



HADRIAN HUNDRED

25th - 27th MAY 2019

(Fourth Draft Route Description)

REGISTRATION – QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL, HEXHAM

NY 926 639

Welcome to Hexham once the haunt of marauding Vikings but now England's favourite market town with the imposing Abbey at its hub.

Starting in Northumberland the route visits Cumbria and Durham before returning to Northumberland for the later stages.

Highlights include sections on Hadrian's Wall, the South Tyne Trail, the Pennine Way (with Cross Fell and High Cup Nick), the Weardale Way and Isaac's Tea Trail.

Abbreviations

TR	Turn Right
TL	Turn Left
N, S	North, South etc.
XXXm.	Approx. distance in metres to next feature
(XXXdeg)	Approx. magnetic bearing in degrees to next feature

Units Convention

Stage Summaries	Miles & Kilometres (Distance), Feet & Metres (Ascent)
Descriptive Text	Metres (m) & Kilometres (km)

NB. 100 metres = 109 yards
1 Kilometre = 0.62 miles

Please note that all measurements of distance and ascent are produced from a GPS device which gives good estimates only therefore great accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Important Notes

A significant proportion of the Route uses or crosses roads, the vast majority of which are very minor and little used. The modern approach to Risk Assessment, however, requires that the risks involved in potentially mixing foot and vehicular traffic are pointed out whenever this happens.

It is not proposed to mention this on every occasion that it occurs in the Route Description narrative.

*When a **road** is used or crossed the appropriate description will be **highlighted**. Additional warnings will be given whenever more major roads are encountered.*

Please be vigilant on roads especially later in the Event as you become increasingly tired and possibly less attentive.

There are also many sections as you go along which pass through woods, moorland, fell, close to rivers and on stony paths with all their attendant hazards. Please be alert and careful at all times.

The Route Description will only mention risks which are especially significant.

0. QE SCHOOL TO START – 800 metres, 0.5 miles

Leave school and **TR** on Whetstone Bridge **road**. At junction **TL** onto Allendale Road down to traffic lights. Cross **road** with care and take lane beside The Fox Inn. Enter Sele Park to the **Start** in large grassy area (NY 932 640).

1. SELE PARK TO NEWBROUGH – 9.1 km, 5.7 miles. 155 m, 500 ft.

A pleasantly easy start leaving Hexham in the company of the River Tyne then following quiet fields and roads to an early checkpoint.

Be careful at the steep start which quickly funnels into narrow tracks and roads where traffic can be busy and unused to massed walkers. Caution and a steady start will pay dividends later!

You will be asked to follow the Northumbria banner for the first few hundred metres – please be patient.

1. Start steeply downhill to end of grassed area for **200m** to **TL** into tarmac footpath with stream soon on left. In **150m** after lane narrows **TL** down steps to road. Continue down road to Gilesgate and cross busy road **with care** (*as directed by marshals*). Ahead for **400m**, *Sportscars* showroom on left and stream on right, towards railway. **TL** before railway and cross field for **250m** to reach underpass (**duck or grouse!**).
2. After underpass **TL** on path, between railway and golf course, for **450m** (*becoming close to river*) to reach tarmac track. Keep to right of railway initially, passing under A69 then railway, for **2km** to T junction. **TR** on **road** with care and cross River South Tyne. In **90m** at Boatside Inn **TR** to pass under railway bridge. In further **45m** at FP sign **TL** at right bend in **road**.
3. Ahead for **360m** on narrow path with fence and railway soon on left to **TR** at houses onto bridleway (*Fourstones*) to gate into field. Uphill with fence/hedge on left to gate in corner at top of field. **TL** through metal gate then between walls to next field. Follow fence initially on right through gates to enter wood in **1.2km** at wooden gate. At end of wood continue with wall on left to join farm track with house on right.
4. Downhill on track towards FP sign in **180m** (**NY 899 681**). **TL** just before sign and gorse bushes to metal gate. **TR** on track for **450m** downhill towards farm buildings. **TR** before buildings and cross field to metal gate to right of houses. **TL** to reach minor road in **110m**. **TL** on road and in further **140m** **TR** on main **road**. Follow main **road** for **2km** through Fourstones to **Newbrough Village Hall** just after Red Lion.

Cumulative Distance – 9.1 km, 5.7 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 155 m, 500 ft.

