

## Leg 3 – Roof of England Walk

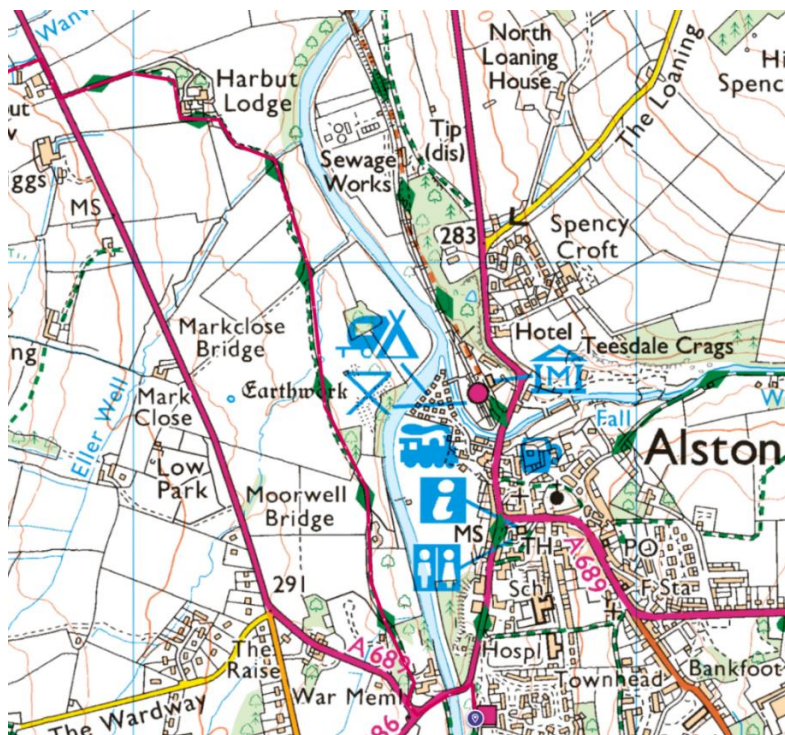
### Leg 3: Alston to Haltwhistle - Directions

| Length               | Ascent         | Time   | Version | Updated  |
|----------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|
| 23.8km (14.8 miles)* | 477m (1565ft)* | 06:54* | 1.0     | 07/05/25 |

\*Using OS Maps (online)

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OS maps for Leg 3: Explorer – OL31 (W) and OL43 (W); Landranger – 86.  
The route is shown on the maps as a thin **red line**.

**A:**



Leg 3 starts at Alston Youth Hostel (NY 71686 46100 and [///wipe.headlines.passport](http://wipe.headlines.passport)), on the **Pennine Way National Trail**, and finishes south of Haltwhistle (NY 70350 63183 and [///savers.enchanted.cages](http://savers.enchanted.cages)). For the first 18km this leg shares the route of the **Pennine Way** - to the footbridge over the Hartley Burn (at NY 66236 60119).

Start walking from the Youth Hostel – keeping the hostel building on your right. At the bottom of the steps, go across the stile and cross the A686. Turn left and cross the river using the footbridge. At the road junction turn right, signed Brampton. Immediately take the track on the right, signed – ‘Pennine Way, Slaggyford 5¼ miles’. Immediately after a gate/stile cross the small ford, over a stream, and continue on the track. When you reach the house at the end of the track take the path between the building and the drystone wall.

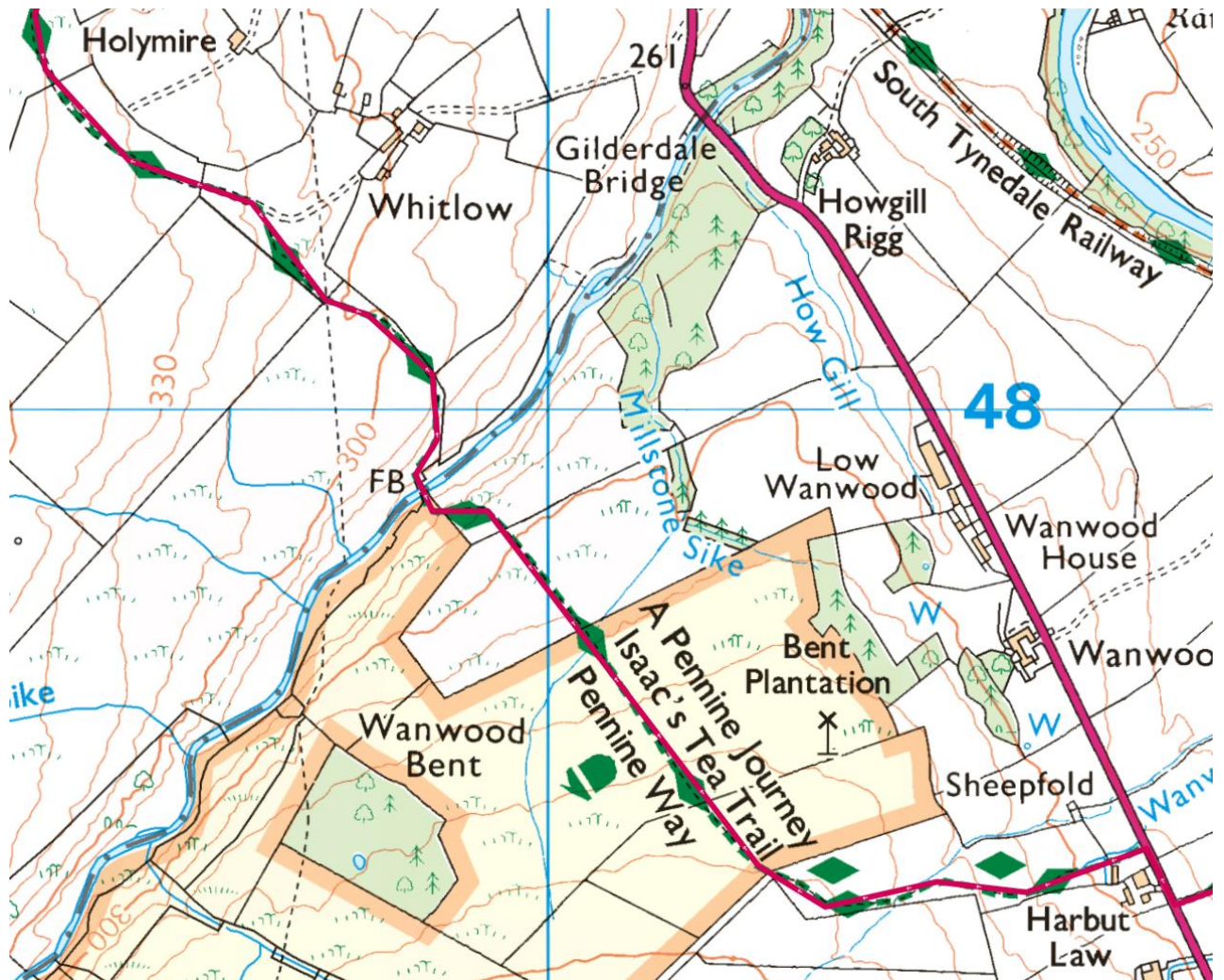
After a short distance cross the stone stile through the wall and continue ahead, round the edge of the field, keeping the small wood and drystone wall on your right. Shortly after crossing a track go through a wooden kissing gate and continue ahead with the wall still on your right. Cross two fields.

