

Br'ton Greenhead	Greenhead Haltw.	Haltw. Bardon Mill	Bardon Mill H'ham	Hexham Circular	H'ham Corbridge
Last walk check	Last walk check	Last walk check	Last walk check	Last walk check	Last walk check
02 nd Sep. 2023	02 nd Sep. 2023	04 th Sep. 2023			01 st Sep. 2023
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Hadrian's Wall Path Core Section (Lanercost to Halton Chesters)

Start: Haytongate/Lanercost Turnoff

Finish: Down Hill, by Halton Chesters

Haytongate/Lanercost Turnoff, map reference NY 553 645, is 422 km northwest of Charing Cross, 18 km northeast of Carlisle, 93m above sea level and in **Cumbria**. Down Hill, by Halton Chesters, map reference NZ 004 684, is 409 km north northwest of Charing Cross, 25 km west northwest of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 189m above sea level and in **Northumberland**.

Length: 54.0 km (33.6 mi). **Cumulative ascent/descent:** 961/865m.

For using link routes from train or bus stations to create day walks, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 10 out of 10

Time: 13 hours walking time.

Transport: Neither start nor finish of this linear route have nearby public transport options, but 8 link routes are described from 6 locations, either stations on the Tyne Valley Line (Newcastle – Carlisle), with frequent trains at all those stations, or from corresponding bus stops on the frequent Line 685 (Carlisle – Newcastle).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Daywalks from bases in the area are possible when using the link routes.

OS Landranger Map: 86 (Haltwhistle & Brampton) & 87 (Hexham & Haltwhistle)

OS Explorer Map: 315 (Carlisle), OL43 (Hadrian's Wall) & 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne (the very easterly end)

Harvey XT40 Map: Hadrian's Wall Path

Walk Notes:

The 135 km (84 miles) long Hadrian's Wall Path (HWP) is usually walked either in stages, often with luggage transport and accommodation pre-booked, or on short walks from car parks nearby. But as long stretches of the HWP lead through flat country or large towns without notable amounts of Roman era remains, this can feel an unnecessarily long endeavour, as well as a bit samey after a while.

This route thus covers just the core section of the HWP that contains most of the extant pieces of the wall and its assorted support structures (forts, milecastles, turrets, signal towers, vallum, military road), while also leading through a scenic landscape attractive to walkers with rolling hills and pastureland, imposing north facing crags, deep cut valleys and some upland moorland.

Link Routes from train or bus stations enable public transport based day walks, combining stages of the HWP with attractive routes to or from towns and villages with accommodation and/or cafés, pubs and restaurants.

The HWP is very well marked and signed (and all sights have copious info panels), so that only the main characteristics of the individual HWP stretches are described. For detailed directions try these books: 'Trekking the Hadrian's Wall Path' (Knife Edge) or 'Walking Hadrian's Wall Path' (Cicerone).

The Link Routes though are described in detail in both directions to enable total flexibility.

Hadrian's Wall Path Stages (length, ascent/descent, characteristics, sights)

Haytongate/Lanercost Turnoff (for Brampton) **to Tipalt Burn** (for Greenhead Bypass): 12.2 km/7.6 mi, 170/132m. Pastures with some woods, mildly undulating apart from the crossings of Banks Burn and River Irthing. The section west of the River Irthing was originally constructed as a Turf Wall, 6m wide at its base, and between Milecastles 49 and 51 the Stone Wall later followed a line north of the Turf Wall. Sights: fine stretches of Vallum and Turf Wall, some signal towers and turret bases, the highest surviving piece of Wall (only short and partly rebuilt though); Birdoswald/Banna Fort (ticketed), Willowford Bridge = the stranded bridge (the river has changed course), some fine bits of Wall, in places with Broad Wall base topped with Narrow Wall; Milecastle 48 at Gilsland, the best-preserved of all.

Tipalt Burn (for Greenhead Bypass) **to Cawfield Quarry** (for Haltwhistle): 6.6 km/4.1 mi, 157/112m. Steady ascent out of Walltown Quarry onto the Walltown Crags, then gentle descent into the cut created by the Haltwhistle Burn. Sights: Thirlwall Castle ruins (12th century, mainly using stones from the Wall), Carvoran/Magnis Fort, Roman Army Museum, Great Chesters/Aesica Fort; long stretches of Wall, the Vallum is mostly well away from the Wall though.

Cawfield Quarry (for Haltwhistle) **to Housesteads** (for Bardon Mill): 8.6 km/5.4 mi, 243/154m. Steady ascent to the highest point on the HWP, at Winshield Crags, followed by undulating route along a steady line of crags, with dramatic views north across commons and moors, as well as to the south across pastures. Sights: the famous 'Sycamore Gap' with the 'Robin Hood Tree', Crag Lough, Housesteads/ Borcovium Fort (interior ticketed but can be walked around); high presence of Roman structures due to the remoteness of the area and its inaccessibility for the 'recycling' of rocks in farms, roads, ecclesiastical and private buildings.

Housesteads (for Bardon Mill) **to B6318 near Walwick** (for Hexham): 13.8 km/8.6 mi, 132/302m. Initial ascent onto the very scenic Sewingshields Crags, followed by long and gentle descent into the North Tyne Valley. Sights: high presence of old structures initially (although the long section of 'Clayton Wall' between Housesteads and Steel Rigg has been rebuilt in the 1830s), then becoming rarer as HWP runs close to Vallum and Military Road along a broad ridge, but with the late highlight of Carrowburgh/Brocolitia Fort, Mithraeum and Well. Later still: Black Carts Turret and long stretch of Wall.

B6318 near Walwick (for Hexham) **to Planetrees** (for Hexham): 4.5 km/2.8 mi, 129/62m. Mostly road pavement with some fast traffic including crossing the North Tyne on a road bridge. Sights: Chesters/Cilurnum Fort & Museum (ticketed); abutment of Chesters Roman Bridge over North Tyne (750m off route); two good, long pieces of Wall and Wall footings in fields, showing the change from Broad Wall to Narrow Wall, one also including Turret 26B (the Brunton Turret), the best-preserved one with a freestanding altar.

Planetrees (for Hexham) **to Down Hill, by Halton Chesters** (for Corbridge): 8.3 km/5.2 mi, 125/99m. HWP runs along or close to the (modern) Military Road along a broad ridge with views to the South into the Tyne Valley and to the North along the North Tyne Valley to the forests of the Borderlands and to the Cheviots. Sights: very good and long piece of Wall, showing evidence of the change from the 3.0 metre-wide Broad Wall to the 2.4 metre-wide Narrow Wall (to save time); at Port Gate, Dere Street, the main Roman Road to Scotland crossed HW (now the A68); route passes wooden cross and St. Oswald's Church at Heavenfield, site of a 7th century battle (Christian Northumbria vs Pagan Welsh); good evidence of the Vallum, but Wall mostly buried under the B6318; some Wall platforms at Milecastle 24; Halton Chesters/Hunnum Fort is just grassy mounds.

Link Route Starts & Finishes

Brampton Station (11 trains Mon-Sat and 9 on Sun) **or Brampton, Shoulder of Mutton** **or Sands** Bus Stops; **Greenhead Bypass** Bus Stop (Lines 685 and AD122);

Haltwhistle Station (28 trains Mon-Sat and 13 on Sun) **or Haltwhistle Market Place** Bus Stop;

Bardon Mill Station (12 trains Mon-Sat and 9 on Sun) **or Bardon Mill Bowes Hotel** Bus Stop;

Hexham Station (27 trains westbound (more eastbound) Mon-Sat and 13 on Sun) **or Hexham Bus Station**;

Corbridge Station (21 trains Mon-Sat and 13 on Sun) **or Corbridge Angel Inn** Bus Stop.

Walk Options:

The whole route is easily doable as a two or three-day walk, with accommodation options near the wall listed in the books mentioned above.

Day walks based on Public Transport can be made using the link routes above from train or bus stations with frequent service and combining them with sections of the HWP. See details below for example routes.

Buses connecting parts of the route or the link routes with train stations or with Bus Line 685 are:

- **Border Rambler 3** (Brampton - Laversdale); stops Lanercost, Banks, Birdoswald, Gilsland (Wed only);
- **Line 74** (Hexham - Newcastle), stops near Errington Coffee House and Halton Red House (Mon-Sat);
- **Line AD122** (Haltwhistle - Hexham), stops at all noteworthy sites from Greenhead to Hexham (daily);
- **Line 680** (Hexham - Bellingham), stops Acomb, Wall, Brunton Crossroads and Chollerford (Mon-Sat);
- **Line 681** (Alston - Haltwhistle - Birdoswald), stops Greenhead, Gilsland (Mon-Sat).

These routes get altered frequently or may be seasonal; they should not be relied upon without checking.

Example Daywalks

Brampton Station to Greenhead, 19.4 km/12.1 mi, 285/285m ascent/descent, **4/10** rating;
Brampton Station to Haltwhistle, 28.9 km/18.0 mi, 461/475m ascent/descent, **7/10** rating;
Haltwhistle to Bardon Mill, 18.3 km/11.4 mi, 410/436m ascent/descent, **5/10** rating;
Bardon Mill to Hexham, 28.6 km/17.8 mi, 455/509m ascent/descent, **7/10** rating;
Hexham Circular (HWP: Walwick to Planetrees), 20.3 km/12.6 mi, 332m ascent/descent, **4/10** rating;
Hexham to Corbridge, 21.7 km/13.5 mi, 366/367m ascent/descent, **5/10** rating.

Pubs, Cafés, Tea Rooms and Snack Huts

On or close to the HWP:

Haytongate Farm Snack Hut (seasonal), at the start of the route; **Coombe Crag Farm Honesty Snack Shack** (seasonal), at km 4.0; **Birdoswald Fort Café** (non-ticketed area), at km 7.1; **House of Meg Café**, **Samson Inn** and **Bridge Inn** in **Gilsland**, a short walk into the village off km 9.9; **Greenhead Hotel** and **Ye Olde Forge Tea Room** in **Greenhead**, a short walk into the village off km 12.3; **Roman Army Museum Tea Room** in **Walltown Quarry**, a short walk off km 13.6; **Milecastle Inn**, 10 mins off km 18.9; **Twice Brewed Inn** and **Once Brewed Coffee and Bakehouse at The Sill**, 7 mins off km 23.4; **Housesteads Fort Café**, 900m off km 27.6; **Corbridge Coffee Company**, a mobile coffee company in the car park at **Brocolitia Fort** at km 35.8; **Walwick Hall Hotel**, a few minutes off km 40.4; **Chesters Fort Café** (non-ticketed area), at km 42.0; **Riverside Kitchen Café** and **George Hotel** in **Chollerford**, at km 42.7; **Hadrian Hotel** in **Wall**, a few minutes off km 44.6; **The Errington Coffee House**, at km 52.5.

On the Link Routes:

Brampton: **Nags Head Hotel**, **The Howard Arms**, **Mr. Brown's**, **Capon Tree** café, **Shoulder of Mutton**, **Off the Wall** coffee shop; **Lanercost**: **Lanercost Tea Room**; **Greenhead**: **see above**; **Haltwhistle**: **numerous options**; **Chesterholm**: **Vindolanda Fort Café** (ticketed area); **Bardon Mill**: **The Bowes Hotel** and **Bardon Mill Village Store and Tea Room**; **Acomb**: **The Miners Arms**, **The Sun Inn**, **The Queens Arms Hotel**; **Bridge End**: **The Boatside Inn**; **Hexham** and **Corbridge**: **numerous options**.

Notes

Hadrian's Wall/Vallum Aelium, Stanegate, The Vallum

Hadrian's Wall (HW), also known as the Roman Wall, is a former defensive fortification of the Roman province of Britannia, begun in AD122 in the reign of the Emperor Hadrian (whose family name was *Aelius*, explaining the Roman name for it), although it was probably planned before his visit to Britain in AD122. It marked the **boundary between Roman Britannia and unconquered Caledonia** to the north, running from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west.

Early Roman military campaigns in the second half of the first century AD in northern England and into Scotland had shown the Tyne-Solway route across the Pennines to be of high importance for defensive purposes. The Romans therefore built a **military road (Stanegate)** (i.e.: stone road in Northumbrian dialect) along this route **with a series of forts** between Carlisle/Luguvalium and Corbridge/Corstopitum, which both lay on important north/south routeways (other intermittent major forts were: Vindolanda, Magnis, Nether Denton, Brampton). This position was consolidated a few decades later by building HW, a little further north than Stanegate though, initially with the existing forts continuing to house the troops.

HW was a 4 metre high stone wall made from locally quarried limestone and sandstone, with a defensive ditch in front of it (about 10m wide and 3m deep). The primary **purpose of HW** was not as a continuously-embattled defensive line but as a **physical barrier** to slow the crossing of raiders, people intent on crossing its line for animals, treasure, or slaves, and then returning with their loot. In addition, its gates may have been **customs posts** as well as an **observation point** that could alert Romans of an incoming attack and slow down enemy forces so that additional troops could arrive for support. At last, it was also a **symbolic statement of Rome's imperial power**, marking the border between the so called civilized world and the unconquered barbarian wilderness. Roman boundaries usually follow natural features and part of the central section of the wall were built on cliffs on an escarpment of the Whin Sill rock formation.

Not long after construction began on the wall, it was decided to include **forts in the line of the Wall** rather than having them in the hinterland to facilitate quicker troop movement to trouble spots; and to save on building materials the wall's width was reduced from the planned 10 Roman feet (about 3.0m = **Broad Wall**) to 8 Roman feet (about 2.4m = **Narrow Wall**), or even less depending on the terrain. Also, from Milecastle 49

(by the River Irthing) to the western terminus at Bowness-on-Solway, the curtain wall was **originally constructed from turf** (6 metres wide at its base), possibly due to the absence of local limestone for the manufacture of mortar. Later, the turf wall was demolished and replaced with a stone wall (as Narrow Wall). HW had to cross a few rivers and the Wall continued across the river bridges. **The Vallum**, a 3-metre deep, ditch-like construction with two parallel mounds running north and south of it, runs just south of the Wall, more or less in parallel for almost the entire length of it. Its function is unclear, but all finds suggest it was constructed at about the same time as the Wall and may have performed a protective function to the rear of the Wall, ensuring that HW could only be crossed through the forts. Initially no roadway linked the forts and castles along the wall, so later the **Military Way** was built in the area between Wall and Vallum.

