

Walking North East

NOVEMBER 2013



Cover photo.

Cross Dyke on Sunny Bank near Hawnby on the North York Moors. This prehistoric field boundary is also on the edge of a prehistoric cemetery that was also re-used during Anglo-Saxon times. Sometimes it is surprising just what a ditch in the ground can reveal.

This walk will feature in a new book, 'Walking around Helmsley and Ryedale' which will be available early in the new year.



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THIS MONTH THE FOCUS IS ON ONE OF OUR MORE POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

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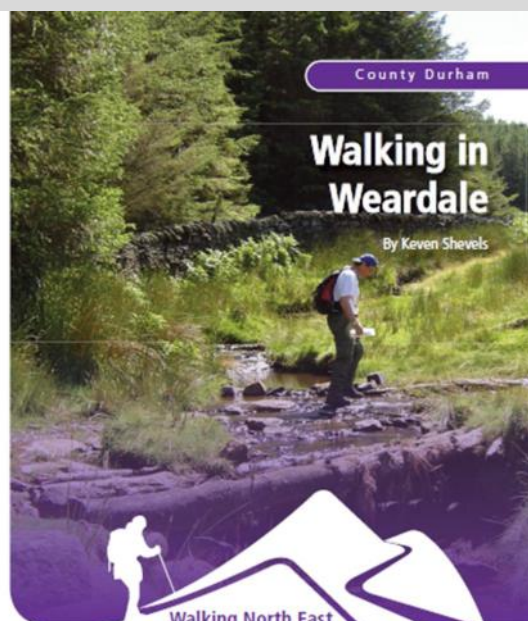
By Keven Shevels

A 112 page full colour A5 booklet describing nine walks and the history and landscape surrounding those walks, through the length of the Weardale valley.

Weardale, the valley of the Prince Bishops, given shortly after the Norman Conquest to the Bishops of Durham to rule as their own, this rugged dale has a long and turbulent history.

Join the author in a series of nine walks as he explores the countryside of this dale from the lower grazing pastures surrounding Wolsingham up to the high, windswept moors of the Pennine watershed. Once heavily exploited for its mineral wealth, this now quite and tranquil dale is a haven for the walker seeking to broaden their horizons and sample what the Bishops once ruled with a rod of iron.

Priced at £9.99, this full colour book is available direct from our website or alternatively try Amazon or just go into your local bookshop and ask for it by name. The book is also available as a PDF download from our website priced at £4.99.



north east
england

TRAIL GUIDES
publications

Walking News :

Customers at Britain's biggest outdoor retailer, GO Outdoors, have raised £10,000 for mountain rescue. In partnership with Mammut, the store has sold 2,000 cuddly Mammut mascots, 100% of the proceeds being given to Mountain Rescue England and Wales.

Anybody wanting to improve their outdoor skills will be able to choose from two new courses next year. Mountain Training, the official body that oversees popular training for qualifications such as the Mountain Leader, will introduce the Hill and Mountain Skills schemes in April 2014. The two-day courses will be open to anyone aged 14 and over and are aimed at giving walkers the ability to navigate and be self-sufficient in the hills, moorland and mountains of the British Isles. Mountain Training said the courses are not the same as leadership courses but should offer participants a chance to understand enough to get out on their own after the two days. Hill Skills courses will be delivered by those with a Walking Group Leader Award or above and will be in terrain that includes upland moorland. Those who undertake a Hill Skills course may then wish to move on to a Mountain Skills course, which will be taught by holders of Mountain Leader Award or above. Both courses are skills oriented and will have a syllabus that is similar, but the teaching will take place in the different types of terrain appropriate to the course. More details are on the [Mountain Training website](#).