CHECK POINT 1

NY 874 679

OPENS 10.45

CLOSES 15.30

2. NEWBROUGH TO STEEL RIGG –16.7 km, 10.4 mls. 525m,1720 ft.

A climb on moorland to reach the Hadrian's Wall Path at Brocolitia. Then enjoy the next few miles of historic switchback walking along this National Trail before a welcome stop at Steel Rigg.

Note: The HWP is an extremely sensitive area and should be treated with especial care and respect. Do not climb on the Wall or leave litter. Please attempt to minimise your impact on the environment.

1. **TR** out of Hall and in **100m TR** before bridge onto No Through Road. In **800m** road becomes track after entrance to Newbrough Lodge. Uphill for further **600m** to reach gate and signpost (*Brocolitia 1½ miles*) (**NY 867 692**).
2. Pass under electricity lines to gate with yellow FP sign just after pylons. Continue uphill (**340deg**) for about **1.2km** on grassy track, soon becoming **pathless rough** ground, to next gate with yellow FP sign (**NY 864 705**). Still uphill on rough ground for further **800m** with fence on left to awkward gate then fence on right, (*heading for Teppermoor farmhouse in distance*), to reach broad grassy path just before wall and road. This is the **Hadrian's Wall Path**.

The National Trail is now followed close to the Wall for 13 km (8 miles) all the way to the next checkpoint. It is marked by a white acorn symbol and should simplify route finding if faithfully followed.

Please note there are several steep rocky descents on this section which require care especially if wet.

3. **TL** to reach Brocolitia carpark in **360m (NY 861 713)**. The **B6318 Military Road** is reached in **500m** by passing behind carpark, **TL** with fence on right to corner then **TR** downhill (*with Mithraeum on left*) to cross stream. **TR** with fence on right and continue on **HWP** to reach **road**.

4. Cross the **road** with **care**, **TL** and continue on north side of road for **600m** to pass behind Carraw Farm on paved path through two gates. Bear left to reach path close to Military Road. In **1.5km** take short section of stone flagged path with wall and road closer on left and Vallum on right. In further **2km**, after passing Milecastle 34 by enclosed copse, reach gate just before Sewing Shields (**NY 813 704**). In **300m** cross access road to cottages and ascend to gate in further **100m** to enter Sewing Shields Wood.

5. On leaving wood continue alongside Hadrian's Wall (**do not clamber on wall!**) for **1.1km**, passing Milecastle 35 and climbing to trig point (**NY 800 700**). Bear left and descend as Broomlee Lough comes into view, re-ascending to pass stile at King's Wicket in **700m**. Keep to crest with wall on right with care on steep undulations. In **700m**, after gate into small wood, cross stile with Housesteads Roman Fort coming into view.

6. Descend and, before re-ascending, **TR** through gate to opposite side of wall to climb steeply with wall now on left to reach wooden steps. **TR**, Housesteads now behind, and continue either on top of wall or just to its left for a short section. After next gate continue on switchbacks for about **2km**, merging with Pennine Way and eventually descending to pass to left of Hotbank Farm.

7. After crossing farm access road **TR** and cross Wall through gate, with Crag Lough in view on right. **TL** and ascend on path with Wall on left. Take **care** on path as crags on right then descend steeply to Sycamore Gap in **1.3km**. Continue over undulations for **1km** to the final **very** steep descent before Steel Rigg. Rise to leave pitched stone track onto grassy path. Do not go thru gate ahead but, keeping wall on left, pass thru gates onto road (avoiding carpark on right). **TR** on **road** with care for **50m** to reach checkpoint in copse thru gate on left.

Cumulative Distance – 25.8 km, 16.1 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 680 m, 2220 ft.

CHECK POINT 2

NY 750 676

OPENS 13.00

CLOSES 18.00

3. STEEL RIGG TO HALTWHISTLE – 7.9 km, 4.9 miles. 170m, 560 ft.

A final 2-3 miles along the some of the best bits of the Wall before leaving it to drop down into Haltwhistle via the attractive Burn Path for a well-deserved rest and refreshments in the Centre of Britain!

Please note there are several steep rocky descents on this section which require care especially if wet.

