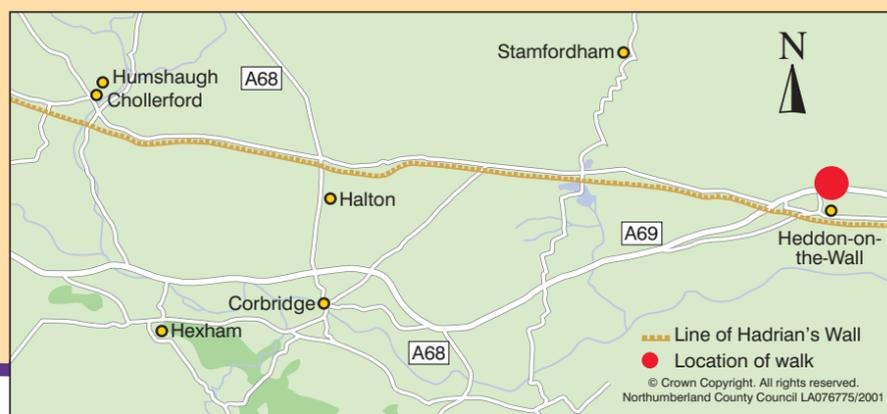


Heddon-on-the-Wall

4 miles/6.5km



This 4 mile/6.5km walk explores the countryside to the north of Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Much of the route is on lanes and tracks, but there are some cross-field sections which can be muddy after cultivation. There is one short steep slope.

The walk can be followed in either direction and is best started from Heddon-on-the-Wall. Parking is available in the village. Please park considerately.

You should allow 2-2½ hours to complete the route.

Heddon is served by regular buses from Newcastle and Hexham.

Contact details:

For information about bus services, including the Hadrian's Wall Bus-Traveline
Tel: 0870 608 2608
www.traveline.org.uk

Hadrian's Wall Information Line
Tel: 01434 322002
www.hadrians-wall.org

Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail
For more information visit
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall



Buried Treasure

In the late 1950s the National Coal Board found buried treasure in Heddon-on-the-Wall, in the form of 1.2 million tons of coal reserves.

They decided to extract it, and the result was the Bays Leap opencast site which covered nearly 300 acres north of Heddon village.

Seven coal seams were worked down to a maximum depth of 55 metres (185 feet) and many older mine workings were uncovered in the process.



Old Bays Leap Farm 1919

The original Bays Leap Farm was demolished, as was the old Heddon Mill.

Following restoration of the opencast site in 1966, Bays Leap Farm was rebuilt in its present location, away from the proposed line of the A69 trunk road.

Today the land is again covered in fields and trees, an attractive but artificial landscape which has never regained its former fertility.



Water tank, West Heddon

On the Urban Fringe

Until the mid-Sixties, Heddon-on-the-Wall was still a small village straddling the old A69. As the demand for new housing grew, Newcastle began to expand westwards and Heddon was identified as a prime area for development. Over the past 30 years, much former farmland to the south of the village has disappeared under brick and tarmac.

The close proximity of conurbation can often cause difficulties for those trying to farm the surrounding land.

In conjunction with parish councils, the County Council can help to alleviate some of these problems by maintaining public rights of way and encouraging the responsible use of the countryside.



Ploughing

Sometimes the ploughing of a right of way is unavoidable. In these circumstances the farmer is allowed up to 14 days to restore the surface following cultivation and sowing of the crop.

A cross-field path should be restored to a minimum width of 1 metre for a footpath and 2 metres for a bridleway. A path along the edge of a field should never be ploughed, and should be a minimum width of 1.5 metres for a footpath and 3 metres for a bridleway.

If a path is blocked by a growing crop, you are still entitled to follow the route by walking through the crop. Alternatively, it is acceptable to avoid the obstruction by walking round it, for example, around the edge of the field.

