

A BRIEF HISTORY

Haydon Bridge has been an important crossing of the South Tyne since the 14th century, and the village grew around the river as the turmoil of the Border wars receded. Only Haydon Old Church, above the village to the north remains as a reminder of the ancient settlement of Haydon which it replaced, while the lawless times of the Border Reivers are recalled by the imposing bulk of Langley Castle to the south.

In more peaceful times Haydon Bridge has grown through agriculture and industries associated with coal and lead mining. Its importance as a transport link saw the arrival of the railway in 1838, and increasing road traffic necessitated a new bridge in 1970 and a bypass in 2009. Today it is a peaceful place to visit with beautiful surrounding countryside that has inspired poet Philip Larkin and renowned local artist John Martin.

FURTHER AFIELD

Haydon Bridge is ideally situated for visitors to enjoy a longer stay and explore the wider range of attractions which Northumberland has to offer. Situated in the South Tyne valley, the village nestles between Northumberland National Park and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with its high moors and secluded dales. The finest sections of Hadrian's Wall are on the doorstep, as is the historic market town of Hexham.

Cast your net a little wider, and the castles and harbours of the scenic Northumberland coast, the cities of Newcastle and Durham, Kielder Water and Forest Park and even the Lake District, all lie within easy reach of your tranquil base in a real Northumberland village.



Walltown Crags on Hadrian's Wall

WALKS AROUND HAYDON BRIDGE

Village walks

Walk Summary

Three short walks on largely flat and level terrain exploring the riverbanks and lesser-known corners of the village. The first two walks are less than half a mile in length, while the third is a two mile walk on the route of the villagers' favourite evening stroll to the Victorian Haydon Spa.

Introduction

Haydon Bridge is the only community which could properly be said to straddle both sides of the Tyne, joined by a bridge which was first built in mediaeval times. This means that pleasant walks on either side of the river can be accessed easily from the centre of the village.

This leaflet offers two such walks, one exploring the northern riverbank and some interesting corners of the village, and the other going further afield along the opposite bank to the Victorian Haydon Spa. A third walk explores the area around the Shaftoe Trust school and some more points of historical interest.

All three walks are short, easy and pleasant strolls designed to be completed in a short time by walkers of any ability.

Construction of the 'new' bridge.



HAYDON BRIDGE

The Bridge



This Community Library, Visitor Information Centre and Internet Café is on Church Street next to the railway station. As well as providing library services and a focal point for the local community, it offers visitors friendly advice and a range of leaflets and information on local tourist attractions and facilities.

For more information:

www.haydon-bridge.co.uk
www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk
www.sustrans.org.uk
www.cycle-routes.org/hadrianscycleway

Getting to Haydon Bridge

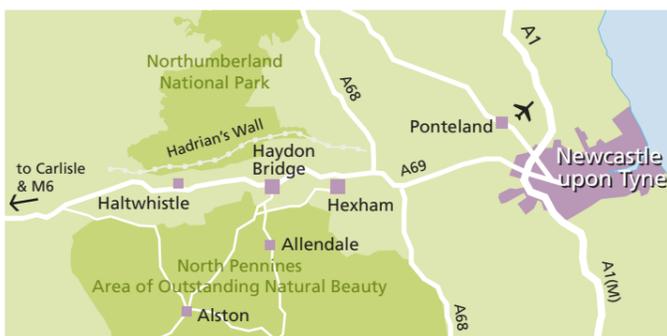
By road

A69 from A1 at Newcastle 28 miles
 A69 from M6 at Carlisle 31 miles

By rail Newcastle – Carlisle service www.northernrail.org

By bus 685 service Newcastle – Carlisle www.arrivabus.co.uk

By air from Newcastle Airport



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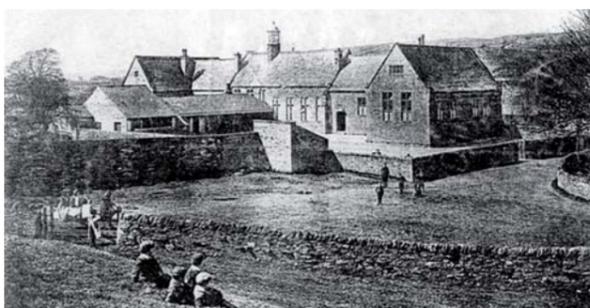
Look out for...

A St Cuthbert's Church, with its distinctive pagoda style tower roof, was consecrated in 1796, having been constructed from stone taken from Haydon Old Church to the north of the village. The second small cottage opposite the Coop store is where poet Philip Larkin spent many holidays with his girlfriend Monica Jones. He wrote: *'I thought your little house...looks splendid and it can never be ordinary with the Tyne going by outside... You have a great English river drifting under your window.'*



B The building opposite was built in 1841 as a venue for men to read newspapers and the Bible. An upper story was later added and a snooker table installed to offer more recreational pursuits.

