

## Walks around Allendale

## Local History on this walk

Flour was being milled at **Bridge End Mill** from the 1300s until the 20th century. The Woolley Burn was engineered through a long stone channel to provide the necessary power to grind the corn.

The ruins of the **Dye House** are dateable by a surviving inscribed stone from 1678. It was still standing in 1900 and is named after the dyeing of locally spun cloth that used to be undertaken here. A sluice system brought necessary water to the building and cloth was laid in great swathes to dry in the sun in the field below.

**Dyke** is a word of varied meaning - locally it means a drystone wall. These field boundaries were built from the 18th century onwards and are constructed without mortar. Stone was selected with care and for particular purposes. 'Thruffs' were through stones placed at regular intervals for strength, 'dyke-keeps' were the coping stones laid along the dyke-top.

In other parts, dyke means a ditch dug out of the earth. The **Scotch Dyke** (or Black Dyke) lends its name to several farms including Low Scotch Hall. This mysterious feature is said to have been traced from the river Tees (near Scotch Corner) to the head of Weardale, down from Allenheads northwards to Catton Beacon and on past Hadrian's Wall at Busy Gap. The dyke is thought to have been an ancient routeway or road.

A **cleugh** (pronounced 'cluff') is a valley with steep sides, a water-cut ravine or gully. There are at least thirty named examples in the East and West Allendales.

**Isaac's Well** provided the first public fresh water supply to the village in 1849. It is named for Isaac Holden, who raised the funds both for the well and for the village horse-drawn hearse. Holden rode many of the footpaths in Allendale on horseback as a tea salesman and is recognised in the village churchyard for his philanthropy by a memorial obelisk.

This is a scenic walk through fields and wooded areas and over the footbridge at Peckriding. There is an option to take a short cut, otherwise the route continues past several farmsteads on the east side of the valley before descending down to the village through fields alongside Lonkley bank. Watch out for children sledging here in snowy weather!

**Distance**

3.8 km (2.4 miles) circular route.

**Terrain**

This walk largely follows undulating slopes above the riverside, before crossing it to climb a steeper section on the east side to Finney Hill Green. Footpaths are well established but may be muddy in wet weather and in winter.

**Parking**

General parking in Allendale village square.

**Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL43**



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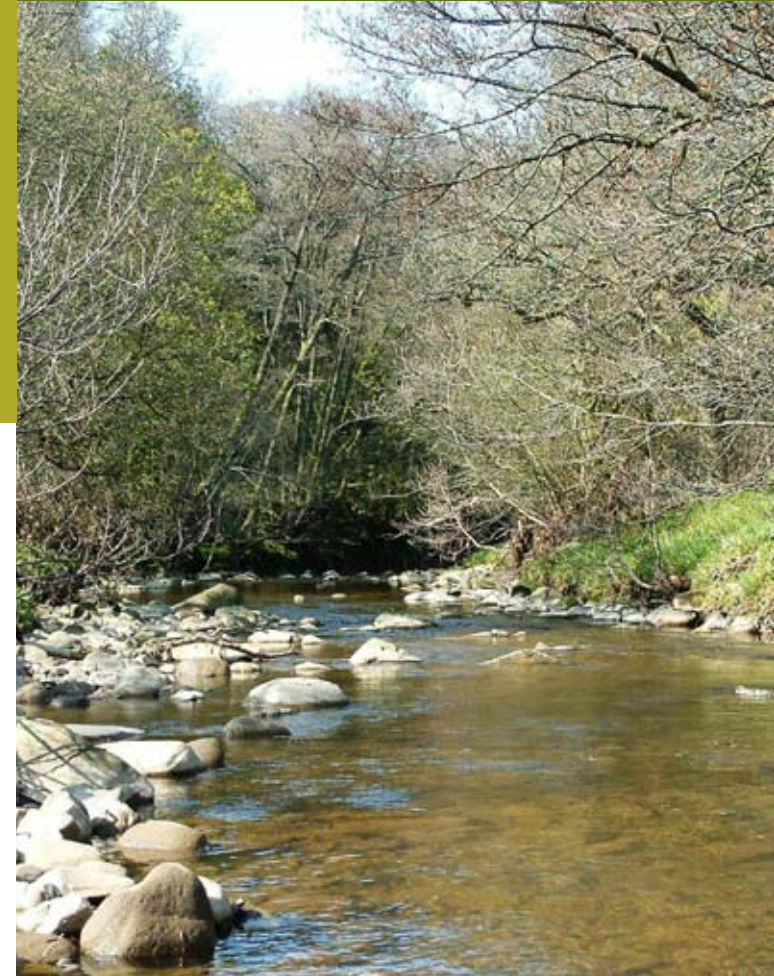
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## Peckriding



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**1** From Allendale, walk down the Peth (the steep bank by the Hare & Hounds Inn) and cross the river by the road bridge. Turn immediately left.

**2** After passing the buildings of Woolley Burnfoot, leave the track via a wooden gate (NY836557) and continue along the through the field, following the direction of the river. In the first years of the 20th century this flat area was used as the village showground and for football matches.

**3** After passing through an old gateway into the next field, bear right and into the next field - keeping the steep slope to the river (Woolley Scar) on your left. Follow the edge of the fields (with the wood to your left) until a footpath marker (NY834547) directs you diagonally over two fields.

**4** Turn left here as you cross the Black Cleugh burn and follow the field boundaries until you meet the wooded steep bank of Steel Burn at right angles ahead of you. Turn left and walk downhill towards the river.

**5** After passing in front of a small cottage, continue to the riverside and turn right, following the course of the river for 100m. Peckriding footbridge will appear on your left. Cross the river here and continue along the path past the ruins of the Dye House (NY838545) and through the yard of Peckriding to the Allendale/ Allenheads road.

**6** At the road, turn right and continue along the road for 100m. Alternatively, for a shorter walk you could head back to the village by turning left along the road here.

**7** Just past the end of the trees, take the footpath off the road to the right and walk up the field towards Low Scotch Hall.

**8** Walk around the farm and head north across the fields towards the corner of the wood at Finney Hill Green (NY841549).

**9** Walk around Finney Hill Green and then across fields towards a gravelled trackway. Cross over this track and the housing estate will come into view below you to the left. Head towards the two trees on the field boundary and over the stone stile. Walk diagonally downhill towards the houses and over another stone stile in the dyke that crosses your path.

**10** A small gateway leads to a narrow path between the houses. Follow this, past the play area and enter Allendale square at Isaac's Well.



A mill race system behind Woolley Burnfoot powered the cornmill at Bridge End



Peckriding footbridge as featured in an Edwardian postcard



The ruined Dye House dates to 1678



Wild primroses can be found on sunny banks on the riverside and in surrounding fields in spring