At a length of 117.5 km (73 mi or 80 Roman miles), HW is the largest Roman archaeological feature in Britain. Three full Roman legions plus assorted other soldiers (about 15,000 in total) took six years to build most of HW. After completion, and when fully manned, almost 10,000 soldiers are thought to have been stationed on the Wall, made up not of the legions who built it but by regiments of auxiliary infantry and cavalry drawn from the Roman provinces. Soldiers were garrisoned along the line of the wall in large **Forts**, mostly 7 1/3 Roman miles apart (each housing 600 men), smaller gatehouses ('**Milecastles**', a Roman mile apart, operated by up to 20 men) and two observation towers between the gatehouses, a third of a Roman mile apart ('**Turrets**').

After Hadrian's death in AD138, a couple of subsequent emperors tried to move the boundary of the Empire north, supported by the building of the **Antonine Wall** in the Scottish Lowlands, but inconclusive military campaigns up to the early 3rd century meant that the Romans withdrew back to HW. After the end of Roman Britain, the wall may have briefly had continuous use by local Britons, but almost all of the standing **masonry of the Wall was removed in early modern times** to be used for **farmhouses, castles and churches**, as well as later for **roads**, especially in the 18th century by General Wade to build a **military road to crush the Jacobite rising of 1745** (now the B6318 and the longest B-road in the country).

Much of the footings, some stretches of wall and a few partially-rebuilt segments can still be seen though and many of the excavated forts on or near the Wall are open to the public, while several local museums present its history. HW was declared a **World Heritage Site** in 1987, and in 2005 became part of the transnational "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" World Heritage Site, which also includes sites in Germany.

Hadrian's Wall Path

The Hadrian's Wall Path (HWP) is a 135 km (84 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path, which in 2003 became the 15th National Trail. It runs close to the remains of Hadrian's Wall across the north of England, from Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast to Wallsend on the east coast. Most of the Wall runs through remote countryside but there are sections that pass through the cities and suburbs of Newcastle and Carlisle. The central section between Walton (north of Brampton) and Chollerford (by the crossing of the North Tyne) is the highest and wildest part of the path; it is also where the Wall is most visible, and includes several important Roman forts. Trains and buses between Carlisle and Newcastle run broadly parallel to the south of the Wall and the central section near Hexham and Haltwhistle is served by a year-round bus (as of 2022), line AD122.

A Pennine Journey

The Pennine Journey is a 391 km (243 mi) waymarked circular Long-Distance Path from Settle up through North Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and over to Cumbria and back to Settle. It was developed by David Pitt of the Wainwright Society and is a recreation of a solitary walk Alfred Wainwright made in 1938 through the Pennines, but adapted for today's roads and rights-of-way, i.e.: taking a route that Wainwright might have chosen today. The route traverses the Yorkshire Dales and Durham moorlands to follow Hadrian's Wall for a while and heading back south along the western Pennines, up the Eden Valley and along the Howgill Fells. <https://penninejourney.org/>

Whin Sill

The Whin Sill is a dolerite intrusion of late Carboniferous age which underlies much of the North Pennines and northeast England and is one of its key natural features. A major outcrop is at the High Force waterfall in Teesdale, another one at High Cup Nick on the Pennine ridge; and Bamburgh Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle, Lindisfarne Castle and stretches of Hadrian's Wall all strategically take advantage of high, rocky cliff lines formed by the sill.

It was formed when fresh magma intruded in spaces opened up by tectonic movements of existing crust layers and then – on cooling – crystallised and solidified.

The Pennine Way

The Pennine Way is a waymarked 429 km (267 mi) National Trail running along the Pennine hills, sometimes described as the 'backbone of England'. It starts in Edale in the Peak District National Park and runs north through the Yorkshire Dales and the Northumberland National Park and ends at Kirk Yetholm, just inside the Scottish border, and features 287 gates, 249 timber stiles, 183 stone stiles and 204 bridges.

WALK DIRECTIONS

I. LINK ROUTES TO HADRIAN'S WALL PATH (west to east)

A. Brampton to Haytongate/Lanercost Turnoff

[7.7 km with 113/148m ascent/descent]

Shoulder of Mutton Bus Stop Start (cut 1.5 km and 54m descent): Alighting from the bus in the centre of **Brampton**, continue in an eastbound direction towards **Market Place**, with the **Nags Head** pub on the right, and *turn left* this side of the market place, signed 'Toilets' and 'Union Lane Car Park'. In 60m you pass a plaque for '**Prince Charlie's House**' and in 80m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Main Street/Moat Side**, the A6071. In 60m you pass a Methodist Church on the left and in 50m **Moat Street** and in 30m ignore a left turning 'Footpath to Moat, Monument, Ridge Walk'. In 60m *turn right* through a metal gate into **Murray Park** and follow a gravel path, broadly parallel to the A road. In 200m go through another gate and turn left to the road to cross it and *turn right* along it. In 30m follow a left forking side road ('The Swartle') and in another 30m *turn left* up a signposted public footpath ('Ridgewalk') along a gravel drive. Pick up the directions at the asterisk *).

Brampton Station Start: leave the station from Platform 1 (trains from Carlisle) through a wooden gate and *turn hard left* immediately along a signposted public footpath parallel to the railway line ('Brampton 1 ½'). In 25m ignore a right turn into trees and in 125m go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate into a wood, in 20m forking to the right away from the railway line and passing a **Bleaberry Wood** sign. You now follow this dismantled railway line **for 1.6 km into Brampton**, first along a wide forest track then an engineered gravel path.

In more detail: In 50m ignore a minor left fork and go through a cut with raised ground on either side for 60m and then continue on a raised bank. In 50m pass a pond on the left below. The track curves to the right and you have fine far views on the right beyond open pastures to a nearby low ridge: you will walk along it later; it contains **Hadrian's Wall Path**. Soon the track runs between earth banks, with **Rowbank Wood** up on the left. Ignore all permissive paths on the left into the wood and eventually you start a gentle descent. Go through a subway under the raised **A69** and continue along a narrower path, in 450m passing the first houses of **Brampton**. In 170m *fork down to the right* with the path to in 30m go through bike barriers onto a road.

Turn left along the opposite pavement, in 20m passing the abutments of a former railway bridge. In 40m ignore a left turn to Castle Carrock and Talkin Tarn and in 100m cross a road coming in from the right off a main road. There is a bus shelter away to the right across a triangular green on the main road. In 150m, where the road meets the **A6071**, *turn right* across it and in 30m cross another side road, **The Swartle**, to commence up a signposted public footpath ('Ridgewalk') along a gravel drive.

*) The drive curves to the right and then to the left to ascend steeply uphill. Near the top of the rise, just before reaching **Moat Cottage**, a footpath joins from the left and you *turn right* with the track and a 'Ridgewalk' signpost. In 110m continue in the same direction through a metal kissing gate left of a metal field gate, ignoring another metal kissing gate on the left into a pasture. You follow a fence on the right with a line of trees beyond, along the top of a sloping pasture. This is the start of the **Brampton Ridge**. The pasture drops down into the valley of the **River Irthing** and **Hadrian's Wall** ran along the ridge on the far side of that valley. In 250m go through a metal kissing gate on the right into **The Ridgewood, Access Land** and owned by the Woodland Trust.

Turn left through the wood along a wide ascending path and in 180m the terrain levels out, by a bench on the left. In 180m continue in the same direction through gaps to the left of a wooden field gate either side of a forest track (the public footpath joins from the left out of the pasture) and in 60m you have **Riggside Plantation** on the left (not Access Land). In 120m ignore a right fork and continue in the same direction gently uphill with a marker post. In 130m ignore turns to the left and right and **leave the Access Land** of The Ridgewood with a yellow marker on a fence post, to the left of a fence with a pasture on the right. In 20m *bear down* to the left through the plantation (with a yellow marker 10m ahead on a fence post).

In 160m at the bottom of the wood, *turn right* through a metal kissing gate at a T-junction with a public bridleway and follow a right-hand grassy field boundary with a marker post. In 60m go through a wooden gate and continue between fences. In 140m you go over a brow and pass a bench and in 120m reach a road by a bridleway signpost ('Coathill 1m' backwards). *Turn right* up along the road. In 120m you pass the first of two houses at the top of this rise and in 100m, at a junction with **The Swartle** road, *turn right* along it. In 30m *turn left* across the road and go through a metal kissing gate along a signposted '**Footpath to Lanercost**', into **Quarrybeck Wood**. You now follow a clear path downhill through the wood for 1.6 km back onto the road near a crossing of the **Irthing River**.

In more detail: the path drops down into the wooded valley and in 80m you have the **Quarry Beck** on the right, as well as **Quarrybeck House**, then in 90m the last of its outbuildings. You follow the good path downstream through the wood, rich in bluebells and wood anemones in season. In 800m the path continues ahead, where the beck meanders to the right and in 50m you pick up a wire fence around the grounds of a stone works and quarry. In 50m pass the entrance gate to the works and cross the drive from the left to continue along the fence. **Stanegate**, the early Roman Road, crossed here. In 50m go down some steps and in 25m you pass the far end of the works. In 30m pass a redundant metal kissing gate and in 10m the valley widens out and in 60m you go through another fine bluebell wood. In 170m pass a waterfall, before the path steepens through a wooded gorge. In 70m go over a minor brow, now with a road visible ahead. In 40m you meet the road by a signpost ('**Footpath to Brampton**' backwards) and *turn right* along it.

In 90m, just before the road crosses the Quarry Beck, you cross the road to the left and continue along the old road towards **Lanercost Old Bridge** 35m away (built 1724). You continue along the old road, which is now a car park area and *turn right* at a crossing with a footpath ('Burtholme' on the left) to go through a wooden gate by a footpath signpost and across the new road to go through a metal kissing gate into a riverside meadow, with **Abbey Farm** and **Lanercost Priory** away on the left across the meadow. Follow the river for 350m and by a three-way signpost (this is much earlier than the OS map suggests), *turn left* across the meadow ('Priory') towards a clump of trees to the right of the middle of the priory on a bearing of 335°. Aim for a fence corner and in 150m you pass a redundant stile to the right of the fenced ruined parts of the Priory and in 70m enter the churchyard through a wooden kissing gate and follow a gravel path around to the left through it.

In 50m go through a wooden gate into a large pasture with the base of a medieval **Preaching Cross** a little ahead and the church entrance as well as the (ticketed) ruins away to the left. The **Lanercost Tea Room** can be found along the tarmac drive and then to the left on the far side of the Abbey Farm buildings. *Turn right* along the pasture wall and in 40m pass an info panel and in 10m go through a wooden gate through the compound wall (partly built from 're-cycled' **Wall stone**) onto a street by a footpath signpost ('River Irthing' backwards). *Turn left* along the opposite pavement and in 180m, at a four-way road and track junction, *turn right* along a signposted bridleway ('Walton Wood Lodge') and footpath ('Haytongate'). The track is tarmacked initially then continues

as gravel and in 130m it turns left. In 30m you *turn right* with the signposted footpath to **Haytongate**, ignoring the bridleway ahead.

In 50m you pass a Haytongate sign and continue uphill along tarmac, between some trees, with fine views back though into the valley and to the Priory, as well as to the furthest north-westerly tops of the **Pennines**, including (on a good weather day) **Cross Fell** on 155° and 32km away. In 250m by a fence corner on the right, the gradient eases and you can see some farm buildings ahead. In 100m you pass some metal field gates on either side of the drive and in 70m are level with a lone oak tree in the field on the left, with the top of **Abbey Gills Wood** beyond it. On the right there is **a notable ditch and bank** running up the field. You are crossing the line of the **Vallum**, part of the complex setup of **the Wall**. In 60m you continue in the same direction across a small grassy area by a Portaloo on the right where the drive bears left, pass some benches and in 30m reach **Hadrian's Wall Path** by a three-way signpost, with the **Haytongate Farm Snack Hut** ahead through the hedge. *Turn right* through a wooden kissing gate along HWP and follow an ascending left-hand field boundary on the course of **Hadrian's Wall**.

B. Greenhead Bypass to Tipalt Burn

[1.0 km with negligible ascent/descent]

Alighting from the Bus at **Greenhead Bypass** on the **A69**, take a downward tarmac path away from the road:

- **If arriving from the direction of Carlisle**, in an easterly direction down to a tarmac path that runs through a subway under the A road. *Turn left* along the path.
- **If arriving from the direction of Haltwhistle**, in a westerly direction down to a tarmac path that runs through a subway under the A road. *Turn right* along the path.

In 80m from the subway, you cross the railway line on a gated level crossing and follow a road pavement into **Greenhead** village. You have the **Tipalt Burn** on the right and ignore all ways off and in 320m reach the village centre at a road T-junction opposite a **bus stop for services further along Hadrian's Wall**. The **Greenhead Hotel** and **Ye Olde Forge Tea Room** are away to the left.

Cross the road a little to the left and walk down a gravel drive to the right of the tearoom. In 60m *turn right* across a bridge over the Tipalt Burn and *turn left* on the other side along a wide tarmac track parallel to the burn (part of **National Cycle Network Route 72**). In 450m ignore a right fork to a guest house, go through a wooden gate and cross the **Tipalt Burn** on a footbridge, where the **Pow Charney Burn** tributary joins it from ahead to reach a four-way path junction. **Hadrian's Wall Path** crosses here.

C. Haltwhistle to Cawfield Quarry

[4.0 km with 83/21m ascent/descent]

Alighting at **Haltwhistle Station**, leave towards the westerly end of the platforms past the station building to the large forecourt with its listed **Old Water Tower**, as well as an info panel on **Hadrian's Wall**. *Turn right* along the pavement of **Station Road** past a **bus stop for services closer to Hadrian's Wall** (Lines 681 and AD122). You cross the **B6322** (with **The Railway** on the right), and follow a sign for 'Hadrian's Wall 2 ½', rising out of the valley of the **River South Tyne** and in 40m, by **The Jubilee**, *bear right* with **Westgate**. There is a large Memorial Garden on the left, then a library. After 230m, with the town centre and its many cafés and pubs just ahead, *turn left* with a signpost for

'Hadrian's Wall' and '**Burn Gorge**' along the (soon) tree-lined **Aesica Road**. In 200m *turn right* along **Fair Hill** and after 50m *turn left* across the road and continue gently up **Willia Road** with another 'Burn Gorge' signpost. In 260m, while already descending into the valley of the **Haltwhistle Burn**, you pass a small car park on the right with a **Burn Field Village Green** notice board and **three good info panels**. In another 60m ignore a footpath turning right ('Townfoot ½') and cross a car wide bridge over the Burn to a large metal entrance gate to some works. *Turn left* along a tarmac footpath, upstream.

