

## Walking around Hadrian's Wall

# Bardon Mill and Thorngraston Common

Up to 5 miles / 8 km



The walk can be started at Bardon Mill railway station, and limited car parking is available adjacent to Bardon Mill village green.

**Contact details:**

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

Hadrian's Wall Information Line  
Tel: 01434 322002  
[www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org)

Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail  
For more information visit  
[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall)

**This 5 mile (8km) walk climbs from the valley floor at Bardon Mill up to Barcombe Ridge on Thorngraston Common.**

The western part of the route is mainly on tarmac roads and hard tracks, while much of the eastern section is across rough heather - and bracken - covered moorland.

The route can be followed in either direction and can be accessed from the road at several points (see map). You should allow approximately 2½ - 3 hours to complete the whole route.

**“Black thatching” with heather was once common in upland areas, but now only one example survives in Northumberland - Causeway House near Vindolanda.**

More effective roofing materials such as tile and slate superseded heather thatching, which was less reliable and needed a lot more maintenance.

At the same time, heather became less readily available as hill land was enclosed and improved.

↓ Parkside Farmhouse, c. 1910, when still thatched with heather.



Picture: Beamish, The North of England Open Air Museum



Picture: Graeme Peacock

↑ The Long stone

### The Long Stone

Although a prominent landmark for miles around, the origins of the Long Stone are uncertain.

Part of the base, now removed, bears the date 1784, but the present shaft is probably not so old.

It is possible that the base originally held a cross, similar to that which once stood on Fallowfield Fell to the north of Hexham.



Picture: Graeme Peacock

↑ Crindledikes limekiln

### Crindledikes limekiln

Crindledikes limekiln is at least 200 years old. Limestone was dug from the adjacent quarries and then roasted in the kilns. The resulting burnt lime was used both for improving acid soils and also in the manufacture of mortar and lime-wash for buildings. The kilns were probably fired using coal from the nearby drift mines.

↓ Tubway Tunnel at Crindledikes

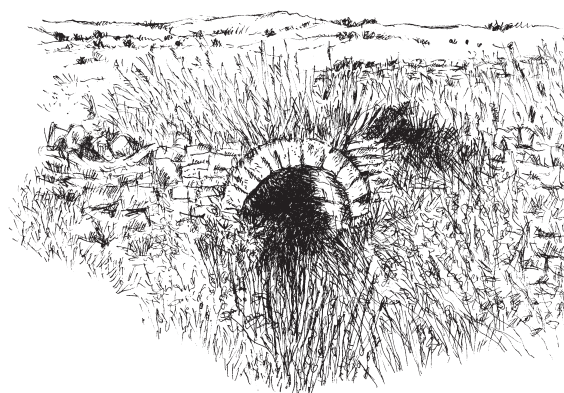


Illustration: Andrea Roberts

### Key to map

- ... Main route
- ... Other rights of way
- ☀ Viewpoint
- > Gradient - moderate
- >> Gradient - steep
- ① Access to road
- Ⓐ Point of interest
- P Parking
- WC Toilets
- ℹ Tourist information
- ☎ Telephone
- Ⓐ Picnic area
- 🚌 Bus stop
- ☕ Refreshments/Pub

### Key to gradient profile

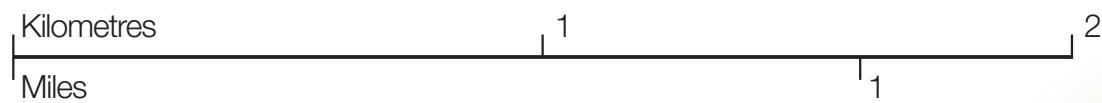
- ⌄ Gate
- ⌄ Kissing gate
- ⌄ Step stile
- ⌄ Ladder stile
- ⌄ Steps
- ⌄ Signpost
- ⌄ Bridge
- ⌄ Seat

### Path surface

- Grass
- Firm/even ground
- Rough/uneven ground
- Soft ground

# Walking around Hadrian's Wall

**Bardon Mill and Thorngraftern Common**, up to 5 miles / 8 km. **Suggested starting point - Bardon Mill or Vindolanda**

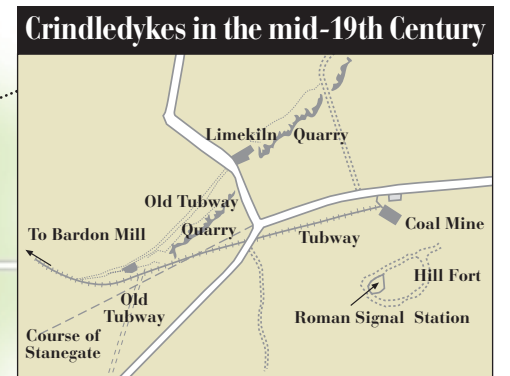


**D** The small embankment on either side of the road beside the Vindolanda car-park marks the route of the tubway which carried coal and stone down the valley to Bardon Mill. The tubs would have been horse drawn.

