



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

### Leg 9: Stanhope to St. John's Chapel - Directions

Length	Ascent	Time	Version	Updated
18.5km (11.5 miles)*	387m (1,270 ft)*	5:23*	1.1	5/5/2025

\*Using OS Maps (online)

Maps are © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Durham County Council. LA10004955. 2025.  
OS maps for Leg 9: Explorer – OL31 (E) and 307; Landranger – 92 and 87.  
The route is shown on the maps as a thin red line.

A:



Leg 9 of the **Roof of England Walk** takes walkers between Stanhope (NY 99349 39159 and [///plugged.defeated.corrosive](#)) and St. John's Chapel (NY 88843 38119 and [///rewarding.influence.thus](#)).

Leg 9 shares the route of the **Weardale Way**, apart from a section, near Westgate, to explore Slitt Wood and the Middlehope Valley.

The leg starts at the green metal bridge over the River Wear, just to the south of the Weardale town of Stanhope. Start walking along the tarmac access road – with the river on your right.

At the stepping stones, which span the river, continue ahead on the road, with the River Wear on your right.

After 600m you will reach a junction. Cross Stanhope Bridge and then immediately turn left, through the metal gate, signed 'Weardale Way – Public Footpath'.

Follow the path between the River Wear (on your left) and Greenfoot Quarry (on your right). Continue past the gauging station on the Wear. Cross over the (currently disused) railway line, small footbridge, and stile. Follow the grassy path ahead, round the edge of the field (fence and river on your left).

When you reach the house at the end of the field go through the wooden bridge gate on the left of the building.



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

B:



Follow the riverside path ahead, passing on the left of the building. Just beyond the end of the garden, go through a bridle gate. Follow the footpath ahead on the narrow field between the railway line and the river – all the way to the static caravan park (1.6km / 1 mile). Take care as the route is, in places, very rough, rocky and there are exposed roots. It can also very muddy after rain.

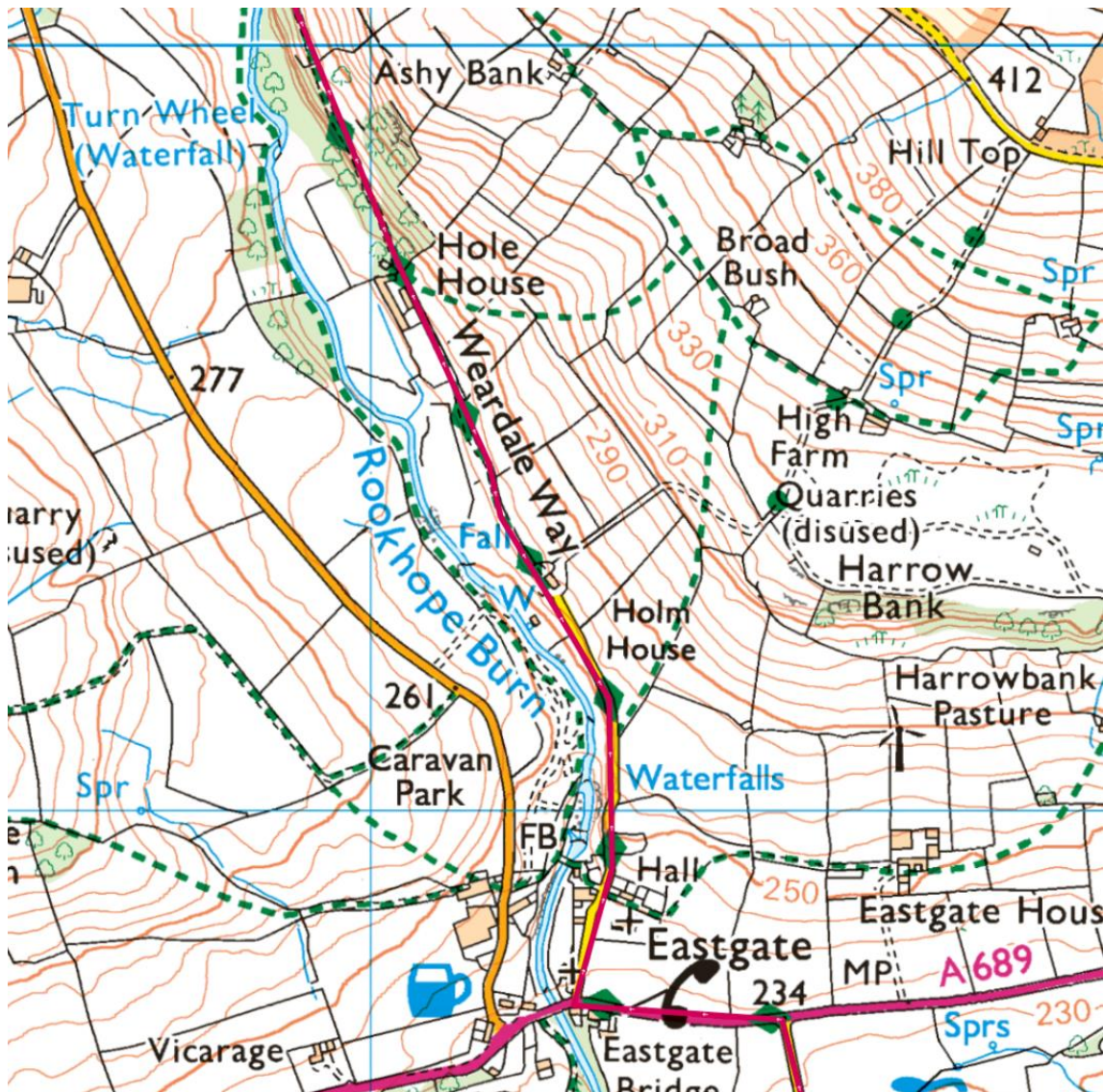
When you reach the White House & Hagg Bridge Caravan Park (static/holiday homes) make your way through the site to the entrance.