You now follow the track-bed of the **narrow gauge railway** from Cawfield Quarry (road-stone) to the railway line in the **South Tyne Valley**. In 90m you pass a **Haltwhistle Burn Footpath** (HBF) signpost ('Cawfields 1 ¾') by the far corner of the fenced off **Old Brickworks and Pipeworks** (on the site of the former **South Tyne Colliery** (1840s) with its square chimney) and ignore a bridge over the burn on the left. Continue along gravel and in 40m go through a wooden kissing gate into the Burn Gorge. The overgrown slopes on the right are mostly spoil heaps from some mine workings passed in 100m. What is left of the mine entrance is a walled wet area on the right, a runnel of water and a concrete tunnel. This was a **coal drift mine** (working until the early 20th century). In the river you can see remains of bridge abutments, which linked two **brickworks** on either burn side. In 20m *turn left* with the path and burn, past some notable boulders off the crag. In 100m you have some wall remnants on the left and in 40m pass a marker post indicating a footpath crossing, by some steps up to the right and a path up from the left from a footbridge.

The path runs somewhat away from the burn for a while past some more wall remnants, the remains of **Low Mill**, a water-driven **fulling mill** founded by Quakers. In 70m, by a couple of white cottages on the far side, *curve to the right* with the path and Burn. In 50m the river bed is now rushing over a **sloping sheet of sandstone** instead of pebbles and broken bedrock [the geological reason for the sloping is the same as for the crags on which Hadrian's Wall runs: upwards push in the north from the Cheviot Massif, downwards pull into the fault north of the Pennines]. In 40m you pass some picnic tables (the **Slaty Sike** tributary joins the burn on the left) just before a road is coming down the hillside on the far side by a lone cottage. In 35m an **old ford** crosses where there are stone wall remnants right by the path: this was the site of **High Mill**. In 20m go over a two-railed footbridge to the right bank of the Burn where a public footpath joins from the left. *Turn right* along a path along the Burn. Close observation here reveals the line of a **mill race** on the other burn bank some metres above the stream. It fed High Mill, a little downstream.

In 120m pass the disused **Lees Hall Sandstone Quarry** (with a band of **coal sandwiched between the sandstone**) and in 100m you *turn left* with the path and Burn by another exposed rock face across the water. The gorge is now too narrow for industry and in 180m the Burn bed is filled with rocks off the rock faces on either side, rather than the pebbles and gravel seen earlier and you *turn left* with Burn and path and navigate a mud-prone stretch by a high rockface on the left. In 70m the gorge opens out somewhat and you can see a farm up ahead at a higher level. You *turn hard right* with the gorge and pass a bench and in 180m cross a footbridge to the left bank of the burn. In 150m you pass the remains of another **drift mine** (remaining: Fell Chimney, East End Pit, part of the engine house) and in 50m *curve to the right* with the path and Burn, now out of the gorge and in the open countryside. In 25m up on the right you can spot another noteworthy rock face, in it you can see **sedimentary 'wave' ripples** laid down millions of years ago. In 30m go through a wooden kissing gate and in 40m pass some **limestone kilns** on either side of the burn (the one on the right is higher up and partly collapsed, the one on the left is at burn level and in good shape but may be hidden by foliage in high summer). In 100m cross the burn over a wooden footbridge by a last rock face on the right, the tame ending of the dramatic sandstone **Burn Gorge**.

In 20m go through a wooden kissing gate and in 40m *curve to the left* away from the burn, gently uphill along a clear grass path towards a road. Back views reveal black slopes across the Burn, a sign of more **coal spoils from former mines**. In 100m you go through a wooden kissing gate by a HBF signpost ('Cawfields' onwards, 'Haltwhistle 2' backwards) on to the (modern) **Military Road** (the **B6318**). Cross the road and *turn right* along the far grassy verge. In 170m you reach **Newbridge Farm** and a two-way HBF signpost ('Haltwhistle, Cawfields ½') just before the '**New Bridge**' (over the Burn). The **Milecastle Inn** is located 240m further along the Military Road. *Fork left* off the road along a drystone wall and follow a path for 100m to cross the tunnel entrance where the Burn crosses under the road and *turn left* down some stone steps and through a wooden kissing gate into a grassy area beside the Burn. This is the **Roman Military Zone**.

The Zone consists of: **Stanegate**, the Roman Military Road **built around AD71**, right where you are standing now and still clearly identifiable as a prominent curving embankment with side ditches, 8 metres wide, especially when viewed from the fort above. The **Haltwhistle Burn Roman Fortlet** just to the right, which was guarding the crossing of the burn by the Stanegate. This was **built around AD105** itself, i.e.: both preceded **Hadrian's Wall** by a few decades. In the fort, the barrack block and officers' quarters are still visible as earthworks but the area disturbed by track works is linked to 19th century ironstone mines 400m to the east. There are also several temporary **Roman Marching (or Work) Camps**, to the right beyond the fort (on the low ridge, evidenced by disturbed ground and clear outer banks as well as silted up ditches) and away to the left across the Burn, as well as two **Roman Cemeteries** (away on the left across the Burn by the course of the short **Roman Road** from the Stanegate to Great Chesters/Aesica Fort).

Continue along the Burn along a mostly clear grassy tussocky path, later with an electricity line away on the left. In about 450m the Burn meanders away to the left and you ignore a bridge on the left across it. A fence joins from the left where a tributary joins the Burn from **Haltwhistle Common**. Cross a stream on an earth bridge and *curve to the right* with path and fence. In 40m the Burn is close by to the left again and you follow it along the fence. You cross the course of the **Vallum** (no signs of it on the ground) with some higher ground on the right and *bear to the right* with fence and Burn, now with fine views ahead of Cawfield Quarries' rock face and the magnificent crags beyond it, as well as a stretch of **Wall** to the left of the quarry. In about 200m *turn left* through a wooden field gate into a small grassy strip and *turn right* to in 5m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate by a signpost ('Haltwhistle Burn Footpath, Haltwhistle 2 ½' backwards) onto a lane, south west of **Cawfield Quarry**, in a bend of **Hadrian's Wall Path** (HWP). A HWP signpost stands on the other side of the lane.

D1. Bardon Mill to Housesteads (via Thorngrifton Common and Barcombe Hill) [5.7 km with 261/84m ascent/descent]

Alighting at **Bardon Mill Station**, go along the platform in an easterly direction and follow a tarmac path to a level crossing and *turn left* up along a tarmac lane (across the tracks first if arriving from the direction of Newcastle). In 100m you reach a crossing of the main road through the village, by a bus stop on the right ('Memorial'). The name-giving mill, **The Bowes Hotel** with its **bus stop** and **Bardon Mill Village Store and Tea Room** are all well away on the left. **[!]** Cross the road and continue in the same direction uphill a quiet lane, signed 'Thorngrifton ½', 'Westwood ½', and for 'Once Brewed 3' along National Cycle Network's Routes 68 and 72. In 90m the lane leads under the raised **A69** and in 60m it levels out and you can see a village up on a ridge ahead, this is **Thorngrifton**. In 100m *turn right* at a three-way junction, signed 'Thorngrifton ½'.

In 200m ignore a signposted footpath turning right into a field and after a steep ascent of 270m you pass the entrance to the first house on the left ('The Hott' on the OS map). There are fine views back into the **South Tyne Valley** and across it to some of the **North Pennines** (Byers Pike, SE of Brampton on 250° is identifiable by its trigpoint). Continue steeply uphill and in 80m, where the road turns right, you continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane into West End of Thorngrifton and in 30m by **Croydon Cottage** *turn left* with the lane. In 90m, just before **West End Town Farm** and a double wooden field gate, *turn right* with a two-way signpost ('Thorngrifton Common and Crindledykes 1') along a car wide track to the right of **The Bastle House** (a fortified house in this land of border reivers, usually with walls a metre thick and small or no windows).

In 30m continue between drystone walls, with the Common now visible ahead, and in 90m ignore a public footpath forking right over a ladder stile into a pasture. Dead ahead, just beyond the ridge ahead, you can see the top of the '**Long Stone**' (apparently a memorial to colliers who lost their lives in a 19th century mining accident at Chainley Burn). In 150m go over a ladder stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 65m you reach another metal field gate with yellow markers, one ahead and one forking right. You go through the gate into the **Access Land of Thorngrifton Common** and take the right forking public footpath along a grass track (mud-prone initially), ignoring the left turn between drystone walls. In 15m *curve up to the left* with the grass track and rise steeply with the track up this grassy and tussocky common. **The aim** now is a metal field gate (unseen from here) in a drystone wall (unseen from here) along the top of the ridge ahead, 680m away and a little to the left of the trigpoint that may be visible.

There are confusingly many tracks, tyre marks or animal trods crossing the common, so it is best to walk uphill broadly halfway between the walls to the left and right and **on a 10° bearing** until you are high enough to see the drystone wall at the top, the gate in it and a trigpoint beyond. Walk through the gate and in 30m go over the brow on **Barcombe Hill** at about 270m above sea level. The **trigpoint** is away to the right at 279m above sea level. The **Long Stone** lies way to the left at the westerly scarp of the hill. Ahead in the middle distance is the line of **craggs that carry Hadrian's Wall**, running west from Housesteads Crag (15°) via Hotbank, Highshield and Peels Craggs and Steel Rigg to HW's highest point on Winshield Crag (280°). Nearby in the valley below, a couple of farms are visible: **West and East Crindledykes** and **The Knowe**, as well as (on 350°) **a large limekiln** to their west. The exit from the Access Land is a through a gate near the limekiln.

Ignore a broad grassy track turning right, and continue in the same direction (325°) along a narrow grassy path. **Vindolanda Roman Fort** comes into view on the hard left way below on a promontory overlooking the valley of the Bradley Burn. In 50m go through a little notch in the northerly scarp of the hill and *bear right* to pass a footpath marker post in 10m and *bear right* with the obvious grass path from there towards a road three-way junction. In 250m go through a wooden kissing gate **out of the Access Land** onto the road by a signpost ('Thorngrifton 1' backwards). The other ascent route via Vindolanda comes up from the left. *Turn right* along the road, gently uphill, and in 25m you reach the three-way junction seen from above.

Pick up the directions below in D.2 at the double asterisk **).

D2. Bardon Mill to Housesteads (via Vindolanda Fort) [6.9 km with 242/65m ascent descent]

At **Bardon Mill Station**, the route starts from platform 1 (trains from Carlisle).

From platform 2, from the direction of Newcastle, walk back from the direction of travel to a level crossing and *turn left* across it to then *turn left* immediately to go **to platform 1**. **From platform 1**, from the direction of Carlisle, walk back from the direction of travel in a westerly direction and continue along a tarmac path to in 50m cross the **Chainley Burn**, on the path and continue through a small car park to a road 35m away and *turn right* up **Station Road** into the village.

In 110m you reach the village green on the left by the main road through the village, with the **Bardon Mill Village Store and Tea Room** on the left, **The Bowes Hotel** opposite to the left, the name-giving mill away to the right and an unmarked **bus stop** along the road to the left. Cross the road and continue uphill a signposted footpath opposite ('Henshaw 1 ¼') through the yard of **Errington Reay pottery** and in 50m *bear left* along an ascending tarmac path. In 90m cross the **A69** carefully and *turn left* with path and signpost. The path rises gently away from the road level and in 100m you go through a wooden gate into a pasture and *turn left* along its boundary wall.

In 90m *turn right* through a wooden gate and *turn left* along the wall, then continue along the car wide drive from **Bankhead** farmhouse on the right. In another 100m go over a cattle grid or through a gap to the right and in 50m through a metal field gate onto a road and *turn right* uphill along it. In 90m you pass **Cragside** farm on the right and *turn left then right* with the road and in another 50m, where the main road turns right, continue in the same direction uphill along **Park Lane**, signposted 'Vindolanda 2', 'Once Brewed 2 ½'. In 230m the road levels out and turns left and a public footpath continues ahead along the drive to **Cragside Riding School** ('Vindolanda 1', 'Hadrian's Wall 1 ½').

Here you have a choice:

For the shorter and low level route, passing Vindolanda's main Visitor Centre and Museum but offering no immediate views of the fort's site (only later as you rise out of the valley, on a back view), continue along the footpath along the drive and in 20m go through a metal field gate. In 140m you pass **Cragside Riding Stables** and *turn left* through its yard. Go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate into a wood and follow the car wide gravel drive through it downhill. You are high above the **Chainley Burn** now and in 110m leave the small wood. The steep wooded slope on the right side of the valley contains a disused colliery (there is a large landslipped spoil heap visible). In 70m ignore a track to the left and continue downhill through a wooden field gate.

In 60m the drive fords a tributary burn (with a bridge to the right) and in 40m you pass a white rendered cottage (**Low Fogrigg** on the OS map), where another footpath joins from the left over a stile. In 110m go through a wooden field gate and continue through a pasture along a wire fence. In 70m go through a wooden gate and *veer left* and in 30m *veer right* downhill. In 70m you pass a ruined farm enclosure and building, and in a few metres, with a boardwalk visible ahead below and by a two-railed footbridge across the burn on the right below, you come to **an unmarked footpath fork in the path**.

You can take either path here, as they do re-unite in 400m. The path ahead is largely level and follows the burn, but is flood-prone after heavy rain. The path down to the right to the bridge over the burn later rises out of the valley to continue with fine vistas.

Right turn: go down the grassy slope to the raised railed footbridge and on the far side *turn left* with a yellow marker up towards a wooden kissing gate 100m away. Go through the gate and *bear right* uphill (30°) across a pasture, at some distance from the fence and trees on the left to aim for a wooden kissing gate, initially out of sight, at the top of the wood ahead. In 170m leave the pasture over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and

walk along the top of the steep hanging wood. In 70m by a marker post *turn left* and down past a shed. In 30m the other route joins from the left out of trees. *Turn right*.

Continue ahead: drop down towards the boardwalk and in 50m go through a squeeze stile in a barbed wire fence and in 50m continue on the boardwalk, just before the **Doe Sike** joins from the left. You follow the boardwalk (with a few short gaps), assisted by yellow markers, and eventually go down some steps (ignore remnants of a simple steel bridge on the right) and continue right next to the burn. There is a steep crag face on the right and in 40m you *turn right* across a two-railed concrete bridge and *turn left* along the far side of the burn. In 15m *bear right* with the path, with views into the ticketed gardens and a multi-stepped weir and Roman Bridge in the grounds of Vindolanda. In 100m you emerge in an open area where the other route joins from the right behind. Continue ahead.

In 25m you pass the Museum and Visitor Centre entrance to **Vindolanda Roman Fort** on the left. The **Vindolanda Fort Café** is in the ticketed area. Continue ahead for 65m to a T-junction. The high level route joins from the left. *Turn right* on the tarmac road, up out of the valley, and pick up the directions at the asterisk below *).

