

Walks around Allendale

Local History on this walk

The **Town Bridge** at the bottom of the Peth has long been the crossing point to Bridge End Mill. The present one was built in 1825 and replaced a much narrower older structure.

The **Quakers** suffered increased persecution after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. In a record from that year, several men '*all of Allendaile*' were '*carried to Hexham, and put in a Stinking Dungeon, and by the Gaoler there kept several dayes, who would scarce suffere anything to come to them but walled up the window where severall of them were kept severel weeks*'

The border region of Scotland and England was a lawless place to live until the 17th century. Bands of 'rievers' from both sides of the border mounted raids on farms and towns, leading to the building of defensive structures like Peles and **Bastles**. A bastle is a defensive farmhouse, characterised by stone walls up to 1m thick, with living quarters above and animals stabled below. Originally there was no outside access to the living quarters but in later centuries stone steps were often built on the outside. Allendale has around 40 bastles, one of the greatest concentrations in Britain, and examples can be seen at Housty, Moorhouses, Old Town, Burnlaw, Monk, Hayrake and Nine Dargue.

The triangular arrangements of buildings at **Woolley** date back to the 1400s. The oldest building is the farmhouse, which is thought to have been a longhouse. The south-west range contains a bastle and the taller building to the north also exhibits features of a bastle.

Nine Dargue dates from the late 1500s and refers to the amount of land that went with the house - an acreage that could be tilled in nine days ('dargue' meaning day's work'). It is a ruined bastle with many typical features including a doorway with massive stone lintel, drawbar tunnels and slit vents. It is Grade II Listed and protected by law.

This easy walk through pasture and hay meadows passes old defensive bastle houses at Woolley and Nine Dargue before crossing the river at the footbridge below Peckriding.

Distance

5.5 km (3.4 miles) circular route.

Terrain

The route largely follows undulating slopes through fields at Wager House, Parkside, Woolley and Loaning Side. The going is good and about a third of the walk is on metalled roads or footpaths. The section towards the river at The Steel can be muddy.

Parking

General parking in Allendale village square.

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.

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Woolley



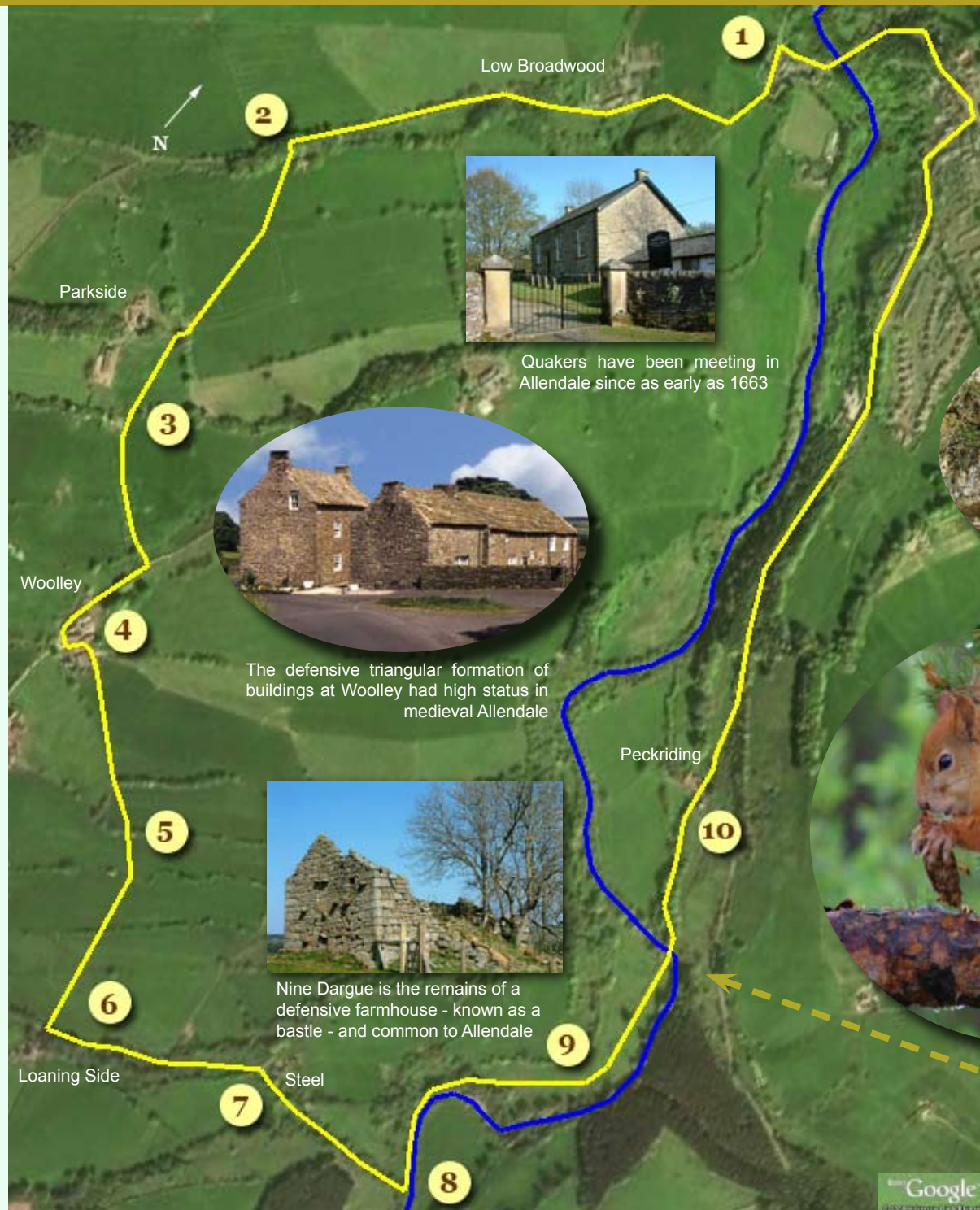
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Woolley

