

**A GREAT BASE FOR CYCLING!**

**Haydon Bridge** makes a great base for a cycling break in Northumberland. As well as the routes on this leaflet, the village is close to Sustrans routes 72 and 68, which open up access to Hadrian's Wall and Northumberland National Park, the Tyne Valley and the North Pennines. With good rail and road connections to both East and West coast routes, the village is easily reached and ideally situated for exploring the area in any direction.

The village enjoys a peaceful riverside setting in the South Tyne Valley, and all the major attractions of the area are easily accessible. With a good range of shops, welcoming pubs and restaurants and a variety of quality accommodation, it is a perfect place to relax after a day in the saddle. Add to this a friendly Northumberland welcome, and you need look no further when planning your stay.

**THE ROUTES**

These three routes, one of which offers two optional loops, give the chance to explore the countryside and quieter roads in and around Haydon Bridge and the Tyne Valley. The ascents and descents of the valley sides offer cyclists some fairly challenging exercise which is rewarded by excellent panoramic views of the valley, Hadrian's Wall and beyond. All the routes start at The Bridge Community Library and Visitor Information Point in the centre of Haydon Bridge, where cyclists can obtain further information prior to the ride. The routes are chiefly on quiet country roads with some smooth off-road sections. For those with pure road bikes there are obvious alternatives on all routes.

**Historic Hexham (20 miles)** This route explores both the South and North Tyne valleys, climbing from the start before descending to a riverside approach to Hexham and a chance to see the town's mediaeval Abbey and towers. Return is via the hills and woods of the valley's southern slopes.

**Pennine Panoramas (11.7 miles)** Climb through the North Pennine foothills to enjoy panoramic views from Stublick chimney, a relic of the area's industrial past, and return via woodland trails.

**Allen Banks and Roman Vindolanda (17.5 miles or 12.2 miles without Vindolanda loop)** Travelling west, this route skirts the National Trust woodland of Allen Banks before climbing the northern slopes of the valley. The longer loop takes in the unique Roman fort of Vindolanda with an alternative shorter route via a green lane with superb views to the south.

**Signposts** Some sections of these routes follow existing long distance cycleways, such as Route 72 Hadrian's Cycleway. Where this is the case, the signs to follow are indicated in the map directions. Elsewhere, please look for these directional signs at junctions to help follow the route.



**The Bridge** 

This Community Library, Visitor Information Centre and Internet Café is on Church Street next to the railway station. As well as providing library services and a focal point for the local community, it offers visitors friendly advice and a range of leaflets and information on local tourist attractions and facilities.

**For more information:**

- [www.haydon-bridge.co.uk](http://www.haydon-bridge.co.uk)
- [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk)
- [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)
- [www.cycle-routes.org/hadrianscycleway](http://www.cycle-routes.org/hadrianscycleway)

**Getting to Haydon Bridge**

- By road**  
A69 from A1 at Newcastle 28 miles  
A69 from M6 at Carlisle 31 miles
- By rail** Newcastle – Carlisle service [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org)
- By bus** 685 service Newcastle – Carlisle [www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk)
- By air** from Newcastle Airport [www.newcastleairport.com](http://www.newcastleairport.com)