For the longer and high level route, passing around the perimeter of Vindolanda Fort's site with all-encompassing views of the fort remains, *turn left* along the lane. In 200m, in a right bend, a public footpath joins from the left unmarked and in another 280m, at the brow of this rise, and with **Huntercreek Plantation** on the left, you pass the drive from **Parkhead Farm** on the right. In 250m *turn right* at a T-junction with a lane from Henshaw, signed 'Vindolanda 1', 'Once Brewed 1 1/2'. In 120m continue in the same direction along a car wide gravel track (an unmarked restricted byway to 'High Fogrigg'), where the road turns left ('Vindolanda'). In 240m cross the **Bean Burn** on the track and in another 140m the **Kingcairn Burn**. In 100m ignore a right fork to **High Fogrigg** (a public footpath) and *fork left* to continue with the byway gently up **Kingcairn Hill** (in 20m the public footpath joins from the left over a stile). In 70m the track levels out between loosely wooded tussocky fields and you can see the excavated ruins of **Vindolanda Roman Fort** across a pasture on the right, this side of the steep **valley of the Chainley Burn** with the imposing **Barcombe Hill** beyond. In 50m go through a wooden field gate and continue on the level through loosely wooded tussocky fields.

In 250m go through a wooden field gate onto a tarmac lane which runs on the course of **Stanegate**, the Roman Military Road preceding Hadrian's Wall by a few decades. *Turn right* along it and in 100m you pass the car park entrance for visitors to **Vindolanda** and continue with the NCN Route along the wall around the site, still with occasional views into it though. In 200m go through or past a wooden car gate and descend steeply into the valley of the **Chainley Burn**. At the bottom of the drop, you cross **Brackies Burn** (down from HW) on the track, pass **Cotley Gate Farm** and in 130m cross **Bradley Burn** (also down from HW), just after where a signposted public footpath joins from the left. In 60m you reach a three-way junction in **Chesterholm** hamlet, where a signposted footpath to 'Bardon Mill 1 1/2' turns right along a tarmac drive. The Museum and Visitor Centre entrance and the Fort and Staff and Disabled Car Park are 65m away on the right. The **Vindolanda Fort Café** is in the ticketed area. The low level route joins from the right. Keep ahead on the tarmac road, up out of the valley.

*) The road turns hard right and more steeply uphill (the course of **Stanegate** runs to the left in the field at a gentler gradient) and as you rise, you get fine views back towards the fort ruins on its plateau. Up ahead on the ridge of **Barcombe Hill** you can see the '**Long Stone**' (apparently a memorial to colliers who lost their lives in a 19th century mining accident at Chainley Burn). You pass the East Car Park and at the top of the road ascent, at a T-junction, *turn left* along the flank of the hill, with the Bradley Burn valley down below. In 300m you pass a perpendicular drystone wall in the field on the left and in another 50m

a wooden kissing gate on the right gives access to the Access Land of the hill, with a clear path leading up to the ridge and the Long Stone. In 100m ignore a footpath into the field on the left over a stone slab stile and continue in the same direction along the road. In 300m, just before a three-way road junction, a signposted footpath ('Thorngrafton 1') joins from the right through a wooden kissing gate out of the Access Land. This is the other ascent route via Thorngrafton Common.

******) Here, the course of **Stanegate** joins from the left out of the field (a peek over the wall is well worth it), and a left turn along the road gets you past a **limestone quarry** to the imposing **Crindledykes Lime Kiln** with its info panel and standing stone milestone.

[!] But *bear right* along the main road on the course of Stanegate ('Newbrough 6'), with the Barcombe Hill **Iron Age settlement** up on the right (also the site of a later **Roman Signal Station**). In 150m ignore a metal field gate on the left into a new plantation and in 30m a usually locked field gate in the drystone wall on the right. In 230m you pass a perpendicular wall in the field on the left and in 100m pass a National Cycle Route 72 signpost on the right ('aka **Hadrian's Cycleway**'). You have fine views half left ahead to **Grindon Lough** in a valley and **Housesteads Farm and Roman Fort** away on the left. Ahead on the half right, the Tyne Valley opens out gloriously. In 80m ignore a road from the right ('Thorngrafton 1, Bardon Mill 2').

In 60m *turn left* along **East Crindledykes Farm's** tarmac drive, a signposted bridleway ('Military Road $\frac{3}{4}$ '), and follow it over a cattle grid and then scenically undulating to the farm 420m away. At the farm, stay to the right of all buildings and go through a wooden field gate, down through a dip and another wooden field gate at the bottom and up a grassy slope to a marker post 30m away. At the post, *bear right* along a track coming from the farmyard and in 40m curve to the left with it, just before going over the brow. The track now bears left to converge with a drystone wall on the left, but **[!]** you *turn right* with a marker post along a grassy track through tussocky ground. Housesteads is now dead ahead. In 70m cut through a gash in a scarp (**Green Brae** on the OS map) and *veer to the right* downhill. In 60m at the bottom of the drop, *bear left* with the track through a mud-prone area. *Veer a little to the right* with the faint path and in 100m near the brow you can see a marker post 20m ahead and a **tumulus** away to the right. You *bear left* along the grass track to cut through another crag (**Little Shield**).

In 90m *bear right* with the track and in 130m at the bottom of the drop by some scattered boulders, you pass remnants of a drystone wall. Ascend along an overgrown wall base and in 100m go over a ladder stile to the right of a wooden field gate ('Please use the stile') onto the **A6318**, the (modern) **Military Road**. Cross the road a little to the right and continue through a wooden field gate along a tarmac drive, a signposted public footpath to 'Housesteads Farm $\frac{1}{2}$ '. The drive goes over a minor brow and beyond that the farm comes into view to the right of a clump of trees. The earthworks of Romano-British **Cultivation Plots** can be seen on the flank on the left. En route to the farm you go through a wooden gate to the left of a cattle grid about 100m below the farm and cross the line of the **Vallum** (without any traces). In another 150m you pass the farm and ignore a right running gravel path to **Visitor Centre, Housestead Roman Fort Café, Car Park** and **bus stop** (on the B road) 750m away. You have the **Housesteads Museum** on the left (hot drinks, some snacks), just below **Housesteads/Borcovicium Roman Fort**. The inner area of the walled fort is ticketed but can be walked around as this is **Access Land**, and anyhow there are many info panels placed in the non-ticketed areas. *Bear up to the left* along the left-hand edge of the fort to reach **Hadrian's Wall Path** at the far end of it.

E. Hexham to B6318 near Walwick

[9.1 km with 123/62m ascent/descent]

Leave **Hexham Station** from Platform 1 (trains from Carlisle) and *turn right* through a car park. In 60m *turn left* through the Tyne Mills Industrial Estate and in 110m *curve to the left* with the road to the **A6079** 120m away. At a roundabout, *turn right* this side of it along a shared cycle and footpath that drops below the level of the road which leads to **Hexham Bridge** over the **River Tyne**. In 50m *turn left* to go under a low bridge carrying the road and on the far side *turn right* along a tarmac track towards the river 80m away. *Turn left* with the track along the **River Tyne Trail** (RTT) and in 350m ignore a two-railed concrete footbridge on the left. You enter **Tyne Green Country Park** with **Tynedale Golf Club** on the left and continue between trees. In 1.1 km, at the end of a hedge, a path joins from the left from a level crossing over the **Tyne Valley Line** and you continue in the same direction along the railway along the course of the **National Cycle Network Route 72**.

In 220m you pass some steps down to the water and in 50m are level with the tracks and you now have a wall on the left. In 40m pass an info panel by some bridge abutments of the long dismantled **Border Counties Railway**. The path drops a little below the level of the tracks and in 210m you *fork right* with a footpath marker post down some steps and veer away from the wall with a path. In 90m cross a stream on a wooden footbridge and in 100m *bear right* with the path and the Tyne, ignoring a double metal field gate on the left. In 50m go under the raised **A69**. In 550m you approach **The Watersmeet**, where **North Tyne** and **South Tyne** meet (a path to the right leads to a beach with fine views up the North Tyne) and in 40m you are level with **The Watersmeet** on the right. *Curve to the left* with the path, which veers away from the river a little (this is now the South Tyne), and in 100m you pass a **Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care** marker stone.

In 25m you are riverside again and in 150m go under a railway bridge. In 120m *turn left* with a marker post, along a garden fence to a tarmac lane (the right-of-way does not run along the river here, as the OS map suggests). *Turn right* at a T-junction and in 170m *turn right* at another one across the South Tyne on a road bridge along its left-hand pavement (notice the former **toll house** on this side of the bridge). On the far side, there is a signposted footpath on the right to '**The Watersmeet**' and, where the main road turns left, you continue in the same direction to the right of **The Boatside Inn** along a minor lane ('Chollerford 4, Chesters 3, Warden ½'). In 40m go under a railway bridge out of **Bridge End** hamlet and in 50m *turn right* with the lane, where a public footpath joins from the left. In 380m you reach a three-way lane junction: up on the left is the site of a now tree-topped **Norman Motte** and ahead to the right is **Warden** village with its **St. Michael, Warden Church** (built from Roman stone, most likely from Chesters Fort).

Turn left away from the village with an NCN 72 sign (Chollerford 2 ½ Humshaugh 3), now rising out of the Tyne Valley. The road turns to the right and back to the left and eventually you pass a private drive to High Warden and in another 50m ignore a left turning tarmac drive (a bridleway) to High Warden Farm and Thistlerigg. **Warden Hill**, up on the left, is the location of an **Iron Age British Camp**. In 1.5 km, in a bend of the road by a stream crossing, you pass a **Medieval Wayside Cross** on the right (minus its upper shaft). This is where **Stanegate**, the pre-HW Roman Road, met the North Tyne. In 730m *turn right* briefly at a T-junction with a National Byway sign (Chesters 1 ¼ Chollerford 1 ½) and *turn left* immediately along the **B6319 Homer's Lane** in the previous direction, by **Walwick Grange** on the right (18th century, Grade II*-listed). In 40m cross a stream on the road and gently ascend further, now with four of the Grange's **medieval fishponds** in the field on the left. Over nearly a kilometre you rise to a T-junction with the **B6318**, on the line of **Hadrian's Wall** (HW), in the latter stages crossing the **Vallum** and the **Roman Military Road** without any trace. **Chesters Roman Fort and Museum** is well away to the right.

F. Hexham to Planetrees

[6.7 km with 208/80m ascent/descent]

Leave **Hexham Station** from Platform 1 (trains from Carlisle) down some steps and *turn right* along a road pavement past a small car park area. In 50m *turn left* through the Tyne Mills Industrial Estate and in 110m *curve to the left* with the road gently uphill to the **A6079 Rotary Way** 120m away. At a roundabout, with the Town Centre away to the left up a rise, cross the A road using a median and *turn right* along the left-hand pavement, ignoring a couple of tarmac paths that drop below the level of the road. **A Pennine Journey** (APJ), a Long-Distance Path, has joined along the road, which leads to **Hexham Bridge** 60m away and crosses the **River Tyne**. On the far side, follow the road uphill towards the **A69** dual carriageway. About 50m before a new roundabout that links the slips roads while crossing the sunken A road, **[!]** you *turn left* along a signposted tarmac bridleway ('St. John Lee Bridge'), also with a **Northern Saints Trail** sign.

The car wide track descends between trees while curving to the right and very quickly you have left the road noise behind. There are pastures on either side and over the next 170m you rise to the level of the A road, though separated by a high brick wall. You go through a dip where you ignore a left turn to **The Hermitage**, a small stately house, and in 80m *turn right* to cross the A69 on a bridge to a T-junction of tarmac tracks. *Turn right* with the APJ gently uphill with the tarmac lane and in 100m *turn left* uphill at a T-junction with a tree-lined road, with fine views developing back over the left shoulder to **Hexham's** higher parts. In 250m go over a brow and on to a five-way road junction 65m away. *Turn left* ('St. John Lee Church') and in 20m *fork left* towards 'St. John Lee Church ¼', ignoring the right turning cul-de-sac gently uphill (this would be a shorter route but omits the church and some fine views). In 180m curve right with the lane, now with the outsized (for the location) **St. John Lee Church** visible ahead. In 60m *turn left* through the lychgate to the church entrance 50m away (usually open and well worth a visit).

Continue along the lane and in 130m, at a T-junction, go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate into the open hillside with a footpath signpost ('Acomb ½') with a Northern Saints Trail marker, with **Acomb** village (pronounced 'Yeckam') ahead across a valley. Continue either side of a hedge (it discontinues before any route change) and descend into the valley, with a building visible at the bottom. In 50m from the far end of the hedge, you pass a corner of the fence around the grounds of the building and in 40m go through a metal gate into a wood. *Turn right* along the fence by a marker post, ignoring a left turn. In 125m *turn left* along a car wide gravel track (a public bridleway) at a T-junction and cross the **Birkey Burn** (down from Hadrian's Wall) on a stone bridge. You re-ascend out of the valley towards Acomb, initially steeply, and mostly between high stone walls (hiding **Acomb House**). In 180m the gradient eases and in 65m you continue along tarmac. In 75m a signposted footpath joins from the left and in 40m you reach **Acomb Square**, a triangular square with a Grade II-listed **Pant** (a spout providing water for domestic use) with adjacent hydrant in the middle and the main road at the far end of it.

Turn left downhill through the village past a **bus stop for services to Hexham**. In 30m you pass **The Miners Arms** and in 40m a signposted footpath turns right between houses. The **Sun Inn** is 25m away on the right and **The Queen's Arms Hotel** a further 50m on the left. *Turn right* along the footpath with the APJ ('Halfway House ½, Fallowfield Dene 1') and in 20m *fork right* to continue to the right of a wall along a car wide gravel track. In 70m continue in the same direction with a marker post along a path between walls, where the track turns to the right and in 50m ignore a left running footpath. In 90m go down a stepped path to commence the descent into the valley of the **Red Burn** (also down from very close to Hadrian's Wall). You cross the burn on a two-railed concrete bridge and *turn right* uphill in an arable field along its right-hand boundary. In 40m, at the top of the small

rise, cross a very narrow linking corridor between two arable fields and *turn right* with a marker post along a left-hand field boundary.

In 400m, some 100m before the top-left field boundary, *turn left* over a ladder stile with footpath and APJ markers into a pasture and *bear right* diagonally through it, aiming to the right of a farmhouse (**Low Engine Cottage**) 80m away. Past the house, *veer to the left*, aiming to the left of a clump of trees 60m away and leave the field in another 75m just to the right of its top-left corner, over a ladder stile onto a car wide gravel track by a signpost and *turn left* along it to a road. In 20m, opposite **Halfway House** at a T-junction with a road, *turn right* uphill. Weather permitting, on the long road stretch you have fine views back on the left towards **The Pennine Ridge**. In 230m you have **East Wood** on the right for about 400m, and in another 350m ignore a footpath from the right from 'Written Crag 1'. In 300m enter **Fallowfield** hamlet, which is now just a sprawling farm complex but used to be the centre of a lead mining community.