1. Leave checkpoint and **TR** on **road** for **70m** to re-join **HWP**. **TR** and climb for **1km** to trig point (**NY 742 676**) – *at 345 metres this is the highest point on Hadrian's Wall.* Path undulates for **1.8km** with Wall on right through two gates to reach **road** at Shield on the Wall (**NY 727 669**).
2. Pass Caw Gap Turret and keep Wall on right for **1.3km** to reach gate. Leave track immediately after gate bearing left for **200m** on narrow path thru small gate to Cawfields quarry and lake. Ahead after carpark (*toilets available*) for **300m** to reach minor **road** at T-junction.
3. Now leaving **HWP** cross **road** through gate opposite (*to left of stile*) onto **Haltwhistle Burn Path** and follow for **700m** with burn on right, passing minor farm bridge, to gate (**NY 714 660**). Climb steps and **TR** to cross bridge over burn and ascend to join the **B6318 Military Road**.
4. **Take care** for **200m** on small path on right (north) side of **road**. Cross this busy **road** to gate at FP sign and continue downhill on **HBP**. Keep on path close to burn for **1.9km**, crossing two bridges to third bridge. Cross this, ignoring main track ahead, and continue past a fourth bridge to reach fifth bridge by buildings and chimney and **TR** over bridge (**NY 708 646**).
5. **TL** on Willia **road** for **450m** to T-junction at bottom (*sign Burn Gorge*). **TR** and bear right along Fair Hill for **110m** then **TL** on Woodhead Lane. In **250m**, at metal railings just before school, **TL** down tarmac footpath. **TR** into carpark at end of footpath to **Haltwhistle Leisure Centre** (*blue door into Sports Hall*).

Cumulative Distance – 33.7 km, 21 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 850 m, 2780 ft.

CHECK POINT 3

NY 703 642

OPENS 14.00

CLOSES 20.00

4. HALTWHISTLE TO KNARSDALE – 13 km, 8.1 miles. 300m, 980ft.

After leaving Haltwhistle alongside the River South Tyne we join the track bed of the former Haltwhistle to Alston branch railway. This is the South Tyne Trail, whose highlight is the magnificently restored Lambley viaduct, and is followed all the way to the next stop – easy miles for now!

- 1. Leaving Leisure Centre TR out of car park then in 140m TR (Greenholme Road). TR then immediately TL (Greencroft Avenue). At bottom of road TL then immediately TR (Station Road). Cross road with care and TL past Railway Hotel to zebra crossing. TL then TR in 50m to No Through Road to pass under railway and over river. TR at T-junction and follow road for 850m through gate. Keep ahead as it soon becomes track and passes under A69.**
- 2. In 50m TR on footpath alongside river soon rising steeply towards road (do not join). Stay on path to Park Village passing substation on left in 500m and continue to stile at FP sign in further 400m (NY 695 626). Ignore stile and continue on path through wood with fence on left. Reach gate in 300m, in further 50m TL at NT sign and ascend with fence on right for further 100m to gate, TR and re-enter wood. In 650m ahead at NT sign (ignoring path to right) to reach minor road in further 300m (NY 685 621).**

3. **TR**, leaving Bellister Estate, then in **60m TL** at FP sign just before bridge. Cross field (**140deg**) for **400m** rising through trees to fence on right to reach wooden bridge and ascend to **road**. **TR** for **100m** to bus shelter then **TR** for **250m** on village **road** through Park Village to reach gate on right just before bridge.

4. **TR** onto **South Tyne Trail** (*caution cyclists*) for **3.5km**, crossing two minor **roads**, to reach Lambley viaduct. At end of viaduct pass through (*unlocked*) gate into private garden and past Station House to re-join old railway track.

***Note:** this access has been agreed for the Event only so please respect the owner's property.*

5. Continue on **STT** for further **4.4km** to pass under bridge (**NY 674 539**) over Hanging Shaw road. Immediately **TR** through two gates to join **road**. **TR** and cross bridge then descend for **450m** to cross **A689** with **care** to **Cairns Community Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 46.7 km, 29.1 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 1150 m, 3760 ft.

CHECK POINT 4

NY 678 539

OPENS 16.30

CLOSES 01.00

5. KNARSDALE TO GARRIGILL – 16.4 km, 10.2 miles. 320m. 1060ft.

Another long but easy section follows the course of the South Tynedale Railway into Alston, England's highest market town. This narrow gauge railway is the highest in England and operates a passenger service in the summer months. The eventual plan is to extend it as far as Haltwhistle.

