



HADRIAN HUNDRED MARSHALS' WALK

4thth – 6thth MAY 2019

**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,Xkm	Approx. distance in metres or kilometres 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.

1. QE SCHOOL TO BROCOLITIA – 13.9 Km, 8.7 miles. 330 m, 1080 ft.

A pleasantly easy start leaving Hexham in the company of the River Tyne then following quiet fields and roads before a climb on rough moorland to reach the Hadrian's Wall Path.

1. 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 on east side of The Fox Inn and enter Sele Park.
2. In **200m**, steeply downhill, at end of grassed area **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**. Ahead (*Sportscars showroom on left then stream on right*) and in **400m**, before railway, **TL** and cross field. In **250m** reach gravel track and **TR** thru underpass (**duck or grouse!**).

3. **TL** on path, between railway and golf course. In **450m** (*becoming close to river*) reach tarmac track on right of railway. In **2km**, after passing under A69 then railway, at T junction **TR** on **road** with care and cross River South Tyne. After river bridge, at Boatside Inn, keep right to pass under railway bridge. In further **50m** at right bend in **road**, **TL** (FP sign).

4. Ahead **400m** on path which narrows with fence and railway soon on left. At houses, **TR** onto bridleway (*Fourstones*) to gate into field. In **250m**, uphill with fence/hedge on left, to gate in corner at top of field and **TL**. Immediately thru metal gate *between walls to next field then uphill with fence on right*. In **700m**, (*fence on left after second gate*), thru wooden gate onto path alongside wood. At end of wood continue with wall on left to join track, with house on right. Bear left downhill on track towards FP sign (**NY 899 680**).

5. In **180m**, just before sign and gorse bushes, thru metal gate on left and **TR** on track downhill towards farm buildings. In **400m** (*after second gate*) at FP sign **TR before farm across field**. In **150m** thru metal gate, on right of houses and shed, and **TL**. In **100m** reach minor road and **TL**. In **150m** **TR** on main **road**. Follow for **2km**, thru Fourstones, to Newbrough passing Red Lion.

6. In **200m** after pub and just before bridge, **TR** onto *No Through Road* (**NY 872 679**). 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**). Pass under electricity lines to gate with yellow FP sign just after pylons.

7. Continue uphill (**340deg**) for about **1.2km** initially on grassy track, soon becoming **pathless rough** ground, to next gate with yellow FP sign (**NY 864 705**). In further **300m**, still uphill on rough ground with fence on left, thru awkward gate. In **500m**, fence now on right, (*heading towards Teppermoor farmhouse in distance*), just before wall and road, **TL** on broad grassy path. This is the **Hadrian's Wall Path**. In **350m** reach checkpoint in Brocolitia carpark.

OPENS 11.45

CLOSES 14.00

2. BROCOLITIA TO STEEL RIGG – 12.7 Km, 7.9 miles. 350m, 1140 ft.

The National Trail is now followed close to the Wall for 17 km (10 miles) all the way to and beyond 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.

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.** Leave car park and **TL**. In **600m** [*fence on right to corner, TR downhill (Mithraeum on left) across stream by two stiles, TR with fence on right*] cross the **B6318 Military Road** with **care** and **TL**, now on north side of road.
- 2.** In **600m** pass behind Carraw Farm on paved path thru two gates and bear left to reach path close to Military Road. In **1.5km**, at section of stone flagged path, bear left with wall and road now closer on left and Vallum (*earthwork*) on right. In further **2km** (*after passing Milecastle 34 by enclosed copse*) thru small wooden gate at Grindon Turret (**NY 813 704**). In **250m** cross access road to cottages, ascend to gate in further **50m** and enter Sewing Shields Wood. On leaving wood continue alongside Hadrian's Wall (**do not clamber on wall!**).
- 3.** In **750m**, after Milecastle 35, climb to trig point (**NY 800 700**) and descend, bearing left as Broomlee Lough comes into view. In **700m** pass stile at King's Wicket and ascend keeping to crest with wall on right (*care on steep undulations*). In **800m**, after gate into small wood, cross stile as Housesteads Roman Fort comes into view.

4. 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 (**avoid**).

It is possible that the HWP might be very busy during a bank holiday weekend. To avoid congestion the Roman Military Way just south of the HWP is available from this point though is less scenic.

