

- 10 Follow the fence line on your right along the meadow edge.

You will notice a distinct change of vegetation to rough open grassland. This area was planted with heathland species and local seed collected from the Quaking Houses Fell Site of Special Scientific Interest. The heather seedlings will hopefully take hold and be an ideal habitat for various native birds such as grouse. Note on your right juniper has been planted in fenced off areas, this is a rare shrub that has been introduced.

- 11 Continue along the dirt path to the manmade track.

From here you can see Quaking Houses which is only a quarter of a mile away.

- 12 Turn left through a stone stile, and follow the track for a mile or so (1.5 km) and you will reach a junction. To the left of you there is a meadow and to the right there is a small pond. IMPORTANT: Please keep dogs on a lead here to protect nesting birds.

- 13 Both routes join here to return to Burnhope. Continue south along this track until you reach a stile before a small plantation.

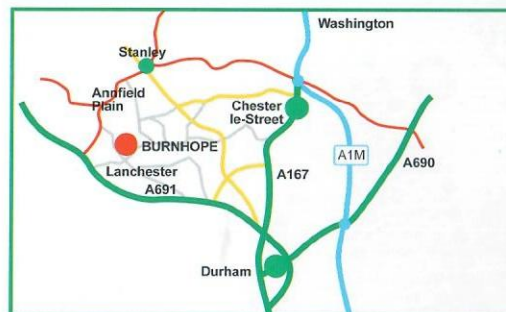
The pond was left as part of the reclamation works for wildlife value and is now a thriving habitat with various marsh species growing naturally, along with willow and birch.

- 14 Cross the stile into a field and head south towards the village. In the third field there is a small stile in the boundary on your right. Cross into the plantation and follow the hedge to your left until you reach a stile that crosses into the football fields behind the village.

This whole area in front of you, now the allotments, used to be a huge clay pit called the Brickflatts. Most of the houses in Burnhope are made from the bricks made from this clay.

- 15 To make your way back to the school gates pass the Ivy Leaf WMC and cross the main road. Walk between the houses of Langley Terrace and Whitehouse Terrace, then turn left through a gap in between the houses and onto a narrow path that runs along the edge of the school field. Turn right along this path until you reach a derelict concrete site which used to be the hall. Turn left along Langley Avenue and you will once again come to the school gates, where you started the Burnhope Circular Walk.

LOCATION MAP



COUNTRY CODE

- * Enjoy the countryside and respect it's life and work
- * Fasten all gates
- * Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- * Keep your dogs under close control
- * Take your litter home
- * Make no unnecessary noise
- * Keep to public paths across farmland
- * Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- * Take special care on country roads
- * Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- * Help to keep water clean
- * Guard against all risk of fire

Drawings by children from Burnhope School

For more information regarding Public Rights of Way please contact:
Durham County Council
Countryside and Rights of Way
Environment Department
County Hall
Durham DH1 5UQ
Tel:(0191)3833452



rural action
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Burnhope
Parish Council



BURNHOPE Circular Walk

A 5 1/2 mile
Circular Walk that Visits
Local Coal Mining
Heritage

BURNHOPE Circular Walk

The walk starts at Burnhope School Gates. These gates were designed by the school children to depict the local history of the area.

1 From the school gates, turn left along Langley Avenue. After house No 29 Cumstoun, turn left and the public footpath is in the corner on the right. Follow the path along to Whitehouse Farm and turn left through the field gate. Continue along this track for half a mile (approx 1km) until you reach Fellside Plantation.

From the early 1800's onwards various drift mines and pit shafts were worked over most of this area. All the drift mines were named after birds, eg. the Pheasant, the Cuckoo and the Robin. As you walk down this path and look at the farmland to your left and woodland in front of you try to imagine the whole area as a hive of industry worked by hundreds of miners.

2 Once at the bottom of the track you will need to go through the gate to your left, (don't forget to close it behind you). Fellside Plantation is now on your right and to your left is the land where three of the major coal producing pits used to stand.

These were known locally as the Fell Pit, the Annie Pit and the Fortune Pit and were all mined during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. As the coal seams were used up the pits became uneconomic and were eventually closed by 1948, resulting in massive local job losses.

3 Continue along the path beside the plantation until you reach a divide in the route. Avoid the bridleway directly ahead and follow the footpath to your right. This takes you around an interesting reclaimed wooded area with a small pond.

During the summer months look out for newts, frogs and dragonflies that live here.