Now in Cumbria the Pennine Way is joined at Alston and is followed for some 30 of its 250 plus miles. This was Britain's first National Trail and is now more than 50 years old.

1. Leave Hall and return by same route, turning left after bridge, for **500m** back to **STT. TR** on **STT** to reach terminus of railway line just before Slaggyford Station (*route to be updated when station works complete*). Cross minor road after station and keep on path beside railway for **4km** to Lintley Halt. Continue alongside railway for a further **4.8km**, passing Kirkhaugh station, to arrive at Alston station (*now in Cumbria!*)
2. Pass over level crossing before station, ascend to main **road** and **TR** into **Alston**. Ignore left turn into town centre and continue for **800m** past Spar and filling station on right and hospital sign on left to reach Pennine Way sign on left just before road-bridge over River South Tyne.
3. Cross busy **A686** with **care** to **Pennine Way** sign. **TL** and immediately climb steps to another PW signpost (*Garrigill 3¾ miles*). Continue south along track for **800m** (*YH on left*) passing further PW signpost. In another **800m** cross footbridge over side stream. Continue over series of wall stiles for further **1.2km**, passing two houses (*Nest and Cowgap*) on left, to reach farm (*Bleagate*) (**NY 716 437**).

4. **TL** at stile to right of gate (*before gate ahead*) into farmyard. **TR** at PW sign next to house (*foot bridge over River South Tyne is next target in 1.2km*) continuing (**130deg**) with wall on left, passing FP on left after 50m. Climb beside wall through gateway to top of rise then descend towards white house through gated stile in wall. Pass through gap in ruined wall to PW sign by stone seat close to house on left. Ahead (**150deg** initially) over small footbridge and stile to left edge of field with wall and steep bank on left. Reach track by river, then field to cross foot bridge (**NY 724 429**).

5. **TL** and continue in same direction on PW – river now on left. In **1.4km** path rises slightly to cross wall (**NY 735 422**). Continue over fence and wall for **700m** to join large gravel track (*rubbish area on left*) and reach road (**NY 740 418**).

6. **TL** into Garrigill for **450m** to village green. **TL** to George & Dragon Inn. **TL** to reach **Garrigill Village Hall** on right just before bridge.

Cumulative Distance – 63.1 km, 39.3 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 1470 m, 4820 ft.

CHECK POINT 5

NY 745 416

OPENS 19.00

CLOSES 05.00

6. GARRIGILL to GREG'S HUT – 10.1 Km, 6.3 miles, 430m. 1400 ft.

No navigation problems on this section but the walk now starts to become serious as it climbs on a well graded land rover track to gain the bothy at an altitude of 2300 ft.

NB: If retirement is anticipated it should be done at Garrigill as evacuation from Greg's Hut will be for emergencies only.

Leave Village Hall and **TL** (passing Inn and village green) for **90m** to **TL** before green seat. In **360m TR** at wind turbine and PW Signpost (*Dufton 15 miles*). Ascend wide stony track, passing turnings on left in approx. 6Km and 7Km, to reach **Greg's Hut** after further **9.6km**.

Cumulative Distance – 73.2 km, 45.6 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 1900 m, 6220 ft.

CHECK POINT 6

NY 691 354

OPENS 20.15

CLOSES 08.15

7. GREG'S HUT to DUFTON – 16.3 km, 10.2 miles, 440m. 1450 ft.

At 893m/2930 ft. Cross Fell is the highest point on the walk and probably the highest point reached in any LDWA 100 Event! It is also the highest point on the Pennine Way and subject occasionally to the local Helm Wind, the only 'named' wind in Britain (fortunately rare!).

There will be markers and lights over the summit plateau but note that this can be a serious place and requires appropriate equipment and experience. There will be a bad weather alternative from Garrigill via Tyne Head and Trout Beck if necessary.

After traversing Little then Great Dun Fell, the latter with its Civil Aviation Authority radar station 'golf ball', life becomes easier as, briefly leaving the Pennine Way, the highest tarmac road in the land is reached and followed down to Dufton with spectacular views of the Eden Valley ahead.

