

Walking around Hadrian's Wall

Once Brewed, Vindolanda
and Housesteads

Up to 7½ miles / 12 km



This walk takes in the two major Roman forts at Housesteads and Vindolanda.

The northern section follows Hadrian's Wall along the rugged crags between Peel Gap and Housesteads and involves several steep slopes. The southern section is mainly along quiet tarmac roads and farm tracks, giving gentler slopes and a more even surface. The section around East Crindledikes can be very muddy, so contact the Once Brewed National Park Centre for the latest information (Tel. 01434 344396).

The route may be followed in either direction and has road access at several points (see map). You should allow approximately 4 - 4½ hours to complete the whole route.

Car parking is available at Once Brewed and Housesteads. The Hadrian's Wall Bus can be picked up at Once Brewed, Housesteads and Vindolanda.

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





↑ The Whin Sill rises above Crag Lough.

This exhilarating walk takes you alongside some of the most impressive sections of the Wall as it snakes over crests and tumbles into dips.

Following the Whin Sill ridge, you can begin to appreciate just why the Romans built the Wall where they did, taking full advantage of the natural lie of the land.

But the landscape holds much more than just the Roman remains. A recent archaeological aerial survey discovered hundreds of previously unknown sites in the area, including many prehistoric settlements. The cultivation terraces you pass below Housesteads and a lime kiln at Crindledikes are just two remnants of this long history of land use.

A Living Landscape

The waves of hills you see today are still very much part of the working landscape. The well-maintained dry stone walls of farms such as Hotbank and East Crindledikes reflect the skills and dedication of the people who make their living in this challenging environment.

The boggy mires in the valley bottoms are internationally recognised as important wetlands. These rare habitats were drained in the past to improve the land for sheep farming and forestry. Now the National Park Authority is working with local farmers and

↓ A farmer feeds hay to his sheep - a traditional black face breed.



↑ Sycamore Gap achieved fame as a location in the film “Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves.”

landowners to try to restore water levels, encouraging the return of peat-forming bog mosses and the rich wetland wildlife.

The Whin Sill crags provide secure nesting sites for birds like the jackdaw and kestrel, while the loughs are important to wildfowl such as mallard, widgeon, coot and whooper swans in the winter months.

→ Peel Crag

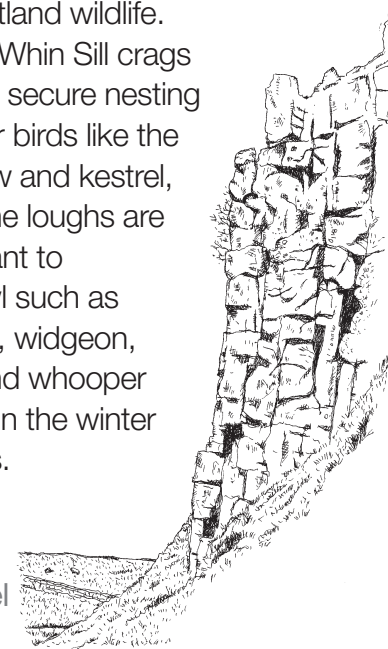


Illustration: Andrea Roberts

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

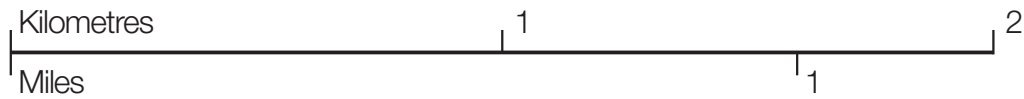
Path surface

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

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Once Brewed and Vindolanda, up to 7½ miles, 12 km. **Suggested starting point - Once Brewed, Housesteads or Vindolanda**