4 Follow the footpath up the bank to the main road.

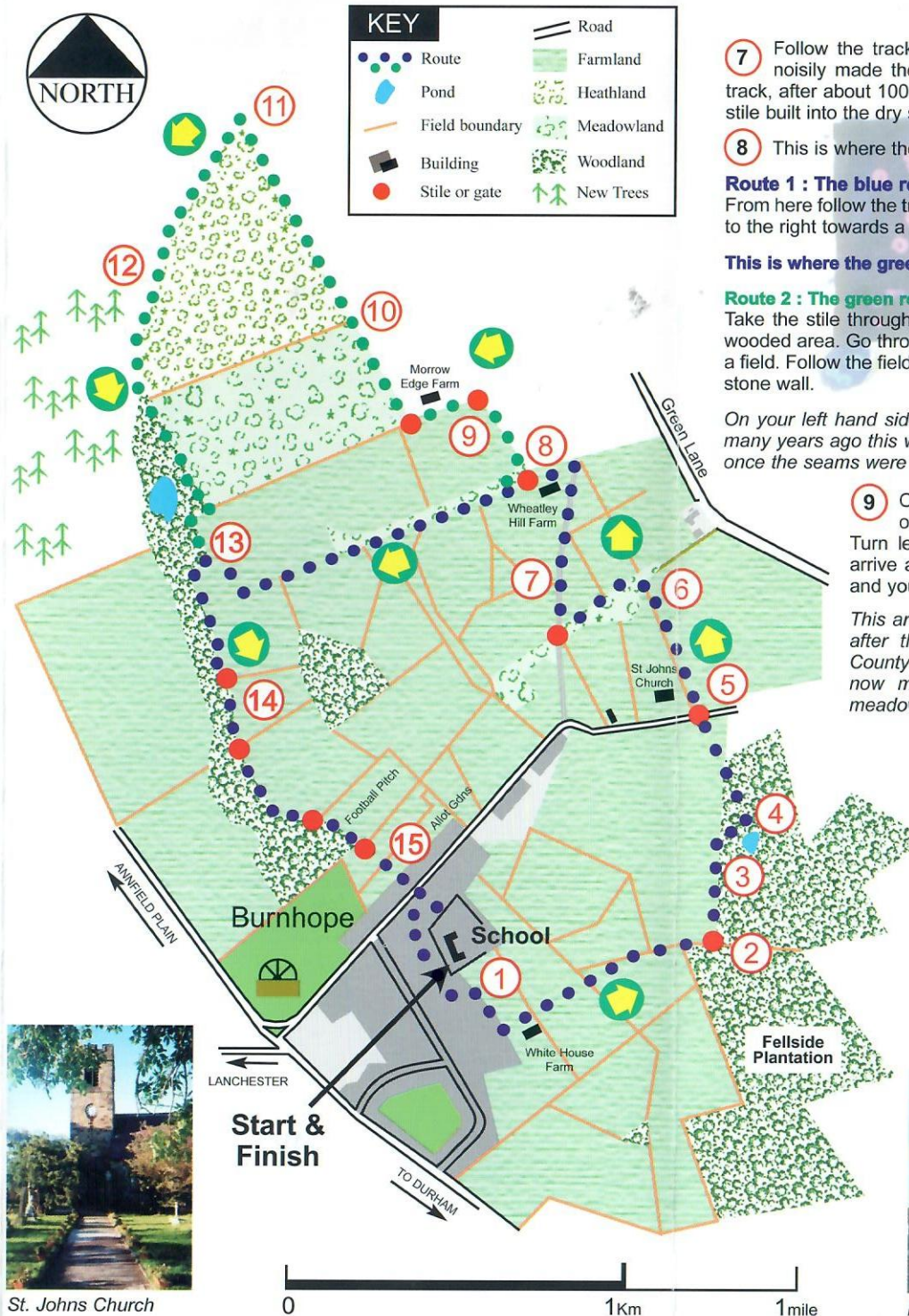
If you look eastwards from this viewpoint on a clear day you can see almost 30 miles to the North Sea!

5 Cross to the other side of the road and through the gate opposite (please make sure you close the gate behind you).

To the right you will see the vicarage and along the road to the left you will see St Johns Church which was built in 1860's with the tower being added around the turn of the century, which was financed by the miners.

6 Follow the wall on your right, into the trees and you will come to a junction. Turn left and make your way through the woodland through a gate, then over a stile and onto the disused railway line.

This track was once used as a wagonway by the collieries to haul coal up from the seams and over the bank top and down to Craghead Pit. The wagonway was powered by a steam engine, which used coal as its fuel. The rope and pulley system pulled the coal tubs up the bank and down the lane which is known as Wagtail Lane.



7 Follow the track up to the top where the tubs would have noisily made their way. Once at the top turn left down the track, after about 100m look to your right and you will see a stone stile built into the dry stonewall.

8 This is where the routes divide.

Route 1 : The blue route (shorter walk).

From here follow the track for approx. half a mile (1km) until it bears to the right towards a pond.

This is where the green route rejoins the blue route at point 13.

Route 2 : The green route (longer walk).

Take the stile through the drystone wall and you will come into a wooded area. Go through the woodland and over another stile into a field. Follow the field boundary round to your right and next to the stone wall.

On your left hand side you will see an area of farmland. Not so many years ago this whole area was an opencast coal site, which once the seams were used up, was reclaimed for farm use.

9 Once at the corner of the field cross the stile onto the track opposite the farm buildings. Turn left along the track, past the farm until you arrive at the first stile on your right. Cross the stile and you enter a meadow.

This area was reinstated as a natural meadowland after the opencast site was reclaimed. Durham County Council have since re-seeded the area and now manage it developing it as a wild flower meadow and to encourage birdlife.

a Sparrow Hawk
Its food is chiefly small birds.
On the walk we saw a sparrowhawk



St. John's Church



Burnhope pit wheel