

Walks around Allendale

Local History on this walk

Portgate - this farm is famed for one of the latest harvests of the 19th century. At that time a number of farms still grew corn and on 29 January 1861 Mr William Ridley finally completed his corn harvest *'having been unable to do so in the proper season the year before owing to the bad weather'*. The state of the corn is not recorded!

Bulls Hill - scattered over the dale are indications, from Roman times onwards, of ancient lead smelting places. Piles of stones were placed around a fire on a west-facing hill to smelt the ore. These hills were called Bale, Bayl or Bole-hills. Bulls Hill is thought to be a corruption of this term.

Moorhouses consists of a bastle at its northernmost end and has been ruined since the mid-twentieth century, when two old sisters who regularly drove a pony and trap into the village lived there.

Rebel Hill - above Moorhouses a 'ward way' leads to the open expanse of the fell. This was one of the ancient droveways that carried packhorses on their way to Hexham. Also in the vicinity is **Rebel Hill**. In the 1715 Jacobite rebellion, a number of men from the Derwent valley headed here to meet six men from Allendale. They then all marched to join the main body of Northumbrian rebels in the ill-fated enterprise.

Leadsid Bank was the main road out of the village to the east until 1826. It was only then that the current road to Catton from Allendale was built.

Allendale school - originally an infant school, the School Board obtained the consent of the Education department to open it to older pupils in 1887. Brides Hill school, outside the village, closed as a result. Other board schools were built at Catton and St Peters, in the dale, and meant local children were schooled to the age of fourteen.

This short walk offers good sunset views over Allendale from the ruined farmhouse at Moorhouses.

A shortcut to take an alternative route means the walk can easily be covered in 40 minutes.

Distance

3.6 km (2.3 miles). For a shorter walk, cut across fields and the Philip Burn before reaching Portgate farm.

Terrain

Gentle incline up footpaths on the east side of the valley, before descending on a metalled road.

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. Sleeps 5 (double/twin/single).