5. After crossing farm access road **TR** and cross Wall thru gate (*Crag Lough in view*). **TL** and ascend on path with Wall on left (*taking **care** on path as crags on right*). In **1.3km** descend steeply to Sycamore Gap. 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, **TR** at first gate to reach check point in car park.

Cumulative Distance – 26.6 Km, 16.6 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 680 m, 2220 ft.

CHECK POINT 2

NY 750 676

OPENS 13.15

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 **TL** on **road**. In **70m**, at gate, **TR** to re-join **HWP**. Ascend for **1km** to trig point (**NY 742 676**)
(at 345 metres this is the highest point on Hadrian's Wall). In **1.8km**, as path undulates with Wall on right, cross **road** at Shield on the Wall (**NY 727 669**).
2. In **1.3km**, *(Wall still on right and after Caw Gap Turret)*, thru double gate. Leave track immediately after gate bearing left for **50m** onto narrow path thru small gate to Cawfields quarry and lake then carpark *(toilets available)*. Leave carpark, **TL** and in **100m** reach minor **road** at T-junction.
3. Cross **road**, thru gate opposite *(to left of stile)* leaving **HWP** onto **Haltwhistle Burn Path**. In **700m** with burn on right, ignoring minor farm bridge, thru 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, pass a fourth bridge to reach fifth bridge by buildings and chimney and **TR** over bridge (**NY 708 646**).
5. **TL** *(Willia road)* for **450m** to T-junction at bottom and **TR** onto Fair Hill. In **100m** cross **road** onto Woodhead Lane. In **200m**, at metal railings *(just after Gibson Close)* **TL** down tarmac footpath. **TR** into carpark at end of footpath to **Haltwhistle Leisure Centre**.

Cumulative Distance – 34.5 Km, 21.5 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 850 m, 2780 ft.

CHECK POINT 3

NY 703 642

OPENS 14.15

CLOSES 19.00

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. Leave Leisure Centre and **TR** on **road**. In **140m** at junction (*Greenholme Road*) **TR**. At end of 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 and **TL**. In **50m** at *No Through Road TR*, under railway then over river, to T-junction and **TR**. In **800m**, on road to gate then concrete track, pass under **A69**.
2. In **50m**, on footpath close to river, **TR**. In **400m** rise steeply alongside road (**do not join**) but stay on path (*FP Park Village*). In **100m** pass to right of substation. In **400m (NY 695 626)** **ignore** stile at FP sign and continue on path thru wood. In **300m** thru gate and in further **50m** at NT sign **TL** and ascend with fence on right. In **100m**, at gate, **TR** and re-enter wood. In **600m** ahead at NT sign (ignoring path to right) and in further **300m (leaving Bellister Estate at National Trust sign)** reach minor **road (NY 685 621)** and **TR**.
3. In **50m**, at FP sign just before bridge, **TL** and cross field (**140deg**). In **500m**, rising thru trees to fence on right, reach wooden bridge, ascend to **road** and **TR**. In **100m**, after bus shelter, **TR** into Park Village and in **250m**, just before bridge, thru gate on right.
4. Descend and **TR** – now on **South Tyne Trail (caution cyclists)**. In **3.5km**, crossing two minor **roads**, reach Lambley viaduct. At end of viaduct pass thru (*unlocked*) gate into private garden and past Station House.

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

5. Re-join **STT** after Station House, keeping ahead over minor cross roads. In **4.5km**, after third of three adjacent wooden gates, pass under bridge (**NY 674 539**). Immediately **TR** thru two gates to join Hanging Shaw road and **TR** over bridge. In **400m** cross **A689** with **care** to checkpoint in **Cairns Community Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 47.5 Km, 29.7 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 1150 m, 3760 ft.

CHECK POINT 4

NY 678 539

OPENS 16.15

CLOSES 22.30

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 to **STT** by same route. In **400m**, after bridge, **TL** then **TR** back on **STT**. In **1.5km**, before metal gate, **TL** then **TR** onto track bypassing Slaggyford Station. In **300m**, at minor road, **TR**. In **150m**, immediately before level crossing, **TL** on path beside railway. In **2km** reach Lintley Halt.