It has been revealed that the Walking Group Leader Award is to be renamed Hill and Moorland Leader due to its present name giving confusion over what the holder's remit is. The Mountain Training UK board has also approved a Lowland Leader scheme which will be launched in spring next year.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a £3m grant to protect and raise awareness of one of the unique landscapes of the North York Moors National Park. The main focus of the project will be the importance of both the ironstone and railway heritage of Grosmont and Rosedale, a heritage that is being eroded by time. The project, which is named 'This Exploited Land, the trailblazing story of ironstone and railways in the North York Moors', will also encourage rare wildlife, wild daffodils, ancient woodlands and the special species of the River Esk. At the height of production between 1873 and 1914, about 19 per cent of the world's iron ore came from the Cleveland Hills and the North York Moors. The ironworks at Grosmont still retain rare surviving elements of the world-leading innovation in blast-furnace technology that was developed in the region on Teesside. The story includes the achievements of railway pioneer George Stephenson who designed the Whitby to Pickering Railway in the early 1830s. Much of it is still being used today by the North York Moors Railway Trust. The project will reveal the impact the sudden explosion of industrialisation had on the landscape, its national and international significance and conserve, protect and record the fragile remains of this revolutionary age.

A new sculpture will be revealed in Dalby Forest on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate the role of the Lumberjills during the Second World War. The sculpture, titled 'Pull Don't Push' features a steel fabrication of a felled tree and two Lumberjills and is around five metres long and three metres high and captures the arduous nature of the work in the forests as well as the fun that many of the lumberjills experienced while working in the forests during the war. The Women's Timber Service was set up during the First World War, but in April 1942 the Ministry of Supply (Home Grown Timber Department) set-up a new venture called the Women's Timber Corps which was part of the Women's Land Army. This was a new unit with its own identity and uniform, which included a green beret to distinguish them from other parts of the Land Army. More than 9,000 women were recruited from all over Britain and posted to forests where they would carry out the heavy work of felling and crosscutting trees by hand as well as working in sawmills, loading trucks and driving tractors. Great Britain supplied 60 per cent of its timber needs during the war and a total of 46 per cent of trees were felled. By 1945 standing timber had been exhausted.

Forestry management works are planned to take place in the woods surrounding Killhope Museum in Weardale between November and March. The work has been approved by the Forestry Commission and will involve the removal of trees that could be at risk of being toppled by high winds as well as replanting a variety of trees

Following the path across the boggy ground surrounding Coal Gill on the moors near to Tan Hill in Arkengarthdale. Although in many ways this moorland is bleak and uninviting nowadays, it's not that long since these moors were a hive of industrial activity. Not from the expected lead mines but from coal mines that were scattered across the top of these hills.



aimed at improving the potential for wildlife and preserving the local red squirrel population.

The Ramblers have welcomed the Government's re-commitment to create the English Coast Path which includes a long stretch through the North-East. Earlier this summer doubt was cast over the project when the Environment Minister, Richard Benyon, described it as, "a sledgehammer to miss a nut". As a result The Ramblers launched a campaign calling on the Government to make a commitment to the project and to set out a full target date for the completion of the path. Mr Benyon was this month sacked from his post by David Cameron and the Government has now published a schedule for progress on the path for the next three years. This includes the start of work on the entire North-East section of the route by 2016. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) recently approved stretches of the route, in both the North-East and Cumbria. This will see work carried out on improving access to a 34-mile stretch of the path, between North Gare, Hartlepool and South Bents, north of Sunderland. Work on the final stretch of the path in the region, up the Northumberland coast, is expected to take place in 2015/16.

What's In A Name.

Forgive the expression but there are two Crackpots in Swaledale, not that I'm maligning any of the local population.

On the south side of the River Swale, set half-way up the valley side lies the small hamlet of Crackpot, famous since the invention of the SatNav and the little gadget's insistence on directing drivers up a very rough, nearby track. Further up the dale, standing high above the valley is the remains of Crackpot Hall, once a shooting lodge then a moorland farm and now just a shell of a building although it does just happen to look down on one of the best viewpoints in the whole of the Yorkshire Dales.

So how did these two places end up with a little bit of a 'loony' name.

Well the answer lies with the Vikings.

The name Crackpot comes from the Old Norse 'kraka' meaning crows and 'pot' or hole and translates as "the hole where the crows abound" with the hole in this case being Crackpot Cave which is situated a little bit further up the side valley next to the hamlet.



