

# Hadrian's Wall National Trail (April 2017)

Version 1.0



Photo 1: On board the National Express Coach in the centre of London. Destination: Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Date: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017.



Photo 2: Having arrived in Newcastle I followed Hadrian's Wall Path from Quayside to its start point at Wallsend. About to walk under Redheugh Bridge one of 7 that span the Tyne river @ Quayside.



Photo 3: Remains of Roman Baths that were discovered near Segedunum Roman Fort.



Photo 4: Signpost at Start / Finish Point near Segedunum Museum.



Photo 5: Viewing Platform at Segedunum museum / Roman Fort.



Photo 6: Tyne Bridge from Newcastle City Centre. Sunday 09/04/17; hiking from Quayside to North Houghton Farm (NHF) Bunkhouse @ Heddon-on-the-wall.





Photo 7: Statue on round-about (A191) heading out of Newcastle.



Photo 8: Following the River Tyne as I head out of Newcastle. The landscape is pretty flat and not much evidence of Roman Wall so far.



Photo 9: Signpost near to Heddon-on-the-Wall.



Photo 10: First major piece of wall @ Heddon-on-the-Wall. Circular feature in the wall is an Oven/Kiln which was built into the wall at a much later date than its original construction. An Example of Broad Wall on Broad Foundations.





Photo 11: Info Panel for Vindobala Roman Fort. The Fort itself is currently buried under the Earth with very little evidence (apart from a few lumps & mounds) on the surface.



Photo 12: Remains of Roman Vallum which was dug on the English (southern) side of the wall.  
Sunday 09/04/17; hiking from NHF Bunkhouse @ Heddon-on-the-wall to Green Carts Farm.



Photo 13: More Roman Vallum.



Photo 14: Hadrian's Wall Path Signpost. From the start point @ Segedunum 25 miles have so far been completed. Another 59 Miles to Bowness.





Photo 15: A Roman Ditch which once sat in front of the Wall. A busy road now lies in the place where the wall used to be.



Photo 16: More Roman ditch running alongside the B6318? The wall was dismantled & removed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to make way for a military road, this road is now the B6318.





Photo 17: The ruins of Brunton Turret (26B) on segment of wall near Chollerford.



Photo 18: Large segment of Hadrian's Wall just outside Chollerford.



Photo 19: On bridge over River Tyne @ Chollerford. Chesters Roman Fort is found at Chollerford.



Photo 20: Another Wall segment with turret (29A) near Green Carts Farm Bunkhouse.





Photo 21: First example of Roman wall together with ditch. Tuesday 110417; hiking from Green Carts Farm to Winshields Farm.



Photo 22: Limestone Corner Quarry. Lots of rocks which were used to source stone for the construction of Hadrian's Wall. Roman Ditch goes through quarry.



Photo 23: Limestone Corner Quarry. Lots of evidence (such as flat surfaces) of where stone has been removed from the boulders.



Photo 24: More ditch beyond the Quarry. No evidence of Hadrian's wall itself, just a Farm wall & road where it used to be.

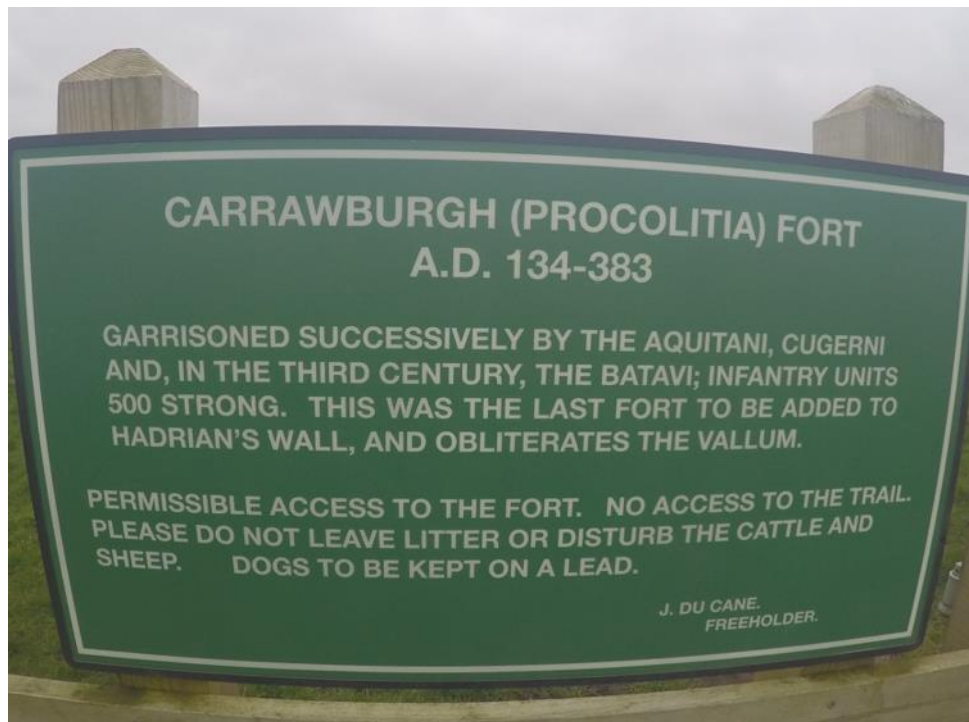


Photo 25: Carrawburgh Fort. Again, buried underground with only lumps of Earth to show. Although there was the...