At the entrance turn right on the minor road. After 350m you will reach the main road (A689). Turn left and walk into the small village of Eastgate.



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

**C:**



When you reach Eastgate turn right onto the minor road, immediately after the bus shelter – signed no through road/village hall. Follow the road all the way to Hole House (1km).

At the end of the tarmac road (adjacent to Hole House on your left) go through the wooden field gate and follow the gently rising path through the broadleaf woodland – signed 'Weardale Way – Public Footpath'.

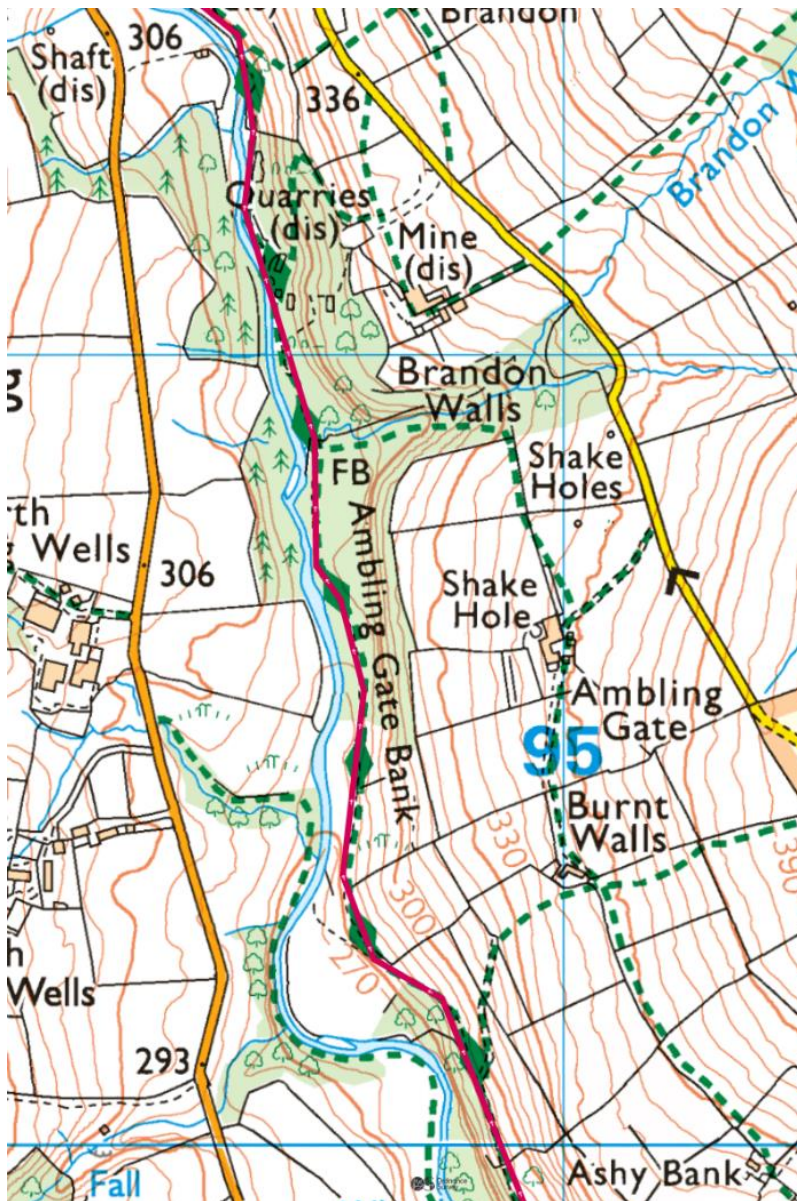
At the top of the rise go through the gateway.





## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

D:



After the gateway continue following the path ahead, with the fence (and wood) on your left, and initially a short stretch of tumbled down drystone wall on your right. Where a grassy track bears right, uphill, continue ahead with the fence line close by, on your left. At the fence corner continue following the path, as it contours round the hillside, dropping slightly downhill.

Just beyond a boggy patch on the path and then a lone hawthorn tree, bear right (on the slight terrace), off the grassy path that you have been following. Contour round the hillside, rising slightly.

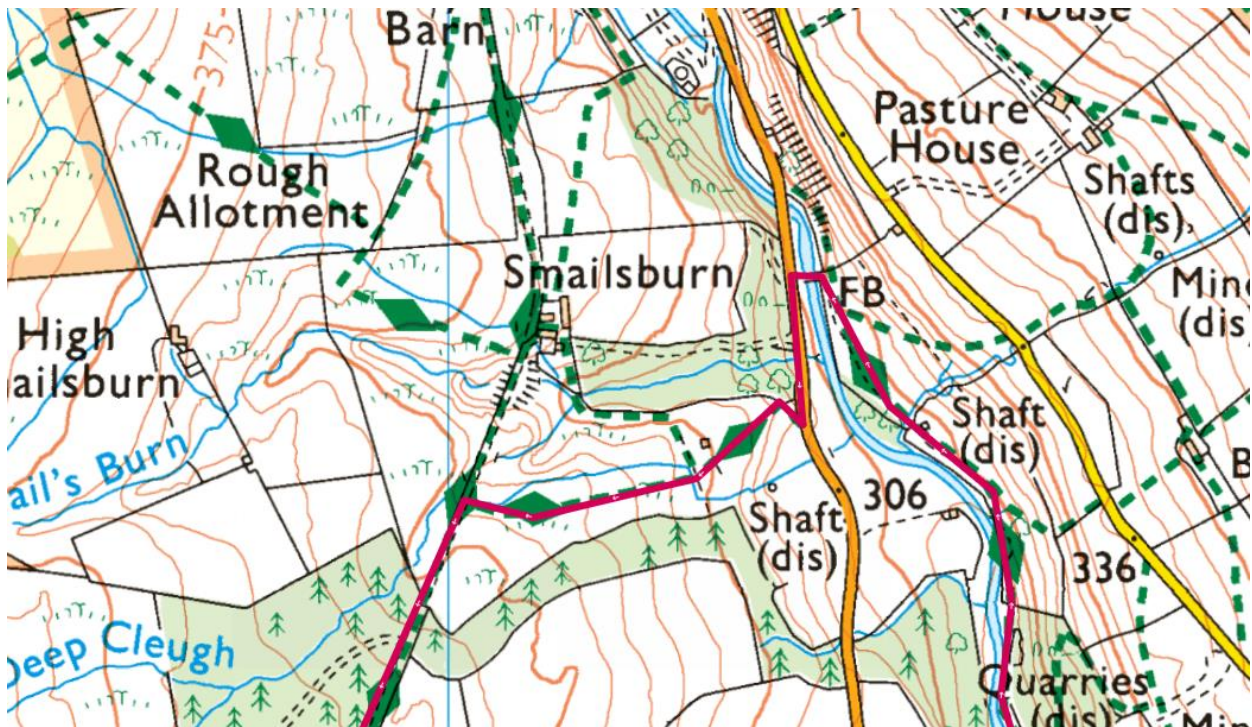
Cross the line of the tumbled down drystone wall and follow the now more distinct path/grassy track, ahead – towards the trees. Follow the path through the open woodland along Ambling Gate Bank, after a short distance drop down to the level of the Rookhope Burn.