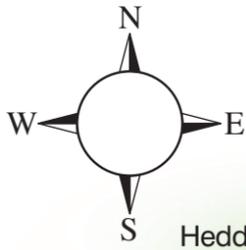


Heddon Common

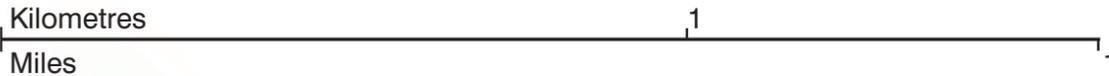
Picture: Graeme Peacock

Illustration: Anoreia Roberts

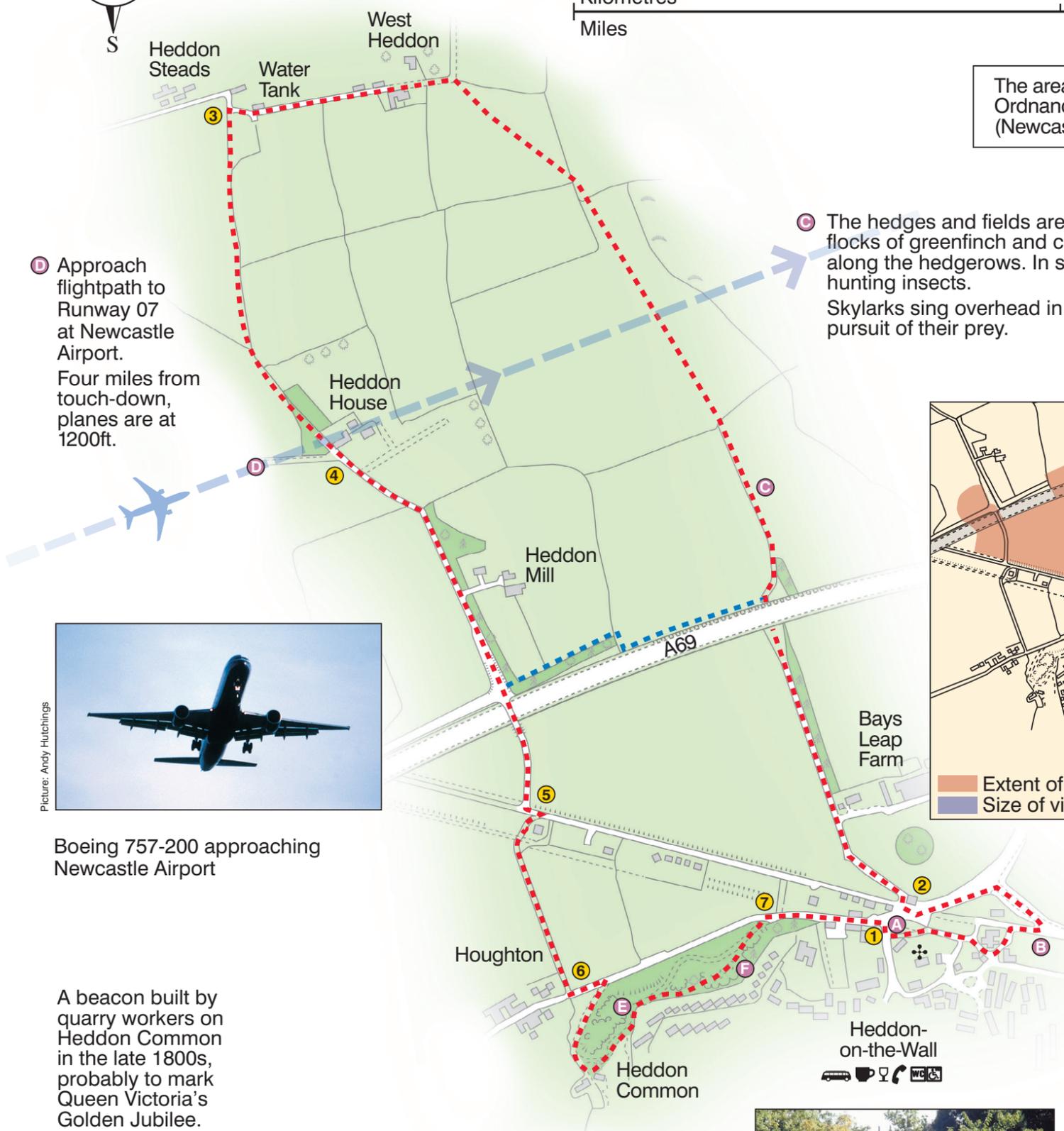
Heddon-on-the-Wall 4 miles/6.5km Suggested starting point Heddon-on-the-Wall