Go through the gate, cross a stream and bear left, uphill towards the house (Harbut Lodge), with the fence on your left. Follow the waymarks round the house, keeping it on your right. Follow the edge of the field to the track. Go through the kissing gate and turn left on the uphill track (signed ‘Pennine Way’). At the A689 turn right. **Take care this is a busy road.**



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B:



After 80m, on the A689, turn left through the kissing gate, signed 'Pennine Way - Slaggyford 4½ miles'. Cross the small field and go through the gap in the wall. Follow the indistinct path, heading straight uphill, with the drystone wall on your left. As you gain height the path turns into a rough track. Continue with the wall on your left all the way to the top corner of the field.

Go through the wooden kissing gate and cross the small field to another one. Go through it and continue ahead, downhill, to cross the next (larger) field.

Go through a further wooden kissing gate and cross a further field on an indistinct path. Go through the gap in the wall and bear left across the corner of the next field. Cross the line of the tumbled down wall and continue downhill, through the kissing gate and over the footbridge, over the Gilderdale Burn – into Northumberland.

After the footbridge bear right on the uphill path, keeping the drystone wall on your right.

Go through the kissing gate and initially follow the fence line uphill. After a short distance bear right and join the uphill track to a metal gate. Go through the wooden kissing gate (adjacent to the metal gate) and cross the next field in a rising arc to another metal field gate.

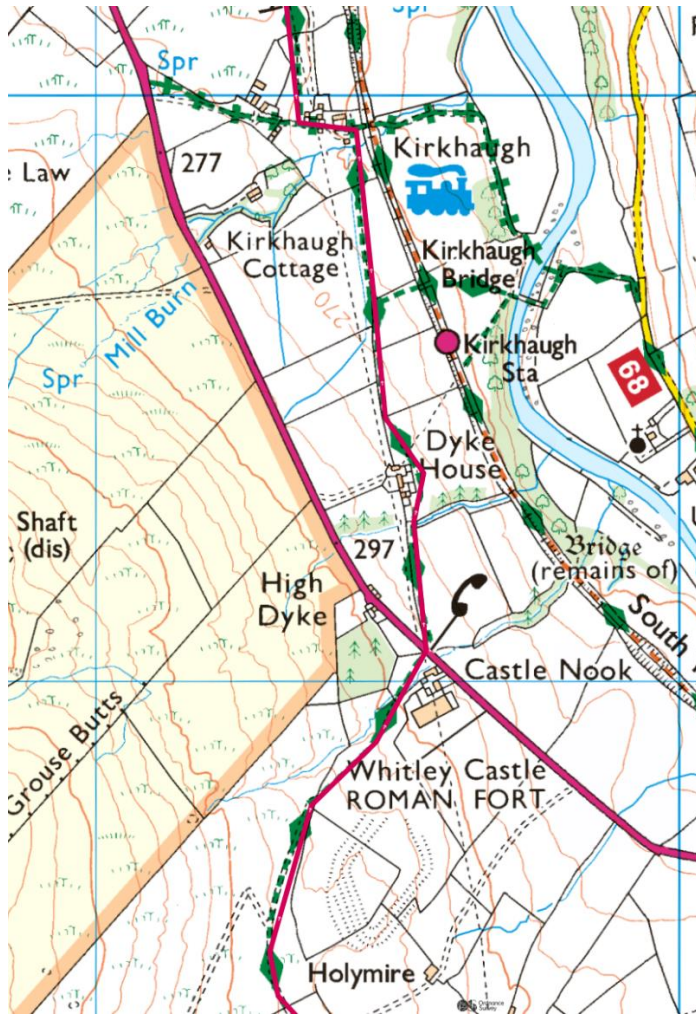
Go through the field gate and continue following the grassy track.