C The Newcastle to Carlisle Railway was opened in 1838, and was the first cross-country line to be built. Most of the buildings from the station and goods yard have now been demolished, but a working signal box remains. The impressive retaining walls were built to carry four tracks, where goods trains would stop to take on water at the halfway point of their journey. The area between the station yard and the river, now used for more modern industrial purposes, was once the site of the village gas works. Note the old lamp post dating from the days of gas lighting at the entrance to the subway.



Shaftoe Trust School, taken early in the 20th century

WALKS AROUND HAYDON BRIDGE

Village Walks

Three short and easy walks in and around Haydon Bridge. Favourite strolls for villagers over the years, these undemanding routes are an easy way to explore some hidden corners of the village.



HAYDON BRIDGE

D The village allotments are called California Gardens. The reason for this exotic name is unclear, but there is a suggestion that they were named around the time of the great Gold Rush in 1849.

E The Anchor Hotel, most prominent of the village pubs, was also used as a courtroom with gallows and later as an office for Greenwich Hospital estates.



Shaftoe Terrace Almshouses

F Shaftoe Trust School and almshouses were endowed in 1685 by the Rev John Shaftoe and are still assisted by the Shaftoe Charities. The terrace of almshouses built in 1810 includes larger houses built to accommodate the schoolteachers. The current school building dates from the early 20th century.

G Geeswood is an attractive wood clinging to the steep sides of the Langley Burn. The A69 bypass now crosses this valley on an impressive viaduct.

H Some of the old bridge may date back to the late C17, but it failed to survive the Great Flood of 1771 and was rebuilt on more than one occasion in the C19. It ceased carrying traffic in 1967.

The 'new' bridge which carries motor traffic through the village was built in 1970 to relieve the old single track bridge nearby. Traffic used a temporary structure during its construction.

I Haydon Spa was first developed in 1863 and improved in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Following a riverbank collapse in 2001, the path has been reconstructed so that visitors can once again enjoy its distinctive flavour.

Village Walks

Riverside Walk

From 'The Bridge' turn left to head along Church Street to St Cuthbert's Church, then cross over and follow the street round the corner to the right.

- 1 At the Community Centre cross the road, turn right and then left down a narrow alleyway between the houses. At the end, turn left along the riverbank and follow the path until it turns back up onto the pavement, then turn right and walk to the end of the railings at the end of the old bridge.
- 2 Cross the road with care towards the lane to the right of the building opposite. Follow this lane through an avenue of trees and then as it narrows to a path following the retaining wall of the railway line.
- 3 At the end of the path turn left to go through a subway and then left again back towards the village. Turn left and cross the level crossing to return to your starting point.



Alleyway between Ratcliffe Road and the river

Shaftoe walk

From 'The Bridge' turn left to head along the street, past the church, cross the road and over the old bridge. At the end of the bridge, turn right and follow the road uphill past the school entrance until you reach a gate and stone stile into a field on the left.

- 1 Cross the field diagonally towards the seat by the play area, then down the steps to the school.
- 2 At the foot of the steps, turn right along the lane. At the end, a footpath to the right signposted Geeswood offers an optional woodland diversion.
- 3 The main route turns left down the hill. At the foot cross the road towards the bus shelter and continue down the lane to the right ('Temple Houses'). Follow this lane, bearing right at the bottom and then left to cross the bridge by the football club car park.