Ignore a signposted footpath on the left ('Wall $\frac{3}{4}$ ') as you pass through the farm, and a signposted bridleway on the right ('Salmonswell 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ') and leave the farm/hamlet over a cattle grid to continue along the tarmac road. There is a disused quarry in the field on the right. In 260m continue in the same direction along the tarmac drive to **Crag House** (a signposted footpath to 'Hadrian's Wall $\frac{1}{2}$ '), where the road turns to the right along a walled wood. In 20m go through the gateposts and in 50m *turn right* with a marker post to a wooden field gate 20m away and then follow a grass path curving to the left, passing to the right of the landscaped grounds of Crag House. In 100m pass an electricity pole and in 30m *bear left* with a marker post, still to the right of the fenced estate. In 80m go through a wooden field gate and a wide grassy area between fences and in 50m pass another electricity pole to descend steeply into a green valley, with the name-giving, impressive 'Crag' eventually visible on the left.

Leave the field over a stile in its bottom-right hand corner by a footpath signpost pointing backwards (ignore the more obvious wooden field gate about 70m to the left) and then up some steps in a drystone wall onto a road which you cross. Go over a stile opposite and follow a signpost ('Hadrian's Wall $\frac{1}{4}$ '). Aim well to the left of the large **Planetrees Farm**, and in 80m *turn left* over a ladder stile to the left of a metal field gate into an arable field and follow its right-hand boundary, with the picturesque crag up on the left. In 100m *turn right* over a stile into the neighbouring pasture and aim for a ladder stile over a drystone wall 150m away at the far end of the field. En route you cross the line of the **Vallum** (a distinct if shallow ditch with banks here) and pass some way to the right of **a long stretch of Roman Wall**. By the ladder stile, you meet **Hadrian's Wall Path**, with a signpost pointing left to 'Low Brunton $\frac{1}{2}$ m'.

G. Corbridge to Down Hill (by Halton Chesters)

[6.7 km with 188/33m ascent/descent]

Leave **Corbridge Station** from Platform 1 (trains from Carlisle) at the easterly end of the platform down some steps to the left onto a road at a bend by **The Valley** Indian restaurant on the left. Ignore a right turn towards some sports fields and walk down **Station Road** away from the railway line. In 60m pass **The Dyvels Inn** and in 75m continue along the right-hand pavement of a main road. The **River Tyne Trail** runs along the road. You pass a bus stop and at a wide roundabout continue along a tarmac path to the right of it towards a bridge over the **River Tyne**. Ignore a signposted footpath to the right ('**Daft as a Brush**'), cross over to the left-hand side pavement and go over **Corbridge Bridge**. On the far side ignore a signposted footpath down to the water level

and go up into the village. In 50m ignore a left turning road and continue ahead, noting a **bus stop away to the right (Corbridge, Angel Inn)**.

Facing **The Angel Inn**, *turn left* along **Middle Street**. In 50m you pass **The Black Bull** on the right and in 30m pass **Massey's Tea Room** and **Coffuffle Coffee & Truffles**. You pass the **Market Place** with its Grade II-listed **Pant** (a spout providing water for domestic use). There is a sandwich bar and a bakery and **Halcyon House Café** away to the left and the impressive **Pele Tower** by **St. Andrew's Church** on the right. *Turn right* with the road. As you pass the church itself, there is a plaque for **The King's Oven**. Cross **Hill Street** by **The Watling Coffee House** and continue along **Watling Street**. In 70m by **The Wheatsheaf Inn**, you continue in the same direction a little to the left. In 200m ignore **Corchester Lane** on the left (this leads in 800m to **Corbridge Roman Town** (ticketed)), and immediately *turn right* along **St. Helen's Lane**.

In 50m *turn left* along **Hippingstones Lane**. In 130m, just before the lane continues as a gravel drive to some more houses, *veer right* to continue in the same direction along a tarmac path (ignore a right turn into an estate). In 90m go through a wooden gate and pass a school on the left. In 100m pass a plaque by **Hippingstone Field** and continue past **Roman Fields**, the first of two new housing estates. In 120m cross a new road into the estates on the right (**Stanegate Manor** is the name of the second one) and in 50m *turn right* at a T-junction with a narrow tarmac path (a three-way footpath junction, signed 'St. Helen's Lane' backwards). In 20m *turn hard right* with the path between trees, with a slip road to the **A69** and then the A road dual carriageway itself running above to the left. In 320m (ignore a right turn into the new estate) you reach **Milkwell Lane** at a T-junction.

Here you have a choice:

For a 200m each-way out-and-back to some 15m-high heritage kilns (with fantastic views into the Tyne Valley), *turn right* along the lane and in 150m pass a house and in 30m *turn left up some steps* and through a wooden gate and along a **permissive path through private land, so do respect** any signs telling you where not to go (i.e.: just to the kilns).

Else, *turn left* to go under the A road. At the far end of the underbridge, in 25m *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate along a signposted bridleway ('Aydon Castle 1'), also with a small metal cross on it, with the embossed initials CHT (**Corbridge Heritage Trails**). The path of deteriorating tarmac gently rises up a field and soon continues as a gravel-and-grass path. In 350m, with the A road away to the right, the path levels out and you go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate into open countryside. In 50m pass a drystone wall corner on the left and ignore a left turn. In 100m, at a fence corner on the right, curve up to the right with the obvious path to a wooden gate at the higher level with a CHT marker. Go through the gate and *turn left* along the field fence. Due North in the distance, you can see a tower with a flagpole and a church to the right: this is **Halton Castle**, passed later just before getting to the line of **Hadrian's Wall**.

Walk towards the far end of the field and in 170m curve to the right with the path to then *turn left* through a wooden gate with a bridleway marker (another bridleway has joined from the right). Follow a clear path ahead through a large pasture, with some higher ground still away to the right (**Gallow Hill**). In 80m *curve to the left* with the path around the rim of a U-shaped depression on the left and down to a wood. In 170m go through a wooden gate and follow a gravel-and-earth path through the wood, in 20m curving to the left, with a deep dry valley to the left and the edge of the wood on the right, initially on the level. This wood is **covered in wild garlic** in early spring, especially the steep slopes at the far end. Eventually you descend to a crossing of the **Cor Burn** where a tributary

stream joins it from the left, and cross a two-railed concrete footbridge. Between them, they drain the area up to Hadrian's Wall to the west and east of here.

Ignore a path to the left through a wooden gate ('Footpath closed') and *bear right* with the obvious path. You ascend steeply out of the deep valley, with the burn initially still gushing away to the right, rising to the level of **Aydon Castle**. Follow a gravel path through a field gate and then continue between the castle (English Heritage) and a farm along a gravel drive for 180m to a tarmac lane at a bend by a car park on the left, where a public footpath joins from the right out of the wood ('Aydon ½'). Continue in the same direction along the lane, gently rising over about 600m to a brow at point 129m above sea (on the OS map), with the **Hollywell Dene** on the right below. There are fine views from here back to **The Pennines Ridge**. In 500m ignore a left turning lane and continue in the same direction up a cul-de-sac ('Halton ¼'). In 65m you cross the **Stagshawbank Burn** on the lane (this drains the area up to HW for several kilometres to the west and joins the Cor Burn).

You ascend to **Halton Castle** (a pele tower and Grade I listed building with an 17th century Manor House attached, the latter replacing a 15th century manor house) and in 220m you reach a fork in the lane by a CHT marker post away on the right. The route will continue to the right, but first continue ahead and in 60m *turn left* into the churchyard of **The Church of St. Oswald, St. Cuthbert and King Alfwald, Halton** and then to the church (usually open). All three were 8th century Northumbrians, with Alfwald having been murdered, presumed at Chesters (further west along HW) or here at Halton. The exterior walls of this Saxon church re-used stones from **Halton Chesters/Onnum**, the Roman fort just up ahead on HW. Outside the church there is a Roman altar, as well as a bird topiary yew hedge just beyond the church door.

Turn right from the previous direction across the grassy triangle and at the far end of it, *turn right* through a wooden gate just before **Shepherd's House** and *turn left* along the drystone wall on the left. In 120m in the far-left field corner, *turn left* through a wooden gate and in 15m *turn right* along a car wide grassy track. In 70m *bear right* with the track with a wood now on the left and in 100m negotiate a series of metal gates and sheep pens for about 90m and then go through a wooden field gate and follow a broad grassy track between walls. In 120m go through a wooden field gate with a CHT marker and *bear left* along the left-hand field boundary, in 40m passing a marker post. In 100m you pass another marker post and in 30m *veer left* with the wall and head to a point at the top of the field between the wall and **Downhill Wood** up ahead.

In 160m, the disturbed ground to the right is the disused **Downhill Quarry** (post-Roman). The **Vallum** cuts right through the quarry, with a surviving maximum depth of 2.7m and its mounds reaching a height of 1.5m and 1m respectively. At the top of the field, there is a two-way **Hadrian's Wall Path** (HWP) signpost by a stone slab stile 60m away on the left and a footpath signpost just ahead by the side of the (Modern) **Military Road**. **HWP** cuts across from the left towards the quarry. The Wall in this area is mostly covered by the B6318 road, but **remnant of the Wall's base** can be found in the dense wood away to the right, just a few metres inside the modern drystone wall ('a discontinuous bank of rubble 3m wide and 40cm high, with the outside ditch also visible').

II. LINK ROUTES FROM HADRIAN'S WALL PATH (west to east)

A. Haytongate/Lanercost Turnoff to Brampton

[7.7 km with 148/113m ascent/descent]

By a three-way signpost at **Haytongate** farm, with the **Haytongate Farm Snack Hut** on the right through the hedge, some benches on the grassy area on the left and a Portaloo some 30m down the left, *turn left* along a signposted footpath ('Lanercost ½ m') across a grassy area and in 30m pick up the tarmac drive from the farm. In 60m you cross the line of the **Vallum**, clearly identifiable on the left as a bank and ditch. You follow the drive gently downhill, with fine views into the valley of the **River Irthing** and to **Lanercost Priory** on the left ahead, as well as the furthest north-westerly tops of the **Pennines**, including (on a good weather day) **Cross Fell** on 155° and 32km away. In 70m you pass some metal field gates on either side of the drive and in 100m the gradient steepens.

In 250m continue along gravel where the steep part of the descent ends. In 50m *turn left* with the drive, where a car wide signposted bridleway joins from the right from Walton Wood Lodge and in 30m *turn right* with the drive to in 130m reach a signposted four-way road/track junction. *Turn left* ('Gilsland 7') along a left-hand road pavement, in 50m with the wall around the Priory Compound away to the right (partly built from 're-cycled' **Wall stone**). In 140m *turn right* across the road and go through a wooden gate through the compound wall with a footpath signpost ('River Irthing'). In 10m you pass an info panel about the priory and follow the left-hand wall towards the church building for 40m by a wooden gate on the left into the churchyard. There is the base of a medieval **Preaching Cross** a little on the right in the pasture and the church entrance as well as the (ticketed) ruins ahead. The **Lanercost Tea Room** can be found along the tarmac drive on the right and then to the left on the far side of the **Abbey Farm** buildings.

Turn left through the gate into the churchyard and follow a gravel path around to the right through it. In 50m go through a wooden kissing gate into a large riverside meadow and continue along the fence on the right, passing the ruined parts of the priory. In 70m pass a redundant stile by the fence corner on the right and *veer left* (155°) across the meadow towards a three-way signpost by the Irthing 150m away (this is somewhat further to the right than the OS map suggests). At the signpost on a ledge above the river, *turn right* along the **Irthing** (downstream, signed 'Old Bridge') and in 75m continue along the river itself. In another 270m leave the meadow through a metal kissing gate to cross a road leading to a modern river bridge on the left and go through a wooden gate by a footpath signpost into a car parking area.

This is the old road leading to **Lanercost Old Bridge** on the left (built 1724). *Turn left* (ignoring the footpath continuation ahead to 'Burtholme') and cross the bridge and on the far side continue to the junction with the new road 50m away. Cross over to the left-hand side and walk along a narrow grassy margin uphill, while the road crosses the **Quarry Beck**, an Irthing tributary. In 90m *bear left* along a signposted '**Footpath to Brampton**'. You now follow the grassy path uphill through the wood for 1.6 km back onto the road.

In more detail: In 40m go over a minor brow revealing a waterfall just ahead on the left on the **Quarry Beck** in a steep wooded gorge. In 70m pass the fall and follow the path to the right of the beck, in 50m entering a fine bluebell wood for 120m. The valley is now wider and more open and the path less steep. In 70m pass a redundant metal kissing gate and in 30m there are some fenced buildings on the other side of the beck (a stone works and quarry). In 25m go up some steps and follow a wire fence around the grounds of the works. In 50m you pass the entrance gate to the works and cross the drive from the right

to continue along the fence. **Stanegate**, the early Roman Road, crossed here. In 50m the fence discontinues and the path veers away from the beck for 50m. You follow the good path further upstream through the wood, rich in bluebells and wood anemones in season. In 800m you get views of some buildings on the other side of the beck, first a shed then in another 90m **Quarrybeck House** itself. The path rises and veers to the right away from the beck and in 80m you leave the wooded valley through a metal kissing gate onto the road left earlier by a signpost ('**Footpath to Lanercost**' backwards).

Turn right along the road and in 30m *turn left* uphill along a cul-de-sac ('Easby 1'). In 70m you go over a brow by a house on the right and descend with the lane off the ridge. In 150m *turn left* with a signposted bridleway between earth banks then fences ('Coathill 1m'). In 120m go over a brow and pass a bench and in 140m go through a wooden gate into a large pasture and follow its left-hand boundary. In 60m, by the corner of **Riggside Plantation** on the left, you *bear left* and by a subsequent footpath marker post *turn up to the left* along a public footpath through the wood, ignoring the unmarked bridleway continuation along the bottom of the wood. In 160m at the upper end of the wood, *turn right* with the path along a barbed wire fence. In 20m you pass a yellow marker on a fence post and enter **The Ridgewood, Access Land** and owned by the Woodland Trust. Ignore left and right turns and continue in the same direction. In 80m you descend gently and in 50m pass a footpath marker post. In 130m pass the far end of Riggside Plantation on the right, now with views into the Irthing Valley again.

