

Walk Number 2

Ramble in the Dene

Hart - Hart to Haswell Circular

Distance approximately 4.5 miles

This walk takes you through farmland, along a country road and includes a steep sided dene and woodland. There are moderate to steep ascents and descents and a couple of stiles to cross along the route.



Stoat

The Countryside Code - Respect Protect Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

For further information on Public Rights of Way in Hartlepool please contact the Countryside Access team on: Tel: 01429 523524 Email: rightsofway@hartlepool.gov.uk
Please ask us if you would like this leaflet in another language or format.



Illustrations by Audrey Sanderson Tel: 01642 478661

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From the car park ❶ enter St Mary Magdalene Churchyard through a white gate and follow the path along the front of the church. Turn left off the main path onto a side path that leads towards a small gate to the right of a field gate. Go through the small gate and follow the edge of the field, beside a stone wall, towards North Hart Farm ❷.

Go through another gate turning right into an enclosed path and through the next gate. Walk straight ahead and follow the boundary of the small field around to the opposite diagonal corner and go through another three gates leading you to a farm track.

Take a right onto the track ❸ and continue along it until you reach a field gate ahead, go through a small gate to your left into a large pasture field ❹. Follow waymarkers around the field boundary and then go through a gate, on the left onto a bridge. Cross the bridge and keep straight ahead on the field edge path.

Go through the next gate ahead, and then another directly to your right ❺. Continue straight across the field and through another gate directly ahead. With Nelson Farm on your left, enter the lane ❻ heading away from the farm.

Follow the lane to the Coast Road ❼, carefully cross the main road into Hartville Road and follow the sign to the Hart to Haswell Walkway ❽.

The walkway was originally a major rail route for carrying coal from the local collieries to the docks at Hartlepool. The famous engineer, George Stevenson, who built the Rocket designed the railway which was built in 1835. The line was heavily used until the coastal railway from Sunderland to Hartlepool was opened in 1905. The line was finally closed in 1980. This former railway line is now a Local Nature Reserve and supports an array of wildlife due to the rich mix of magnesium limestone grasslands, ponds, semi mature and mature woodlands.

Follow the walkway for 1½ miles until you reach a waymark post on your left (If you reach the pond on your right you have gone a few metres too far). This will lead you downhill into a small dene ❾.

The denes were formed around 10,000 years ago as the ice from the last ice age rapidly melted.

The sides of the valleys were too steep to be cleared for agriculture allowing the survival of the semi-natural ancient woodland. The variations in soil and slope in the denes provide a variety of habitats and an interesting array of plant and animal inhabitants such as Harts Tongue Fern and Brown Long - Eared Bat.

Follow the path down the dene towards Crimdon Beck. At the bottom, turn left onto a track, keeping Crimdon Beck on your right. Cross over the beck ❿ and then over Bellows Burn. Follow the track uphill, just before the track leaves the wood, turn left at the waymarker onto a footpath and go through a gap in the fence ⓫.

After the gap, turn right and rejoin the track and continue uphill. Where the track bears left take a footpath to the right and pass a white cottage ⓬. With woodland on your right, continue downhill until you come to stile on your right.

Cross the stile, go across the track and walk uphill a few metres onto the farm lane ⓭. Turn right and follow the lane passing North Hart Farm on the way and back into the Village. Take your first left into Magdalene Drive ⓮, walk along past the Primary school and back into the car park.

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-  Shops
-  Pubs
-  Parking
-  Public Toilets
-  Cafés