**C** Chesterholm Roman milestone.

**B** Parkside Farmhouse, formerly heather thatched.

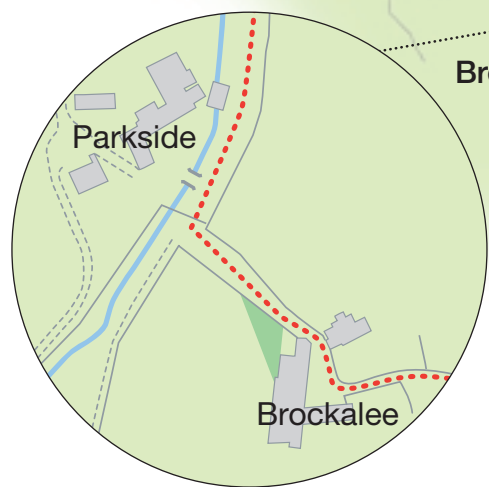
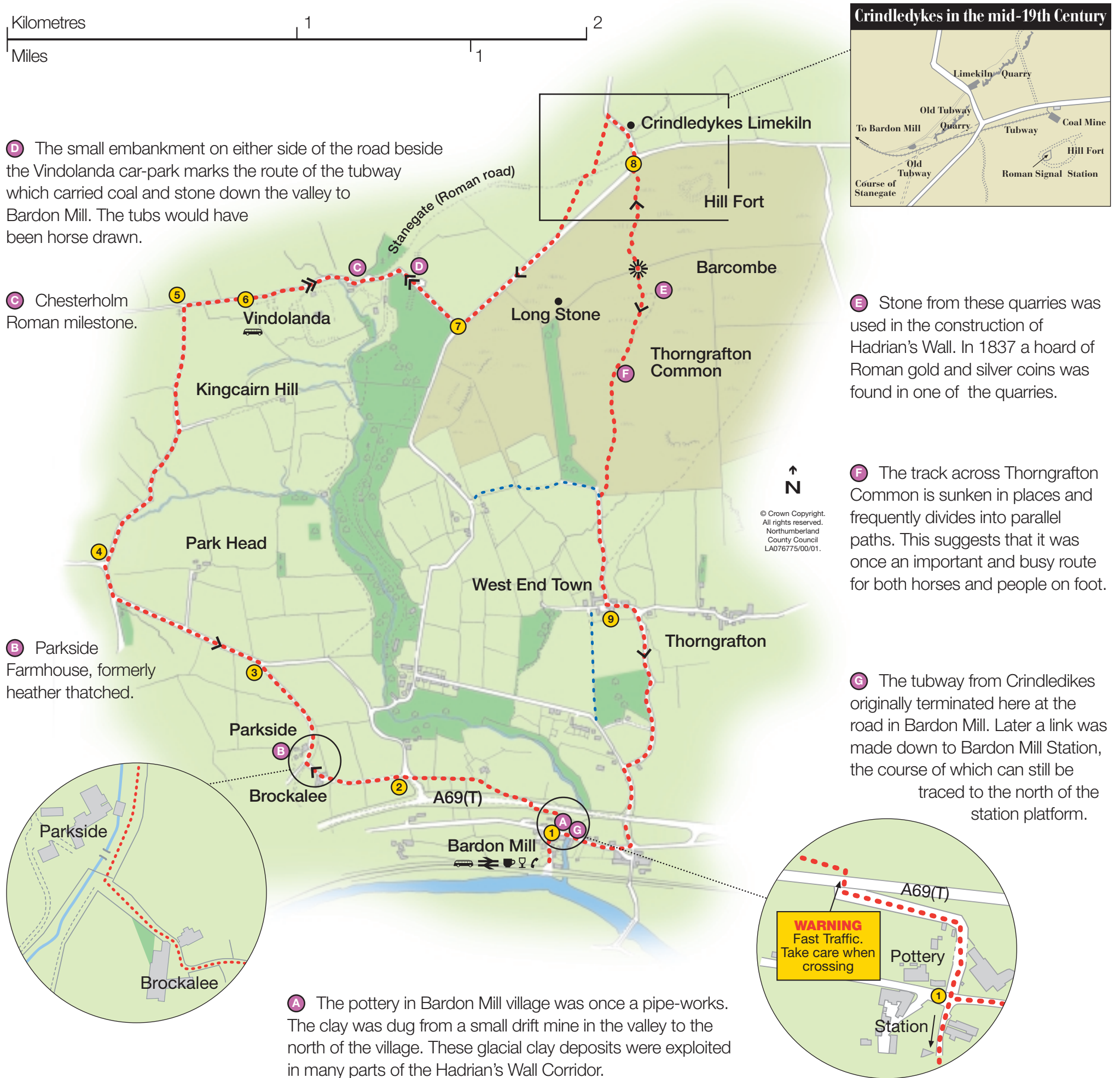
**A** The pottery in Bardon Mill village was once a pipe-works. The clay was dug from a small drift mine in the valley to the north of the village. These glacial clay deposits were exploited in many parts of the Hadrian's Wall Corridor.



**E** Stone from these quarries was used in the construction of Hadrian's Wall. In 1837 a hoard of Roman gold and silver coins was found in one of the quarries.

**F** The track across Thorngraftern Common is sunken in places and frequently divides into parallel paths. This suggests that it was once an important and busy route for both horses and people on foot.

**G** The tubway from Crindledykes originally terminated here at the road in Bardon Mill. Later a link was made down to Bardon Mill Station, the course of which can still be traced to the north of the station platform.



**Bardon Mill and Thorngraftern Common** - Gradient profile - slopes, structures and path surface (key overleaf).

