

Walks around Allendale

Local History on this walk

Low Broadwood Hall is a cluster of 17th and early 18th century buildings. The old hall is dated 1716 over the doorway. An older house once stood to the north-east of this hall but was demolished in the mid-1900s. It had an inscribed stone over the door with the initials 'H' and 'J B' and the date 1690. This is thought to refer to the Bacon family; their house seems to have been grander than the usual Allendale farmhouse and was possibly originally used as a defensive strong house.

Allen Lead Smelt Mill was first recorded as early as 1692 when it was owned by the Bacon family. From 1786 the mill was owned by the Beaumont Company which added long flues up to the fell-top in 1808 and between 1845 and 1850. As noxious furnace fumes travelled up the flues, they cooled and condensed on the walls. These deposits were then chipped away for their lead and silver content via doorways in the flue walls.

Large parts of the flues survive as ribbon-like mounds up to 7m wide and 2m high, running across fields for 3.5km until they end at the two chimneys. This flue system is one of the best preserved in England. The chimneys ceased operating in 1896 and are a Scheduled Monument protected by law.

Flow Moss is an area of marshy, waterlogged land to the west of the chimneys. The mosses were killed by lead mining activity but this area marks the first evidence of human activity in the valley. Over 1000 pieces of Mesolithic flint have been discovered here. At that time Mesolithic and Neolithic peoples seemed to have lived above the densely wooded valley floor. A stone axe head that was found would have been used to help make clearings in that woodland, whilst a number of arrowheads demonstrate that prehistoric people were hunting in the area.

This walk runs the width of the East Allen valley from the riverside below the village and up a long incline through farmland to the top of Dryburn Moor.

Distance

8.2 km (5 miles). For a shorter walk, get dropped off by car at the fell gate (point 7), walk to the chimneys and stroll the 3km downhill to the village.

Terrain

The walk from the village up to the fell-top contains some steep inclines. Most of the walk is on tared road and the track across the fell is largely panned with stone. However, parts of the fell - particularly in winter - can be muddy.

Parking

General parking in Allendale village square. For a shorter walk, there is very limited on-verge parking near the fell gate (Grid ref. NY814548).

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL43



Ingleby Holiday Home 'Ingleby' is a well-appointed home situated in the heart of Allendale.

With views across the market square and a mere stroll to country pubs and amenities, Ingleby is a perfect location for your North Pennine holiday.

Sleeps 5 (double/twin/single)

Phone: 01434 618 741

Website: www.ingleby.fairlambs.org

Walks around Allendale

Lead chimneys



- 1** From Allendale (NY839558), walk down the Peth (the steep bank by the Hare & Hounds Inn) and cross the river by the road bridge.
- 2** After passing the old corn mill, turn left onto a lane that will pass the old Quakers Meeting House. Take the right fork and up the steep bank. This is the medieval road out of Allendale to the west (NY835557)

- 3** Low Broadwood Hall, on your right, is one of the oldest farms in the area. Look for the old curved lintel arches in some of the doorways (NY833556).
- 4** Continue up the road, with the Wager Burn on your left, and past Wager House. 100m past Wager House, take the right-hand fork (NY826553) and look out for red squirrel and deer in the plantation to your left.

- 5** The 'Grassy Road' to your right is popular with horse-riders and was used as a training gallop for racehorses in the past. Continue straight past (NY821552), passing Frolar Meadows farm on your left.
- 6** A small tarmaced track leaves the main road to the left (NY817552) 150m on. Follow this track and note the humps of the old lead flue in the field to your right.



- 7** The road ends at the fell-gate with a cattle grid (NY814548). Follow the old droving track - the Carriers Way - straight ahead onto the fell. On your right you'll see the old stone-lined flues that carried the lead smoke up from the smelting mill on the riverside.
- 8** Look out for curlews and for sky-larks on summer days. The heather on this fell is managed for grouse shooting in autumn so you may startle pheasant and grouse and the occasional rabbit!
- 9** The smaller of the two chimneys was struck by lightning in the early 1980s and has since been stabilised. To the west you

look down on an area of peat known as Flow Moss - a prehistoric settlement site where rare mosses could be found until the 19th century (NY808536).

- 10** Head back towards the second chimney and, on a clear day, look for the Cheviot Hills on the north horizon. WH Auden was so inspired he wrote his poem 'Allendale' about this spot. Continue down the fell to retrace your steps to the village.



Curlews are a distinctive sight and sound over spring and early summer