1. Leave Greg's Hut on track for **90m** to pass through gate. Uphill for about a further **600m** in westerly direction to reach small cairn and boulder marked with gold arrows (*PW & Kirkland*) just after stone shelter (**NY 684 352**). **TL (DO NOT MISS)**, leaving main path to Kirkland, and ascend for further **1km** on intermittent grassy path (**160deg**) passing several cairns to reach plateau then summit shelter & **SELF-CLIP** at trig point on **Cross Fell (NY 687 343)**.
2. Leave just to left (north) of trig point (**110deg**) to find thin path across plateau. In **1km**, after second large stone cairn, path becomes more rocky and descends to become stone flagged (**NY 696 340**). In **500m** the Tees Head col is reached at sign (*Moorhouse NNR*) (**NY 698 337**). Path rises for a further **1km** to summit of Little Dun Fell (**NY 704 330**) after temporary end of stone flags.
3. Descend on grassy path, until stone flags reappear, & ascend for **1.1km** towards Radar Station on Great Dun Fell (**NY 711 321**). Keep left round fence, buildings and '*golf ball*' to join tarmac access road at cattle grid. **TL** and follow road down for **1.2km** to PW signpost and gate across road (**NY 716 316**).
4. Carefully down access road (*pass next PW sign*) for **800m** to **Safety Check** at junction with Silverband mine track (*caution bikes*) (**NY 714 316**). Leave Safety Check downhill on road for **4km** to reach FP sign on left, just before small quarry on right, (**NY 685 288**).
5. **TL** over cattle grid and thru gate onto track (*Knock Pike on right, Dufton & Murton Pikes ahead*) for **250m** to next gate. Do **not** go thru gate but keep on green track to left of gate with wall and large quarry area on right. In **400m** keep ahead, as track swings left, thru wooden stile/gate in wall on right. Reach stone stile/gate in further **50m**, on path contouring under Knock Pike, to another stile/gate combination in further **500m**.
6. Same direction for **200m**, path is now indistinct, to reach wall on left then gap in wall with marker post. Thru red gate into enclosed (*overgrown*) path for **500m** to reach FP sign (*Dufton via back of Pike*). **TL** over stile then ahead thru field for **50m** to gate with marker post. After gate soon **TL** between fences on green path to **TR** in **40m** over stile (**DO NOT MISS**).

7. Cross field (**80deg**) for **150m** to meet wall coming in from right and reach waymarked stile near corner. Bear slightly right after stile to pick up path between line of hawthorns on left and steep bank down to river on right. Drop down good grassy path for **100m** then **TR** sharply down to footbridge over side stream (**DO NOT MISS**).
8. After bridge cross waymarked stile in wall and enter wood. After next stile into more open country, cross ruined wall keeping stream below on right on all times. In about a further **300m** cross wall stile and **TR** (*now back on Pennine Way*) over clapper bridge and thru gate to **TR** on good track.
9. Track undulates up then down for **500m** (*dewpond on left*) to reach gate and ruined farm building. Keep on track and path for **1.3k** (*negotiating several fallen trees*) thru several gates to pass Coatsyke Farm then bungalow. Leave Pennine Way shortly after bungalow and keep on farm track to join **road** bearing left to enter Dufton.
10. Where road bends left after entering village keep straight on uphill to reach checkpoint and baggage collection on right at **Dufton Youth Hostel**, which is **60m after** Village Hall . Please check in at YHA before back-tracking to breakfast stop at the adjacent **Dufton Village Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 89.5 km, 55.28 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 2340 m, 7670 ft.

CHECK POINT 7

NY 688 252

OPENS 22.30

CLOSES 12.30

8. DUFTON to BIRKDALE - 12.8 km, 8 miles, 520m. 1700 ft.

Another serious section as the Pennines are re-crossed on the way to Teesdale. The undoubted highlight is High Cup Nick, one of Northern England's geological wonders. This classic U-shaped glaciated valley, part of the Whin Sill, with its dolerite crags has to be seen to be believed.

Desolate moorland follows enlivened by the proximity of Maize Beck and the Army firing range at Warcop before reaching the next stop at Birkdale, at over 1500 ft. it is the highest inhabited farm in England.

1. Leave Village Hall /Youth Hostel, **quietly** and carefully, uphill through village for **700m**, passing bus shelter and toilets then left & right on **road** to end of village. **TL** just after derestricted sign at red warning flag and PW signpost (*High Cup Nick 3½ miles*). In **1km** reach end of tarmac road after farm on left, *Bow Hall*.
2. Bear right uphill on wide rough track for **2km** to reach third gate (*passing track on right in 800m and thru gates in approximately 1 & 1.5 km*). Do not use third gate but take small gate **10m** uphill on left onto open fell. Ahead to cairn to climb steeply for **50m** onto cairned path with High Cup Gill coming into view on right. Follow path for **2.9km**, keeping left at gold arrow on rock, crossing streams and keeping close to escarpment on right to reach **High Cup Nick** at 1900 ft. (**NY 746 262**).