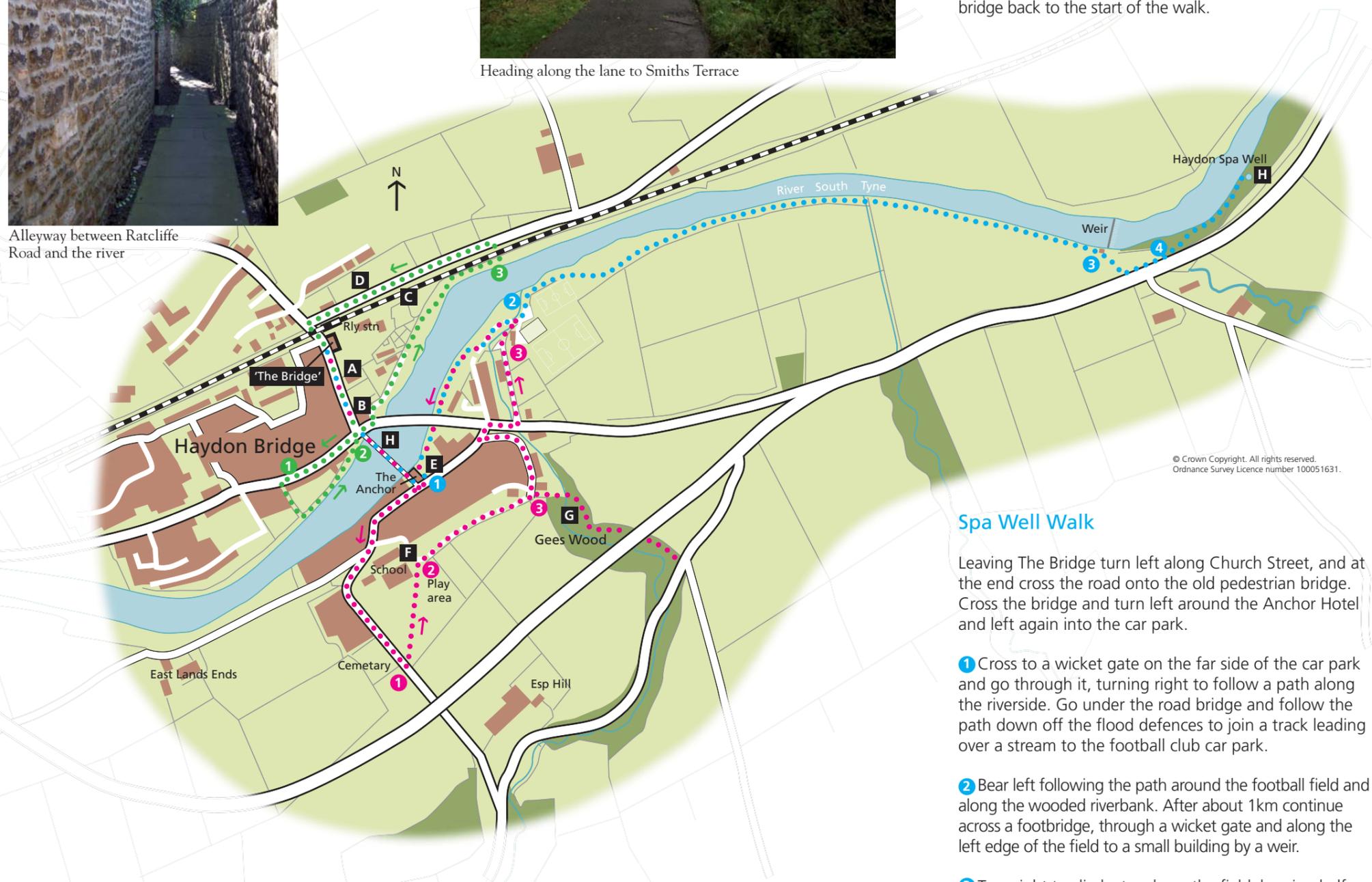


Heading along the lane to Smiths Terrace



Geeswood

- 4 Continue along the road through a gate on a flood defence ramp. You now need to head for a gate diagonally right across some open ground, which leads to a footpath between some houses and the river. Follow this path under the road bridge and up to the Anchor Hotel car park. Out of the car park turn right and right again to cross the old bridge back to the start of the walk.



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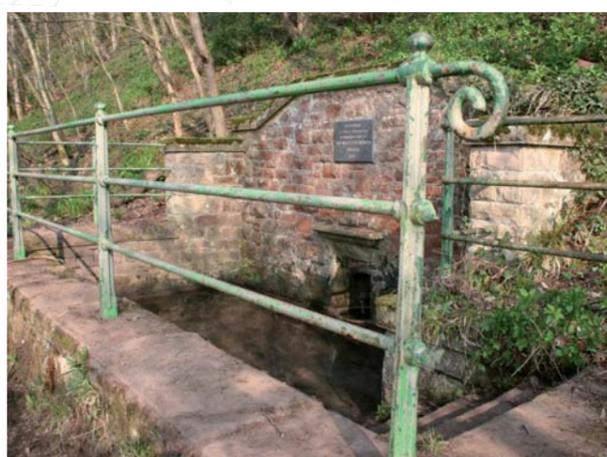
Spa Well Walk

Leaving The Bridge turn left along Church Street, and at the end cross the road onto the old pedestrian bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left around the Anchor Hotel and left again into the car park.

- 1 Cross to a wicket gate on the far side of the car park and go through it, turning right to follow a path along the riverside. Go under the road bridge and follow the path down off the flood defences to join a track leading over a stream to the football club car park.
- 2 Bear left following the path around the football field and along the wooded riverbank. After about 1km continue across a footbridge, through a wicket gate and along the left edge of the field to a small building by a weir.
- 3 Turn right to climb steeply up the field, bearing half left to a gate onto the main road. Turn left to follow the footpath until it joins the disused former alignment of the road. Look out for a set of steps leading down to the left.
- 4 Descend these steps and follow the path along the riverbank to the walk destination, the Victorian Haydon Spa. To return to the village, retrace your steps along the riverbank or follow the footpath alongside the main road.



The old bridge viewed on the 'Riverside Walk'.



Haydon Spa