



View from Steel Rigg



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
DISCOVERY CENTRE



Northumberland National Park

Steel Rigg & Hadrian's Wall

Grade: Moderate

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)

Time: 2 - 2.30 hours

Map: OS OL43 1:25000 Hadrian's Wall

Start: Steel Rigg View National Park Car Park **OS Grid Ref:** NY 751 676

Nearest National Park Information: Twice Brewed Inn (1/4 mile)

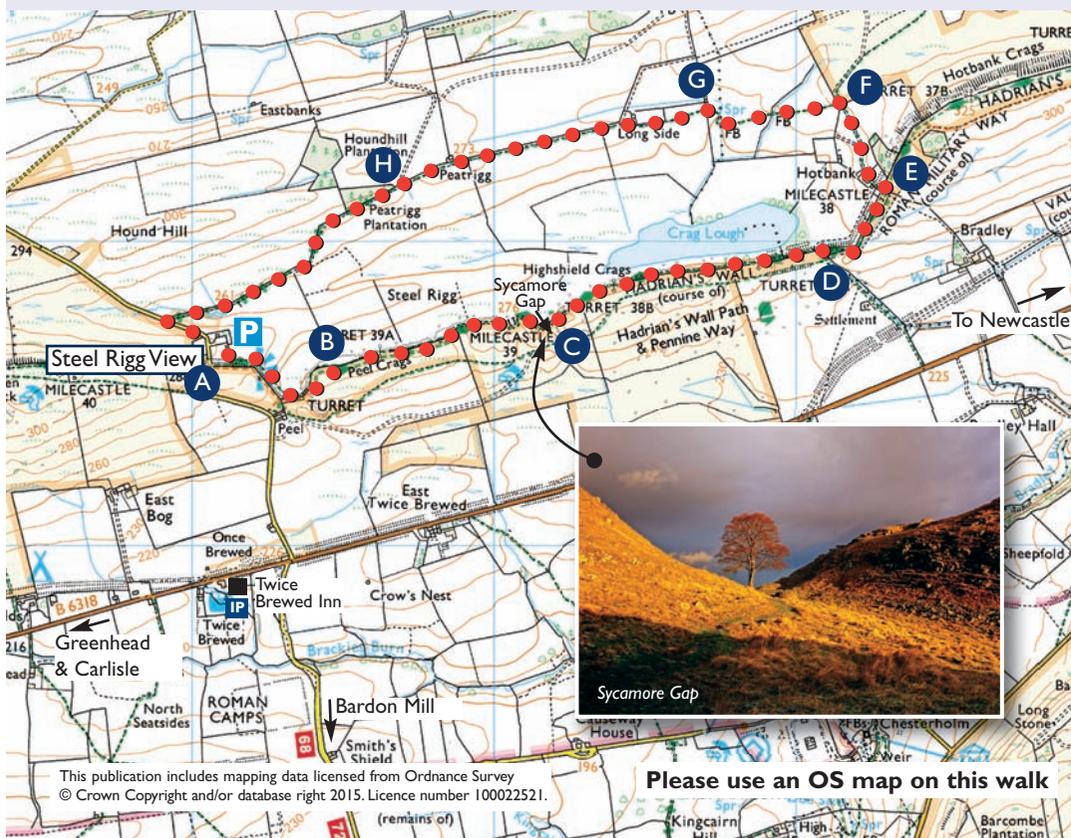
Public Transport: Hadrian's Wall Bus stops near to the Twice Brewed Inn

Terrain: Footpaths and tracks, with some short, sharp ascents, it may be muddy

Description: A walk along the most scenic section of Hadrian's Wall including Sycamore Gap

You will need: Sturdy footwear and waterproofs, and a snack

Please keep dogs on a lead, this is farm land with sheep and cattle in the fields