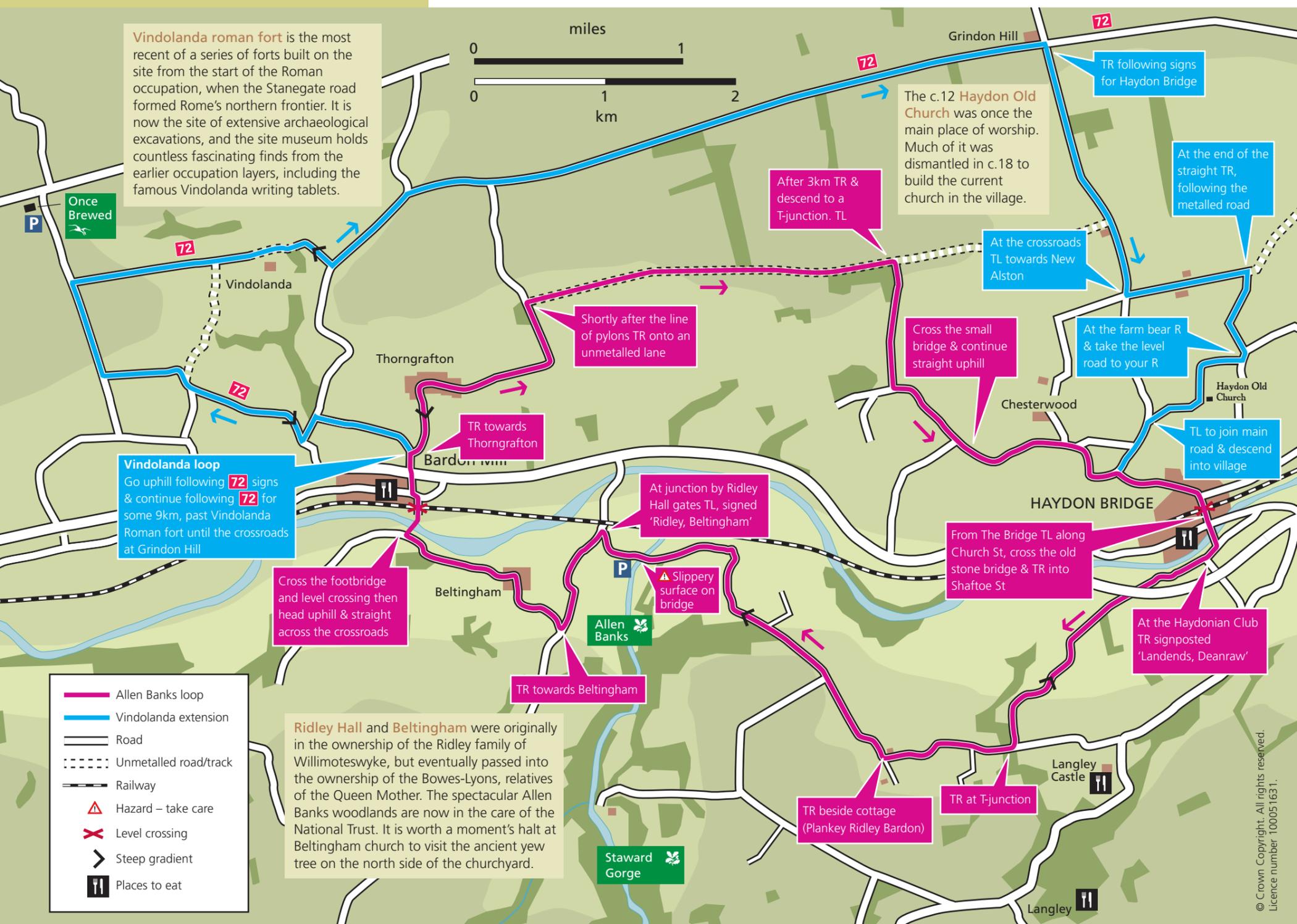


**CYCLE RIDES AROUND HAYDON BRIDGE**  
Hexham, Hadrian and the Tyne Valley

Three cycle routes linking Haydon Bridge with Roman Vindolanda and historic Hexham, and exploring the lanes and tracks on both sides of the scenic Tyne Valley.



Leaflet published by Haydon Bridge Development Trust. Funding from Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group and made available through the Rural Development Programme for England.



You are now travelling on the **Stane Gate Roman road**, the northern frontier before the building of Hadrian's Wall. St Peter's Church at the foot of the hill stands on the site of a building which may have been one of the forts built to police this frontier.

**Chesterwood** is an ancient farming community containing several "Bastle" houses, fortified farmhouses designed to protect both family and livestock during the times of border raids.

TR & continue to follow **72**.

At green chapel, TL and follow **72** for 8.5km miles to Hexham.

TR & follow road downhill to Fourstones

The railway line you follow is the **Newcastle to Carlisle line**, finished in 1838 and the first cross-country line completed. Look out on the left for the piers of the bridge carrying the former Border Counties railway, which connected Hexham and the North Tyne with the Scottish Borders, but closed in 1956.

Take care crossing the railway line at the level crossing.

At the x-roads in the open grassed area TR following along Tyne Green Rd. At end of Tyne Green Rd cross road into Alexander Place and follow road uphill through Gilesgate, to arrive in Hexham Market Place where there are cycle parking facilities.

As road bends to the L, TR signed 'Haydon Bridge, Elington'

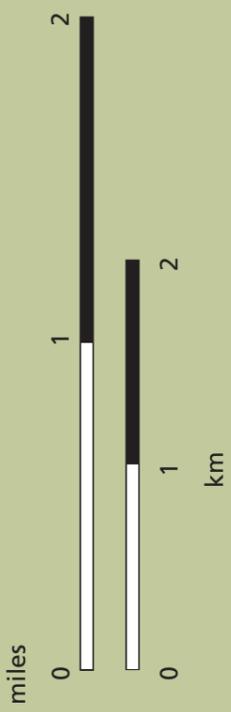
TL at the end of the wood. This leads to Elington. (Follow Langley route directions from there)

At the top of the lane TL, then TR onto the B6305 for 1km to Lowgate.

To leave Hexham & continue, retrace your route to the foot of Gilesgate & take first L between a pub & a stone gable end. Follow this, bearing L then R through Glovers Place & into Cockshaw, with a stream to your left. Follow this road until a RT into Millfield Terrace.  
At end of Millfield Terrace TL & head to the road junction. Cross this making a slight dogleg to the R into Leazes Lane.

**Hexham** is an ancient market town distinguished by its Abbey, established in AD 674, and two medieval towers, the Moot Hall and Old Gaol, England's first purpose-built prison. It is well worth exploring these, and the town's parks and narrow shopping streets.

**Historic Hexham (20 miles)**  
**Pennine Panoramas (11.7 miles)**



At end of straight TL to follow unmetalled road

Bear L at junction then R to Chesterwood & follow road uphill & over x-roads.

Turn sharp left & continue uphill

After 1km TR to West Rattenraw

TL towards TV mast. (route divides from Allen Banks loop here)

At Haydonian Club TR ('Landends, Deanraw') & follow tarmac road uphill for 2km

TR at T-junction

TR at cottage (Plankey Ridley Bardon)

TR at wood

TR onto main road past Carts Bog Inn. TL onto B6305 and continue for 4km.

From 'The Bridge' head south along street, cross old bridge & TR into Shaftoe St

TL onto A686, proceed to next junction & TR to return to Haydon Bridge

TR at farm & follow road to foot of hill

At the fork bear R through the gate to continue through the woods

At Elington cross old railway bridge, bear L & go straight across green to the track between farm & cottage

The bridge crosses the old **Hexham-Allendale railway line**, which closed in 1950. The buildings on the right are the former Elington station.

At gated track 1km after Branchend Farm TL towards Elington

Further uphill on the right is the most spectacular remnant of this industry. **Stublick Chimney** was built to carry away the fumes from the smelt mill, some half a mile away in the woodland below.

**Langley Dam** on the left was built by John Smeaton to supply water to Langley Smelt Mills, where lead from the surrounding mine workings was refined.