Photo 26: ...Ruins of a Mithraic Temple next to the Fort. Temple included copies of altars/statues that were originally found there. Originals now in a museum in Newcastle.





Photo 27: Remains of Grindon Milecastle 34 (MC34). While building Hadrian's wall 1 milecastle and 2 turrets (A & B) were allocated to each (Roman) mile with the numbers 1 to 80 being given to all Milecastles and their turrets. Famous Milecastles are given names – Grindon in this case.



Photo 28: Grindon Turret (Turret 34A). Information panels defaced, possibly through use/age, which was fairly typical of a number of panels along the wall.



Photo 29: More Roman Wall, at top of 'Sewingshields' crags, and East of Housesteads Roman Fort. Due to the defensive nature of the crags, the wall did not require the digging of a ditch along this stretch.



Photo 30: Nice, well preserved piece of wall leading up to Housesteads (Vercovicium) Roman Fort.





Photo 31: Model (in Housesteads Museum) of how Housesteads Roman Fort would have looked when it was originally constructed in AD122.



Photo 32: A number of artefacts found during Archaeological digs at the Fort. Now housed in Housesteads Museum.





Photo 33: Hadrian's Wall – a Frontier of the Roman Empire and a World Heritage Site.



Photo 34: The toilets were unfortunately disused and out-of-order!



Photo 35: Interior of Housesteads Fort. I believe the ruins in front were the remains of the officer's/commander's quarters.



Photo 36: Remains of the main Granary, used for the long-term storage of the fort's food. The granaries floor was raised on stones allowing air to flow underneath, reducing damage from damp.





Photo 37: Walking along path next to a section of wall which you can apparently walk on.



Photo 38: Walking on wall and enjoying view off Housesteads Crag.





Photo 39: Milecastle 37 with the remains of an archway. The remains of the archway allowed its total height to be calculated and from this the probable height of the milecastle.



Photo 40: Iconic view from near Cuddy's Crag.



Photo 41: Rapishaw Gap where the 'Pennine Way' joins/leaves Hadrian's Wall Path.



Photo 42: View of Hot Bank Farm & Crag Lough.





Photo 43: Looking down into Sycamore Gap.



Photo 44: Sycamore tree at Sycamore Gap. A mile south of Sycamore gap is the Roman Fort of Vindolanda, considered the most historically important site in the UK.



Photo 45: View of Sycamore Gap.



Photo 46: The Iconic Milecastle 39 (Castle Nick). Both Associated Turrets (39A & 39B) were abandoned and removed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD.





Photo 47: View of turret (unnumbered) down below peel crags.



Photo 48: Looking back towards Peel Crag.



Photo 49: An extremely windy (pardon my bottom!) nights camp at Winshield's Farm Campsite. Wednesday 120417; hiking from Winshields Farm to Slack House Bunk Barn.



Photo 50: Caw Gap. The trail over the crags was quite 'coastal' with a lot of peaks and troughs (gaps), which collectively became quite tiring on the legs and shoulders.





Photo 51: Turret 41A. Since I decided to hike the Trail from East to West it became apparent, particularly over the crags, that I was walking into the wind. This increased fatigue and slowed the pace down.



Photo 52: Selfie standing next to impressive section of wall. Nearby is a gate in wall called Thorny Doors.



Photo 53: Milecastle 42. Apparently, there's a Swastika etched on the wall somewhere nearby, although I was unable to find it.



Photo 54: A flooded, disused Quarry @ Cawfields. Original Route of wall past Milecastle 42 goes over the quarry, with the wall (and Turret 42A) being destroyed by quarrying.





Photo 55: Signpost @ Cawfield.



Photo 56: Plaque on one of the outer walls @ Great Chester's Fort (Aesica). Great Chester's was another fort that was mostly buried (apart from outer walls) underground – A farm occupied part of the site. Milecastle 43 was destroyed when the fort was built.





Photo 57: An Arch of some kind (possibly a well) at Great Chester's Fort (Aesica). There was also an altar (not photographed) where walkers regularly leave donations of money (Luck).



Photo 58: Partially buried Wall.





Photo 59: Turret 44B 'King Arthur's Turret' @ Walltown Crag.



Photo 60: Interior of Turret 44B.



Photo 61: Quarry @ Walltown Crag.