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C:



Continue following the grassy track as it contours above the impressive ramparts of Epiacum – one of the best preserved Roman Forts in the whole Empire.

If you want to have a closer look at the fort you can access the site via a ladder stile just down slope from the interpretation panels. There is also a small visitor centre/café/farm shop at the bottom of the hill, by the A689.

Continue on the track as it descends to Castle Nook Farm. Keep the farm on your right. Before you reach the buildings go through the kissing gate, into the trees, to cross a footbridge over a stream.

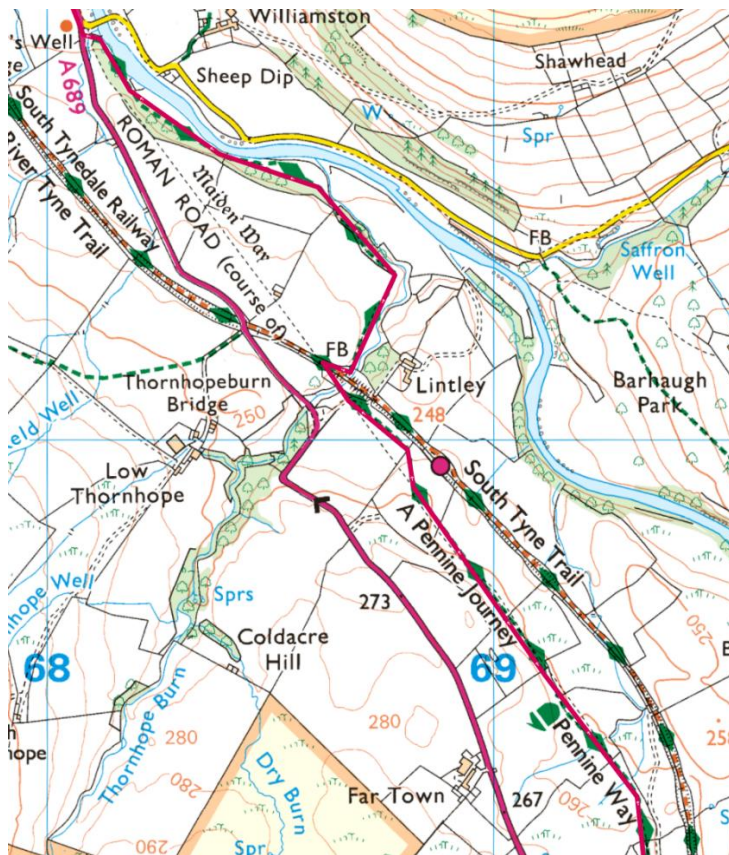
Cross over the main road (A689). Take care. Go through the metal field gate. Follow the path, signed 'Pennine Way') across the field towards Dyke House, keeping the drystone wall on your left. At the end of the field cross the stream and go through a metal field gate. Pass to the right of Dyke House and continue ahead with the wall still on your left.

Where the Isaac's Tea Trail peels off to the right (to cross a stone bridge over the South Tynedale Railway) continue through a wooden gate and cross two fields before you arrive at the small hamlet of Kirkhaugh. When you reach the farm track at Kirkhaugh turn left, uphill, keeping the farm buildings on your right. Just after the barn turn right through a wooden gate next to a cattle grid, signed 'Pennine Way'. Cross the field to a ladder stile.



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D:



Cross the stone wall, using the ladder stile, and cross the next field, keeping the wall on your right, to a further ladder stile. Cross the stile and continue ahead over the next field, heading just to the left of a small clump of trees.

Just beyond the trees go through the gate (under some powerlines) and continue ahead crossing another field. Go over the next ladder stile (where the stone wall gives way to a fence) and continue ahead, initially contouring around the side of hill. At the waymarking post bear right, downhill, to cross another ladder stile.

Cross the stile and bear right following the path ahead across the hay meadow. The path bears left to follow parallel to the South Tynedale Railway. Cross the ladder stile and continue ahead along the edge of the field.

Do not go through the tunnel under the railway - this is private access to Lintley Farm. Continue ahead, briefly following the track. Alongside the viaduct, follow the (waymarked 'Pennine Way') path alongside the fence (keep on your right). Cross the footbridge over the stream. Turn right following the path underneath the viaduct. Go through a kissing gate and follow the path along the field edge, with the stream on your right. At the fence turn left and continue with it on your right, with power lines overhead.

At the end of the field go through the wooden gate and follow the descending path - with the fence first on your left and then on your right. At the bottom of the slope go through the kissing gate and continue ahead with the River South Tyne on your right. Go through the wooden kissing gate and continue on the path, with the river on your right. Cross a footbridge and go through another kissing gate.