Scale of map

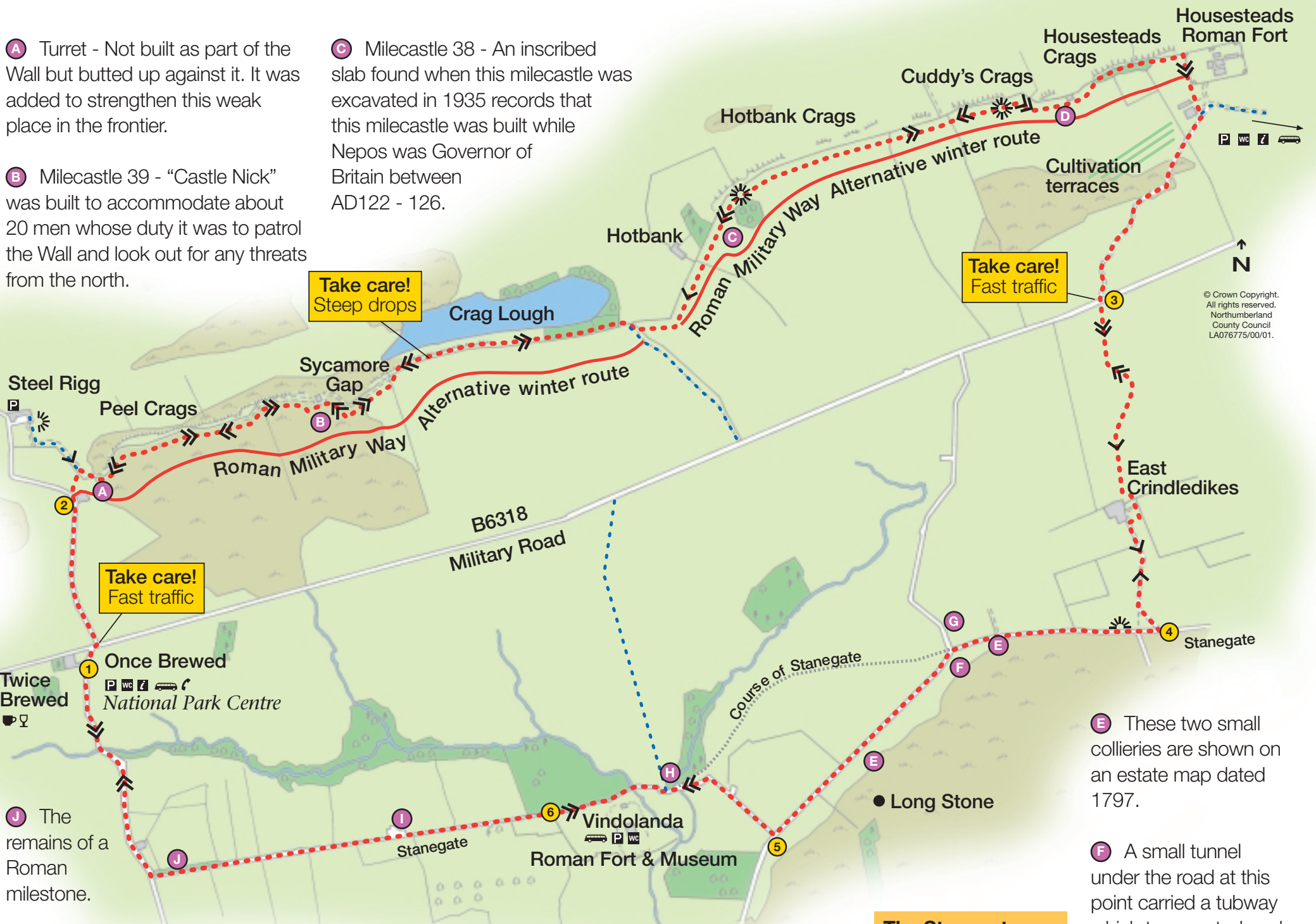


A Turret - Not built as part of the Wall but butted up against it. It was added to strengthen this weak place in the frontier.

B Milecastle 39 - "Castle Nick" was built to accommodate about 20 men whose duty it was to patrol the Wall and look out for any threats from the north.

C Milecastle 38 - An inscribed slab found when this milecastle was excavated in 1935 records that this milecastle was built while Nepos was Governor of Britain between AD122 - 126.

D Milecastle 37 - Impressive remains of the north gate arch shows that the entrance gates must have once been over 4 metres high. The gates allowed both soldiers and civilians to pass through.



Picture: Graeme Peacock

Once Brewed and Vindolanda - Gradient profile - slopes, structures and path surface (key overleaf).

