk; beautiful country, a sense of quiet isolation, the feeling of challenge, interesting areas to explore, a sense of history, varied flora and fauna but above all enjoyment.

Its all here in this northern part of Northumberland ranging from the wild and rugged Cheviots to lush fertile valleys, the wooded slopes of the hills and the sandstone escarpments running between the

### **CHALLENGE EVENTS.**

Wooler stages one of the oldest challenge walks on the British calendar, the Chevy Chase. Now fifty-three years old this twenty mile event crosses the roof of Northumberland taking in the two highest hills in the county, The Cheviot and Hedgehope Hill, and providing a total of over 4,000 feet of climbing. Not for the faint-hearted this physical challenge has a completion time of eight hours and is a severe test for walkers as they make their way over footpaths, sheep trods, tracks and open fell. The route is unmarked and the entrant has the freedom of these wonderful hills as they, unlike in most challenge events, have the opportunity to choose their own route between the manned checkpoints.

Held in July the event has a 300 limit. For more information see the website

**<http://www.woolerrunningclub.co.uk>**

The Cheviot from Hedgehope Hill.





Cheviots and the sea. Whether you like your walking wild or mild or anywhere in-between you'll find it here.

### **WAYMARKED WALKS.**

Whereas the Cheviot Hills provide a setting for some truly wild walking the district of Glendale is also capable of providing some jaw-dropping walking for the more quieter moments. There are a number of waymarked walks in the area that showcase the diversity of what is available here. Just to whet the appetite brief details of nine of them are outlined below. More information including links to download a free route map for each of the walks is available from the website <http://www.wooler.org.uk>

#### **Chillingham Park**

Approx distance: 6 miles Time: at least 4hrs  
This walk follows a route round the parkland of Chillingham estate giving the opportunity to view the last herd of wild cattle in the country which has

### **LONG DISTANCE PATHS**

Being superb walking country there would be an obvious attraction for some long distance walks to pass through the area and so it proves.

The daddy of all long distance paths in this country, the Pennine Way, follows the border ridge and even makes a slight diversion to the summit of The Cheviot before descending to finish on the other side of the border at Kirk Yetholm.

Meanwhile the 62 mile St Cuthbert's Way heads from Melrose and cuts across Glendale passing through Wooler and the foothills of the Cheviots on it's way to Lindisfarne.

A less well-known path developed as an alternative to Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk is the Ravenber developed by Ron Scholes. This walk starts at Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast and then over 200 miles later ends in Berwick-on-Tweed. The combination of the start and finish place names gives the walk title. The book of the walk can be obtained from bookshops or Amazon.



St Cuthbert's Way towards the College Valley.

roamed this estate for hundreds of years. The path leads around the parkland giving walkers the opportunity to see the cattle from safe viewpoints.

### **Cochrane Pike**

Approx distance: 4.3 miles Time: at least 3hrs

This walk takes you through moorland sheep country surrounded by the sounds of the curlew, oyster catcher, skylark and meadow pipit.

### **Cornhill**

Various routes: Times vary

Four routes using old railway tracks, riverside trails, footpaths and bridleways take you around the countryside near the village.

### **Flodden Field**

Various routes Time: at least 2hrs

An opportunity to explore the site of the famous Anglo-Scottish battle which took place in 1513 and where 14,000 men perished in just a few hours. Interpretation panels around the trail describe how the battle unfolded.

### **Humbleton Hillfort**

Approx distance: 4 miles Time: at least 2hrs

## **WEEKEND WALKS.**

### **Fancy getting away from it all for a couple of days ?**

How about a weekend's walking in the hills and dales of Glendale. Set off from Wooler for a day's walking then spend the night in a farmhouse or pub B & B before returning back to Wooler the next day by a different route. Guaranteed to recharge those batteries.

### **Fancy a walk to see one of the most spectacular sights in the Cheviots ?**

Take a walk to the narrow ravine of Hen Hole, a stunning chasm that is uncharacteristic of the rounded hills of north Northumberland. Sheer cliffs play host to the nesting sites of many birds and also shelter many varieties of flowering plants hidden between the ferns and mosses. The College Burn, born on the slopes of The Cheviot, cascades down this deep ravine passing the sheer cliffs as it enters the College Valley.



Hen Hole. Even Wainwright reckoned it was worth the diversion from the Pennine Way.



A walk from Wooler to the top of Humbleton Hill and its hillfort and giving a glimpse of a world from over 2,000 years ago. This walk also provides panoramic views of The Milfield Plain and beyond.

### **Kilham walk**

Approx distance 3.5 miles Time: at least 2.5 hrs  
The route follows part of the old Alnwick to Cornhill railway before climbing a wooded hillside and going steeply upwards to the top of Kilham Hill for one of the most breathtaking views in Northumberland National Park.