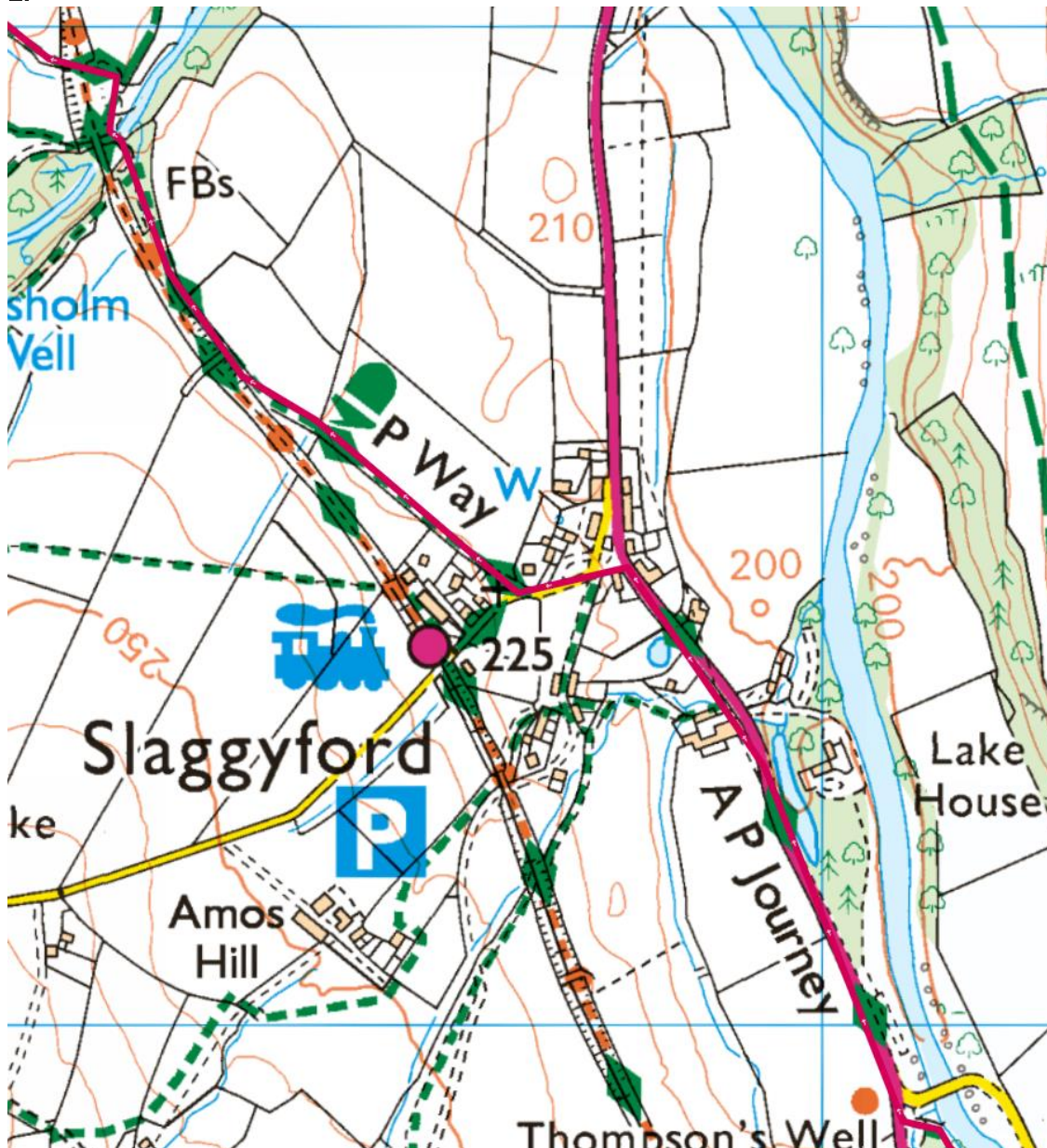
Just as you reach the A689 go through the wooden field gate, follow the track as it bears right, to the road itself. Turn right onto the minor road (signed 'Pennine Way - Slaggyford ½') and then immediately right to follow the main road – Care!





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E:



Follow the A689 for 600m. As you approach the centre of Slaggyford village turn left onto the minor road, signed Pennine Way (and also Yew Tree Chapel and Slaggyford Station). Walk uphill through the village green and just as you reach the Yew Tree Chapel turn right onto the track (signed 'South Tyne Trail' and 'Pennine Way - Burnstones 1½').

After 300m you will reach a junction with the South Tyne Trail – bear right on the uphill track – continuing to follow the (signed) **Pennine Way**.

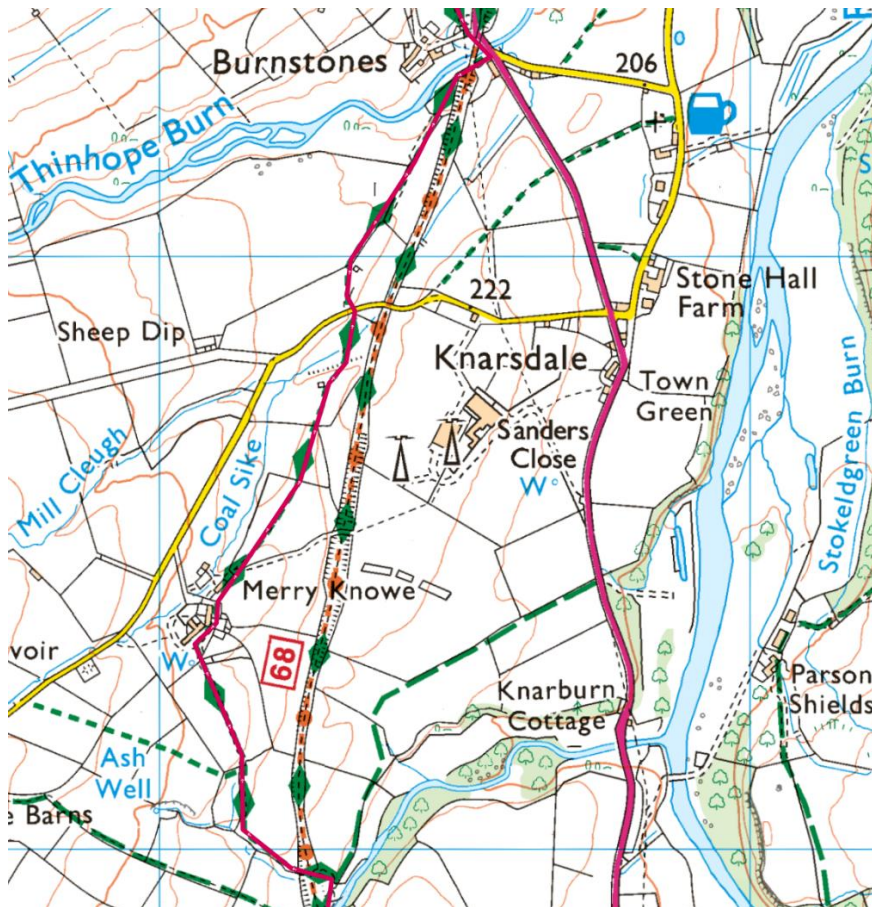
Continue ahead on the track – do not cross the bridge. The track shortly turns into a path – continue to follow it as it bears left to cross a stream on a wooden footbridge. The path descends through trees to cross the Knar Burn (tributary to the River South Tyne) on a footbridge below the stone viaduct which carries the South Tyne Trail.

