

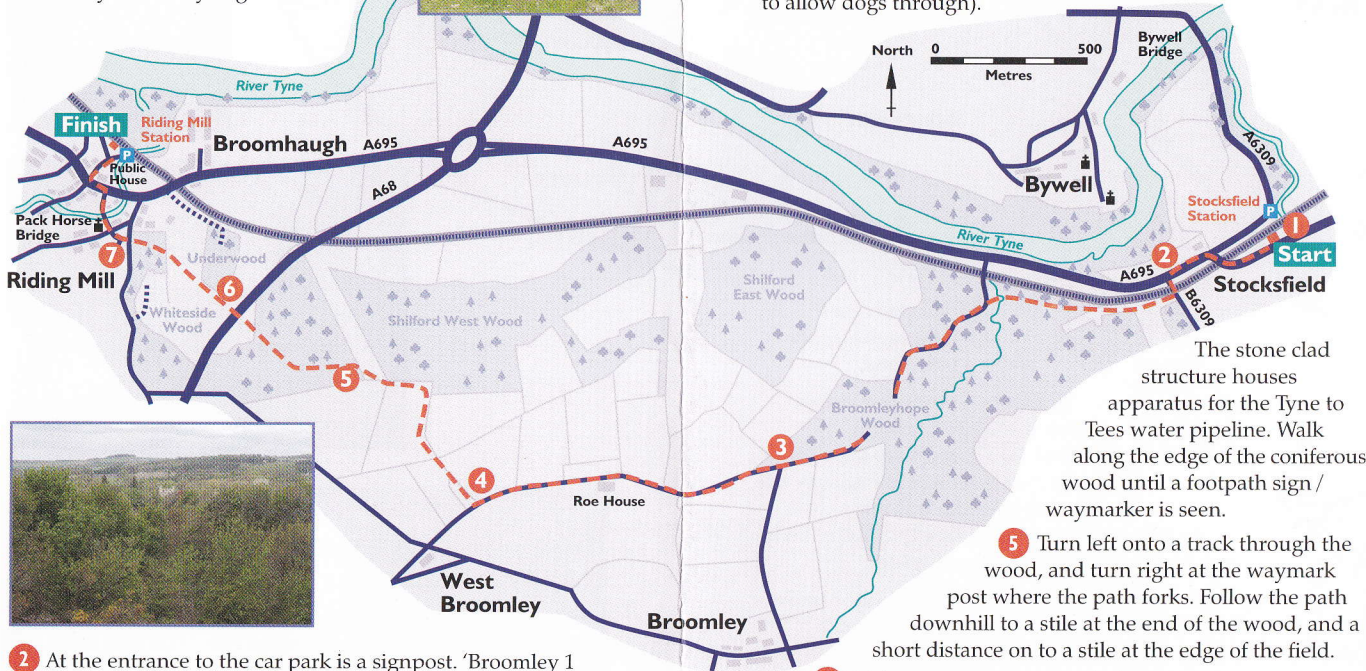
Walk 2 Stocksfield Station to Riding Mill Station via Broomley Woods

3 1/2 miles (approx)

1 Turn right out of the Station Car Park and cross the A695 at the pedestrian crossing. Look for the signpost and kissing gate to the west of the stone house.

Follow the grassy path bearing right. [It's well worth climbing to the seat on the Round Hill on the left, to see the dog memorial and to admire the views of the village of Stocksfield showing its split nature. Bywell Castle can be seen in a north west direction.]

Continue west and towards the railway track, passing through a group of mature oak trees to reach and cross the Hindley Road (B6309). The steep sided hillocks are typical sand and gravel deposits formed by the last Tyne glacier.



2 At the entrance to the car park is a signpost. 'Broomley 1 mile'. Take the path in this direction. Beyond the car park, follow the right hand path close to the railway, passing by the huge beech and oak trees and then take the permissive (green arrow) footpath on the right. In the winter it is possible to see Bywell Hall on your right. Keep straight on to descend to a wooden bridge over the Smithy Burn. Cross over the bridge and go up the steps on the other side. Bear right towards the road. Follow the road uphill. At a farm gate on the right admire the view over the Tyne Valley.

3 Continue on the road until it turns a sharp left bend at which point follow the good farm track straight ahead, signposted 'Public Footpath'. Walk through Roe House farm buildings, many now used as industrial units. *Note the old pig sties on the right hand side.* Carry on this now improved track until there is a stile with many yellow way markers on the left. Opposite this stile on the right of the track take the yellow way marked path. *Note the large glacial boulder at the beginning of the path.*

4 Follow the fence line to the bottom of the field. Go through the gate and cross over the track into the field opposite. Walk down the side of the field, turn left at the corner and walk along the edge of the wood until a stile is seen to the right. Cross the stile (which has a small gate to allow dogs through).



The stone clad structure houses apparatus for the Tyne to Tees water pipeline. Walk along the edge of the coniferous wood until a footpath sign / waymarker is seen.