2. In **5km** (*alongside railway and passing Kirkhaugh station*), approach Alston station (*now in Cumbria!*) to pass over level crossing before station, ascend to main **road** and **TR** into **Alston**. In **500m** (*after left turn into town centre, Spar/ Filling station on right and Hospital sign on left*) at **Pennine Way** sign on left (*just before road-bridge over River South Tyne*), cross busy **A686** with **care** and **TL**.

3. Immediately climb steps to another PW signpost (*Garrigill 3³/₄ miles*). In **700m**, south along track, reach next PW signpost at side stream and small wooden gate. In further **700m**, wall initially on left and over several stiles, cross footbridge over stream (**NY 717 448**). In **1.2km**, over next series of wall stiles and passing two houses (*Nest and Cowgap*) on left, reach farm (*Bleagate*) (**NY 716 437**). **TL** at stile on right of gate (*before gate ahead*) into farmyard.

4. In **50m**, at PW sign next to house, **TR** thru gate. In **200m**, wall on left, climb to gateway. In **150m (130deg)** breast rise then descend towards white house thru gated stile in wall. In **100m** pass thru gap in ruined wall to stone seat (*house close on left*). Keep to **right** of stone seat (**150deg** initially). In **50m** descend to small footbridge then stile down to left edge of field (wall and steep bank on left). In **250m** reach track by river. In **350m** after track enters field reach foot bridge (**NY 724 429**).

5. Cross and **TL** in same direction (*River South Tyne now on left – still on PW*). In **1.4km**, after slight rise, thru stile in wall (**NY 735 422**). In **400m** cross wall to join large gravel track (*rubbish area on left*). In **300m** cross fence, **then 100m to gate onto road** and **TL** into Garrigill (**NY 740 418**).

6. In **450m** at village green **TL**. In **50m** at George & Dragon Inn **TL** to reach **Garrigill Village Hall** on right just before bridge.

Cumulative Distance – 63.9 Km, 39.9 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 1470 m, 4820 ft.

CHECK POINT 5

NY 745 416

OPENS 18.45

CLOSES 03.15

6. GARRIGILL to DUN FELL ROAD–17 Km, 10.6 miles, 770m.2520 ft.

The walk now starts to become serious as it climbs on a well graded land rover track to reach Greg's Hut bothy at an altitude of 2300 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.

1. Leave Village Hall and TL (*passing Inn and village green*). In **100m**, before green seat, TL. In **350m**, at wind turbine and PW Signpost (*Dufton 15 miles*), TR and ascend wide stony track (*keeping ahead at turnings on left then right in approx.6km*). In **7km**, at junction (**NY 715 360**), keep ahead on rougher track. In **3km** reach **Greg's Hut (NY 691 354)**.
2. Leave Greg's Hut on track behind bothy. In **200m** thru gate uphill (*West*) with fence initially on right and soon keeping to right of two sinkholes. In **600m** reach **small** stone shelter (**NY 684 352**). In **10m**, at small cairn and boulder (*marked with gold arrows - PW & Kirkland*) **TL (DO NOT MISS)** leaving main path and ascend on intermittent grassy path (**200deg** soon to **160deg**).

3. In **1km** (still **160deg**), passing several cairns, ascend to plateau and reach large summit shelter and trig point on **Cross Fell (NY 687 343)**. Leave just to left (North) of trig point (**110deg**) on thin cairned path across plateau.

4. In **1km**, having passed second large (*2+ metre high*) stone cairn, rockier path descends to start of flag stones (**NY 696 340**). In **400m** at Tees Head col (**NY 698 337**) path then rises (*flagstones intermittent*) for a further **1km** to summit of Little Dun Fell (**NY 704 330**). Descend on grassy path, flag stones reappear, then re-ascend towards Great Dun Fell.

5. In **1km** keep left at fence round Radar Station (**NY 711 322**). Keep fence, buildings and '*golf ball*' close on right (*leaving PW*) until cattle grid on tarmac access road. **TL** and follow road downhill. In **1km** (*near PW signpost*) thru gate (**NY 716 316**) and carefully down access **road** (*passing next PW sign*).

6. In **800m** at junction with Silverband mine track (*caution bikes*) reach checkpoint at road/track junction (**NY 714 309**).

Cumulative Distance – 80.9 Km, 50.5 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 2240 m, 7340 ft.