The cave from which Crackpot takes its name located above the waterfall. Originally quite substantial and with its own underground system, a landslip many years ago reduced it to not much more than a hole in the cliff face.

The campaign to buy Eston Hills for the public has raised £6,000 in just two weeks. The land which is around Eston Nab and Lazenby Bank, between South Bank and Guisborough, is currently up for sale for £425,000. The Friends of Eston Hills has been set up to try and buy the historically important area for the public and a fund-raising evening will be held at the Eston Institute on Wednesday, November 6 at 7.30pm. There will be film screenings and a Q&A session with campaigner Craig Hornby.

A number of major land-owning organisations in the region have refused to rule out whether they will allow fracking on their land at some point in the future. The National Trust, which owns 54,400 acres (220 sq km) of land in Yorkshire and the North-East, said it had a “presumption against” fracking on its land. However, the trust also said that if it was happy in the future that the environmental and visual impact of fracking would be negligible then it could revise that stance. Meanwhile the Church of England, one of the biggest landowners in the country, has left its stance on shale gas ambiguous, saying it had “no policy” on fracking. The church’s 2012 annual report stated it may shortly be “taking stakes in big infrastructure projects” in the UK and it has just finishing registering its mineral rights with the Land Registry, to meet the registry’s deadline at the end of October. However, a church spokesman said registering mineral rights was a separate issue from fracking.

Two tourist information centres on the edge of the North York Moors National Park are facing closure as part of money-saving measures. Ryedale District Council is planning to close the centres at Malton and Helmsley and instead upgrade the service for tourists in the Pickering centre including enhancing the website and on-line services.

When introduced in 2015, Britain's newly privatised search and rescue helicopters will carry the red and white colours of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The coalition Government announced in March that the Texas owned Bristow Helicopters had been awarded the £1.6bn contract for search and rescue helicopters with the new service using Sikorsky S92 helicopters and the smaller Agusta Westland AW189 aircraft. The present military search and rescue service provided by the RAF and Royal Navy will be phased out between April 2015 and April 2017 and will mean an end to the familiar yellow RAF and red and grey Royal Navy Sea King helicopters which have rescued countless walkers, climbers, mountaineers, mountain bikers and other enthusiasts from the uplands of the UK. It is expected that two-thirds of crew members of the new helicopters will be ex-military. All current RAF and Royal Navy search and rescue bases will close, with the Bristow helicopters being sited at new Coastguard bases opening at Inverness, Humberside, Manston, Newquay, Cardiff, Caernarfon and Prestwick along with the existing bases at Lee-on-Solent, Stornoway and Sumburgh.

Mountain rescuers say they will continue to work with MPs in the search for funding for their volunteer teams in England and Wales. A recent reception at the Palace of Westminster attracted about 50 members of both the Commons and the Lords during a week in which the rescuers mounted a display in Parliament. The event was hosted by Penrith Conservative MP Rory Stewart, leader of the all-party parliamentary group on rescue services. Mike France, head of MREW fundraising, said there was still disparity between cash given to Scottish teams and those in England and Wales. “Volunteer rescuers, about 3,600 of them in England and Wales, are available 24/7 throughout the year for local callouts and they have to train for many different situations and needs. So it seems crazy that they also have to find time for fundraising just to keep their teams going and we’re hoping that the week’s discussions in Westminster will have shown MPs the huge discrepancy between the financial support given by government to Scottish rescuers, about £16,480 per team, and the much more limited funding to English teams of just £2,246 per team. If government could guarantee a level of funding from the public purse closer to the Scottish figure, we’d be able to underwrite investments in vehicles and essential kit and subsidise essential training and insurance and our volunteer rescuers would be able to focus on getting the job done rather than having to worry about money.”

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has just been re-accredited with the Government’s Customer Service Excellence award for the way it delivers its services to the public. This is the fourth year running that the Authority has been recognised for the way it treats its residents and visitors.

