

LDWA Northumbria Group - Durham Dales Challenge Walk - 14 Mile Route - 2018

This is our third year at Wolsingham Masonic Hall - GR NZ 073373 which is located on Church Lane, a narrow street. Following registration we are asking all walkers to assemble in St. Anne's Recreation Ground (Where you were asked to park your car) for a start at 9.00am This is behind (south of) the building immediately in front of you as you enter the Recreation Ground and the walk will begin from here. To reach St. Annes Recreation Ground from the Masonic Hall, head down Church Lane, across Front Street, and proceed 80 yds to your right.

START

From St. Annes Recreation Ground, follow the footpath on the eastern side of the field heading towards the river and continue to the bridge. Go under the bridge and turn L to ascend to the road. Cross the bridge and bear R uphill. After 100 yds take the Weardale Way at GR NZ 074367 and follow this to Towdy Potts Farm. Pass through the farmyard, turning left through the gate to follow the Weardale Way to the ridge at GR NZ 063349. Turn R here and proceed to:

CP A GR NZ 053348 SUNNYSIDE EDGE 2.9 miles. *Here is where the 30 mile route turns left. A Marshal will be here to guide walkers.*

You proceed straight on to

CP B GR NZ 036341 ABOVE ALLOTMENT HOUSE. 4.2 miles

Onwards along the track (ignore paths on the L) to reach a small stand of trees with a fence in front. Turn L here picking up a path through the heather which narrows but then reaches a broad stony track. Turn R onto track, follow track around bend to R and go downhill. At junction go straight on down through old mine workings, crossing the Howden Burn and continue downhill to reach the main road. Turn R to:

CP C GR NZ 006349 BOLLIHOPE 9.0 miles

The remainder of the route is on footpaths in the valley of the River Wear, much of it on the Weardale Way. Please follow this guidance carefully to avoid incursions into the caravan sites. There are no further Check Points

Leave the Checkpoint following the path alongside the river, passing between old mine workings on L and quarry on R and then passing lime-kilns on R. Cross stile beside metal gate in fence. Turn left on narrow waymarked path to cross footbridge. Path continues through gorse bushes and then trees (river now on R). Past rock buttress and across second footbridge (river now on L) to emerge through gate to road. Turn R to White Kirkley.

Cross the bridge and go through signposted gate on left into field. Follow the Weardale Way markers over several more stiles and gates, ignoring any other footpath signs, eventually climbing a short hill to a kissing gate. Onwards with fence on L. After end of fence, bear right uphill to a stile in corner of field, emerging on to a farm track. Turn L onto farm track. (NB the gates across this road are all electronically controlled and cannot be opened. Use the kissing gates on the left) On reaching a tarmac road, turn L, downhill to Harehope Quarry

Where the tarmac road turns L over bridge, continue ahead on farm road. Take the footpath to your L at the farm buildings after 100m. Pass through two gates, fork left downhill and arrive at kissing gate and railway track.

There are trains running on this line today - **STOP - LOOK - LISTEN**, cross and turn R.

Take the riverbank path alongside Caravan Park to a picnic area on L, then bear R into caravan park on a yellow gravel path to a tarmac road. Turn R to pass between the caravan park reception on your R and the water feature on your L before turning L onto tarmac road at GR NZ 055368. (Please respect the quiet enjoyment of the caravanners on this stretch.)

Continue along the tarmac road, passing a road on the right. Where road turns left over bridge go straight ahead alongside railway on new footpath. *Ignore waymark pointing L, keep on the new permissive path.* On emerging from this path cross over footbridge, continue ahead through several fields with railway on your R, crossing a footbridge into a final field. Keep R onto more defined path that gradually rises alongside railway to gate. Climb steps to road and turn L to the road bridge. Immediately after crossing the river, turn right and go back under the bridge to follow the path you came out on through St. Anne's RG, **Crossing Front Street with care**, and return to HQ

14.0 miles

FINISHED!!