NB The 'Nick' is a distinctive cleft on right, carrying a stream, at the **far** end of the steep sided valley head.

3. Leaving Nick (**110deg**), cross stream and rise on quad bike track for **180m** to marker stones. At second stone bear left (**30deg**) for **270m** on green path then bear right (**70deg**) for **550m** now close to Maize Beck below and on left. Continue for **1.3km** parallel to Maize Beck to bridge (**NY 766 268**) (**DO NOT MISS**).

4. Cross bridge, **TR** and follow north bank for **1km** until river starts to swing south (**NY 775 268**). Leave river just after ruined enclosure and climb for **450m (60deg)** to join gravel track at PW marker post at top of rise (**NY 779 268**). Follow track for **2.4km**, descending gradually, to reach bridge (**NY 801 277**) then, in further **400m, Birkdale Farm**. Pass farmhouse to reach checkpoint in **barn** on right.

Cumulative Distance – 102.3 km, 63.8 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 2860 m, 9370 ft.

CHECK POINT 8

NY 804 278

OPENS 00.00

CLOSES 16.30

9. BIRKDALE to WATERSMEETING - 9.5 km, 6 miles, 180m. 600 ft.

A short and easy section on quiet tracks and roads as we change Counties again. Cumbria is left and Durham entered as the route passes under the Cow Green reservoir dam built across the River Tees in the late 60's to supply water to the industries of Teeside. Objections were raised as the habitat of the rare Teesdale violet habitat was threatened, happily largely saved by designating the nearby Moorhouse area as a National Nature Reserve.

Just downstream and not visited on the walk is the rocky stairway of Cauldron Snout, highest waterfall in England and majestic in spate despite the damming of the river.

Leave on farm access road for **1.6km** to cross the River Tees into Durham below the dam. Leaving the **Pennine Way**, head **N** for **2.2km** on good track alongside reservoir to reach junction just after gate. **TR** for **230m** then **TR** on minor **road** for **1.6km** to junction (**NY 833 310**). **TL** on **road** to Harwood and continue on minor **road** for **4km**, keeping left at junction (**NY 825 333**) to reach **Watersmeeting Farm** and checkpoint in **barn**.

Cumulative Distance – 111.8 km, 69.8 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3040 m, 9970 ft.

CHECK POINT 9

NY 814 337

OPENS 02.00

CLOSES 19.00

10. WATERSMEETING to COWSHILL – 10 km, 6.3 miles. 320m, 1050 ft

This section involves the crossing from Teesdale into Weardale. Upper Teesdale (SSSI and AONB) despite all the letters is a place of rare beauty! From its botanical richness to the leek of the Black Grouse and the haunting warble of the Curlew it is an area that deserves respect and care during your passage.

Weardale is reached by a high moorland crossing over Coldberry End passing Burnhope reservoir, built in the 1930's, before arriving at Cowshill (recent population 156).

1. Leave barn and **TL** on road to Frog Hall for **700m**, via gate by decrepit house. **TR** after gateway at FP sign and ascend with wall then ruin on right to pylon with yellow marker. Bear left with stream then fence on right for **200m** to poorly maintained stile. Keep stream on right and cross in **50m** to climb to gate. With stream now on left ascend for further **350m** to barn at Dale Head (*another yellow sign on pylon*).
2. Pass to right of barn, wall soon on left, for **200m** to stile in wall corner. Descend for further **200m** with fence on right to stile (*not gate*) between fence and ruined wall then same line to footbridge over stream. Climb steeply with fence on right at first then trend left with gully on left to find reasonable path rising in **400m** to FP sign and gate onto **road (NY 813 351)**.