Langdon Beck in Upper Teesdale. Taken in early November when we were exploring the old lead mines in this remote, isolated valley with a possibility of including a walk around them in a future publication. The inset proves that we did find them.



The Forestry Commission is reassuring the public that the unusually large quantities of seed clumps hanging on ash trees this autumn do not mean the trees have Chalara ash dieback disease. Dr John Morgan, Head of the Commission's Plant Health Service, said the disease can be difficult to recognise in the autumn, when ash leaves are changing colour anyway. He explained, "What some people are mistaking for symptoms of disease are actually a sign of the exceptionally productive fruiting season, or 'mast year', we've had. The clumps of seeds, known as keys, can sometimes look like the blackened and shrivelled leaves which are a symptom of the disease, so it is easy to see how the mistake can be made. The best way to recognise Chalara in the autumn is by the elongated, diamond-shaped lesions, or discolouring, which it causes in the bark of stems and branches around the points where leaves, twigs and branches are attached. This discoloured bark often has splits in it."

The disease is caused by the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus, and Forestry Commission monitoring has indicated that there has been little apparent spread of the disease during 2013. Most observed spread has been over short distances in local areas which already have higher levels of the fungus in 'wider-environment' situations such as mature woodland. This means that new cases are more likely to appear in counties such as Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Kent and a small number of other areas.

Wrap up warm and join in with one of Durham County Council's guided walks this winter. There is something for everyone with walks right across the county, ranging from two to ten miles in distance. A full copy of the guided walks programme can be downloaded at: www.durham.gov.uk/countryside (follow the link to guided walks) or call 03000 264 579

An outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) in cattle has been confirmed in County Durham. Despite Government attempts to stop bovine TB spreading north, cattle on a farm in the Haswell area of east Durham have tested positive. The North-East branch of the NFU confirmed that this was the first recent case of bovine TB in County Durham, a region which has previously been regarded as free of the disease in both livestock and wildlife. The infected animals have been slaughtered and tests are being carried out on cattle at surrounding farms.

Bovine TB is currently a major problem in the South-West and West Midlands. More than 1,500 badgers, which are believed to spread the disease, have been killed since a controversial cull was launched in Somerset and Gloucestershire and measures to stop the disease spreading north have been stepped up in counties on the edge of the high-risk areas, including Cheshire and Derbyshire. It is believed that the infection was inadvertently carried in cattle bought from a high risk area of the country, where cases of bovine TB are much more prevalent.

Campaigners trying to buy a piece of the North-East landscape for the public have vowed to carry on despite a potentially devastating blow to their hopes. Lazenby Bank, a privately-owned area of the Eston Hills between Redcar and Guisborough, which includes some of the regions most historically important sites, is up for sale at £425,000. The 214-acre area of Lazenby Bank is being sold in eight lots which includes the rocky plateau of Eston Nab upon which there are bronze age burial mounds, an Iron Age fort, the Grade II-listed remains of an ironstone mine and a Napoleonic War era beacon watch tower. To buy the Grade II-listed iron mine remains would cost £50,000 and Eston Nab, £80,000. Campaigners have so far raised £7,000 from the public in just three weeks, but now the owner's agent has imposed a December 12 deadline for bids. Craig Hornby, who is organising the campaign, said he had tracked down the owner, who lives "in a remote corner of County Durham," and pushed a "begging letter" into his hand. Now he is contacting major Teesside companies in an attempt to persuade them to pledge money so some kind of bid can be put on the table to save the hills for the public. Mr Hornby, who won awards for his film *A Century of Stone*, about the Eston Hills, which were rich in iron and helped fuel the industrial revolution, said ideas to create a visitor centre, a monument to fallen miners and a heritage trail, would not be dropped whatever happens, money raised already will go to conservation projects on the hills and the campaign group will still try and build a memorial to the 375 men and boys who died in the mines.

