

## Warden

A walk to Warden Hill: 6 km/3½ miles

A varied walk with sheltered woodland and high open pastureland giving great views - firstly of the River South Tyne then, from Warden Hill itself, of the whole of south west Northumberland.

## The Tyne Valley Railway

The first part of this walk follows the Newcastle to Carlisle or Tyne Valley railway line. In 1824, two great construction schemes to cut across the isthmus of land between the North Sea and the Solway Firth were proposed. The first was a railway costing £252,488; the other was a canal with an asking price of £880,000. Only the railway was given the go-ahead by parliament with most sections being built during the period 1829-1838. The line eventually reached the new Central Station in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 1st January 1851.



From the archive of Billy Nichol

Fourstones railway station

## Life at the top

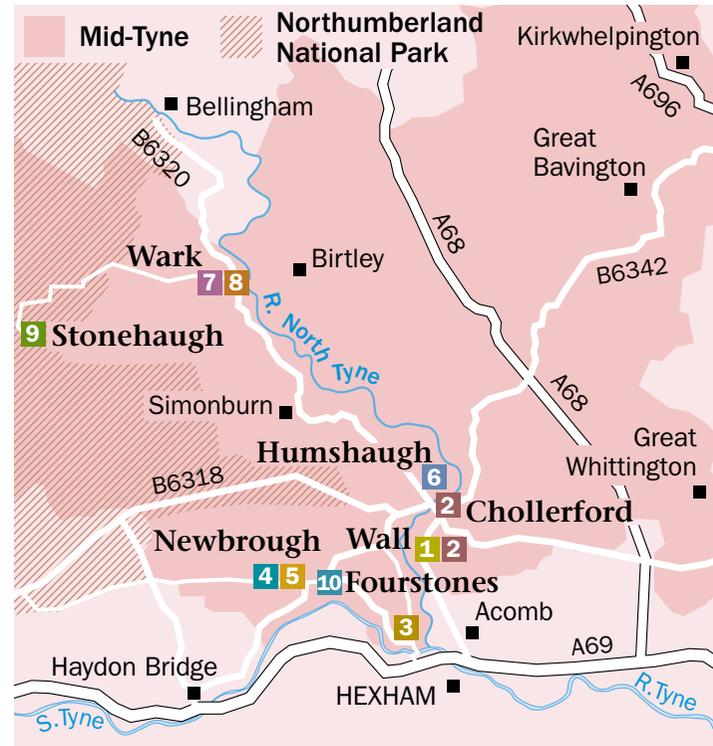
The panoramic viewpoint of Warden Hill is well-named, it means 'Look-out Hill'. It was attractive to early iron-age farmers who probably used the site as a stockade for their animals from as early as 800 BC until about AD 40. The interior of the 'fort' is a circular enclosure ringed by three ramparts.

Contemporary historians suggest this is a unique and special site, perhaps used as a focus for a more scattered community with hut circles representing places for ritual and communal activities.

Mid Tyne Community Trust



We hope you enjoy this walk to Warden Hill. This is one of 10 leaflets available, with 18 walks in all, to help you enjoy exploring Hadrian's Wall Country in this lovely part of Northumberland.



- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Wall (2 walks)               | 6 Humshaugh (3 walks)    |
| 2 Wall & Chollerford (2 walks) | 7 Wark (2 walks)         |
| 3 Warden Hill                  | 8 Wark - Warksfield Head |
| 4 Newbrough (2 walks)          | 9 Stonehaugh (2 walks)   |
| 5 Newbrough - Carr Edge        | 10 Fourstones (2 walks)  |

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## Warden Hill

**Length:** 6 km/3½ miles

**Allow:** 2 hours

This pleasant walk involves a steady climb up to Warden Hill where you will get a panoramic view of south-west Northumberland.

 Request stop at Boatside Inn  
(Tyne Valley Coaches 01434 602217)

 The Boatside Inn (01434 602233)  
serves meals and welcomes walkers

 On verge of road to Chollerford, just  
past Boatside Inn near railway bridge

Walk under the railway bridge and follow this road for about 70m.

- 1 Take a path to your left, waymarked Quality Cottages ¼ mile. The path follows the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line.
- 2 At the cottages, turn right following a fingerpost (public bridleway to Fourstones). This takes you up a pebbly track to a wicket gate into pasture beside an animal drinking trough. Follow the fence-line up to the top of the field and through a gate.
- 3 Turn left, through another gate (or over the stone stile) and along the track. Keep the wall on your right. Bear right, as the wall becomes a fence, and keep to the top of the field to a gate in the corner. Go through this gate and keep to the top of the field, aiming for a big plantation on the hillside ahead. Go through another gate and keep straight on, this time with the fence on your left. You will come to a gate on the edge of the plantation.

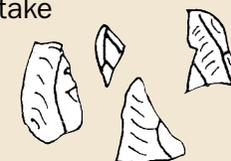


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- 4 Go through the gate onto a lovely woodland path that follows the contour around the hillside. It climbs gradually to a fingerpost. Turn sharp right and follow the path (signed Warden ½ mile). It takes you uphill through the wood to a gate and fingerpost. Go through and turn right. Just before the next gate turn left for a short, sharp ascent to

### A new place

On the track leading up from Quality Cottages, tiny worked flints have been found and give a fascinating insight into the lives of people migrating through the valley about 10,000 years ago. It seems they exploited the new hunting grounds exposed by the retreating ice caps of the last Ice Age. Their weapons and tools were efficient and accurate so they could take advantage of the wild animals browsing on the emerging habitats of moorland and scrub.



Warden Hill (an iron age hillfort) for a fabulous 360° view. Then retrace your steps to the gate and go through.

- 5 Keep straight ahead, with the wall on your right. After 100m look out for a fingerpost that directs you across this field to a gate and marker (to the right of the large beech tree and a telecoms mast). Go through this gate and continue straight ahead with mature trees on your right. At the wall go through a gate with a waymarker down to your right. Walk past the mast, picking up a track that follows the edge of the field. At the end of the field turn left and through a gate with finger post. Continue downhill along the walled track.
- 6 Turn left at the path junction, passing the hamlet of High Warden on your right. Where the track meets a tarmac estate road turn left then right, following waymarker. Cross the cattle grid and follow the road as it winds downhill. Keep right at the junction over another cattle grid and onto the road. Turn right and follow this road back to the start.