CHECK POINT 6

NY 714 309

OPENS 21.30

CLOSES 09.00

7. DUN FELL ROAD to DUFTON – 9.1 Km, 5.7 miles, 40m. 130 ft.

Spectacular views of the Eden Valley lie ahead on the long descent to Dufton.

Please follow the Route Description and DO NOT walk through Knock village or use the subsequent very narrow road.

1. Leave checkpoint downhill on road and in **5.7km**, at junction with minor **road** at bottom, **TL**. In **350m** at junction **TR** (do **not** enter Knock village). In further **300m**, as **road** bends right, **TL** on track.
2. In **500m**, at junction with footpath, **TL**. In **250m**, by house, **TR** on **road**. In **150m**, leave road at FP sign, **TL** over stile down field with fence on left. In **150m** at fence corner bear left for **30m** to cross footbridge and **TR**. In **150m**, with river on right, cross stile in wall then **100m** to further small foot bridge. Same direction for **50m** to gate into churchyard.
3. Pass to right of church, exit churchyard thru wrought iron arched gate and **TL** thru metal gate. Immediately **TR** with fence on right. Same direction for **700m** thru several gates, stiles and foot bridge to reach gate (*just after bungalow on left*) (**NY 689 257**). **TR** onto farm track.
4. In **500m** at **road** junction **TL** into Dufton. When road bends left after entering village keep straight on uphill to reach checkpoint in **Dufton Village Hall**.

Cumulative Distance – 90 Km, 56.2 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 2280 m, 7470 ft.

CHECK POINT 7

NY 688 252

OPENS 22.45

CLOSES 11.30

8. DUFTON to COW GREEN - 16.7 Km, 10.4 miles, 610m. 2000 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 passing Birkdale, at over 1500 ft. it is the highest inhabited farm in England.

Cumbria is now 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 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 spite despite the damming of the river.

1. Leave Village Hall **quietly**, uphill through village, passing bus shelter and toilets then left & right on **road** to end of village. In **700m**, just after derestricted sign at red warning flag and PW signpost (*High Cup Nick 3½ miles*), **TL**. In **1km** reach end of tarmac road after *Bow Hall* on left.
2. Bear right on wide rough track, soon climbing (*passing track on right in 700m and thru gates in approx 1 & 1.5km*). In **2km** thru third gate into small enclosure and leave by gate ahead. Ahead on path for **150m** to large cairn then climb steeply for **100m** onto cairned path. In **2.9km** (*High Cup Gill coming into view on right, keeping left half way at gold arrow on rock, crossing streams and keeping close to escarpment on right*) reach **High Cup Nick** (NY 746 262).

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

3. Leave Nick (**110deg**), cross stream and rise on quad bike track. In **50m** reach first marker stone. At second stone bear left (**50deg**) on green path and in **270m** bear right (**70deg**). In **550m** become close and parallel to Maize Beck (*below and on left*). In **1.3km** cross bridge (**DO NOT MISS**) over Maize Beck and **TR** along north bank (**NY 766 268**).

4. In **800m** cross small side stream (**NY 774 268**) and climb bank ahead moving away from river. In **500m**, at PW marker post, **TR** on gravel track at top of rise (**NY 779 270**). Follow track for **2.4km**, soon descending gradually, to reach bridge (**NY 801 277**). In further **400m**, pass **Birkdale Farm** (**NY 804 278**) and leave on farm access road.

5. In **1.6km** cross the River Tees into Durham below the dam, leaving the **Pennine Way**. In **2.2km**, heading **N** on good track alongside reservoir, reach junction with gravel track just after gate and **TR**. In **230m** at T-junction, **TL** to checkpoint in layby on opposite side of road.

Cumulative Distance – 106.7 Km, 66.6 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 2890 m, 9470 ft.

