

NORTH EAST

Wannie Line walk

This circular walk takes you onto both the Wannie and Rothbury railway lines as they cross Wallington estate. Trains once steamed along these routes carrying stone, lime, coal and livestock, as well as passengers, although they have long since been abandoned and left for nature to reclaim. Along the trail you'll find other remnants of Wallington's industrial past, including an abandoned quarry and several old limestone kilns.



Information

Address: Car park behind the former National Trust regional office at Scot's Gap, nr Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 4EG

OS map: Landranger 81

Activity: Walking

Easy: Largely level route with some gentle gradients. Uneven ground in places. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Not suitable for dogs: Dogs welcome; please keep under close control.

Full trail: Miles: 6.3 (km: 10.08)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 2 hours - 3 hours

Terrain

A circular route along the old railway lines and across fields, with a few mild slopes and some steps. Uneven terrain in places can be muddy in the winter months.

Total steps: 11

Start point: The car park behind the former National Trust Regional Office at Scot's Gap, grid ref: NZ037864

1. The walk begins at the back of the former National Trust Regional Offices. Walk along the path around the field and turn right down the steps onto the Wannie Line. Walk along the line until it splits. Here you need to take the right-hand fork onto the Rothbury Line.
2. Once on the Rothbury Line carry on walking, passing over two bridges.
3. Keep going until you reach Delf Burn. Look out for a waymarker on your left, which takes you down off the line. Continue on the path that follows alongside the stream.
4. Follow the path and waymarkers through the Delf Burn plantation. Exit the plantation on the west side through a gate into a field. Cross the field, walking uphill and parallel with the old beech field edge away to your right, then pass through another gate. Cross over the next field with the fence line still on your right.
5. Cross over the stile and go down some steps to enter the old quarry – you will see the old lime kilns on your left. Cross over to the kilns and walk up to the wall, turn right and make your way to a gate at the top of the quarry where the old beech field ends. Turn left once through the gate and make your way down the hill and cross over the road. Enter the field and walk straight ahead with the wall on your right.
6. At the end of the wall, carry on walking straight ahead, following the line of trees. At the far end of the field, turn left down the field edge until you reach the farm track. Turn right onto track and follow it across the stream and past the cottage.
7. Directly after the cottage turn left off the track onto another field, cross over the bridge and look out for the stile at the top of the hill. Walk along the field edge and go over the ladder stile and a small bridge after that.

8. Continue along the field edges. Go through a kissing gate into a block of woodland and exit through another gate at the far side. You will see Chesters Farm on your right. Carry on down another field, crossing over the bridge in the bottom and through a kissing gate. Follow the field edge before entering another woodland block. Once through this block you can see the Wannie Line ahead. Cross the field and go over a bridge towards the kissing gate up onto the line.
9. Once on the line turn left through the belt of trees. Continue to follow the railway line until you reach the road. Cross straight over the road and back up onto the line at the other side.
10. Continue along the line. You will cross another road at Rugley Walls before descending back onto the line.
11. Keep following the Wannie Line, and you will end up back where the two railway lines join at Scot's Gap.

End point: The car park behind the former National Trust Regional Office at Scot's Gap, grid ref: NZ037864
