

The tower displays a clock and plaque to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 and, featured in the church yard wall, is the massive head of an ancient cross, possibly older than the church itself.

The fountain over the road from the church was erected in 1874 as a memorial to Elizabeth Ann Goodenough, wife of the Rev. Goodenough.

### Pele Tower

The tower is the only survivor of two Pele Towers built in the village in the 14th Century.

It was subsequently restored as an almshouse for old ladies by Lady Ravensworth (of nearby Eslington Park).

The tower was the birthplace of one Henry Ogle, who invented a reaping machine. Unfortunately it was not a commercial proposition and Ogle died, penniless, in Alnwick workhouse in 1848.

### Ravensworth Fountain

The fountain, situated at the lower end of the village, was erected in 1905 with a statue of the 3rd Earl of Ravensworth and his trusted dog.

### Route of Roman Road

Clattering Way, as this Roman Road was known, is thought to

be a connecting route between Dere Street, to the west, and the Devil's Causeway.

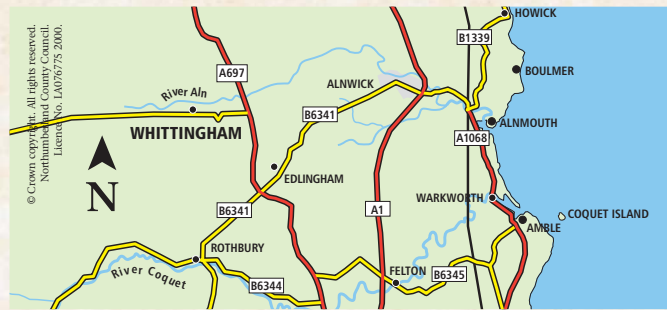
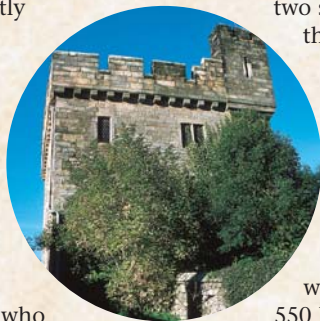
### Thrunton and Views of The Cheviots

Thurwine's Homestead, as Thrunton was originally known, was once famous as an outpost of the notorious Faws, a marauding tribe who had their headquarters at Yetholm just over the Border. In 1847 while draining some boggy land near Thrunton Farm, a cache of bronze arms were discovered. This included three leaf-shaped spearheads and two swords, including the 'Whittingham Sword' with its unusual socketed handle and unique horseshoe-shaped pommel. They were dated to 550 BC.

Beyond Thrunton fine views of The Cheviots can be seen, they were formed by volcanic upheaval, then eroded by the elements for millions of years leaving the green, rounded hills seen today.

### Thrunton Crag and Woods

The stone at Thrunton Crag was deposited three hundred million years ago in a shallow river delta, it later stood on the shores of a gigantic prehistoric lake. It is now an ideal place to spot wildlife, from birds of prey to Roe Deer and Fox.



### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Distance

The walk is 4½ miles (7 km) on waymarked public rights of way, farm tracks, country roads and lanes and involves moderate climbs. The paths may be wet and muddy in places. Wear suitable footwear. Most fences are crossed at gates.

#### Start/Finish

From the churchyard. There are a limited number of spaces available to park cars in front of the village hall. Please leave all access points clear.

#### Ordnance Survey Maps

Explorer 332 Alnwick and Amble (1:25000) and Landranger 81 Alnwick and Morpeth (1:50000)

#### Bus Service

The No. 473 Alnwick-Wooler and No. 710 Newcastle-Kelso buses call at Whittingham. Tel: North East Traveline 0870 6082608.

### Northumberland County Council Countryside Service

If you would like to know more about our work send an A4 SAE to: Northumberland Countryside Service, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF.