Cross the footbridge over the stream and continue ahead following the grassy, streamside path. Continue following the path, through the woods, beside the ruins of Brandon Walls Lead Mine. Bear right at the fork in the path, next to a tumbled down stone wall and ruined building.



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

E:



After a short distance go through a wooden bridle gate and follow the path ahead. Climb the rocky path as it gradually rises through the trees. When you emerge, continue following the path, slightly downhill initially, alongside the stream to a footbridge.

Cross the footbridge, over the Rookhope Burn, and then a ladder stile onto the road (care!) Turn left to follow the road for 150m.

Turn right off the road to cross a stile over a wooden rail fence. Follow the signed 'Weardale Way - Public Footpath'. Initially bear right up a short, steep bank. At the top of the bank bear left ahead, uphill – heading for a metal field gate through a fence. Continue uphill.

When you reach the line of telegraph poles\*, turn left to follow the sunken track, uphill, keeping the recently planted woodland on your right. Go through two field gates in quick succession.

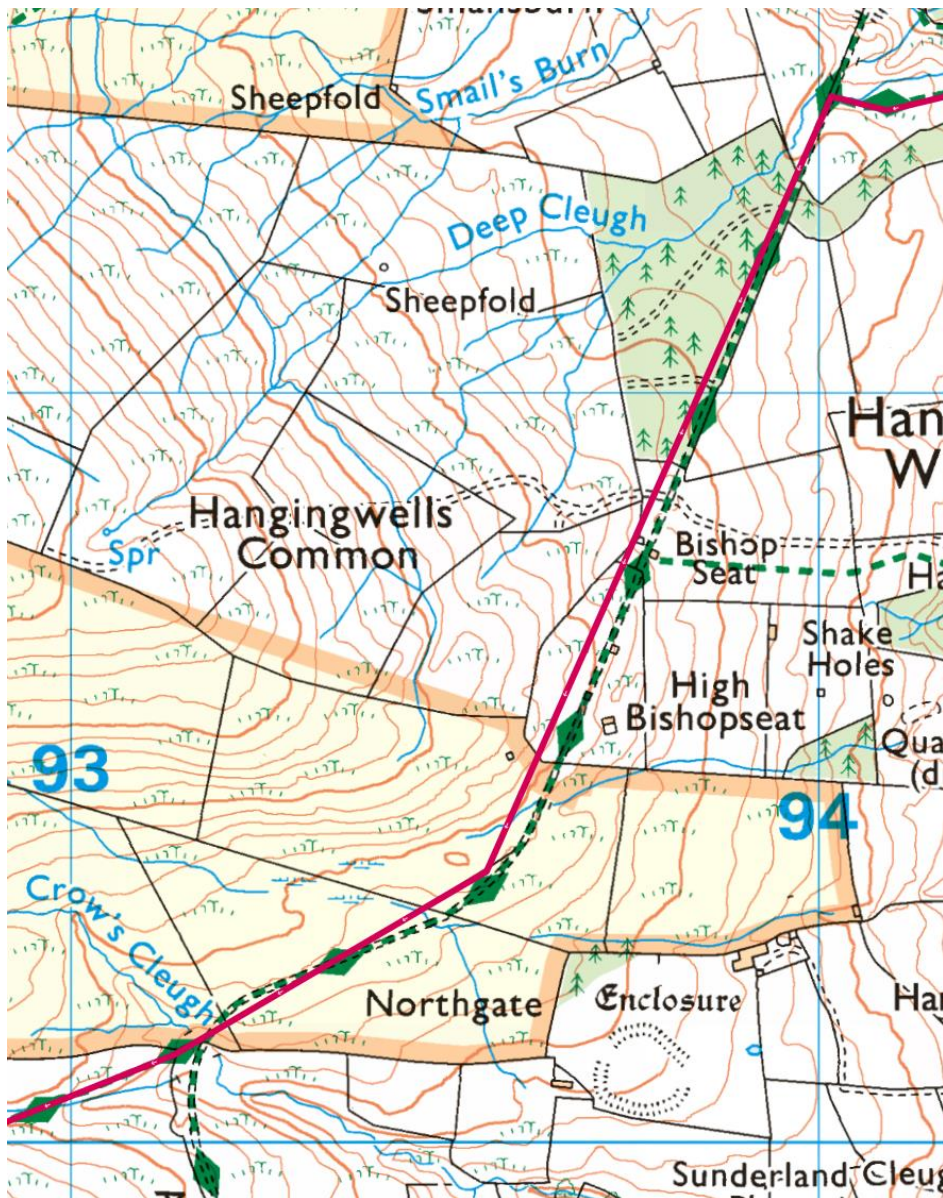
\*If you want to go to the village of Rookhope turn right and follow the track, downhill, towards Smailsburn Farm. The settlement is about 1.6km away.





## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

F:



After 400m go through the metal gate and continue straight ahead, crossing a track, to another gate. Go through it and continue ahead, uphill, with the lone building (High Bishopseat) on your left. Just beyond High Bishopseat cross the wooden stile and continue ahead along the route of the old railway – with the fence on your right.

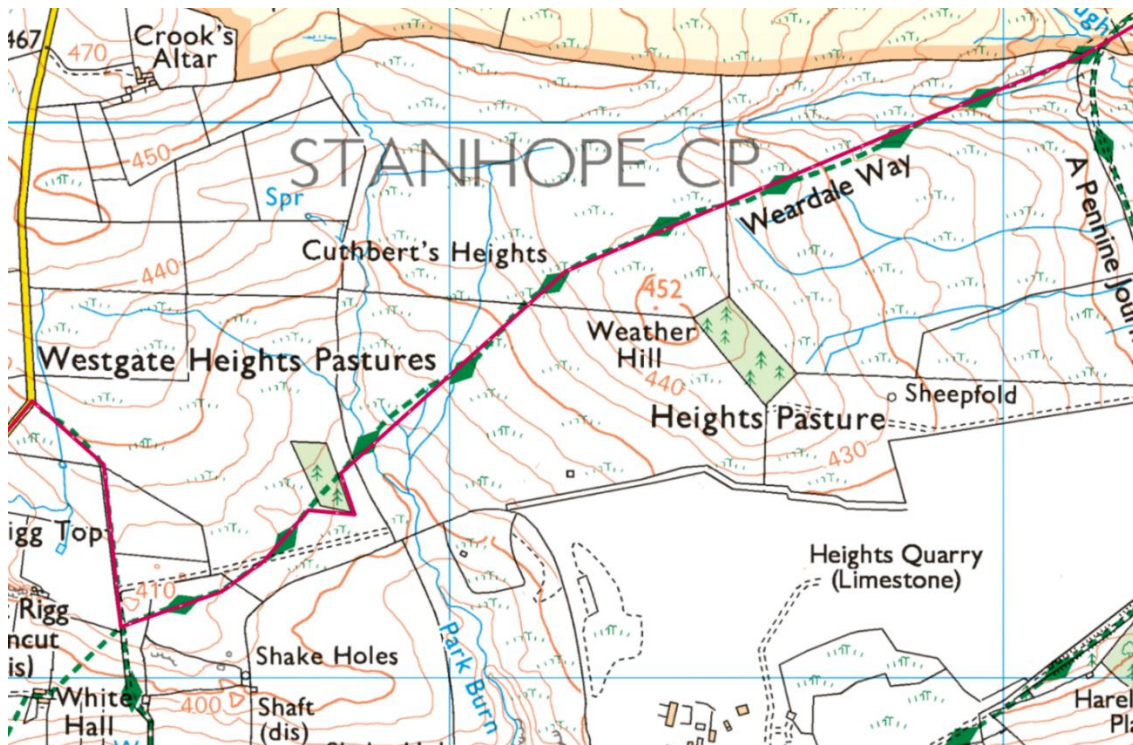
After 150m bear to the right and go through a metal gate – continue following the old railway line through an old cutting. After a short distance cross a stile over a fence and go through a bridle gate in quick succession.