JD Sports, the owner of the Blacks and Millets stores, has expanded its interests in the outdoor market by snapping up a controlling share of Edinburgh-based outdoor retailer Tiso. The Tiso family will retain a 'significant shareholding' but JD Sports Fashion's Peter Cowgill will take over the role of chairman from Chris Tiso, who will become chief executive. With heavy debts Tiso, which also owns the Keswick outdoor retailer George Fisher and Alpine Bikes, said JD Sports' investment will see bank debt significantly reduced and will provide

And you wonder how sheep trods are formed ???



capital for the company, which posted a loss of more than £1m in 2011. Tiso attributed in part the drop in its revenue to the oversupply of products in the market following the collapse of the Blacks Leisure chain which, ironically, JD Sports snapped up after it entered administration. The Tiso brand is expected to remain, with its headquarters remaining in Edinburgh, while coming under the outdoor branch of JD Sports Fashion.

A woman was airlifted to Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary hospital after being injured by a cow while out walking with her husband. The 65-year-old suffered hip injuries in the incident which occurred in a field in Wall, Northumberland early last week.

The first big storm of the autumn had a big impact on public footpaths between Easington and Roxby in North Yorkshire, taking out five large footbridges and leaving two more unsafe to use. During October, North York Moors National Park staff fitted new decks to two of the footbridges near Grinkle Park, but there are still five un-bridged crossings. These bridges will be repaired as soon as possible but the work will probably run into 2014 as access to some of the sites is particularly challenging.

A new project, entitled the Living Ash Project, has been launched. The project, a Defra-funded consortium of Earth Trust, Future Trees Trust, Sylva Foundation and Forest Research, is aiming to identify ash trees with good tolerance to Chalara ash dieback. There are an estimated 126 million ash trees in Great Britain and evidence from Denmark, where Chalara dieback of ash is more prevalent, indicates that approximately 1 per cent of trees show good resistance to the disease. Natural selection in some woodlands could enable the regeneration of trees that are resistant to the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus, which causes the disease. However, the identification of resistant trees is needed as the basis for a genetically diverse and resilient population for future productive woodland planting. Quickly identifying resistant trees and using them in a breeding programme will enable rapid production of resilient trees.

The Northumberland National Park Visitor Centre and TIC at Once Brewed on Hadrian's Wall has been given the Goldstar Award by the Green Tourism Business Scheme. The award was presented to Britain's most environmentally friendly businesses at the national awards ceremony in Bristol to mark the culmination of Green Tourism Week. The Award was presented to Duncan Wise, Visitor Development Officer of Northumberland National Park Authority by World environment activist Satish Kumar for GTBS. The Once Brewed Centre has held the Green Tourism Gold standard for several years after undertaking rigorous practical measures to reduce its impact on the environment, such as supporting the community and purchasing local and organic food. Each year since 2008, the National Park Authority has made a further improvement to the Centre's green credentials. Recent measures include the installation of renewable energy technology for heating and electric vehicle charging and solar-powered, night-friendly movement-sensitive (PIR) and LED lighting; monitoring systems for electricity consumption and saving; insulation, double glazing, low-energy appliances and the fitting of double automatic doors to create a heat saving buffer.

More than 1,000 residents of Teesdale turned out to cast their votes during the month to determine which projects would get a share of a £38,000 local community pot. Out of the forty-five projects eligible the most popular proved to be Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team's bid for new kit. Ten projects will share the funding with amounts of between £2,500 and £5,000. TWSMRT's money will be spent on equipping members with waterproof jackets and trousers and special safety harnesses.

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.

A project looking for evidence of pine martens on the North York Moors may, for the first time, have captured a picture of the elusive mammal. The pine marten has never been officially recorded alive in North Yorkshire, although there are regular rumours of sightings and a dead pine marten was discovered by a roadside in 1993. Pine martens resemble ferrets or stoats, but are a great deal larger, with adults growing more than two feet in length, plus they also sport a bushy tail. If the image, that was captured by the wildlife organisation NatureSpy, is a pine marten then it would confirm what has long been suspected, that a population of the second-rarest carnivore mammal in the UK lives on the North York Moors. It would be only the second picture ever taken of a wild pine marten in the whole of England, the last was taken in Staffordshire nearly ten years ago. The picture was taken using special wildlife camera traps which work day and night and are triggered when an animal crosses their path. NatureSpy have set up the cameras with assistance and permission from the Forestry Commission and specifically to look for pine marten. However, experts are divided on the image. Many believe that it is a pine marten, while others want to see a more convincing picture before confirming its presence.