Photo 62: Impressive section of wall near Walltown Crag.





Photo 63: More Wall near Walltown Crag.



Photo 64: Section of Wall + View towards Walltown Quarry (pond). The Roman Fort of Carvoran (Magna) and its museum are just down the road from Walltown.



Photo 65: A section of Ditch + Farm Wall between Walltown Quarry and Thirlwall Castle.



Photo 66: Thirlwall Castle. Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century using stone taken from Hadrian's Wall.





Photo 67: Turret 48A.



Photo 68: Example of narrow wall on broad foundations. Broad foundations stop at Willowford, with only narrow wall on narrow foundations after this point.



Photo 69: Information Panel at the remains of Willowford Bridge abutment. Also, the point historically, where the building of the stone wall from the east met a turf wall being built from the west, completing the original wall.



Photo 70: Milecastle 49.





Photo 71: Slack House Farm Bunkhouse. Thursday 130417; hiking from Slack House Bunk Barn to Park Broom Hotel.



Photo 72: Phallic Symbol found on wall between Milecastle 49 and Birdoswald Roman Fort. One of a number of engravings along this stretch of wall.



Photo 73: Model (in Birdoswald Museum) of how Birdoswald (Banna) Roman Fort would have looked when it was originally constructed.



Photo 74: Another Phallic Symbol carved into stone in the Birdoswald Museum.





Photo 75: Farmhouse built within the Fort's walls using stones taken directly from Birdoswald. The Farmhouse, and accompanying buildings, house English Heritage's gift-shop & museum.



Photo 76: The remains of Birdoswald Roman Fort's East Gate.



Photo 77: The remains of Birdoswald's South Gate.



Photo 78: Stones from the fort can be clearly seen in the Farm House Walls.





Photo 79: Turret 52A near the village of Banks. This point marked the last major piece of wall between here and the end of the trail.



Photo 80: Abutment, near Dovecote Bridge, with 20 metres of (earth covered) wall on top. Turret 55B is located nearby although there's nothing visible on the surface.



Photo 81: Walking on the line of the wall with Earthworks (Possibly Ditch / Vallum) nearby.



Photo 82: More Earthworks. Possibly Ditch / Vallum.





Photo 83: Park Broom Hotel. Friday 140417; Final days hike from Park Broom Hotel to Bunkhouse @ Bowness-on-Solway.



Photo 84: The remains of Victorian Folly in a field just outside Carlisle.



Photo 85: Carlisle Castle which is owned and run by English Heritage.



Photo 86: Signpost (and tractor) @ Grinsdale.





Photo 87: Possible Wall Stones & Symbol.



Photo 88: St Mary's Church @ Beaumont. Church was built with stones from the wall.



Photo 89: Edward I statue which marks the place where he died from dysentery.



Photo 90: Signpost @ Boustead Hill. Following long flat road across Easton marsh.





Photo 91: Remains of disused docks @ Port Carlisle.



Photo 92: Remains of a disused Port @ Port Carlisle.



Photo 93: Photo taken next to signpost at Port Carlisle. 83 miles hiked from Wallsend.



Photo 94: Gazebo and a herb garden marks the start/finish point at Bowness-on-Solway.





Photo 95: Interior of the Gazebo @ end of trail.



Photo 96: View of Tyne Bridge & Swing Bridge from High Level Bridge. Back in Newcastle to catch National Express Bus back to London Victoria.

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**Written on Signpost @ Planetrees:** Hadrian's Wall was built by the order of Emperor Hadrian, following his visit to Britain in AD122. It was planned as a continuous wall with a milecastle every Roman mile (1.48 kilometres) and two turrets equally spaced between each milecastle. The Wall, with its defensive ditches and large forts, stretched from coast to coast, a distance of 80 Roman miles (approximately 120 Kilometres or 75 miles). It formed the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire.

Hadrian's Wall is a World Heritage Site, Designated by UNESCO.

After 3-metre-wide foundations were laid along most of Hadrian's Wall, the building of the 'broad' began. At some point, perhaps to save time and resources, it was decided to continue with a 2-metre wall on the existing foundations. At Planetrees, you can see where 'narrow' wall joins 'broad' Wall.



The Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail is an 84-mile (135km) Trail which starts at Wallsend (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) and finishes at Bowness-on-Solway. The Trail follows Hadrian's Wall, the largest surviving Roman Monument in Europe built in AD122, along a geological fault (Whin Sill Ridge) that crosses Northern England. The UK's 13<sup>th</sup> National Trail, opened in May 2003, allows the walker to follow in the footsteps of the Roman Soldiers who built and maintained it. From flat level river walking at Newcastle the trail moves onto wild exposed crags, peaking at 345m, by the mid-point. The trail then gradually descends to sea-level before more river walking through Carlisle and finally across salt-marshes to Bowness.

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