CHECK POINT 8

NY 817 309

OPENS 01.30

CLOSES 16.45

9. COW GREEN to COWSHILL – 15.4 Km, 9.6 miles, 380m. 1250 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 checkpoint on minor **road**. In **1.6km** at next junction **TL** (**NY 833 310**) on **road** to Harwood. In **1.7km**, at FP sign (shortly after *Marshes Gill*) **TL** just before bridge on path beside Harwood Beck (**NY 825 324**).
- 2.** In **1.2km** with river on right, via gate and wall stile, on easy grass (*rough in last 200m*) cross foot bridge (**NY 817 332**) and **TL**. In **70m** just after ruined building on right **TR** thru gate. Ascend track for **350m** with fence on right to reach **road** at gate and **TL**. In **1km**, after gate by decrepit house, thru gateway at FP sign and **TR**.
- 3.** Ascend **150m** with wall then ruin on right to pass wooden electricity pole with yellow marker. Ahead **150m** with ruined wall then stream on right to stile at fence/wall junction. In **100m** cross stream and climb to gate. With stream now on left ascend for further **350m** to pass to right of barn at Dale Head (*another yellow sign on wooden pole*).
- 4.** Bear right and climb to meet wall coming in from left and in **200m** cross stile in wall corner. Descend between fence and ruined wall for **200m** to stile then footbridge. Climb steeply with fence on right, trending left as gradient eases with gully on left, to find reasonable path rising in **400m** to FP sign and gate onto **road** (**NY 813 351**).

5. Cross B6277 **road** carefully then diagonally right thru gate onto gravel track. In **400m** at first gate keep right (*climbing over Coldberry End and descending into Weardale towards Burnhope Reservoir as track eventually becomes tarmac*). In **4.5km** reach gate with FP signs on both sides of road. Ahead thru gate and in **300m TL (DO NOT MISS)** thru gate onto road (*lime kiln on left*) (**NY 849 384**). In **200m** thru white gate and descend to road over dam.
6. In **700m** at Burnhope Lodge **TR** round lodge then in **50m TL** on tarmac **road**. In **1.8km** at T-junction **TR** and in **70m** reach **Cowshill Village Hall** on right.

Cumulative Distance – 122.1 Km, 76.3 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3270 m, 10720 ft.

CHECK POINT 9

NY 855 406

OPENS 03.45

CLOSES 21.45

10. COWSHILL to ALLENHEADS – 11.5 Km, 7.2 miles. 410m, 1350 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.

1. Leave Hall, retrace steps on **road** to T-junction and **TL**. Descend for **120m** to lane between houses just before bridge and **TR**.
*[Now on the **Weardale Way** (sometimes contiguous with and signed as the **Mineral Valleys Walk**) which is followed for about **7km** to Killhope.]*

2. In **250m**, at first wooden bridge, cross river then stile and **TR**. Keep to path **close** to river on **right** passing second wooden bridge (*do not follow track uphill from second bridge*). In **200m** thru gate to cross small footbridge over tributary. In **250m**, as path moves slightly away from river, thru metal gate between buildings.
3. In **50m** keep right at junction to reach metal gate. In **150m** leave track through gap on right (*next to stone with yellow arrow*) and between walls, onto rough pasture with wall on left. For a further **300m** pass thru gate, then to left of pond to second gate below house and close to end of pond. Descend for **100m** over rough ground 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 to '**For John**' seat next to last house, *Blakeley Field*, (**NY 836 414**). Descend for **200m** to cross bridge, uphill for **100m** to next junction and **TL** on tarmac road (signpost *Killhope*). In **450m** at house (*Weardale Estate sign*) **TR**. In **550m** at next sign-posted junction (*Killhope*) **TR (DO NOT MISS)**.
5. In **400m**, at yellow Weardale Way sign on left at fence corner (*small silver birch tree*) just before quarry area, leave wide track and **TL** on grassy path. Keep fence on left for **200m**, crossing stile, to sign and **TR** on thin path (*do not take tractor track on left*) climbing steeply to next sign in **30m**. Bear right and follow further signs to pass above quarry. For **200m** with fence initially on right climb two stiles, ascend a few wooden steps, bear right to cross duckboards and re-join previous wide track. Track soon levels then in **1km** descends to FP sign at next junction (**NY 817 430**). **TR** and descend gradually for **1km** to reach *Killhope Lead Mining 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 **250m**, swinging left then right to reach marker post (**NY 824 434**). Continue climbing for **350m** on path, which can be boggy, to gate (**NY 824 437**). Path continues to meander indistinctly uphill on open moor, with occasional marker post (approx.**20deg**).In **800m** reach high point at County Boundary (**NY 827 445**).