Please use an OS map on this walk

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- A** Leave Steel Rigg View Car Park by the small wicket gate in the far corner, signposted 'Hadrian's Wall'. Follow the footpath straight on and when you meet Hadrian's Wall turn left through the gate - *There are lovely views from here of Hadrian's Wall, Peel Crags and Crag Lough.* With Hadrian's Wall on your right go down the grassy bank to meet a paved footpath at the bottom. Turn left onto this path and climb steeply up the stone steps to the top of Peel Crags.
- B** Keep following the path alongside the Wall to Milecastle 39*, and a little further on, the tree at Sycamore Gap. * Milecastles are small fortified gateways, built every Roman Mile, often protecting weak points along Hadrian's Wall, No 39 is a good example.
- C** Keep to the footpath along the top of Highshield Crags where you look down to Crag Lough, a glacial lake. **Take care along the crags - very steep drops here!** Follow the path through the wood and cross over the stile then go through the gate on your right.
- D** Cross the farm track and keep to the paved path following it through the gate signposted 'Housesteads'. Continue straight ahead up the grassy footpath looking out for a stone step stile on your left by Hotbank Farm gate, near to the farm buildings.
- E** Cross the stone step stile, and head straight on, keeping the farm buildings on your left. Go through the gate and follow the track to a ladder stile by a gate.
- F** Turn immediately to your left and go over a step stile by the footpath sign. Head straight across the field, and over the stile. Cross the next field to the footpath sign.
- G** Turn onto the farm track until you reach a ladder stile. Cross the stile and head across the next field to an enclosure and barn.
- H** Keep the dry stone wall on your right, and follow the path until it becomes a farm track. Continue along this until you reach the road. Turn left onto the road, and walk uphill back to the car park which is on your left.



Milecastle 39, Hadrian's Wall and Crag Lough



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Large heath butterfly



Getting there

From Carlisle: Follow the A69 east. Turn left at the junction signposted 'Greenhead' onto the B6318 (Military Road) for 6 miles. Turn left just past the Twice Brewed Inn and Steel Rigg View Car Park is 1/4 mile on the right.

From Newcastle: Follow the A69 west to Throckley. Turn onto the B6318 (Military Road) for 28 miles. Just before the Twice Brewed Inn turn left, and Steel Rigg View Car Park is 1/4 mile on the right.

Public transport

Hadrian's Wall Bus AD122 stops near the Twice Brewed Inn. Contact Traveline:

T: 0871 200 22 33 **www.traveline.org.uk**

Local Facilities

Twice Brewed Inn alongside the Military Road (B6318) offers accommodation and serves bar meals and refreshments all day. There is a National Park Information Point here, you can pick up local tourist information and buy souvenirs.

Bardon Mill village, 3 1/2 miles south of here has a good village store/cafe, pub, petrol and railway station as well as a local pottery. The small town of Haltwhistle, just off the A69, 5 miles west has cafes, hotels, supermarkets, petrol, railway station and an open air swimming pool. Further west is Greenhead village, which has a cafe, hotel/pub and a regular monthly farmers market. Near to Greenhead is Walstown, National Park Recreation Site - a great place to have a picnic, and also a National Park Information Point where you can pick up local tourist information and refreshments.



Hadrian's Wall (Twice Brewed Inn in distance) from Steel Rigg

Points of interest

The Emperor Hadrian gave orders for the Wall to be built in AD122, probably to act as a barrier that allowed Roman soldiers to control movements of people coming into or leaving Roman Britain. It is 73 miles (117km) or 80 Roman Miles long and took about 6 years to build!

Milecastles were built every Roman mile along the Wall. Look out for Milecastle 39, on this walk.

The Vallum runs parallel to Hadrian's Wall and is a flat-bottomed ditch (in some places a double ditch) with a mound either side. Originally it could only be crossed at a Roman Fort.

The Military Road (B6318) was built following the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 when the bad condition of the road between Newcastle and Carlisle prevented General George Wade moving his troops to stop Bonnie Prince Charlie's march south from Scotland. A new road was built after the uprising was suppressed, and has been known since then as the Military Road or Wade's Road.



Hadrian's Wall and Milecastle 39

Wildlife

This area is dominated by the dramatic *whin sill* ridge along which Hadrian's Wall is built. This rock was here 295 million years before the Romans. Look out for rare *whin grassland* with species such as *wild chive* and *thyme*, *biting stonecrop* and *mountain pansy*.

Below the rocky ridge are deep *peat* habitats where *sphagnum moss*, *bog rosemary* and *bog asphodel* grow, and the rare *large heath butterfly* can be seen. *Water avens* and *marsh marigold* grow along the wet road verges.

Birds such as *golden plover* and *curlew* can often be seen over the moorland whilst *kestrel* can be seen flying around the crags on the Wall.

Pipistrelle and other *bats* use farmhouses and barns as roosts. Look out for them flying at dusk.

Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall is this site of this iconic tree. Although not a native tree it's a lovely spot!



Sycamore Gap and Hadrian's Wall