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From Allendale, follow the road down the Peth (the steep bank by the Hare & Hounds Inn) crossing the river and turning right. Walk on for 50m.

- 1** Turn left up the lane past the Quaker Meeting House. When the lane forks, head up the bank to the right, going past Low Broadwood and then merging with the Thornley Gate-Carrshield Road.
- 2** Turn left into the drive at Wager House and through the wooden gate into the field. Head diagonally across to a stone stile before crossing a hay meadow to a metal field gate. Head through the second gateway to your right and then across the small field to a wooden footbridge.
- 3** Cross the footbridge and follow the metalled drive to the Woolley road. Turn right and up the road.
- 4** Passing the courtyard at Woolley, go through the gate on your left and then through a second metal field gate. Head for the corner of the field in the near distance and over the stile.
- 5** Navigate the wooden stiles over the next three fields.
- 6** After passing the ruins of Nine Dargue to your right, climb over the stile and turn right down the lane at Loaning Side. Follow the lane until it ends at The Steel house.
- 7** At The Steel, go through the metal gate to your right and down a muddy track to a burn. Veer left at the burn.
- 8** Keep the river on your right for 70m before walking past a ruined cottage and through a tumbledown stone gateway.
- 9** Follow the grassy path through the meadow until you reach the Peckriding footbridge. Cross it, past the ruins of the Dye House and up the bank through the



Quakers have been meeting in Allendale since as early as 1663



The defensive triangular formation of buildings at Woolley had high status in medieval Allendale



Nine Dargue is the remains of a defensive farmhouse - known as a bastle - and common to Allendale

yard of Peckriding house to meet the Allendale-Allenheads road.

10 Turn left along the footpath beside the road, through a plantation of trees and into Allendale. As you enter the village a long low cottage on your right is the old Wentworth toll cottage.

The road into the village passes the old Methodist chapel and chemist, before opening out into the village square.



Sheer river cliffs at Peckriding



Red squirrels may be seen in the trees alongside the river (Points 8-9)

At Peckriding footbridge, turn left before crossing the river. Refer to *Route i6 (Peckriding)*, walking it in reverse along the riverside to Woolley Burnfoot and return to Allendale via the Peth.