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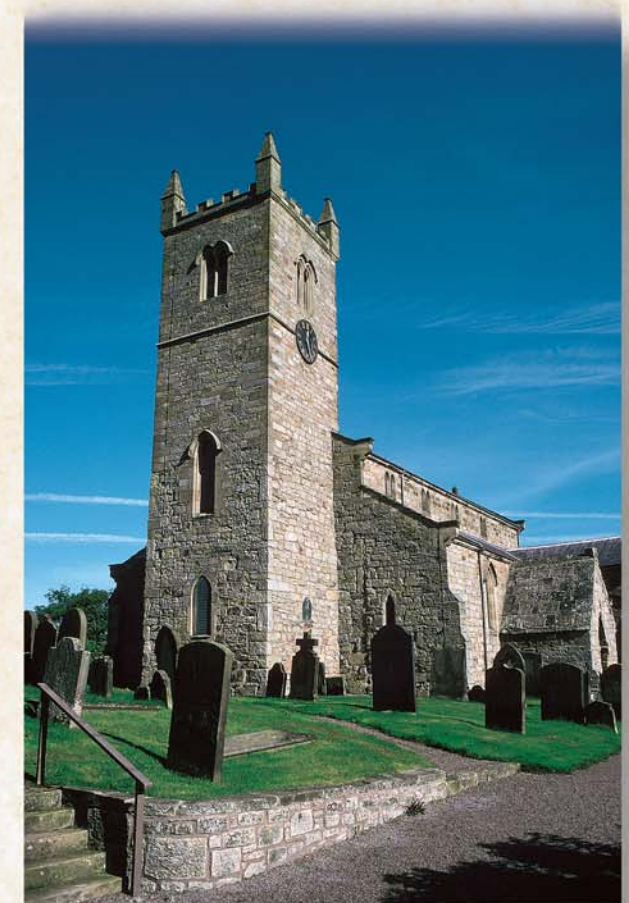
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# WALKS

IN NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

## Whittingham

A 4½ mile walk exploring the countryside around this historic village



NORTHUMBERLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL

The  
Countryside  
Agency



# Walk directions

**1** From the churchyard, cross the road and follow the tarmac footpath along the side of the road, down to the riverside and across the footbridge. After crossing the bridge head up the slope, passing between the houses, then bear left down the village towards the road.

**2** Cross the road and follow it out of the village past the Ravensworth Fountain at the junction, turn right, heading up the hill. At the next junction, carry straight on ahead following the road signposted 'Whittingham Lane'. Head past the houses and turn left through a gate, signposted 'Public Footpath Thrunton Mill 1/2'.

**3** Keep the fence on your left in both fields and at the farm track carry straight on ahead. Follow the track towards the buildings and bend right and continue through the farm, keeping the main buildings on your left and continue to follow the track up to the stile at the edge of the woodland.



**4** Bear left uphill across the first field and continue along the field edge of the second, then up the track to Thrunton.

**5** Turn right at the road and head up the hill. At the junction turn right and follow the track signposted 'Public

Footpath Whittonlea Quarry 1/4'.

**6** Pass through the middle gate and continue along the track to its end.

**7** Follow the line of the fence up the hill to a stile, then bear right to the fence corner.

Continue along the field edge keeping the fence on your right, follow the fence round to the left and head for the stile.

**8** Then turn right onto the road and head downhill following the road round the right-hand bend.

**9** Then take the first turn left and follow the track down hill, cross over the two footbridges and head up to the road.

Turn right along the tarmac footpath and cross the road to the church.

## Whittingham Village

The village dates back to Saxon times, when it was simply known as "the village of Hwita's people". In 880AD Cnut was crowned King of the Danes at Whittingham, after being released from slavery in the village following a vision, in which St. Cuthbert appeared to the Abbot of Lindisfarne advising the whereabouts of Cnut. Later the Saxons also claimed him King, uniting the two warring groups.

David Dippie Dixon, the renowned local historian and author was born in the village in 1842. Among his publications is a history of the area titled "Whittingham Vale".

## Church of St Bartholomew

The original church is reputed to have been founded by King Coelwolf in the 8th Century before he resigned his crown and retired to Lindisfarne. The present church stands on the site of a Saxon church and still retains a portion of the original structure in its tower.

Alterations to the Church have been made throughout the centuries, with major work being undertaken in the Victorian era. This included the original 1000 year old tower being blown up by John Green, the Newcastle architect, aided and abetted by the rector of the day, the Reverend Goodenough.



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