Scale of map

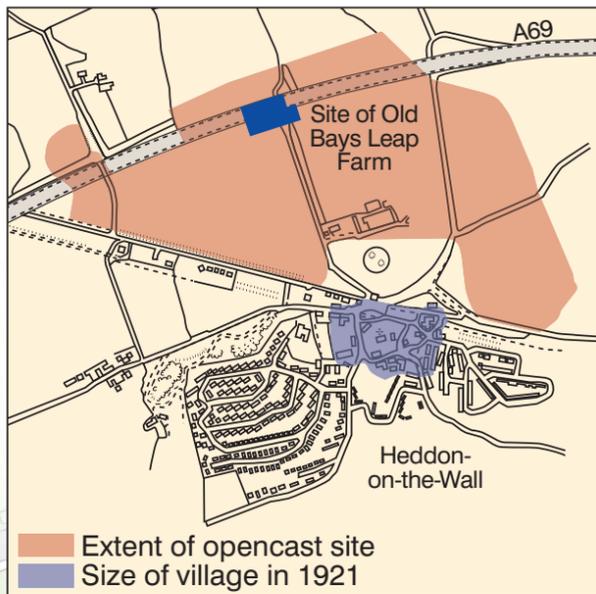


The area of this walk is covered by Ordnance Survey Explorer Sheet 316 (Newcastle upon Tyne).



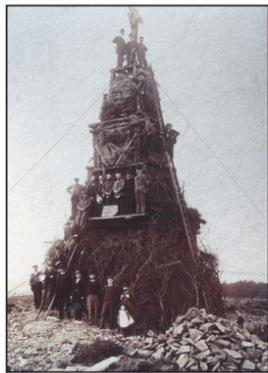
D Approach flightpath to Runway 07 at Newcastle Airport. Four miles from touch-down, planes are at 1200ft.

C The hedges and fields are home to many birds. In winter, flocks of greenfinch and chaffinch will join yellowhammer along the hedgerows. In summer whitethroat can be seen hunting insects. Skylarks sing overhead in spring and kestrels hover in pursuit of their prey.



Boeing 757-200 approaching Newcastle Airport

A beacon built by quarry workers on Heddon Common in the late 1800s, probably to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



- F** These vents have been installed to remove methane and other gases from the landfill below.
- E** Had you been standing at this spot when Heddon Quarry was still working, you would have faced a sheer drop of over 100ft (33m) to the quarry floor. The quarry was later used as a land-fill site and was refilled to its present level.

A large part of Heddon Common was purchased by Castle Morpeth Borough Council in the early 1990s. It's now a local nature reserve where conservation, education and recreation have equal importance.



- A** The site now occupied by the War Memorial Garden used to be the village pond.
- B** Preserved section of Hadrian's Wall

Key to map

- Main route
- - - Other rights of way
- ☀ Viewpoint
- > Slope
- ① Access to road
- A Point of interest
- P Parking
- WC Toilets
- ℹ Tourist information
- ☎ Telephone
- 🚌 Bus stop
- ☕ Refreshments/Pub
- ✝ Church

Key to gradient profile

- ⌄ Gate
 - ⌋ Kissing gate
 - ⌋ Step stile
 - ⌋ Ladder stile
 - ⌋ Signpost
 - ⌋ Bridge
 - ⌋ Seat
- Path surface**
- Grass
 - Firm/even ground
 - Rough/uneven ground
 - Soft ground

Heddon-on-the-Wall – Gradient profile – slopes, structures and path surface.



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Picture: Roy Deane