On the other side of the bridge turn right continuing to follow the Pennine Way.



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F:



Almost immediately go through a wooden field gate and continue following the path – with A drystone wall on your left. At the corner of the wall, cross a stream, and bear left through a tunnel (under the South Tyne Trail). On the other side of the tunnel go through the gate and follow the uphill path – with the wall/stream/fence on your left.

At the top corner of the field go through the metal field gate and bear left – following the grassy track towards the farmhouse (Merry Knowe). In front of the farmhouse go through the metal field gate and turn right – keeping the fence on your right. After 50m climb over a stone step stile and continue ahead – with the buildings on your left. Cross another two stone step stiles in quick succession and continue ahead, with a fence (and then a drystone wall), on your left. Just beyond a large sycamore tree go through a small wooden gate in the wall and walk straight across the next field to a wooden ladder stile.

Climb over the ladder stile and cross the next (narrow) field to cross over the next stone wall via a stone step stile. Follow the path across the next (wider) field. Going down a short incline. Crossing a stream (using a small wooden footbridge) to reach a wooden field gate.

Go through the wooden field gate, cross the minor road, and climb over the wooden ladder stile – signed 'Pennine Way Burnstones ¼ - Public Footpath'. Bear right across the field to climb another wooden ladder stile. Turn right and follow the path – keeping the wall on your right.

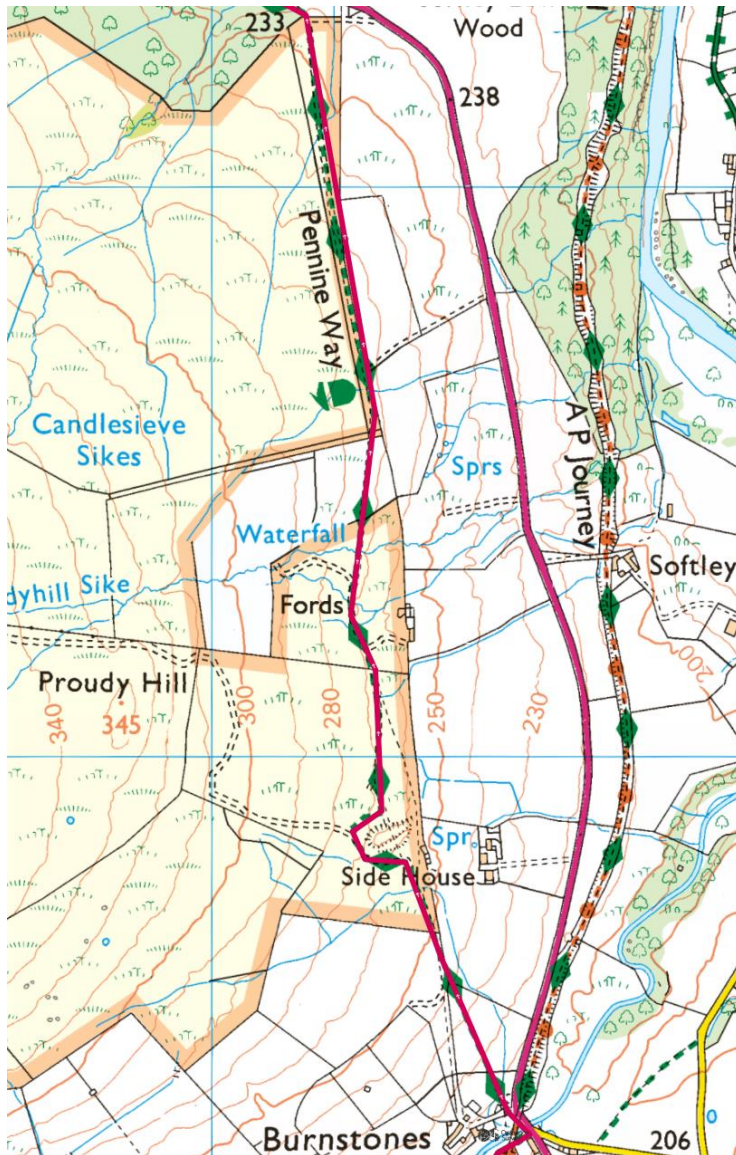
Go through the gate in the corner of the field and continue ahead with the fence on your right – crossing the next field to a wooden bridge gate. After the bridge gate go down some stone steps and follow the path ahead towards the viaduct. Go through another bridge gate, under the arch and pass to the left of the house. At the road (A689) turn left (CARE).





