



THE HALTWHISTLE RINGS WALK 03



'The Lovers' Walk – Gentle, Beautiful and Lots of Kissing Gates'

Length: 6.0 mls/9.7 km

Grade: 2 Moderate

Ascent/descent: 650 ft/198 m

OS explorer OL 43 Hadrian's Wall

This walk, which takes you through the heavily wooded valley alongside the Haltwhistle Burn, is both beautiful and extremely interesting. The stretch along Hadrian's Wall provides spectacular views of the Wall and the wild open country and forests to the north. When the walk strikes south, the way is over semi-moorland with fine views of the moors to the south and of Haltwhistle and the South Tyne Valley below. Watch out for salmon and sea trout up the Burn, as well as red squirrels, dipper and heron.

NOTE: Stout footwear is recommended.

Start Point: By Car, Bus, Train.

For bus timetable: www.arrivabus.co.uk For AD122: www.gonortheast.co.uk

For train timetable: www.northernrailway.co.uk

Start in Haltwhistle Market Place.

Bus users: stop at the Market Place.

Train users: follow signs 'Town Centre' to the Market Place.

Car users: park at the supermarket accessed by turning into Aesica Road off Main St. – signposted 'Swimming & Leisure Centre' – and following the blue 'P' signs. Follow footpath opposite main entrance, signposted 'Market Place'. *Car users may wish to start from the car park.

1. From the Market Place, cross the main street and go under the archway to reach Crown court. Walk through to reach the car park in front of the supermarket.

*Leave the car park by the main vehicle entrance to the road (Fair Hill). Cross the road and turn right. After about 220 yds/200 m, turn left onto a footpath between a housing development and a detached house (signposted, 'Public footpath to Haltwhistle Burn').

Proceed on this path through a kissing gate, past a playing field and turn sharp left at the bottom. Keeping Haltwhistle Burn on your right, proceed to a metalled road. Continue along this road and turn right to cross the second bridge across the Burn.


Did you know?

From this point, there are many indicators of the industrial activity that flourished alongside the Burn in the 19th century: woollen mills, pottery, brickworks, and a coal mine. The path is the track bed of a mineral railway which carried whinstone from Cawfields quarry down to Haltwhistle. The tall brick building beside you was the South Tyne Fireclay Brickworks.

En route you will pass a picnic area which was once the site of High Mill. The tall chimney (known as the Fell Chimney, part of the workings of East End Pit) provided steam for the engines which pulled the tubs out of the mine. It was refurbished in 1996. The remains of an engine house can be seen just in front of it. Also look out for the remains of lime kilns. These were in use during the 1830s to produce lime for field improvement and building.

'Haltwhistle Burn A Walk Through Time' leaflet, Haltwhistle Partnership

Once over the bridge, turn left through a kissing gate and follow the well-defined path through the gorge and up a steep grassy slope to the Military Road.

2.  Cross the road – WITH CARE. Vehicles travel at speed. Turn right and follow the footpath to the farmhouse on the left. Turn left at the footpath sign and descend the slope to a kissing gate. (BEWARE: The slope can be tricky and the land beyond is very marshy and muddy. As an alternative, stay on the wide grassy verge to the crossroads. Turn left down the road signposted 'Cawfields' then take the footpath on the right signposted 'Milecastle 42', which is clearly visible.)

Once through the gate, you will find Haltwhistle Burn on your left and a steep slope on your right which was once the site of a Roman fort. Follow the path of the Burn, choosing your route carefully to avoid the marshiest patches of ground. BEWARE: Water erosion has caused subsidence of the riverbank.

Go through the metal gate onto the road. Ignoring the road off to the left, follow the road signs to enter the carpark at Cawfields. (Picnic tables, toilets and water available here!)

Take the footpath to the left of the lake, formed on the site of a disused quarry, up to Milecastle 42 on your left.


Did you know?

Milecastle 42 was built by the Second Legion and a Hadrianic inscription has been discovered. The Vallum was a steep, flat-bottomed ditch with a mound on each side of it; its purpose was to determine the military zone. Between the Vallum and the Wall ran a military way linking forts, milecastles and turrets. To the south, at the foot of the slope, runs one of the most clearly visible sections of the Vallum.

3. Walk up to Hadrian's Wall, turn right and walk alongside it, passing turrets 41B and 41A before dropping down to meet a metalled road. Cross over, turn right and walk down the road to reach a ladder stile on your left (signed, 'Peet Cottage'). Once over, turn right and follow the track to take the bridge across the vallum. Turn left and, after a short distance, you will see a wall emerge to your right (at the top of the rise). Make for the top left hand corner of this wall. (GR NY729667) Walk close to the wall, keeping it on your right to reach a farm track leading back to the Military Road. The farm you pass on the right is Shield on the Wall.

Did you know?

The frequent use of Shield (shiel, shieling) in place names hereabouts always has the same derivation. From the Middle Ages into the 19th century, main farmsteads in the valley had summer grazing of 'shieling' grounds on the uplands. A 'shield' was a dwelling on those grounds.

Go through the gate to reach the road.  Cross the Military Road – WITH CARE - and take the metalled road opposite as far as Hallpeat Moss, a farm on your right.

Did you know?

Hallpeat Moss is a well-preserved Northumberland farmhouse with a traditional stone-slatted roof and stock buildings attached.

3.Immediately after the farm take the stiles on your right – two in quick succession, signposted ‘Haltwhistle’. Strike out diagonally left for the far bottom corner of a large meadow and take the gate in the stone wall. Follow the stone wall on your left to reach a stile, after which you climb slightly to the right to reach a rough, way marked farm track.

Did you know?

A ruined lime kiln and the entrance to a disused mine are the only clues to this area’s industrial past. Lime was used as a fertiliser.

Bear right uphill along this track until you reach a field gate. Follow the stone wall on your right and then gradually leave it, aiming to cross under the line of overhead cables just to the right of the right hand pylon, before crossing a small, culverted stream. Walk to the field gate and stile at the top of the slope. Go through the gate/over the stile and bear right over rough pasture. Pass just to the right of an old cottage called ‘Hollincrag’, then over a ladder stile. Walk down a well-defined farm track which eventually goes left then bears right, passing through metal field gates. The track continues until you reach a road. This is Shield Hill.

4.Cross the road, turn left and, after a short distance, take the footpath on the right, signposted ‘Haltwhistle Burn’. Keep near to the stone wall on the left to the far corner. At a dogleg in the path, a small stream runs under the path and then flows to the right of it. Go through a metal kissing gate and follow the stone wall on the left steeply downhill to a stile at the bottom of the field. (NOTE: It can be extremely muddy here.) Cross a rough track and descend a flight of wooded sleeper steps to a footbridge over Haltwhistle Burn, then up a steep flight of stone steps with a handrail. Go straight ahead to take the path to Fair Hill and turn right.

Did you know?

Note the inscription on a stone wall bordering the front of the housing estate: Haltwhistle District Schools 1875. When a new First School was opened in 1984, the old Board School was closed down and the new houses and flats built. This stone was retained to commemorate the site was opened in 1984, the old Board School was closed down and the new houses and flats built. This stone was retained to commemorate the site.

Retrace your steps to the start.