In 60m continue in the same direction through gaps to the right of a couple of wooden field gates either side of a forest track; the public footpath turns right here into the pasture but you continue inside the wood. The path ascends gently for 180m (bluebells in season) where you pass a bench and descend gently to the end of The Ridgewood in another 180m, with **Brampton** visible ahead. *Turn right* out of the wood through a metal kissing gate and *turn left* in the pasture along the public footpath to continue along the top of **Brampton Ridge**. In 250m go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate out of the pasture and continue in the same direction downhill along an earthen car wide track, ignoring a metal kissing gate on the right. In 100m, by **Moat Cottage**, *turn left* downhill with the track by a '**Ridgewalk**' signpost backwards, ignoring a permissive footpath ahead. In 130m curve to the right with the track and in 70m you reach a road by another 'Ridgewalk' signpost. This is **The Swartle** road, all the way from Lanercost. The **A6071** is a further 30m away and there are **bus stops** away to the left along that road.

Here you have a choice:

For a finish at a bus stop in the town centre (cut 1.5 km and 54m ascent), *turn right* along The Swartle and in 30m continue along the main road. In 30m you *turn left* across the road to a metal gate 10m away and *turn right* into **Murray Park** and follow a gravel path towards town. In 140m *fork right* and in 60m leave the park through another gate back onto the road and *turn left* along it. In 200m *turn left* along **High Cross Street**. In 80m you pass a plaque for '**Prince Charlie's House**' and in 60m reach the **Market Place**, with the **Nags Head** opposite. *Turn right* towards the **bus stops for services to Carlisle** (on the left) and **Newcastle** (on the right) further in the town centre, by **The Howard Arms**, **Mr. Brown's** and the **Capon Tree** café on the left and the **Off the Wall** coffee shop and **Shoulder of Mutton** pub (closed) on the right.

For a finish at the train station, cross The Swartle and then the A road and *turn left* along a third road, signed **Castle Carrock** (B6413). In 150m cross a road coming in from the left off the A road and in 40m ignore a right turn to Castle Carrock and Talkin Tarn. In 100m proceed between old railway abutments and in 20m *turn right* across the road to follow a signposted public footpath ('Station 1 mile') steeply up the old railway

embankment. You now follow the dismantled railway line gently uphill **for 1.7 km to Brampton Station**, first along a rough gravel path then a wider forest track.

In more detail: In about 170m you leave the houses of Brampton behind and in 450m go through a subway under the raised **A69**; the path soon levels out and you walk between high earth banks with **Rowbank Wood** up on the right; ignore all permissive paths on the right up into the wood; in about 500m you have open pastures to the left; the track continues on a raised bank and in 100m you pass a pond on the right below; as the track curves to the left, you have fine far views on the left to a nearby low ridge: you walked along it earlier, it contains **Hadrian's Wall Path**; in 90m go through a cut with some raised ground on either side for 60m and in 90m leave the wood through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate. The railway track is on the right and the access to the platforms is 150m away by a road. Newcastle bound trains depart from the near platform, Carlisle bound ones from the far one.

B. Tipalt Burn to Greenhead Bypass

[1.0 km with negligible ascent/descent]

At a four-way path junction by a footbridge over the **Tipalt Burn**, where the **Pow Charney Burn** tributary joins it, go in a southerly direction through a barrier and over a bridge across the Tipalt Burn then through a wooden gate and in the same direction along a wide tarmac track parallel to the Burn (part of **National Cycle Network Route 72**). Another track has joined from the left from a guest house. In 450m *turn right* across a bridge over the Tipalt Burn and *turn left* on the other side along a gravel drive into Greenhead. In 60m you reach a road T-junction near **bus stops for services further along Hadrian's Wall** or on to Haltwhistle Station (Line AD122).

The **Greenhead Hotel** and **Ye Olde Forge Tea Room** are on the right. Cross the road a little to the left and walk down a side road's pavement. You have the **Tipalt Burn** on the left and ignore all ways off and in 320m reach a gated railway level crossing. Once across the railway line, ignore a left fork and head towards a subway under the A69:

- **If taking a bus in the direction of Haltwhistle and Newcastle**, *turn up to the right* along a tarmac path on the near side to the requisite bus stop.
- **If taking a bus in the direction of Carlisle**, go through the subway and *turn up to the left* along a tarmac path on the far side to the requisite bus stop.

C. Cawfield Quarry to Haltwhistle

[4.0 km with 21/83m ascent/descent]

On a lane south west of **Cawfield Quarry**, in a bend of **Hadrian's Wall Path** by the **Haltwhistle Burn**, follow a signposted public footpath ('Haltwhistle Burn Footpath, Haltwhistle 2 ½') in a south westerly direction over a stile to the right of a metal field gate into a grassy strip by the Haltwhistle Burn on the right and a wooden fence on the left. **[!]** In 5m *turn left* through a wooden field gate and *turn right* along a barbed wire fence parallel to the Burn. Burn and path *bear to the left* to continue in a southerly direction as you cross the course of the **Vallum** (no signs of it on the ground) with some higher ground on the left. In about 200m, the burn meanders away to the right (where it is joined by a tributary down from **Haltwhistle Common**) and you follow the fence. In 30m *curve to the left* with a gravel path and cross a stream on an earth bridge. The fence turns away to the right and you ignore a bridge on the right across the burn.

The burn meanders close to the path again and you follow a mostly clear grassy tussocky path along the burn with an electricity line away on the right through the **Roman Military Zone**, with the (modern) **Military Road** ahead (the **B6318**). The Zone consists of several temporary **Roman Marching (or Work) Camps**, to the left (on the low ridge) and away to the right (evidenced by disturbed ground and clear outer banks as well as silted up ditches), two **Roman Cemeteries** (away on the right by the course of the **Roman Road** from the Stanegate to Great Chesters/Aesica Fort), followed by **Haltwhistle Burn Roman Fortlet** and **Stanegate**, the Roman Military Road. The fort was guarding the crossing of the burn by the Stanegate road (**built around AD71**) and was **built around AD105** itself, i.e.: both preceded **Hadrian's Wall** by a few decades. In the fort, the barrack block and officers' quarters are still visible as earthworks but the area disturbed by track works is linked to 19th century ironstone mines 400m east; Stanegate though is clearly identifiable as a prominent curving embankment with side ditches, 8 metres wide, both from the fort above and from near the modern road.

The gradient increases and the burn's flow quickens up and in about 450m, where the burn enters a tunnel under '**New Bridge**', carrying the B road, you go through a wooden kissing gate and up some stone steps and *turn right* to cross the tunnel entrance and follow a clear path for 100m to the road by **Newbridge Farm** and a two-way **Haltwhistle Burn Footpath** (HBF) signpost ('Haltwhistle, Cawfields ½'). The **Milecastle Inn** is located 240m back along the Military Road in an easterly direction. Continue along the grassy strip to the right of the road and in 170m *turn left* across the road to a HBF signpost ('Haltwhistle 2'). Go through a wooden kissing gate and descend along a clear path to the level of the burn. The black slope ahead is a sign of **coal spoils from former mines**. In 100m *curve to the right* along the Burn and in 40m go through a wooden kissing gate. In 20m cross the burn over a wooden footbridge by some rock face on the left, the first of many rock faces and the tame beginning of the dramatic sandstone **Burn Gorge** leading to Haltwhistle.

In 100m pass some **limestone kilns** on either side of the burn (the one on the left is higher up and partly collapsed, the one on the right is at burn level and in good shape but may be hidden behind foliage in high summer). In 50m go through a wooden kissing gate and in 25m you can spot a noteworthy rock face on the left above, in it you can see **sedimentary 'wave' ripples** laid down millions of years ago. *Curve to the left* with the path and Burn, still in the wide open countryside. In 60m you pass the remains of a **coal drift mine** (Fell Chimney, East End Pit, part of the engine house) and now follow the track-bed of the **narrow gauge railway** from Cawfield Quarry (road-stone) to the railway line in the **South Tyne Valley**. In 160m cross a footbridge to the right bank of the burn. The gorge is now too narrow for industry and the path is running closely along the burn. In 180m pass a bench and *turn hard left* with the gorge and you have last views behind up to a farm at a higher level. In 70m navigate a mud-prone stretch by a high rockface on the right followed by a right turn. The burn bed is filled with rocks off the rock faces on either side, rather than the pebbles and gravel seen earlier.

In 180m you *turn right* with the path and burn by another exposed rock face across the water and in 100m pass the disused **Lees Hall Sandstone Quarry** (with a band of **coal sandwiched between the sandstone**). Close observation here reveals the line of a **mill race** on the other burn bank some metres above the stream. It fed a mill further downstream, the site of which is passed soon. In 12m *turn left* through a wooden gate to go over a two-railed wooden footbridge back to the left bank where a public footpath bears away to right. In 30m an **old ford** crosses where there are stone wall remnants right by the path: this was the site of **High Mill**. In 35m a road is coming down the hillside on the other side by a lone cottage and you pass some picnic tables (the **Slaty Sike** tributary joins the burn on the right). In 30m the river bed is now rushing over a **sloping sheet of**

sandstone instead of pebbles and broken bedrock [the geological reason for the sloping is the same as for the crags on which Hadrian's Wall runs: upwards push in the north from the Cheviot Massif, downwards pull into the fault north of the Pennines].

In 50m *curve to the left* with the path and Burn, by a couple of white cottages on the far side. The path runs somewhat away from the burn for a while past some more wall remnants, the remains of **Low Mill**, a water-driven **fulling mill** founded by Quakers. In 70m you pass a footpath marker post indicating a crossing, by some steps up to the left and a path up from the right from a footbridge. In 20m you have some low wall bits on the right and a rock face on the left. Boulders off the crag face line the path here. In 50m *turn right* with the path and Burn. In the river you can see remains of bridge abutments, which linked two **brickworks** on either burn side. In 20m you can spot a walled wet area on the left, a runnel of water and a concrete tunnel. This was the entrance to an old **coal drift mine** (working until the early 20th century). The following overgrown slopes on the left are mostly spoil heaps from the mine workings. In 100m go through a wooden kissing gate and in another 40m pass a HBF footpath signpost ('Cawfields 1 ¾' backwards). Ignore a bridge over the burn on the right and pass the fenced off **Old Brickworks and Pipeworks** (on the site of the former **South Tyne Colliery** (1840s) with its square chimney).

In 90m by a large metal entrance gate into some modern works, *turn right* across the river on a car wide bridge and continue uphill on the far side along **Willia Road**. Ignore a left turning footpath ('Townfoot ½') and continue gently uphill along the road. In 60m pass a small car park on the left with a **Burn Field Village Green** notice board and **three good info panels**. Continue along Willia Road for 260m to a T-junction with **Fair Hill**, cross the road and *turn right* opposite. In 50m *turn left* along the tree-lined **Aesica Road** towards the 'Town Centre'. In 200m you meet **Main Street/Westgate** at a T-junction. Away to the left you find the Market Place **bus stop for services to Carlisle or Newcastle**, as well as **Oceans** fish & chips, **Jethros**, **The Pillar Box Café** (in a courtyard on the left), **Haltwhistle Tandoori**, **The Black Bull** pub, a **Brew Bar**, the **Manor House Inn** and the **Centre of Britain** hotel and restaurant.

For Haltwhistle Station and other tea options, *turn right* along **Westgate**. You pass the Westgate **bus stop for services to Carlisle or Newcastle** and in 230m *bear left* with the road by **The Jubilee**, just before **Park Road** joins from the right, descending into the valley of the **River South Tyne**. In 50m cross the **B6322** (by **The Railway** on the left) and continue down **Station Road** to **Haltwhistle Station** 50m away, some way down to the left. Newcastle bound trains depart from the near platform 1, Carlisle bound trains from the far platform 2 (reached via an overbridge).

D. Housesteads to Bardon Mill

Via Thorngrifton Common [5.7 km with 84/261m ascent/descent] **or**
Via Vindolanda Roman Fort [6.9 km with 65/245m ascent/descent]

Both Routes: From the **Hadrian's Wall Path** signpost at the north westerly corner of **Housesteads/Borcovicium Roman Fort**, *turn right down* along the fort's wall. The inner area of the walled fort is ticketed but can be walked around as this is **Access Land**, and anyhow there are many info panels placed in the non-ticketed areas just below it. Head further downhill from the fort and pass the **Housesteads Museum** (hot drinks and some snacks) on the right, to continue along a tarmac drive bearing right downhill. Ignore a left running gravel path to the **Visitor Centre**, **Housesteads Roman Fort Café**, **Car Park** and **bus stop** (on the B6318 below) 750m away and pass **Housesteads Farm** on the

right. In 150m you cross the line of the **Vallum** (without any traces) and go through a wooden gate to the right of a cattle grid and continue along the drive, now with the earthworks of Romano-British **Cultivation Plots** on the flank on the right.

Eventually you go through a wooden field gate onto the **A6318**, the (modern) **Military Road** and cross it a little to the right and continue with a signposted bridleway over a ladder stile to the left of a wooden field gate ('Please use the stile') into a large pasture hillside. Descend along a clear grass path along an overgrown wall base and in 100m at the bottom of the drop, by scattered boulders, you pass remnants of a drystone wall. You *bear left* uphill along a grass track and in 130m *bear right* with the track to cut through a crag (**Little Shield**) by a low footpath marker post. With a **tumulus** visible away to the left (on the OS map) and with **Grindon Lough** away to the left in a neighbouring valley, you *bear right* with the grass path. In 100m *veer a little to the left* with the faint path through a mud-prone tussocky area at the bottom of the drop, then *bear right* uphill. In 70m *veer to the left* through a gash in a small scarp (**Green Brae** on the OS map) and continue to a low marker post 80m away along a clear grassy track through tussocky ground. At the post you meet a track from a drystone wall on the right and on to the **East Crindledykes Farm** down on the left.

Turn left downhill along the track. In 40m, at another marker post close to the farm, *bear left* away from the track to a wooden field gate 30m away just to the left of the farm buildings, in a dip. Go through the gate and up to another gate to continue to the left of the farm and pick up the tarmac drive away from it. The drive is scenically undulating with **Barcombe Hill** ahead with the '**Long Stone**' monument on its right-hand ridge dominating views ahead. In clear weather you can see **Cross Fell** (on 195°) 35 km away. In 420m you go over a cattle grid onto a road at a T-junction by a bridleway signpost ('Military Road $\frac{3}{4}$ ' backwards). The road running left to right is on the course of **Stanegate**, the **Roman Military Road** preceding Hadrian's Wall by a few decades. *Turn right* along it, gently uphill. In 60m ignore a left turning road ('Thorngrafton 1, Bardon Mill 2') and continue along the walled near flank of Barcombe Hill. Up on the left, on 235°, you can spot the trigpoint up on the hill. In 80m pass a National Cycle Route 72 signpost on the left ('aka **Hadrian's Cycleway**') and in 100m a perpendicular wall in the field on the right.