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G:



Go back under the viaduct and leave the tarmac to follow the signed 'Pennine Way' through a gateway. After 50m go through a wooden kissing gate and across a small wooden bridge – follow the uphill path to the top corner of the field.

Go through the wooden kissing gate and immediately turn right on the stone track, heading towards a field gate. Go through the gate and continuing following the track as it bears left uphill. At the top of the steep bit turn right, leaving the track (signed Pennine Way) to follow a grassy path, bearing right. Cross some boggy ground and then contour round to a stone step stile to the right of a field gate.

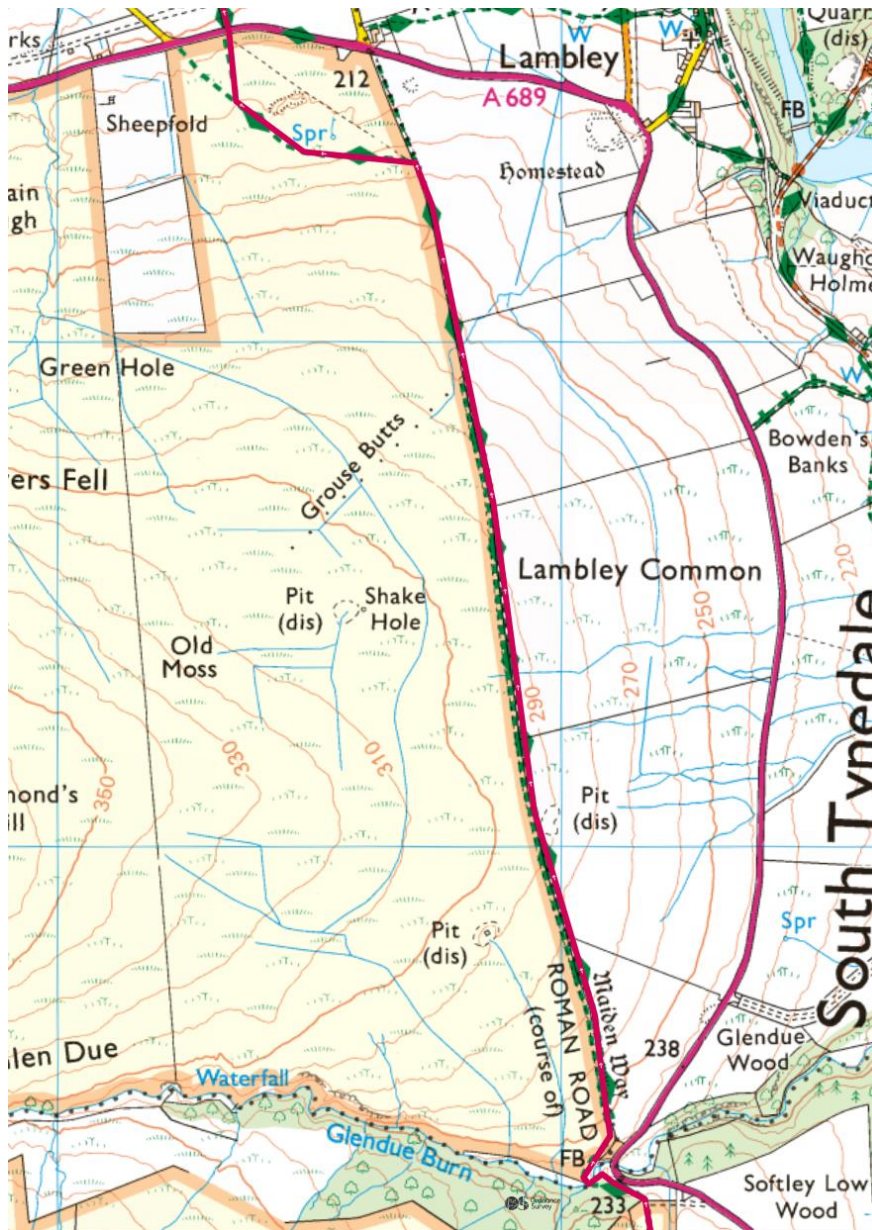
Go through the gate/cross the stile (just upslope from a stone building) and follow the track across the side of the hill. After a short distance ignore the uphill track and continue across the side of the hill to the metal field gate.

Go through the gate/cross the stile and walk across the next 'rushy' field to another field gate. After the second gate continue ahead – keeping the drystone wall on your right. After 700m cross over a stile - two steps over a fence.



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H:



Follow the path as it bears left and downhill – adjacent to the road. At the bottom cross the wooden bridge over the Glendue Burn. Almost immediately cross a stile over the fence. Turn right and follow the path uphill – keeping the fence and the drystone wall on your right.

At the top of the short, rocky, boggy climb cross over the wall using a wooden stile. On the other side of the wall turn left and follow the path – with the wall on your left now.

After 300m cross the stile over a fence and continue ahead – with the drystone wall still on your left. After a further 400m cross another stile/short boardwalk and continue ahead – now with a fence on your left. Cross two more stiles over fences – still continuing ahead – with the fence on your left.