Red kites were reintroduced into the North East in the Rowlands Gill area of the Derwent Valley between 2004 and 2006. The spectacular birds, with their 5ft wingspans, have now developed into an attraction of the valley, which is even served by a branded red kites bus service. Now new village destination signs featuring steel sculptures of a red kite and the message Derwent Valley Red Kite Country, have been installed at the east and west approaches to Rowlands Gill in Gateshead. The sculptures were fashioned by Sunderland-based artist blacksmith Craig Knowles, who worked with the Friends of Red Kites group on the making of the metal birds. The red kite population of the valley is around 80 birds and a total of 53 were counted recently in their winter roost at the Nine Arches Viaduct between Gibside and Winlaton Mill.

During the last week of the month, a walker had to be rescued after slipping from a footpath and falling 15 feet down an embankment on the North York Moors. The man, in his mid-30's, landed on a ledge just above water level close to Nelly Ayre Foss waterfall near Goathland. Fire crews were sent from Goathland, Lyth and Robin Hood's Bay as well as specialist water rescue crews from Whitby and Malton, who managed to retrieve the man using water rescue equipment and bring him to safety using a basket stretcher. The man suffered minor injuries to his neck and back and was taken to hospital by a road ambulance.

In the meantime, Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team was called out to help search for a missing vulnerable 67-year old woman. The Rescue Team was called to search the open land to the south of James Cook Hospital, including Stewart's Park and Ormesby Hall. Twenty-one volunteers from the Cleveland team responded to the call-out, together with a search and rescue dog called in from the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team. At about 1.15am in the morning the woman was found, and although she was cold and wet, was otherwise well. She was taken to James Cook Hospital.

Prehistoric rock art at Lordenshaws in the Simonside Hills in North-umberland. A walk around these stones will feature in a guide on the Simonsides that we will be releasing later next year.



NEW PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE.

THE NORTH WEST WAY

A 13 day walk from Preston to Carlisle.

By Steve Garrill

The upland areas of the North of England are a joy to walk. Using a combination of recognised long distance paths the author traces a route from Preston to Carlisle linking the two rail stations and along the way passing through the most scenic and inspiring sections of these walks.

Here you can walk through the beauty of the Ribble Valley, through the rugged dales of Yorkshire to the thundering waterfalls of Teesdale and the sheer awe of encountering High Cup before then experiencing the solitary majesty of Cross Fell and the High Pennines. In it's final stages the walk follows the sylvan splendour of the Tyne Valley before tramping in the footsteps of the Roman Legionnaires along Hadrian's Wall towards Carlisle. This is a walk that quite simply contains the best of English walking.



Photos. Following the vague traces of Hadrian's Wall.

PUBLICATION LIST 01.12.2013

Below is a full list of all of our current Walking North East publications.

Durham

Ancient Stones.
Hamsterley Forest.
The Barningham Trail.
The High Hills of Teesdale.
Mid-Teesdale Walks.
Walks from Stanhope.
Walking in Weardale.

Northumberland

The Cheviot Hills.
The Hills of Upper Coquetdale.
Walks from Kirknewton.
Walks Around Rothbury & Coquetdale.
Walks from Wooler.
Walks on the Wild Side: The Cheviot Hills.
Walks in Hadrian's Wall Country.

North Yorkshire

Walks from Gunnerside.
Walks around Reeth and Upper Swaledale.
Walking the Hills of Upper Swaledale.
Walking around Osmotherley and the Cleveland Hills. **New publication.**

Long Distance Walks

The North West Way. **New publication.**

New publications on the way

Walking in Teesdale.
Walking in Arkengarthdale.
Walking around Darlington and the Tees Valley.
Walking around Helmsley and Ryedale.

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