Phone: 01434 618 741

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Walks around Allendale

Moorhouses

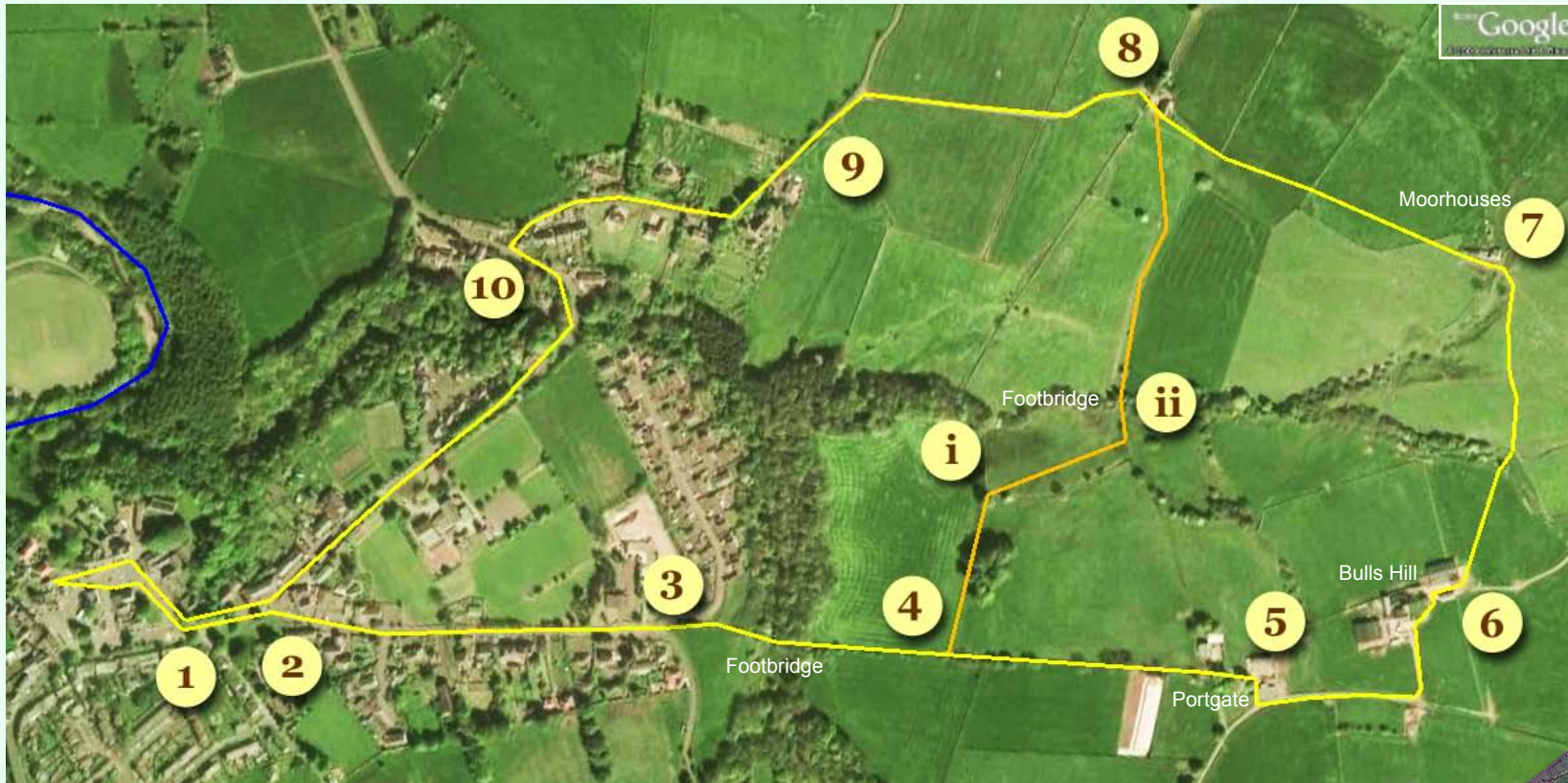


- 1** From Allendale (NY839558), walk across the square, past the Gift Shop. Head towards the village junior school at the road fork.
- 2** Go right (up Shilburn Road) at the school, walking past the doctor surgery and behind the school playing fields.
- 3** As the road veers right, continue through the gate and straight ahead on the footpath beside the wall. Cross the burn

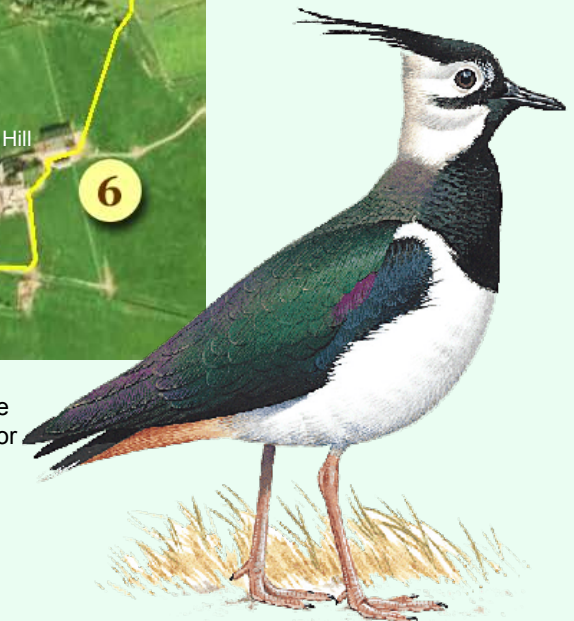
using the wooden footbridge and continue up the field boundary.

- 4** *If taking the shortened route: turn left at the footpath sign, follow the wall of the field, and (i) turn right across the next field towards the far wall. Turn left and follow the wall down to (ii) a footbridge across the Philip Burn. Cross the burn and follow the path to the left of the wall, through a gateway, and across another field to the cottage on the top of the hill. You are now at Point 8.*

- 5** Turn right at Portgate farm to rejoin the road, turn right up the hill, and then left on the driveway to Bulls Hill farm. As you approach the farmhouse, head right towards the large barns, then walk along the length of them.
- 6** At the back of the barns, a farmtrack continues up the field. Strike out at 45 degrees to the left of this track, diagonally across the field, before crossing the Philip Burn. Then continue up the hill



Ruined bastle and farm buildings at Moorhouses



The Northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (known locally as a peewit) is one of the declining farmland bird species in Europe

towards the buildings of Moorhouses on the horizon.

- 7** Turn left in front and past Moorhouses - maintaining a straight line. Go over the field wall, then over three fields towards the house in the distance.
- 8** Pass the cottage, and follow the driveway to the road.
- 9** At the metalled road (Leadside Bank) turn left, walking downhill past several houses.

- 10** Rejoin the Allendale-Catton road, and turn left to enter the village past Dene House and the Recreation Ground. You will pass the junior school (Point 2) on your right as you re-enter the village square.



Portgate

