

Wark

Warksfield Head : 5.5 km/3½ miles

This attractive walk follows well-marked paths on an undulating route via three burns that feed into the River North Tyne.

St Michael's Church

You walk past St Michael's Church on this walk. Set at the edge of the village, this rather imposing church was built at the expense of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital. They built churches at Wark, Greystead, Humshaugh and Thorneyburn to provide a living for navy chaplains returning from the Napoleonic wars.

Food for flight

In autumn, the hawthorn, blackthorn (sloe) and holly berries make this a good walk for spotting hedgerow birds like chaffinches, blue tits, fieldfares, redwings and thrushes. They rove about the woodland edges and fields to harvest an annual crop of nutritious and fattening fruits.



Hawthorn berries



The redwing is one of the most common birds in the winter countryside

Illustration ©John Walters

Mid Tyne Community Trust



We hope you enjoy this walk from Wark. This is one of 10 leaflets available, with 18 walks in all, to help you enjoy exploring Hadrian's Wall Country in this lovely part of Northumberland.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Wall (2 walks) | 6 Humshaugh (3 walks) |
| 2 Wall & Chollerford (2 walks) | 7 Wark (2 walks) |
| 3 Warden Hill | 8 Wark - Warksfield Head |
| 4 Newbrough (2 walks) | 9 Stonehaugh (2 walks) |
| 5 Newbrough - Carr Edge | 10 Fourstones (2 walks) |

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www.midtynetrust.ik.com email: midtynetrust@btopenworld.com
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Warksfield Head

Length: 5.5 km/3½ miles

Allow: 2 hours

Suitable for anyone of average fitness, this enjoyable route involves three gradual climbs and descents. You'll be rewarded for your effort with good views across the North Tyne Valley.

 Bus stop in Wark
(Tyne Valley Coaches 01434 602217).

 The Battlesteads (01434 230209)
serves meals and welcomes walkers.

 In Wark, beside village green.

From the village green walk past the Post Office and petrol station and turn right, heading north on the Bellingham road. Leave the village and pass St Michael's Church on your left.

- 1 Keep going for 150m beyond the church, taking care on this fast road. Take the path signed for Warksfield Head. Walk to the corner of this field and cross a footbridge. Cross a stile, then walk up the side of the next field, climbing slightly all the time.
- 2 Go over a stile in the top corner to join a track, where you keep straight ahead. Where this track turns to the left, keep straight on up the field, following a hawthorn hedge. Cross a stile and carry on with a fence on your right.
- 3 At the farm of Warksfield Head, turn left to follow the farm road, up the rise. Past a bungalow on the left the road descends to cross the Kirk Burn. After a steep pull up to the brow of the hill, there's a line of trees with a waymarker post. Leave the road and turn sharp left to follow the direction of the waymarker up diagonally across a steep field.

- 4 Go through a gate in the corner of the field onto a minor road, turn right and in 30m turn left over a stile marked 'Longstrother ½'. Head half right down this field to a waymarked stile. Follow an old hawthorn hedge towards Longstrother Farm. Just before the farm, go over a stile and turn sharp left, following the fence down to cross the Dean Burn. Head half left up the next field: you should be able to see the top of a stile over the rise.

Cross this stile and keep on the same half-left direction across this field. In 250m you come to a stile in the field corner. This takes you onto a minor road. Turn left.

- 5 After 200m turn right along a road signposted 'Long Lee 1¼'. Turn left where a sign warns of a weight limit ahead. Go down to the bridge to see the the impressive gorge here at Ramshaw Mill, but then retrace your steps slightly to the stile just before bridge, marked 'public footpath Wark ¾'.



Dog rose

- 6 Walk up this path and after 30m bear left to a telegraph pole with waymarker taking you to a track 20m ahead.

Turn right to follow the track for 50m before crossing a ladder stile beside the steading of Woodley Shield. You'll see a waymarker straight ahead, follow this up the field to another waymarker to the right of a barn on the horizon. Head to a stile in the field corner.

- 7 Cross the stile and turn right to follow a wide field margin down to a clump of Scots pine. Go through a waymarked gate. Keep to the right hand edge of the next field; you'll see rooftops and chimneys of Wark coming into view ahead.

Keep going down this field, you'll cross a small bridge (back over the Dean Burn) and arrive at a road via a kissing gate. Now turn right back to the village of Wark.