3. Cross B6277 **road** carefully then diagonally right through gate onto gravel track. Keep right in **400m** at first gate then uphill over Coldberry End. Descend into Weardale towards Burnhope Reservoir as track eventually becomes tarmac. In **4.5km** reach gate with FP signs on both sides of road. Ahead through gate for further **300m** to **TL (DO NOT MISS)** thru gate onto reservoir access road (*lime kiln on left*) (**NY 849 384**). Pass through white gate in **200m** then downhill for **700m** crossing dam to Burnhope Lodge.
4. **TR** round lodge then **TL** along tarmac **road** for **1.8km** to reach T-junction in Cowshill. **TR** for **70m** to reach **Cowshill Village Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 121.8 km, 76.1 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3360 m, 11020 ft.

CHECK POINT 10 **NY 855 406**

OPENS 03.30 **CLOSES 22.30**

11. COWSHILL to ALLENHEADS – 11.9 km, 7.4 miles. 415m, 1360 ft

The Weardale Way stretches from Cowshill to the coast at Sunderland with an extension to Killhope which our route follows. There is a lead mining museum at Killhope with many attractions including a working waterwheel.

A short climb over grouse moors reaches the County boundary where Northumberland is re-entered before descending into Allendale and the former lead mining community of Allenheads.

Please note that there will be a ‘mystery’ self-clip at an obvious place on the route on this section.

1. Leave Hall and retrace steps on **road** to T-junction. **TL** and descend to cross bridge then **TR** down to stile to join the **Weardale Way** (*sometimes contiguous with and signed as the **Mineral Valleys Walk***) which is followed for about **7km** to Killhope.

2. For about **1km** keep to path close to river on right, passing two wooden bridges. Do not follow track uphill from second bridge but keep ahead to cross small footbridge before moving slightly away from river and heading for metal gate between buildings.
3. In **50m** keep ahead at junction to reach metal gate. In **250m** leave track through gap (*currently has tape across*), next to stone with yellow arrow and between walls, onto rough pasture with wall on left. For a further **400m** pass through gate, then to left of pond to second gate and descend to become very close to river (*care if full*). Climb carefully to wooden bridge over river. Do not cross bridge but **TL** uphill on concrete road.
4. Bear right after first house to wooden gate and continue for **1km** on undulating track passing several houses. Reach '**For John**' seat next to last house, *Blakeley Field*, (**NY 836 414**). Descend for **200m** to cross bridge and **TR** uphill for **100m** to next junction. **TL** on tarmac road (signpost *Killhope*) for **450m** to **TR** at house (*Weardale Estate sign*). In **550m TR (DO NOT MISS)** at next sign-posted junction.
5. In **400m** leave wide track at yellow Weardale Way sign just before quarry area and **TL** on grassy path. Keep fence on left for **200m**, **TR** at sign, climbing steeply at first, to follow further signs and passing above quarry. For **500m** with fence on right climb two stiles, ascend a few wooden steps, bear right to cross duckboards and re-join track. Track soon levels then descends for **1km** to FP sign at next junction (**NY 817 430**). **TR** and descend gradually for **1km** to reach *Killhope Lead Mining Centre and Museum*.
6. **TL** before museum, cross stepping stones over Killhope Burn carefully, to reach main road (**A689**). Cross with **care** to footpath directly opposite and ascend on track for **200m** swinging left then right to reach marker post (**NY 824 434**). Continue climbing for **350m** on wet and boggy path to gate in (**NY 824 437**). Path continues to meander indistinctly uphill on open moor for **800m**, with occasional marker post (approx. **20deg**), to reach high point at County Boundary (**NY 827 445**).

7. Now back in Northumberland start to descend gradually for **270m** to join better grassy track (**NY 829 447**). **TR** and descend for nearly **3km** reaching gravel track leading to gate onto minor road (**NY 850 465**). **TR** (passing large laybys) to cross bridge and **TR** on road for **600m** to reach **Allenheads Lodge** (Outdoor Education Centre).

Cumulative Distance – 133.7 km, 83.5 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3775 m, 12380 ft.

CHECK POINT 11 **NY 853 461**

OPENS 05.30 **CLOSES 03.00**

12. ALLENHEADS to ALLENDALE TOWN – 13.5 km, 8.4 miles.
265 m, 870 ft

Many of the footpaths in Allendale are rarely walked and in poor condition with lots of unfriendly stiles so quiet roads and tracks are used to follow the River East Allen down to Allendale Town which makes for undemanding navigation.

Isaac Holden was an itinerant tea seller and local philanthropist in the 19th century and a section of Isaac's Tea Trail route is followed on the walk.