5 Turn left onto a track through the wood, and turn right at the waymark post where the path forks. Follow the path downhill to a stile at the end of the wood, and a short distance on to a stile at the edge of the field.

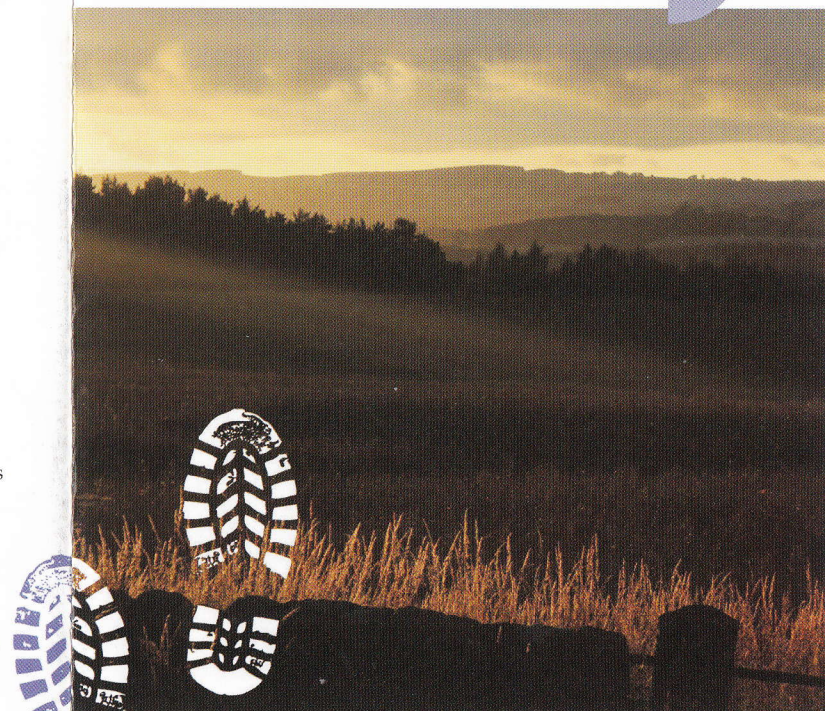
6 With extreme care, cross the busy A68 main road, and enter a small field.

7 At the far side, turn left through a small wood to Riding Mill. Turn right onto the road, and then left at its junction with the A695. The Station is on the right after the Wellington pub. Both Newcastle and Carlisle bound trains and number ten buses stop at Stocksfield and Riding Mill stations.

Both these routes have been walked and the guidance text written by members of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council's Rights of Way Advisory Group.



Let's take the train to **Stocksfield** and go for a walk



Station walks near Stocksfield

First in a series of guides to some interesting trails

Walk 1 Stocksfield Station to Prudhoe Station via Eltringham

3 1/2 miles
(approx)

1 Turn left out of Station Car Park along the A695. Follow the Main Road past Broomley First School and Stocksfield Sports field.

Immediately beyond the row of cottages (Merryshields Terrace) turn left onto a footpath signed "Eltringham 1 1/4 Ovingham 2 1/2". The footpath very soon joins a wide track. Continue on this track to Merryshields Farm passing the farmhouse on the right.

Leave the farmyard by the gate, walk down the slope and bear left at a junction of farm tracks. A short distance on go through a gate on the right at a waymark arrow onto a grassy track leading towards a wooded area.

After a second gate the path narrows and becomes rather overgrown. This wooded area covers old mine spoil heaps and contains two gates with stiles alongside.

2 After the second stile, for a short distance the main path is very muddy, though this can usually be easily avoided (by keeping left and above the path).

Cross the field fence at a stile on the right, and follow the direction of the waymark arrow left across the field and aiming for the next waymark post (visible towards the lower end of the Bullion Hills). At this waymark keep right along a wide grassy path to a ladder stile. There are good views here in all directions along the Tyne Valley. Cross the ladder stile and follow the path along the field boundary heading towards Eltringham Farm which can be seen straight ahead. Cross another stile at the end of the field, turn right and after a short distance bear left following the waymark arrow.

3 Walk across the middle of the field towards a farm gate and adjacent stile. Pass Eltringham Farm on the left and turn left down the road just past a footpath sign showing Merryshields 1 1/4 miles.