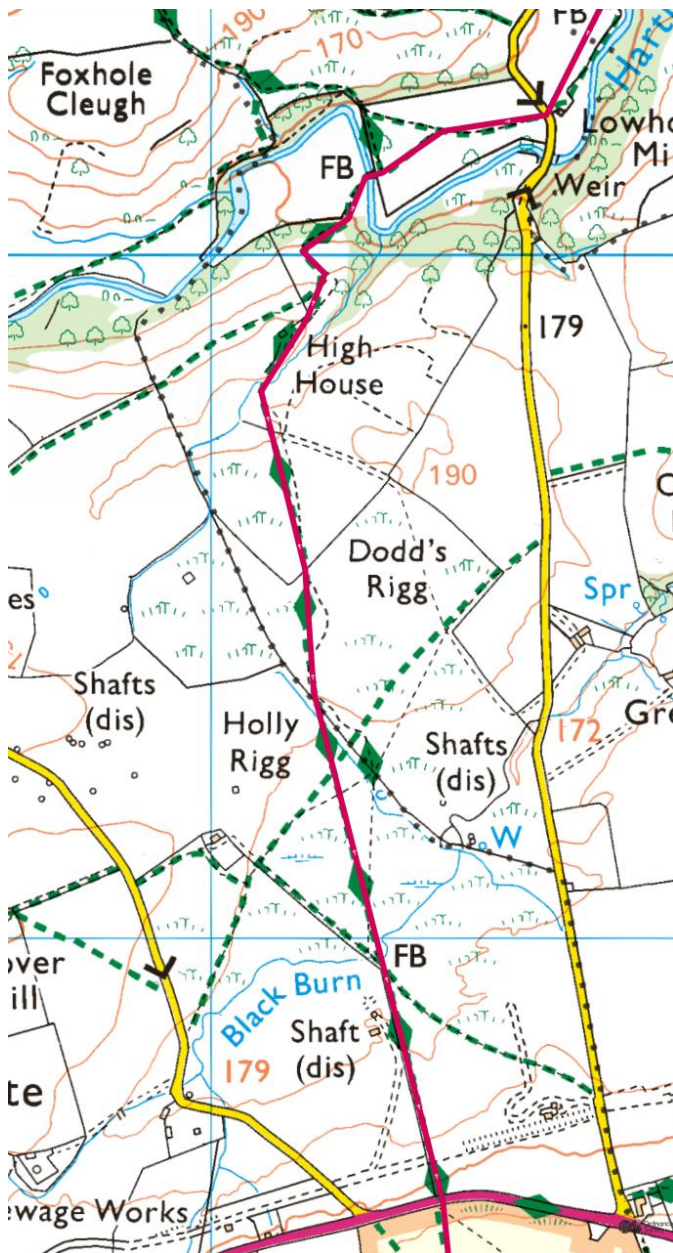
Three hundred metres after the second stile turn left, leaving the track, to cross over the fence via a stile. Follow the path ahead and then bear right down to a stile at the main road (A689). Cross over the A689 (CARE) and continue downhill – with the wall on your left.





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I:



Where the wall bears left – heading towards a house hidden in trees – continue ahead crossing over the stream on the stone bridge. Follow the path (with occasional stone slab sections) ahead. After 400m cross over a stile and continue ahead.

When you reach the ruin at High House, pass to the right of the building. Continue ahead, downhill, and then bearing left to reach a footbridge. Cross over the Hartley Burn using the footbridge. Leave the **Pennine Way** here (at NY 66251 60122) – heading straight across the field – towards the gateway on the other side. Keep an eye out for purple Roof of England Walk waymarks.

On the other side of the field go through a metal field gate, cross the minor road, and go through another field gate – signed 'Public Footpath'. Pass to the left of a stone barn (Lowhouse Mill) and continue ahead – keeping the fence on your right.



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J:



At the far side of the field cross a footbridge and then bear left to go over a stile, next to a metal field gate. Diagonally cross the next field to a stile through the hedge. Go over the stile and turn right onto the tarmac lane.

Follow the lane past High Burnfoot and Low Burnfoot. Just beyond the house at Low Burnfoot cross a footbridge over the Hartley Burn. On the other side follow the path through the woodland alongside the River South Tyne.

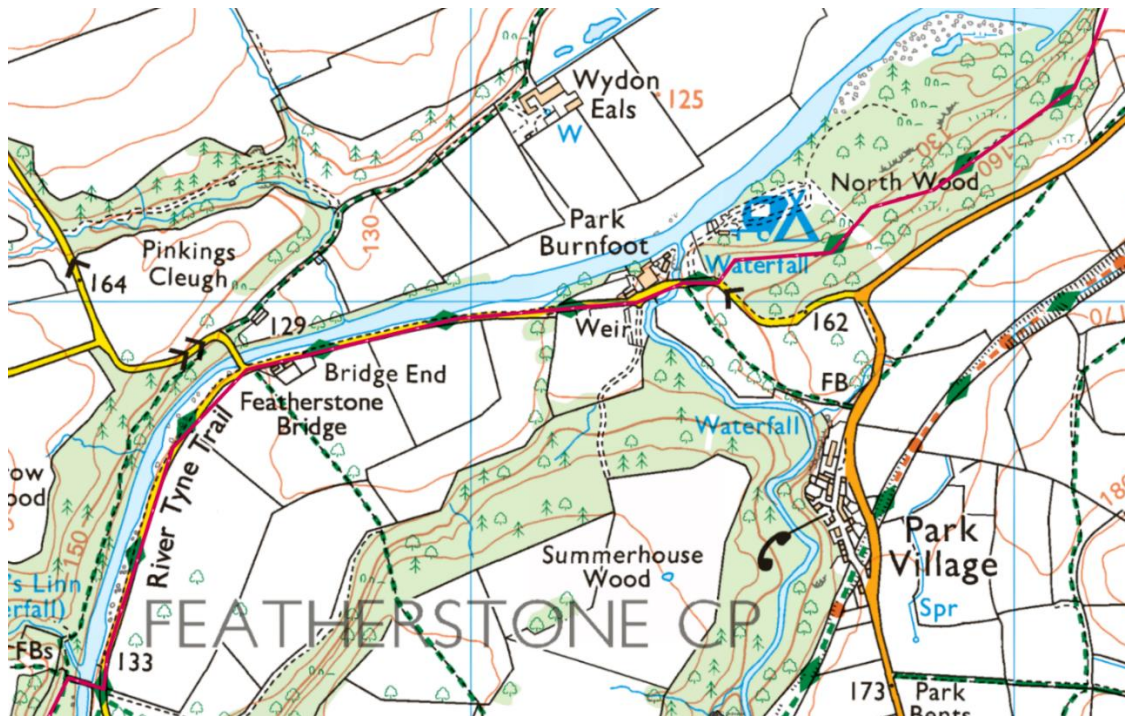
After about 600m you will reach a long (double) footbridge across the river. Cross over and turn left on the tarmac road. From the footbridge, the Roof of England Walk route shares the route of the **River Tyne Trail** all the way to the end of the leg - just over 4km.