In 230m pass a usually locked field gate in the drystone wall on the left and in 30m ignore a metal field gate on the right into a new plantation. Above on the left is the area of the Barcombe Hill **Iron Age settlement** (also the site of a later **Roman Signal Station**). You descend gently over 150m to a three-way road junction with the valley of the **Bradley Burn** ahead. A right turn along the road gets you past a **limestone quarry** to the imposing **Crindledykes Lime Kiln** with its info panel and standing stone milestone. *Bear left* with the main road along the flank of Barcombe Hill, while Stanegate's course veers off to the right into the field (worth a peek over the wall) and curving left towards **Vindolanda Roman Fort**. You have fine views up onto the '**Long Stone**' (apparently a memorial to colliers who lost their lives in a 19th century mining accident at Chainley Burn) on the ridge, and ahead to the half right to the excavated parts of **Vindolanda** and the replica **Roman Wall** in the far-left corner of the site. In 20m a signposted footpath turns left through a wooden kissing gate into the **Access Land** of Barcombe Hill ('Thorngrafton 1').

Here you have a choice:

For the Finish via Vindolanda Roman Fort, continue along the road and pick up the directions below.

For the finish via Thorngrafton Common, *turn left* through the gate into **Access Land** and *bear right* along a clear ascending path up to the scarp of the hill. In 250m, by a

footpath marker post, *bear left* to an obvious notch in the northerly scarp 10m away and go through the gap onto the hilltop plateau. Continue ahead along a narrow grassy path (145°) and in 50m meet a car wide grass track up from the left by the brow of the rise at about 270m above sea level. The trigpoint is away to the left at 279m above sea level. Behind you, there are views to **Hadrian's Wall** and the area just walked through: in the middle distance is the line of **craggs that carry HW**, running west from Housesteads Crag (15°) via Hotbank, Highshield and Peels Craggs and Steel Rigg to HW's highest point on Winshield Crag (280°). Nearby in the valley below, West and East **Crindledykes** Farms and **The Knowe**, as well as (on 350°) **the large limekiln** to the west of those farms.

Continue ahead to a metal field gate in a drystone wall 30m away. Walk through the gate into **Thorngrafton Common**, with the land dropping down towards **Thorngrafton** and the **South Tyne Valley** beyond. The exit from the walled common is through a metal field gate and along a track in its bottom-right corner, more or less due South from here. There are confusingly many tracks, tyre marks or animal trods crossing the common, so pick any good route downhill broadly halfway between the walls to the left and right and on a 190° bearing until you pick clear grass tracks close to the exit. The last stretch is mud-prone but short. **Leave the Access Land** through the gate with a yellow marker and continue along the car wide track towards **Thorngrafton**. In 65m go over a ladder stile to the left of a metal field gate and in 150m a public footpath joins on the left over a ladder stile out of a pasture. In 90m the walls discontinue and in 30m you pass the first house in the village: **The Bastle House** (a fortified house in this land of border reivers, usually with walls a metre thick and small or no windows). *Turn left* by a subsequent two-way signpost, with **West End Town Farm** and a double wooden field gate on the right.

In 90m by **Croydon Cottage** *turn right* with the lane to a junction with a road at a bend in 30m. *Bear right* downhill into the valley, in 80m passing **The Hott**. There are still some of **The North Pennines** in view (Byers Pike, SE of Brampton on 250° is identifiable by its trigpoint) as you descend steeply. In 270m a signposted footpath joins from the left and in 200m you *turn left* at a three-way junction. In 160m the lane leads under the raised **A69** and in 90m you reach a crossing of the main road through **Bardon Mill**, by a bus stop on the left ('Memorial'). The name-giving mill, **The Bowes Hotel** with its **bus stop** and **Bardon Mill Village Store and Tea Room** are all well away on the right. [!] Cross the road and continue in the same direction along a quiet lane and in 100m you meet the railway at a level crossing, with the platforms of **Bardon Mill Station** some way to the right. For Carlisle bound trains, cross the tracks and *turn right* along a path. For Newcastle bound trains, *turn right* along a path this side of the crossing.

Housesteads to Bardon Mill (via Vindolanda Fort)

Continues from above...

In 300m a footpath joins out of the field on the right over a stone slab stile and you continue in the same direction along the road, with the **Bradley Burn** valley down below. In 100m a wooden kissing gate on the left gives access to the **Access Land** of the hill, with a clear path leading up to the ridge, 50m before a perpendicular drystone wall in the field on the right. In 300m *turn right* downhill, signed 'Roman Vindolanda Fort & Museum'. Ahead in the distance and away to the right, you can see the imposing crags along which Hadrian's Wall runs. The road passes the East Car Park and then drops below the level of the fort and near the bottom of the drop, in **Chesterholm** hamlet, a left turning tarmac drive (a signposted footpath to 'Bardon Mill 1 1/2') leads to the **Museum and Visitor**

Centre entrance of the Fort and the Staff and Disabled Car Park. The **Vindolanda Fort Café** is in the ticketed area.

Here you have a choice:

For the shorter and low level route, passing Vindolanda's main Visitor Centre and Museum but offering no more views of the fort's site, *turn left* to and past the right fork to the **Museum and Visitor Centre** and in another 25m you come to a fork in the path, with public footpaths following both forks. **You can take either path** here, as they do re-unite in 400m. The right fork is largely level and follows the burn, but is flood-prone after heavy rain. The left fork rises to continue high above the valley of the burn with fine vistas and crosses it on a footbridge.

Right fork: walk downhill along a wire fence and in 100m by the ticketed gardens and a multi-stepped weir and Roman Bridge in the grounds of Vindolanda *bear left* with the path along the burn. In 15m *turn right* over a two-railed concrete bridge and follow the burn on its right-hand side. There is a steep crag face on the left and in 40m you ignore remnants of a simple steel bridge across the burn and go right up some steps and follow the path. There are then some sections of boardwalks and you go through a few squeeze stiles to a crossing (on a boardwalk) of the **Doe Sike** tributary. The boardwalk discontinues and you follow a path to a last squeeze stile 50m away and then ascend up a rise in 50m. You can see a footbridge across the burn a little ahead on the left below and a ruined farm enclosure and building just ahead. The other route joins from the bridge. Continue ahead.

Left fork: ascend past a shed on the left and in 30m *turn right* by a marker post and walk along the top of a steep hanging wood. In 70m go over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate into a pasture and *bear right* (210°) gently downhill across it, at some distance from the fence and trees on the right and aim for a wooden kissing gate 170m away, but initially out of sight. From the gate, descend to a raised and railed footbridge over the burn 100m away to cross the burn and *veer right* to steeply ascend a bank and in 40m you reach a clear path at a T-junction. The other route joins from the right. *Turn left*.

Pass the ruined farm enclosure and building ahead and in 70m you reach the top of the rise and *veer left* to in 30m go through a wooden gate with a yellow marker. Follow a wire fence and in 70m go through a metal field gate to follow a car wide gravel farm track. The steep wooded slope on the left side of the valley contains a disused colliery (there is a large landslipped spoil heap visible further along). In 110m pass a white rendered cottage (**Low Fogrigg** on the OS map), where another footpath joins from the right over a stile. In 40m the drive fords a tributary burn (with a bridge to the left) and you ascend to a white wooden field gate in 60m. The drive levels out in 70m where another track joins from the right behind. You are high above the **Chainley Burn** now and in 110m enter a small wood and ascend further. Leave the wood at the top of the rise over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate and then pass **Cragside Riding Stables**. *Turn right* with the drive (in 30m along tarmac), with some vistas into the **South Tyne Valley**. In 140m go through a metal field gate and in 20m you reach a road at a bend. *Turn left* downhill at a bend of a tarmac lane by a footpath signpost and pick up the directions at the asterisk below *).

For the longer and high level route, passing around the perimeter of Vindolanda Fort's site with all-encompassing views of the fort remains, keep ahead on the tarmac road (again on the course of **Stanegate**), steeply out of the valley. In 60m you cross **Bradley Burn** (down from HW), just before where a signposted public footpath joins from the right. In another 130m cross **Brackies Burn** (also down from HW) on the track, by **Cotley Gate Farm** on the left, and start the steep ascent out of the valley. At the top of the steep rise, go through or past a wooden car gate and continue with the NCN Route along the wall around the Vindolanda site, with occasional views into it to the excavated ruins. In 200m

you pass the car park entrance for visitors to **Vindolanda**. In another 100m *turn left* through a wooden field gate and along a car wide gravel track between loosely wooded tussocky fields, along a restricted byway and on the level. The excavated ruins of the fort are visible across a pasture on the left, this side of the steep **valley of the Chainley Burn** with the imposing **Barcombe Hill** beyond.

In 250m go through a wooden field gate and in another 50m start the descent off **Kingcairn Hill**. In 70m (ignore a footpath joining from the right en route), *bear right* at a three-way track junction (a public footpath joins from the left from **High Fogrigg** farm). In 100m cross the **Kingcairn Burn** on the track and in another 140m the **Bean Burn**. In 240m continue in the same direction at a bend of a tarmac lane and in 120m *turn left* at a three-way road junction along Park Lane, ignoring the continuation towards 'Henshaw'. You have **Huntercrook Plantation** on the right and in 250m ignore a drive on the left from **Parkhead Farm**. The road starts to descend into the valley of the **Chainley Burn** and in 280m, at a left bend, you ignore a public footpath forking right unmarked into a field. In another 200m, where the road turns right, a public footpath joins from the left along the drive to **Cragside Riding School** ('Vindolanda 1', 'Hadrian's Wall 1 ½'). The low level route joins along this drive. *Turn right* with the road.

*) In 230m you continue in the same direction uphill along a main road joining from the left ('Bardon Mill ¼') and in 50m at the top of the rise, *turn left* with it, then right by **Cragside Farm**. In 90m *turn left* along a signposted footpath ('Bardon Mill ½') along the drive to **Bankhead Farm** through a metal field gate and in 50m go over a cattle grid or through a gap to the left and follow the track. In 100m, where the car wide track bears left to the farmhouse, you continue ahead a little to a wooden kissing gate and *turn right* through it and then left through a pasture along a boundary wall. In 80m go through a wooden gate and gently descend along a tarmac path to a signpost near the noisy **A69**.

Turn right to cross the A road carefully and *turn left* on the far side with the path to the yard of **Errington Reay pottery** 90m away. *Turn right* through the yard to a signpost by the main road through **Bardon Mill** village 50m away ('Henshaw 1 ¼' backwards). The name-giving mill is away to the left, the village green is opposite, with **Bardon Mill Village Store and Tea Room** on its right-hand side, **The Bowes Hotel** is on the right, and an unmarked **bus stop** along the road to the right. Cross the road and continue along **Station Road** to the left of the green. In 110m *turn left* towards **Bardon Mill Station**. In 35m pick up a tarmac path and cross the **Chainley Burn** on it and in 50m you reach platform 1 for services to Newcastle. Carlisle bound trains depart from the far platform 2, reached via a tarmac path to a level crossing beyond the far end of this platform and another tarmac path back along the tracks on the other side of the level crossing.

E. B6318 near Walwick to Hexham

[9.1 km with 62/123m ascent/descent]

Leave **Hadrian's Wall Path** by turning off the B6318 with the **River Tyne Trail** (RTT) along the **B6319 Homer's Lane** with a signpost for 'Haydon Bridge 6, Warden 3, Fourstones 2 ½'. You follow the road downhill **into the Tyne Valley** and leave the line of **Hadrian's Wall** behind, cross the **Roman Military Road** and the **Vallum** (without any traces), with **Chesters Roman Fort and Museum** well away to the left. In 300m you get views into the valley of the **River North Tyne** on the left. In another 650m, just before a dip in the road (a stream crossing), you can see four **medieval fishponds** in the field on the right; they belonged to **Walwick Grange**, which is just ahead on the left (18th century, Grade II*-listed). Cross the stream and in 40m *turn right* with the road, where a public

footpath joins from the right over a stone slab stile, and *turn left* immediately along a minor road in the previous direction ('Warden 2 ¼', 'Hexham 4 ¾').

In 730m, at a bend in the road by another stream crossing, you pass a **Medieval Wayside Cross** on the left (minus its upper shaft). This is where **Stanegate**, the pre-HW Roman Road, met the North Tyne. **Warden Hill**, up on the right, is the location of an **Iron Age British Camp**. You continue through a few ups and downs on the road, ignoring a right turning tarmac drive (a bridleway) to High Warden Farm and Thistlerigg, as well as in another 50m a private drive to High Warden, and eventually descend towards **Warden** village. The road turns to the right and back to the left just before the village, and at a three-way junction, you get views of **St. Michael, Warden Church** away on the left (**built from Roman stone**, most likely from Chesters Fort) and *turn right* away from the village. Up on the right, is the site of a now tree-topped **Norman Motte**.

In 380m *turn left* with the road towards a railway bridge, ignoring a public footpath ahead and in 50m go under the bridge into **Bridge End** hamlet and in 40m you reach a road junction by **The Boatside Inn**. Continue in the same direction (there is a signposted footpath on the left to '**The Watersmeet**', where North and South Tyne meet) to cross the **River South Tyne** on a road bridge along its right-hand pavement. On the far side, notice the former **toll house**, and *turn left* along a tarmac cul-de-sac with the National Cycle Network Route 72 (the marked right-of-way does not run along the river here, as the OS map suggests). In 170m, *turn hard left* back on yourself, along a narrow footpath to the right of a garden fence to a marker post by the river but somewhat above the water level, and *turn right*. In 120m you go under a railway bridge and in 150m the path veers away from the river to the right (fork right here) to in 25m pass a **Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care** marker stone. In about 100m you are level with **The Watersmeet** on the left. In 40m, a path to the left leads to the beach with fine views up the North Tyne.

In 550m you go under the raised **A69** and in 50m ignore a double metal field gate on the right and *bear left* with the path and the **River Tyne**. In 100m cross a stream on a wooden footbridge and in 70m you have a wall on the right, hiding the railway line and the NCN Route 72. In 20m go up some steps onto the cycleway and follow it, with the railway to the right of it behind the wall and at slightly elevated level. In 210m you pass an info panel by some buttresses in the riverbed of the long dismantled **Border Counties Railway**. In 40m the wall discontinues and you have a wooden fence on the right, now level with the tracks. The path drops to continue below the track level and in 50m you pass some steps down to the water level. In 220m, 30m before a level crossing, *fork left* to the left of a hedge and follow the footpath with the RTT along the Tyne. In 20m you pass a **Tyne Green Country Park** sign and enter **Tynedale Golf Club** and continue between trees. In 1.1 km ignore a two-railed concrete footbridge on the right to continue along the river.