Just beyond the wooden bridle gate (10m) turn right, leaving the old railway, down a steep bank – to cross a stile through a stone wall.



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

G:



Cross the stile and bear left round the side of the hill. Cross the stream and gradually climb Weather Hill, following the waymark posts.

As you crest the hill, you will cross an old fence line just across from a block of conifers, continue ahead across the pathless moor. After about 150m head towards a block of conifer trees.

Cross another old fence line and continue downhill towards the conifer block.

When you reach the trees cross over the drystone wall using the wooden ladder stile. Bear left heading towards the corner of the woodland – beyond the metal shelter. At the corner bear left to join a grassy track and turn right uphill.

Go through a metal gate and immediately turn left to go through a second metal gate. Cross the corner of the field to another gate.

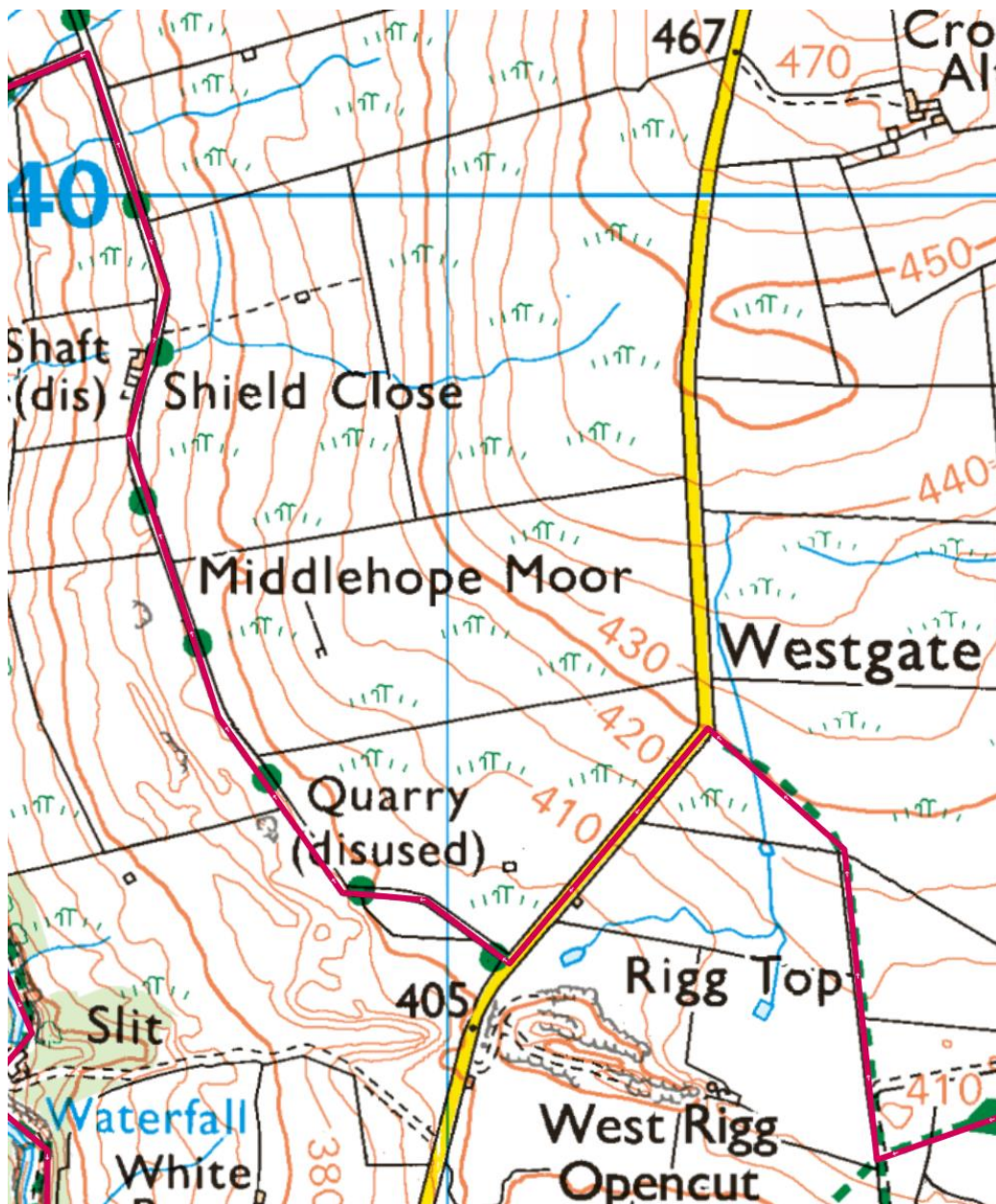
Go through the metal field gate and bear right to pick up the track. The Roof of England Walk route diverges from the **Weardale Way**. Start following purple **Roof of England Walk** waymarks.





## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

H:



At the stone wall turn right onto a track. At the bottom of the slope go through a metal field gate, leave the track – which turns right, and continue ahead, keeping the wall on your left.

Cross the field. At the top, left hand corner, go through the field gate and bear left across the fell. After 150m you will reach a quiet lane. Go through the gate and turn left, downhill.

Just before the interpretation panel at West Rigg Opencut turn right onto the stone track between two walls. Follow the track for a kilometre.

Three hundred metres beyond the ruined building (Shield Close, on the left side of the track) turn left, through a metal field gate, onto a downhill, stony, track. On the other side of the valley, you will see a steep track between drystone walls.





## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

I:



At the bottom of the hill, where the track bends round to the right, turn left (signed 'Public Footpath') and continue ahead with Middlehope Burn on your right and a tumbled down drystone wall on your left. This is the last **Roof of England Walk** waymark before Westgate. After a short distance you will pick up a rough path – follow it through ruined mining structures, all the way to the consolidated mine buildings and structures at Low Slitt Lead Mine.