1. Leave Checkpoint and **TR** on road for **600m** back to bridge. **TL** over bridge and uphill on road (NW) for **1km** to **TR** at second junction (**NY 842 469**). Continue on road for **1.6km** then **TL** for **750m** at next junction. Continue on road downhill, cross stream, and climb steeply, passing footpath sign on right. **Road** levels and bears left in **800m** to reach Public Bridleway sign on right.
2. **TR** thru gate at PB sign (*mailbox for Lot Head*), uphill on good track for **800m**, passing access to both house and next track on left, to merge with **Isaac's Tea Trail (NY 834 491)**. Same direction now downhill for **1.2km** to black gate (**NY 838 501**) then in further **450m TL** at next junction.

3. Stay on minor **road** for **900m** to T-junction, passing Knock Shield and leaving **ITT. TL** (*ignoring track ahead in 300m before crossing **Acton Burn***) and stay on minor **road** for further **4km** to junction with white road markings in (**NY 824 542**). **TR**, still on **road**, for **2km** descending to **TR** on more major **road** and cross River East Allen. Ascend into Allendale Town passing Allendale Inn to T-junction. **TL** for **450m** on Leadgate to reach **Allendale Village Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 147.2 km, 91.9 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 4040 m, 13250 ft.

CHECK POINT 12

NY 840 560

OPENS 07.45

CLOSES 05.30

13. ALLENDALE TOWN to GREENRIDGE FARM – 7.2 km, 4.5 miles, 140m, 460 ft.

A short moorland crossing awaits after leaving the bustling and lively community of Allendale Town. Greenridge Farm offers the last opportunity to top up before the final lap. The end is in sight.

1. Leave Village Hall and **TL** on footpath. In **360m** cross **road** at T-junction with bus stop, shortly after bridge, and **TR** uphill. In **1km** leave **road** as it turns 90deg left at third FP sign (*Bulman's Rigg*) (**NY 846 570**). Straight ahead on track for **650m** which becomes grassy path just before gate (**NY 848 575**). Thru gate for **600m**, now on moorland with wall on left.
2. When wall turns left ahead on track for **250m** (**NY 850 581**) to reach standing stone, which is slightly to right of track - *it will be flagged and illuminated* (**NY 851 583**). Bear slightly right to FP sign on thin path through heather and follow series of flagged and illuminated way markers and sign posts over moor (approx.**50-60deg**).

3. In **1.2km** join more major track briefly (**NY 861 591**) and **TR**. In further **150m** at flagged waymark bear left onto path again. Follow path for **1.7km** (approx.**70deg**) to cross with care slightly dilapidated bridge over stream (**NY 879 596**). Bear gradually left (approx.**20deg**) on improving path for **800m** with wall on right to reach gate. Descend for further **600m** to join farm access road to **Greenridge Farm**.

Cumulative Distance – 154.4 Km, 99.4 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 4180 m, 13710 ft.

CHECK POINT 13

NY 884 608

OPENS 08.45

CLOSES 07.30

14. GREENRIDGE FARM to QE SCHOOL – 8 km, 5 miles. 100m, 340 ft

The wooded path above West Dipton Burn provides a quick and elegant route towards the Racecourse which is perched high above Hexham. It only remains then to enjoy/endure the final swoop down Causey Hill to the Finish.

1. Leave checkpoint and **TL** on **road**. In **900M** at FP sign (*Dipton Mill*) (**NY 885 617**) **TR** and follow path through wood with wall then fence on left and steep drop on right. In **3km** at FP sign (*which will be marked/illuminated*) (**NY 913 615**) **TL** uphill to leave wood on grassy path into field. Pass through several gates for **1km**, rising with fence on left and Racecourse on right, to last gate and farm access track to **road** (**NY 910 625**).

2. **TR** and continue with care along single track **road** for **1.5km** past Racecourse entrance to T-junction at caravan park sign with seat and FP sign opposite (**NY 925 623**). **TL** steeply down Causey Hill **road** for **1.5km** (*footpath available after bearing left at junction half way down*) to T-junction at bottom. **TL** at railings then **TR** at traffic lights in **100m** onto Whetstone Bridge Road to reach **Finish** at **Queen Elizabeth High School**.

Cumulative Distance – 162.4 km, 101.4 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 4280 m, 14050 ft.

CHECK POINT 14

NY 926 639

OPENS 10.00

CLOSES 10.00

WELL DONE