In 350m, just before **Hexham Bridge**, ignore a left turn to the river and *turn right* along a tarmac track. In 80m *turn left* to go under a low bridge carrying the **A6079** and *turn right* on the far side along a shared tarmac cycle and footpath. In 50m you rise up to the road level at a roundabout and *turn left* along a side road, signed for 'Tyne Mills Ind. Estate' and 'Station Car Park'. In 100m *curve to the right* with the road and in 120m *turn right* to **Hexham Station** 50m away. Newcastle bound trains depart from the near platform 1, Carlisle bound ones from the far platform 2. The **Platform Bar** is on the far side of the station, and from there, the **Station Inn** is away to the left across a road. **Plenty more tea options** as well as the town's **Bus Station**, are further to the left **up along Station Road** and its continuation **Priestpopple**, in the town centre.

F. Planetrees to Hexham

[6.7 km with 80/208m ascent/descent]

By a ladder stile, you leave **Hadrian's Wall Path**, with a public footpath signpost pointing away from the road and wall ('Fallowfield'). **A Pennine Journey** (APJ), a Long-Distance Footpath, runs along it. En route you pass some way to the left of **a long stretch of Roman Wall** and cross the line of the **Vallum** (a distinct if shallow ditch with banks here). Aim for a stile on the far side of the pasture, with a picturesque crag up ahead across another field. In 150m enter an arable field over a stile and *turn left* along its boundary. In 100m go over a ladder stile into a pasture, with **Planetrees Farm** away to the left, and *turn right* towards a road. In 80m leave the field over a stile by a signpost and cross a road to then go up some steps through a drystone wall with a footpath signpost ('Fallowfields ¾') to enter a large pasture in its bottom-left corner over a stile. You have entered the **Crag House** estate and rise steeply out of the green valley towards and past an electricity pole at the top of the rise, with the name-giving 'Crag' on the right.

At the top, broadly follow the electricity line along a grass path between fenced fields. In 50m go through a wooden field gate to the left of the fenced grounds and in 80m *bear to the right* with a marker post and in 30m pass an electricity pole and then follow a grass path curving to the right, but passing to the left of the landscaped grounds of the house. In 100m go through a wooden field gate and in 20m *turn left* with a marker post along the tarmac drive from the house. In 50m go through some gateposts and in 20m (by a footpath signpost backwards to 'Hadrian's Wall') continue in the same direction where a road joins from the left along a walled wood. Weather permitting, on this stretch you have fine views on the right towards **The Pennine Ridge**. There is a disused quarry in the field on the left. In 240m enter **Fallowfield** farm/hamlet over a cattle grid.

Ignore a signposted bridleway on the left ('Salmons Well 1 ½') and a signposted footpath on the right ('Wall') as you pass through this rather large farm/hamlet to continue along the descending tarmac road. In 620m pass **East Wood** (en route ignore a footpath from the left from 'Written Crag') and in 230m from the end of the wood, you reach the buildings of **Halfway House** farm, first a corrugated iron barn, then the farmhouse, and **[!]** *turn left* along the drive signed for **East Wood House**, a car wide gravel track. In 20m *turn right* with a signpost ('Acomb ½, Fallowfield Dene ½') over a stile and *bear left* diagonally through it, aiming to the right of a clump of trees and then to the left of a farmhouse (**Low Engine Cottage**) 60m past that. Past the house, *veer to the right*, and in 80m leave the pasture over a ladder stile with footpath and APJ markers. In a large arable field, you *turn right* along its grassy right-hand boundary.

In about 400m, at the far end of the field at a drop, *turn left* with a marker post to cross a very narrow linking corridor between two arable fields and walk down a left-hand arable field boundary. At the bottom of the small drop, *turn left* into a wood and cross the **Red Burn** (down from very close to Hadrian's Wall) on a two-railed concrete bridge and go up a stepped path out of the valley. At the top of the rise, in the village of **Acomb** (pronounced 'Yeckam'), continue along a grass path between fences. In 100m ignore a right turning footpath and in 50m pass a marker post and continue along a car wide gravel track joining from the left. In 85m you reach a road at a T-junction by a footpath signpost with an APJ marker ('Halfway House ½, Fallowfield Dene 1' backwards). The **Sun Inn** is 25m away on the right and **The Queen's Arms Hotel** another 50m in that direction.

Turn left with the APJ uphill along **Main Street** and in 40m you pass **The Miners Arms** on the right, then in another 30m a **bus stop for services to Hexham**. At **Acomb Square**, a triangular square with a Grade II-listed **Pant** (a spout providing water for domestic use) with adjacent hydrant in the middle, you *turn right* and continue along a tarmac lane. In

40m a signposted footpath joins from the right and in 75m you continue along gravel to the left of the walled grounds of **Acomb House**. In 65m a steep descent commences into a valley and in 180m you cross the **Birkey Burn** (down from Hadrian's Wall) on a stone bridge. On the far side, *turn right* along a public footpath into a wood and follow a clear path up to and along its upper boundary. [The uphill track would be a shorter route but omits the upcoming interesting church and some fine views.] In 125m *turn left* through a metal gate by a marker post (another footpath joins from the right) out of the wood into a grassy hillside and walk uphill along a right-hand fenced garden.

In 40m continue in the same direction where the fence discontinues and in 50m continue either side of a hedge (it discontinues before any route change) and ascend further out of the valley. Beyond the end of the hedge, you go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate out of the open hillside by a footpath signpost ('Acomb ½' backwards) with a **Northern Saints Trail** marker. At a three-way tarmac lane junction, continue in the same direction along a tree-lined lane, now with the outsized (for the location) **St. John Lee Church** visible ahead. In 130m *turn right* through the lychgate to the church entrance 50m away (usually open and well worth a visit). Continue along the lane and in 60m curve left with the lane. In 180m a cul-de-sac joins from the left and at the subsequent multi-road junction, you *turn right*. In 65m go over a brow and start the descent into the **Tyne Valley** along the tree-lined lane, with fine views to **Hexham's** higher parts. In 250m *turn right* at a three-way junction and in 100m *turn left* at another one ('Hexham 1').

You cross the **A69** on a bridge and *turn left* with the tarmac lane between trees, ignoring a right turn to **The Hermitage**, a small stately house. There are pastures on the right and you drop down from the level of the A road, separated by a high brick wall, to leave the road noise behind for a while. In 240m, the car wide track starts to ascend while curving to the left with the noise from the A69 increasing again and in 100m you *turn right* along the pavement of the **A6079 Rotary Way**. In 550m cross **Hexham Bridge** over the **River Tyne**. On the far side, in 60m at a roundabout, *turn left* across the A road and continue along a side road, signed for 'Tyne Mills Ind. Estate' and 'Station Car Park'. In 100m *curve to the right* with the road and in 120m *turn right* to **Hexham Station** 50m away.

Newcastle bound trains depart from the near platform 1, Carlisle bound ones from the far platform 2. The **Platform Bar** is on the far side of the station, and from there, the **Station Inn** is away to the left across a road. **Plenty more tea options** as well as the town's **Bus Station**, are further to the left **up along Station Road** and its continuation **Priestpopple**, in the town centre.

G. Down Hill (by Halton Chesters) to Corbridge

[6.7 km with 33/188m ascent/descent]

You leave **Hadrian's Wall Path** (HWP) at the top of a field between a footpath signpost ('Halton ¾') by the side of the (Modern) **Military Road** near **Downhill Wood** and a field boundary drystone wall with a two-way HWP signpost by a stone slab stile, to go downhill away from the road. The HWP cuts across from the right towards some disturbed ground away to the left. A remnant of the Wall's base can be found in the dense wood away to the left, just a few metres inside the modern wall ('a discontinuous bank of rubble 3m wide and 40cm high, with the outside ditch also visible'). The disturbed ground is the disused **Downhill Quarry** (post-Roman) and the **Vallum** cuts right through the quarry, with a surviving maximum depth of 2.7m and its mounds reaching a height of 1.5m and 1m respectively. *Bear right* down the field to converge with the drystone wall on the right.

At a wall corner, *veer right* with the wall, pass a couple of footpath marker posts, and 40m from the second post *turn right* through a wooden field gate with a **Corbridge Heritage Trail** marker on the reverse (a small metal cross, with the embossed initials CHT). Follow a broad grassy track between walls and in 120m go through a wooden field gate and then negotiate a series of metal gates and sheep pens for about 90m, with a wood on the right. In 90m *bear left* with the track away from the wood and in 70m *turn left* to a wooden gate 15m away. Go through the gate and *turn right* in a pasture's corner along a drystone wall. In 120m *turn right* through a wooden gate by **Shepherd's House** and *bear left* (i.e.: do not turn hard left) along the right-hand tarmac fork by a grassy triangle, towards a church. Go into the churchyard of **The Church of St. Oswald, St. Cuthbert and King Alfwald, Halton** and then to the church (usually open). All three were 8th century Northumbrians, with Alfwald having been murdered, presumed at Chesters (further west along HW) or here at Halton. The exterior walls of this Saxon church re-used stones from **Halton Chesters/Onnum**, the Roman fort just up on HW.

Outside the church there is a Roman altar, as well as a bird topiary yew hedge just beyond the church door. From the far end of the churchyard, you can see **Halton Castle** (a pele tower and Grade I listed building with an 17th century Manor House attached, the latter replacing a 15th century manor house). Return to the tarmac lane outside the churchyard and *turn right* downhill along it (i.e.: turning left from the previous walk direction before inspecting the church), passing a CHT marker post at a drystone wall corner on the left. In 200m you cross the **Stagshawbank Burn** on the lane (this drains the area up to HW for several kilometres to the west) and in 65m you ignore a right turn and continue in the same direction along the lane ('Aydon Castle $\frac{3}{4}$ '), eventually gently rising to a brow at point 129m above sea (on the OS map), with the **Hollywell Dene** on the left below. You have fine views ahead to the Pennines and to Ayden Castle.

Where the tarmac lane turns hard left by a car park on the right and a car wide gravel track continues ahead, you continue along the track ahead, ignoring a public footpath on the left into a wood ('Aydon $\frac{1}{2}$ '). The track eventually passes between a farm and the remains of **Ayden Castle** (English Heritage). Past the castle, you go through a field gate and follow an earthen path steeply down into a wooded valley, with a burn initially gushing away to the left. This wood is **covered in wild garlic** in early spring, especially the steep slopes at this end. The path leads down to a crossing of the **Cor Burn**, where a tributary stream joins it from the right (ignore a path to the right through a wooden gate ('Footpath closed')). Between them, they drain the area back up to Hadrian's Wall to the west and east of here. Cross a two-railed concrete footbridge and *bear left* with the obvious path, soon ascending steeply out of the deep valley. Near the top of the rise, you follow the edge of the wood on the left with a deep dry valley to the right. *Bear right* with the path and in 30m leave the wood through a wooden gate.

Bear left with a clear path up a pasture and stay to the left of the rim of a U-shaped depression on the right with some fine **views up the Tyne Valley** towards **Hexham**, to then *curve to the right* with the path, with higher ground away to the left (**Gallow Hill**). In 80m go through a wooden gate with a bridleway marker and *turn right* in a pasture (ignore another bridleway turning left). *Curve to the left* with the path and follow the field fence. Due North in the distance, you can see a tower with a flagpole and a church to the right: this is **Halton Castle**, passed earlier near the line of **Hadrian's Wall**. In 200m, *turn right* through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate with a CHT marker on the reverse and descend to a slightly lower pasture to *turn left* through it along a clear path. In 100m pass a drystone wall corner on the right and ignore a right turn. In 50m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate out of the open countryside. You have the audible **A69** away to the left and descend with a gravel-and-earth, then deteriorating tarmac track and in 350m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate by a

bridleway signpost ('Aydon Castle 1' backwards) and *turn left* along **Milkwell Lane**. In 25m go under the A road.

On the far side of the underbridge you have a choice:

For a 200m each-way out-and-back to some 15m-high heritage kilns (with fantastic views into the Tyne Valley), continue along the lane and in 150m pass a house and in 30m *turn left up some steps* and through a wooden gate and along a **permissive path through private land, so do respect** any signs telling you where not to go (i.e.: just to the kilns).

Else, you *turn right* by a signpost along a bridleway tarmac path 'to Cow Lane' with trees on the right and with the A road dual carriageway itself and then a slip road to the **A69** running above them. Ignore a left turn into a new estate en route and in 320m *bear left* with the path and in 20m *turn left* along a signposted public footpath ('St. Helen's Lane') into **Corbridge**. You follow a broad tarmac path to the right of a couple of new housing estates (**Stanegate Manor** and **Roman Fields**), in 60m crossing a new road. In 70m ignore a path from the right and pass some school grounds on the right behind a hedge. In 60m you pass a plaque by **Hippingstone Field** on the left and in 100m go through a wooden gate. In 90m continue along a road (**Hippingstones Lane**) and in 130m *turn right* along **St. Helen's Lane** at a T-junction. In 50m *turn left* at a T-junction with **Stagshaw Road**, the B6529. Ignore **Corchester Lane** on the right (this leads in 800m to **Corbridge Roman Town** (ticketed)).

In 80m cross to the right-hand pavement and in another 80m *turn left* with the road where a bridleway joins from the right, and in 20m, by **The Wheatsheaf** on the left, you *turn right* with the main road, now called **Watling Street**. In 40m pass the **Emporium Ice Cream Parlour** on the right, and in 30m the **Watling Coffee House** on the left at the corner of Hill Street, with **The Blue Bell** pub down the left. In 35m on the left you pass a plaque for **The King's Oven St. Andrew's Church**. **The Tea & Tipple** is away on the right and you *turn left* with the road to pass the **Market Place** with its Grade II-listed **Pant** (a spout providing water for domestic use). There is a sandwich bar and a bakery, **Halcyon House Café**, **Corbridge Tandoori** away to the right and **The Pele** pub to the left in the impressive **Pele Tower** by **St. Andrew's Church**. Continue along **Middle Street**.

You pass **Coffuffle Coffee & Truffles** and **Massey's Tea Room** and in 30m would find **Casa Rosso** Italian restaurant down the right along an alleyway, by **The Black Bull** on the left. In 50m, by **The Angel Inn** on the left and with **The Golden Lion** visible away to the left down a lane, you *turn right* downhill out of Corbridge, noting a **bus stop away to the left (Corbridge, Angel Inn)**. Ignore a road on the right and descend towards the **River Tyne**. Ignore a signposted footpath down to the water level and cross **Corbridge Bridge**. On the far side cross over to the left-hand side pavement and ignore a signposted footpath to the left ('**Daft as a Brush**') to continue along a tarmac path then a road pavement. The **River Tyne Trail** runs along the road. Pass a bus stop and *fork left* along **Station Road** on the level where the main road rises up to a bridge across the tracks. In 75m pass **The Dyvels Inn** and in 60m you reach **The Valley** Indian restaurant and the access to the platforms at **Corbridge Station** to its left. Trains to Newcastle depart from the near platform 1 and Carlisle bound ones from the far platform 2.