



Allendale and River East Allen

Start/Finish: Allendale Caravan Park on the B6295 between Allendale and Catton (Grid ref: NY 833567)

Walking distance: 4km (2.5 miles)

Public transport: There is a regular bus service from Hexham to Allenheads that stops in Allendale. For further information call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608

Parking: Park along the B6295 between the Caravan Park and Allenmill bridge

Facilities: Toilets, cafes, pubs and places to stay in Allendale

Terrain: There are some hills, stiles and paths may be muddy

➤ [View over Allendale from point 5 on the walk route](#)



This circular walk takes you onto the hillside overlooking Allendale, before dropping down into the town and then following the river East Allen. There are many reminders of the once huge lead mining industry. This is one in a series of three walks.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1988. At almost 2,000 square kilometres it is the second largest of the 41 AONBs. Large areas are internationally recognised for their important wildlife. It is also Britain's first European Geopark and a UNESCO Global Geopark which highlights the global significance of its landscape and geology.

North Pennines AONB Partnership
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Allendale Caravan Park

A small family run static caravan park in the North Pennines AONB

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www.allendale-holidays.co.uk

We can provide the information contained in this publication in large print, different formats and other languages on request.
Call 01388 528801 for details.

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Route 1

Allendale and River East Allen



Walks from Allendale Caravan Park

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Route description

- 1 From Allendale Caravan Park lower entrance take the footpath on the opposite side of the road. Follow the path through the field, to the concrete steps and gate through the stone wall onto the B6303.
- 2 Cross the road and take the public footpath directly opposite, which goes up to the left of the last house in the row of houses. Cross the stile in the rear of the houses. Head straight up the field towards the farm at the top.
- 3 At the top take the gate to the right. Follow the stone wall on the left for a few metres and cross the stile on the left. Turn right and walk along the field, keeping the wall on your right.
- 4 At the end of this field go through a gate and turn right. Follow the track as it bends to the left and carry straight on. Go through the metal field gate as the track bends to the right. You are now in a large field. Walk along the top of this field keeping the wall on your left hand side. Watch out for rabbit holes to the left of the path. Where the wall turns a corner to the left, keep straight on, bearing slightly left to a stile at the end of the field.
- 5 Cross the stile and turn right. Cross the next stile and go down the path between two houses to the road, then turn right. At the T-junction with the B6303 to Allendale, turn left into Allendale. Carry on until you reach the road signposted to Whitfied.
- 6 Turn right here and follow the path past the 'Allendale Inn' and the 'Hare and Hounds'. Continue along the path and cross the road to take the public footpath signposted to Allenmill and Oakpool.
- 7 Follow the footpath along the river bank to the B6295. Turn right to reach the start point of the walk at Allendale Caravan Park.

➤ The banks of the River East Allen are covered in ramsons (wild garlic) in spring.



Key

- - - Walk route
- - - Other Public Rights of Way



A View of Allendale chimney. The chimneys on the opposite hillside lie at the end of flues from the old smelting mill in the valley below. The flues extracted fumes from the smelters. Lead and silver within the fumes condensed on the walls of the flue and were later removed, often by children, to be re-used.

B Blckett Level entrance. This mine level was started in 1855 and reached a total length of 4.5 miles. It was intended to de-water Allenheads mine and find new veins of lead ore but was never completed due to the collapse of the price of lead.

C The River East Allen winds its way down the East Allen Valley from its source at Allenheads. The old Celtic word for Allendale means 'valley of the shining water', perhaps because the river contains trace silver and lead ore.

D Site of the old smelting mill. The lead from the surrounding dale was smelted here over a period of more than 200 years. It finally closed in 1897 after having been the main source of employment for the local population. At its peak in the 1860s the parish population rose to 6,400. It is now about 1,600.

E In autumn sea trout can be seen jumping the weir.