### **Linhope Spout**

Approx distance: 3 miles Time: at least 2hrs  
Linhope Spout is a 60ft waterfall which is a great spot for a family picnic. Keep your eyes open for the red squirrels which can be seen on the way up to the Spout.

### **Milfield**

Approx distance: 1.7 miles Time: at least 1hr  
Enjoy either a circular walk around Whitton Hill Farm or link up with the public footpath from Flodden Bridge with Milfield village. The link will provide an alternative from using county lanes,

## **HISTORICAL WALKS**

Glendale has seen over 5,000 years of human history and this area contains a wealth of prehistoric sites which together form some of the most exciting archaeological landscapes in England. These sites include standing stones, stone circles and burial cairns from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, together with some of the most interesting examples of prehistoric rock art found anywhere in the country. These carvings typically consist of concentric circles and cup shaped depressions although other shapes can also be included in the patterns cut into the rock. Later prehistoric remains feature possibly one of the largest concentrations of Iron Age hill forts in the country with many of the outer hills fringing the Cheviots having the remains of earthworks ringing their summits. In later times this area formed the border between England and Scotland and a bloody border history ensued which left its mark on this landscape and provided a rich and varied heritage. Much of this history is still tangible and can be viewed while walking over the hills



Part of a Neolithic stone circle in the College Valley.

where you will be able to appreciate the excellent views into the Milfield Basin.

The walk takes you through both woodland and arable habitats where you will be able to appreciate the flora and fauna they support and some of the environmental enhancement work being carried out through Countryside Stewardship.

## GUIDED WALKS

Like the sound of walking in the Glendale area but nobody to walk with, try Walk Northumbria. Founded in 2002 by Peter McEwen, Peter and his guest walk leaders specialise in guided walks in the Cheviot Hills, Northumberland National Park, the Northumbrian coast and Hadrian's Wall. Walk Northumbria offers a full program of walks that not only offer a varied selection of walks but also a chance to share and take in the cultural heritage of Northumbria.

For more information see the website  
<http://www.walknorthumbria.co.uk>



Thanks are due to Geoff Holland for his contributions to this article and permission to use a number of his photographs within it.

and valleys of Glendale and while doing so provides a firm and fascinating link to the past, one that is not always possible in other parts of the country.

## ACCOMMODATION.

For anybody spending time in the Glendale area there are more than sufficient hotels, guest houses, self-catering accommodation and caravan and camping sites to suit most tastes and budgets. One of the main accommodation providers in the area is the Wooler Youth Hostel. The current building was opened in 1954 but was saved from closure in 2006 by the timely intervention of the Glendale Trust and after an upgrade to a "three star visit Britain rating" is now operated by them under the YHA's Enterprise scheme.

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES.

Wooler Tourist Information Centre at Cheviot Centre, 12 Padgepool Place, Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6BL, telephone number **01668282123**.

The address of the Northumberland National Park Information Centre in the Ingram Valley is Ingram, Powburn, Alnwick, NE66 4LT, telephone number **01665578890**. It is closed between November and February otherwise it is open daily.

## Guidebooks:



### The Cheviot Hills

By  
Geoff Holland

Northumberland Walker 1



### Walks from Wooler

Northumberland Walker 3



By  
Geoff Holland

TRAIL GUIDE'S  
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# Kielder Walking Festival Programme Announced

The eagerly awaited programme for the Kielder Walking Festival has been finalised. The week long festival running from 5 – 13 September sees 16 suggested walks in and around Kielder Water & Forest Park. The walks encompass a variety of distances and difficulties, locations in the North of Tyne and Redesdale countryside and themes such as wildlife, history and art. As well as a choice of guided walks led by experienced local guides, there are also suggestions for self-guided options.

The highlight on the opening weekend will be the Walk for Life, a charity walk to raise money for Wateraid. Organised by Shepherds Walks and supported by Northumbrian Water Ltd and the Kielder Partnership, intrepid walkers will face the challenge of a 26 mile walk around the entire circumference of Kielder Reservoir on the new Lakeside Way facility.