*(Note: At **NY 826 443** path diverges to west of footpath marked on map before re-joining it in 650m at **NY 831 447**).*

7. Now back in Northumberland start to descend gradually for **270m** to join better grassy track (**NY 829 447**). Bear right (**90deg**) and descend for nearly **3km**, as track becomes gravelled, to gate onto minor **road (NY 850 465)**. **TR** to checkpoint in large layby.

Cumulative Distance – 133.6 Km, 83.5 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3680 m, 12070 ft.

CHECK POINT 10

NY 851 464

OPENS 05.30

CLOSES 01.30

11. ALLENHEADS to ALLENDALE TOWN –13.5 Km, 8.4miles. 290 m, 950 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 uphill on **road** (NW). In **1km**, at second junction, **TR (NY 842 469)**. In **1.6km**, downhill on **road** to next junction, **TL**. In **800m**, (*road crosses stream and climbs steeply*), at Public Bridleway sign on right (*mailbox for Lot Head*), **TR** uphill on good track.
2. In **800m** (*passing access to house on right then track on left*) merge with **Isaac's Tea Trail (NY 834 491)**. In **1.2km**, now downhill, thru black gate (**NY 838 501**), then in further **450m** at next junction **TL** on minor **road**. In **900m**, (*passing Knock Shield and leaving ITT*) at T-junction, **TL**.
3. In **800m** (*ignoring track ahead in 300m*) cross bridge over **Acton Burn (NY 828 513)**. In **3.2km**, still on minor **road**, at junction with white road markings, **TR (NY 824 542)**. In **2km**, downhill on road and at major **road**, **TR** and cross River East Allen. Ascend into Allendale Town, (*passing Allendale Inn*), to T-junction and **TL**. In **350m** reach **Allendale Village Hall** on left.

Cumulative Distance – 147.1 Km, 91.9 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 3970 m, 13020 ft.

CHECK POINT 11

NY 840 560

OPENS 07.45

CLOSES 05.30

12. 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 **road**. In **400m**, at T-junction with bus stop, cross **road** and **TR** uphill. In **1km** leave **road** (*as it turns 90deg left*) at FP sign (**Bulman's Rigg**) (**NY 846 570**) straight ahead on track uphill. In **650m** thru gate onto good track on moor with wall on left (**NY 848 575**). In **600m**, as wall becomes close and turns left, keep ahead on track.
- 2.** In **100m** bear right on thin path thru heather (**NY 850 581**). In **150m** reach **Standing Stone** (*It will be flagged and illuminated*) (**NY 851 583**) and bear slightly right. In **70m** reach first way marker and follow series of flagged way markers over moor (*approx.50-60deg*). In **1.3km** join more major track **and keep right** (**NY 861 591**). **In further 150m, at flagged waymark, TL off track onto path.**
- 3.** In **1.7km** (*approx.70deg, avoiding false paths on left*) cross slightly dilapidated bridge over stream (**NY 879 596**) onto improving path (*now approx.20deg*). In **800m**, with wall soon coming in on right, thru gate. In **600m** join farm access road to **Greenridge Farm**.

Cumulative Distance – 154.3 Km, 96.4 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 4110 m, 13480 ft.

CHECK POINT 12

NY 884 608

OPENS 09.00

CLOSES 07.45

13. GREENRIDGE FARM to QE SCHOOL – 8 Km, 5 miles. 100m, 330 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. (**Care as fallen tree at chest height in 1.2km – NY 896 617**).
2. In **3km** at marked FP sign (**NY 913 615**) leave wood and **TL** uphill on grassy path into field. In **1km**, rising with fence on left and Racecourse on right, thru several gates to farm access track then **road** (**NY 910 625**) and **TR** with care along single track **road**.
3. In **1.5km**, past Racecourse entrance, to T-junction at Holiday Park sign (**NY 925 623**) and **TL** steeply down Causey Hill **road**. In **1.5km** (*footpath available after bearing left at junction half way down*) to T-junction at bottom and **TL** at railings. In **100m**, at traffic lights, **TR** onto Whetstone Bridge Road to **Finish** on left at **Queen Elizabeth High School**.

Cumulative Distance – 162.3 Km, 101.4 miles

Cumulative Ascent – 4210 m, 13810 ft.

CHECK POINT 13

NY 926 639

OPENS 10.00

CLOSES 10.00

WELL DONE