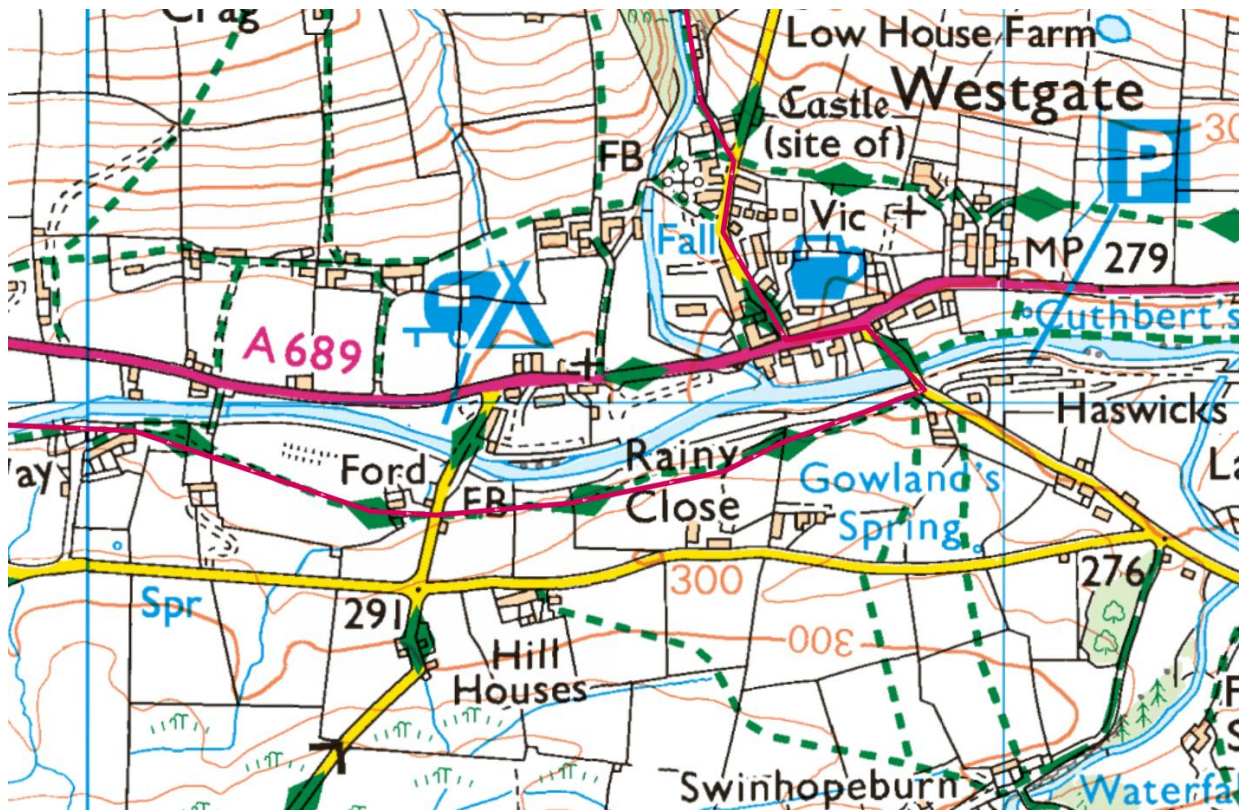
Continue downstream, following the good path, past the old bouseteams on your left, go through a bridle gate and follow the path all the way to the village of Westgate.

When you reach the village turn right onto the minor road and rejoin the route of the **Weardale Way**. Follow Weardale Way waymarks for the rest of the leg, all the way to St. John's Chapel.



## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

J:



When you reach the A689 turn left. After 80m turn right (signed Brotherlee), just after the Hare and Hounds pub. Cross the bridge over the River Wear and then turn immediately right, down some steps, through a metal kissing gate and follow the path (signed **Weardale Way**), keeping the fence on your right. Follow the path across four fields to the road.

Go straight across at the road. Follow the track ahead, keeping the houses on your right. Go through the wooden kissing gate into the field. Cross this field to another wooden kissing gate. Continue ahead with the wooden fence on your left. Go through the next gate between buildings and continue following the lane ahead.

Where the lane bends left, turn right onto a footpath, next to a stone built, model cottage. Cross the bridge and stile and follow the riverside path ahead.





## Leg 9 – Roof of England Walk

K:



After about 0.5km you will reach the main (A689) road. Go straight across (care), and down some stone steps to rejoin the riverside path. Continue following ahead until you reach a minor road.

When you reach the stepping stones/bridge/ford over the Wear you have reached the end of Leg 9.

To visit St. John's Chapel, turn left at the bridge and follow the lane for 400m to the centre of the village.

**Roof of England Walk** – a journey around the North Pennines. This is Leg 9 (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)