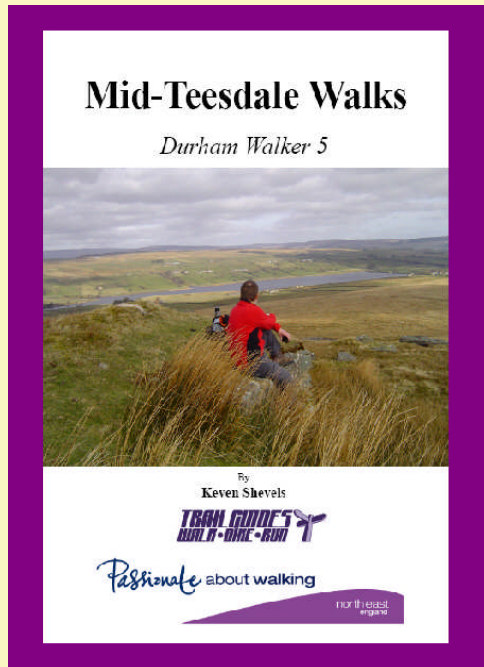
For more information on the Kielder Walking Festival, go to [www.visitkielder.com](http://www.visitkielder.com) or call 01434 250 209.

## Kielder Walking Festival Programme

Date	Walk	Distance	Start	Cost
Saturday 5 Sep	Bakethin Wildlife Walk	2.5m	2pm	£8
Saturday 5 Sep	Tarset Industrial Archaeology Walk	3m	10.30am	£8
Sunday 6 Sep	Lewisburn Trail – self guided option	2.5m		free
Sunday 6 Sep	Walk for Life, Lakeside Way	7.6m & 26m		££
Monday 7 Sep	Hindhope Linn – self guided option	1.25m		free
Monday 7 Sep	Reivers Ramble, Otterburn	6m	11am	£8
Tuesday 8 Sep	Sidwood Trail – self guided option	1m		free
Tuesday 8 Sep	Art & Architecture Walks – self guided option	various		free
Wednesday 9 Sep	Falstone Foray	5m	4.30pm	£8
Thursday 10 Sep	Deadwater	8.3m	11am	£8
Friday 11 Sep	Walksburn – self guided option	1.5m		free
Friday 11 Sep	Shepherds Walk, Bellingham	6m	10.30am	£8
Saturday 12 Sep	Night Walk, Bakethin	2.5m	7.15pm	£8
Saturday 12 Sep	Walk to Wellbeing, Wark Forest	4m	1pm	free
Sunday 13 Sep	A Five Shelter Walk, Lakeside Way	8m	11am	£8
Sunday 13 Sep	Hareshaw Linn, Bellingham	3m	1pm	£8

# Forthcoming Books

By the time the next issue of WNE comes out at the end of September there will be two new publications in the Trailguides library.

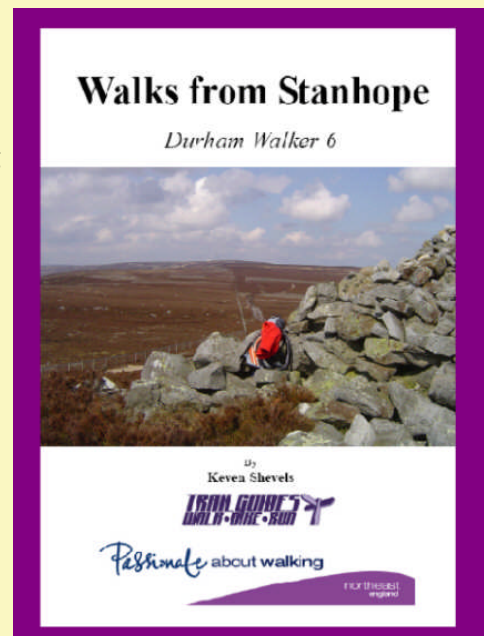


**Mid-Teesdale Walks** is the fifth volume in the Durham Walker series and will detail eight walks in the varied countryside lying between Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Within these walks you can discover the prehistoric past of Teesdale complete with rock art and burial cairns, walk along an old Roman road linking Teesdale with Weardale, view the area of a long-forgotten battle between the men of Teesdale and the marauding Scots and follow the track bed of a Victorian railway.

**Walks from Stanhope**, the sixth volume of the Durham Walker books explores the country and history surrounding the capital of Weardale. Traversing the valley floor and the high and low moors that surround the town these eight walks take a trip into a landscape heavily influenced by man over the last five thousand years. As with many parts of Durham there is a hidden prehistoric past waiting to be discovered along with fell top coal mines, the industrial landscapes created by the old quarry workings and the railway network across the top of the moors linking them together.

And do you know about the two Battles of Stanhope ???

**Both books will be available 31 July.**



**Coming soon - The Hills of Upper Coquetdale, eight new walks from Geoff Holland.**

## Reader's letters and emails.

We are always willing to print reader's comments and reply to questions. Both the email and postal address are on the Trailguides website.

Contributions from readers will always be considered for inclusion within this magazine. Please feel free to send any articles, news or other pieces that you feel would be of interest to our readers to [trailguides@uwclub.net](mailto:trailguides@uwclub.net).