## Leg 3 – Roof of England Walk

K:



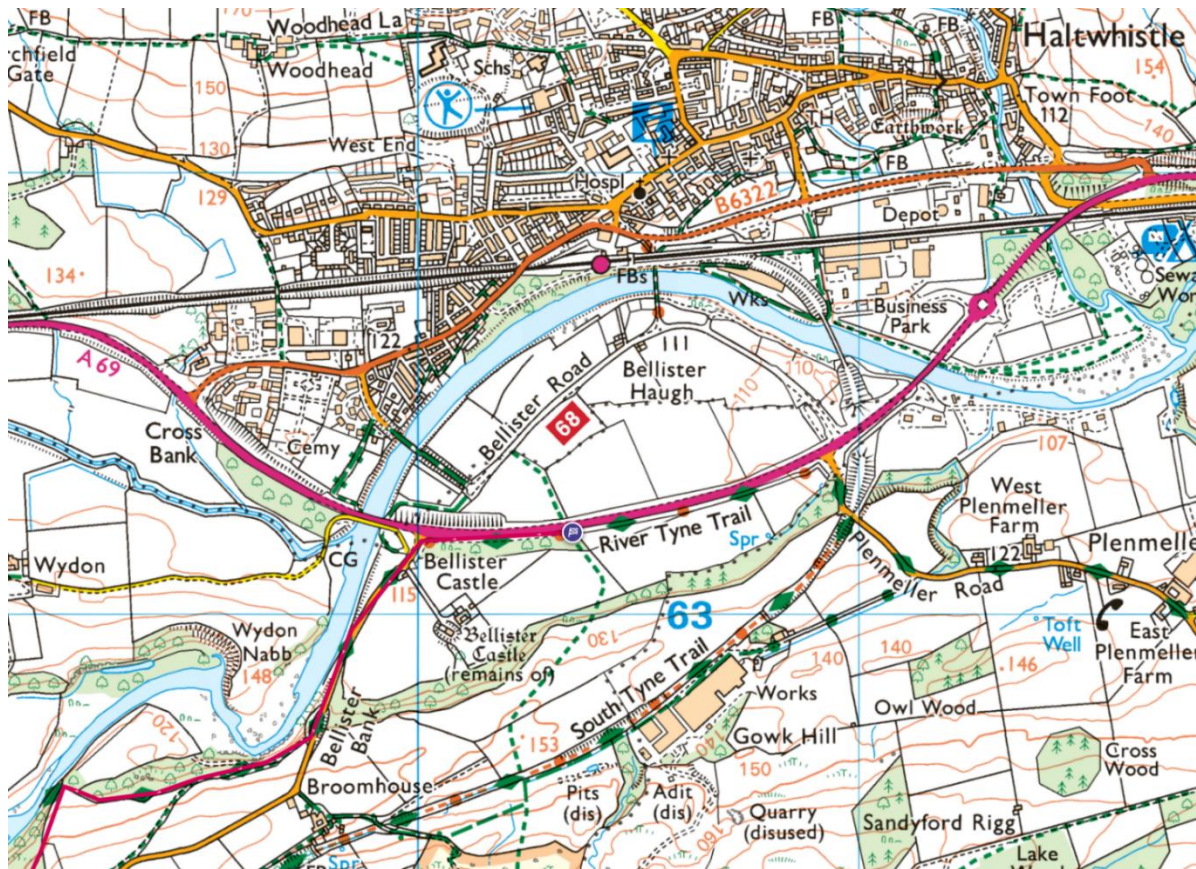
Follow the tarmac road for 1.5km – walking past Featherstone Bridge. Keep the river on your left.

100m after the farm at Park Burnfoot turn left (leaving the road) to join a permissive route through the National Trust's North Wood. Follow the (sometimes) muddy path through the woods.



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L:



After about 1.6km through the woods you will emerge beside the road on Bellister Bank. Either follow the riverside path or the road to the finish of the leg.

Leg 3 finishes on the **River Tyne Trail** on the south side of Haltwhistle (on the south side of the A69) at NY 70344 63189.

If you want to visit Haltwhistle there is an underpass (beneath the very busy A69) at NY 69919 63204 and access to the town centre is via footbridges at NY 69965 63394 and NY 70532 63757.

**Roof of England Walk** – a journey around the North Pennines. This is Leg 3 (of 14) of this multi-day 301km (188 mile) route. The whole trail takes you on a fantastic journey exploring the North Pennines National Landscape and UNESCO Global Geopark. Find out more at [www.roofofenglandwalk.org.uk](http://www.roofofenglandwalk.org.uk)