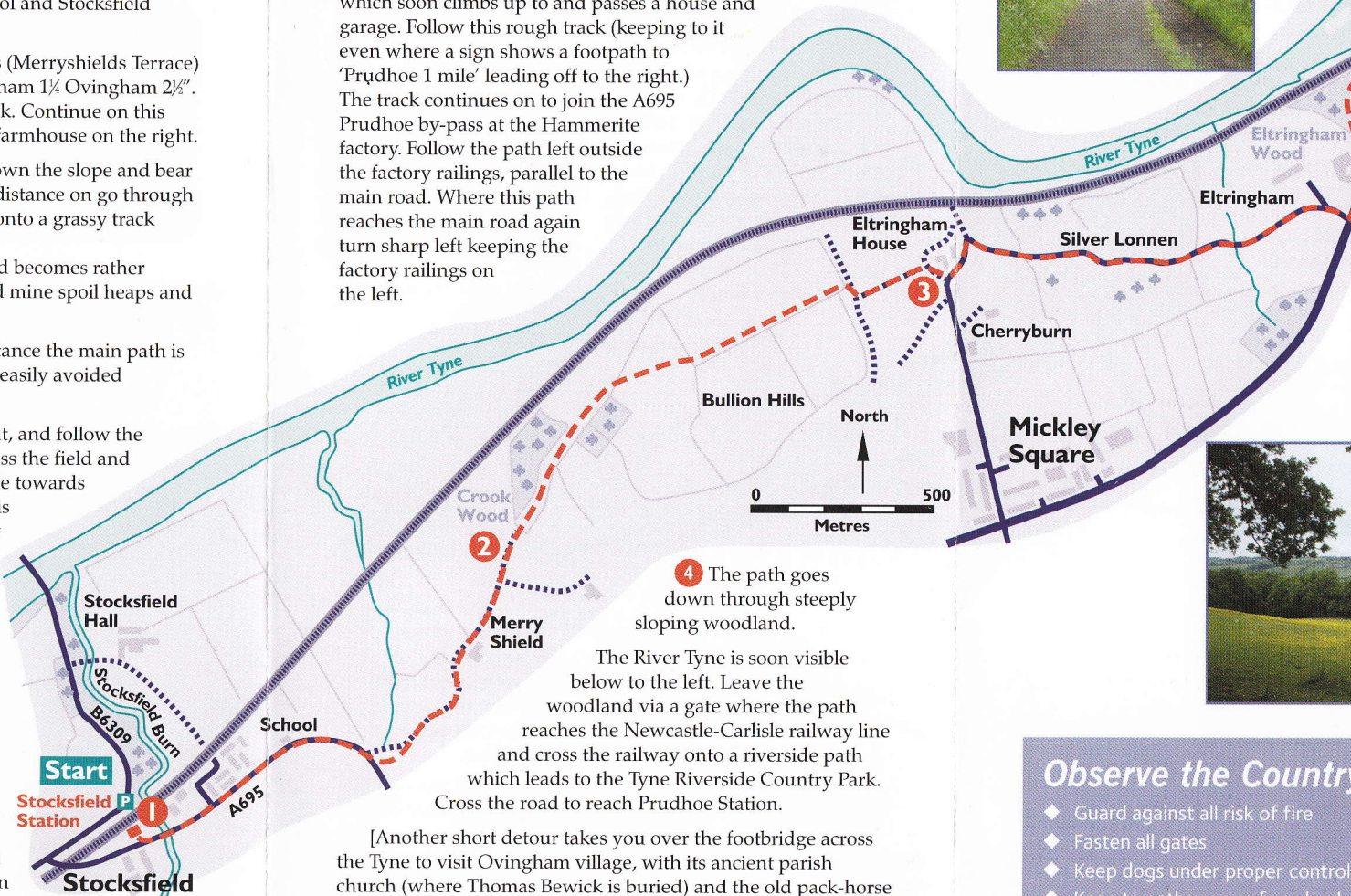
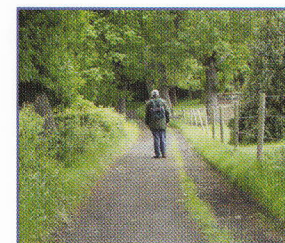
[A short detour of about 100 yards up the road to the right, will bring you to the National Trust property of Cherryburn, formerly the home of the engraver, Thomas Bewick.]

Just past some old works buildings, turn right at a finger post "Restricted Byway Eltringham 1/2 mile" follow the wide track which soon climbs up to and passes a house and garage. Follow this rough track (keeping to it even where a sign shows a footpath to 'Prudhoe 1 mile' leading off to the right.) The track continues on to join the A695 Prudhoe by-pass at the Hammerite factory. Follow the path left outside the factory railings, parallel to the main road. Where this path reaches the main road again turn sharp left keeping the factory railings on the left.

4 The path goes down through steeply sloping woodland.

The River Tyne is soon visible below to the left. Leave the woodland via a gate where the path reaches the Newcastle-Carlisle railway line and cross the railway onto a riverside path which leads to the Tyne Riverside Country Park. Cross the road to reach Prudhoe Station.

[Another short detour takes you over the footbridge across the Tyne to visit Ovingham village, with its ancient parish church (where Thomas Bewick is buried) and the old pack-horse bridge over Whittleburn.]



Observe the Country Code

- ◆ Guard against all risk of fire
- ◆ Fasten all gates
- ◆ Keep dogs under proper control
- ◆ Keep to paths across farm land
- ◆ Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls
- ◆ Leave no litter
- ◆ Safeguard water supplies
- ◆ Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees
- ◆ Go carefully on country roads
- ◆ Respect the life of the countryside
- ◆ Where possible take dog faeces home, or leave in appropriate bins

