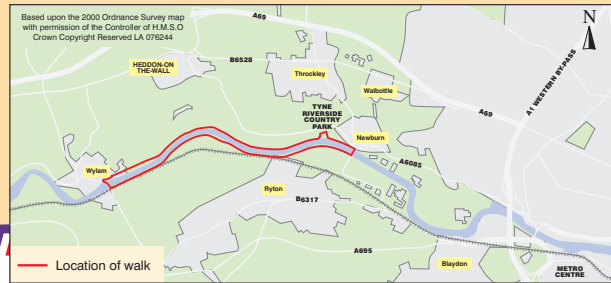


Stephenson's Track

Up to 8 miles / 12km

Ideal for cycling and walking for all the family



This 4 miles / 6 km walk/cycleway links the Tyne Riverside Country Park at Newburn with Wylam.

The route is a flat riverside walk with fine views along the Tyne Valley and the landscaped golf courses on both sides of the Tyne. The route can be joined at any point and can be followed in either direction.

Rail services run to Wylam as well as frequent bus services to Newburn. Ample parking is available at Tyne Riverside Country Park, and some on-road parking is possible in Wylam.

Contact details:

Traveline
Tel: 0870 608 2608
www.traveline.org.uk

Hadrian's Wall Information Line
Tel: 01434 322002
www.hadrans-wall.org

Newcastle Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 0191 2778000

To give feedback on these & other strategic routes in and around Newcastle, please contact:

John Robertson,
Newcastle City Council
Planning & Transportation
Tel: 0191 232 8520



Wylam Waggon Way

In 1748 the Wylam Waggon Way was built to transport coal from Wylam to Lemington docks for the shipment of coal along the Tyne. The coal waggons were pulled by horses on wooden rails but this was not very efficient. During the Napoleonic Wars demand for coal increased and **Christopher Blackett**, the owner of Wylam Colliery, needed to improve the transport of his coal.

William Hedley, born at Newburn in 1779, went to school in Wylam, became a manager at Walbottle Colliery before he was twenty-two and afterwards held the same position at Wylam Colliery.

In 1808 Christopher Blackett replaced the wooden rails with cast-iron plate-rails and asked Hedley, his colliery manager, to try and produce a steam locomotive.

By 1814 he produced two locomotives, Puffing Billy and Wylam Dilly which were still working until 1860.

He later developed a steam-powered machine that improved the system of pumping mine water. This steam-pump was soon used in collieries all over the North of England.

Hedley was helped by **Timothy Hackworth**, a local blacksmith, who later went on to assist George Stephenson.

George Stephenson, born at Wylam in 1781, where his father was engineman at Wylam Colliery. Stephenson later became engineman at Killingworth colliery where he developed one of the earliest locomotives called the Blucher.

Between 1814 and 1826, Stephenson was almost the only man building and developing new locomotives with his son, Robert from their engineering business in Forth Street, Newcastle. This culminated in the construction of his most famous locomotive, The Rocket.

Robert Stephenson went on to achieve fame building bridges including Newcastle's High Level Bridge.

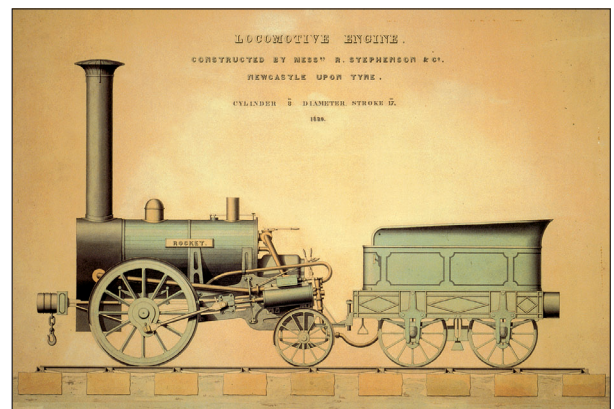
Stephenson's Rocket

Designed and built by George Stephenson in 1829, the Rocket was entered in the Rainhill trials - a competition sponsored by the Liverpool & Manchester Railway to obtain a locomotive for carrying both passengers and freight.

Ten locomotives were originally entered for the Rainhill Trials but only five turned up and four of these were withdrawn during the first couple of days of the

trials. By the third day the Rocket was the only locomotive left in the competition. It pulled a load of three times its own weight at the rate of 12.5mph/20kph and hauled a coach filled with passengers at 24mph/39kpm.

When the railroad opened in 1831, it contracted eight of Stephenson's locomotives.

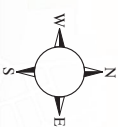


Stephenson's Rocket

Stephenson's Track 8 miles / 12km Suggested starting point: Tyne Riverside Country Park



Scale of map



This leaflet can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 376 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Based upon the 2001 Ordnance Survey map with the addition of information from the Tyne Catchment Geographical Information System.



Picture: Graeme Peacock

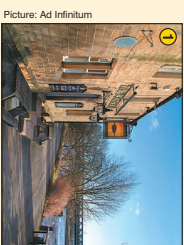
George Stephenson was born in this stone cottage in 1781.



Picture: Ad Infinitum

Clouse House

On the outside wall of the Boathouse pub, built in 1830, are marked the levels of various floods. It stands close to where George Stephenson worked on Robert Hawthorn's new pumping engine from 1798 to 1801.

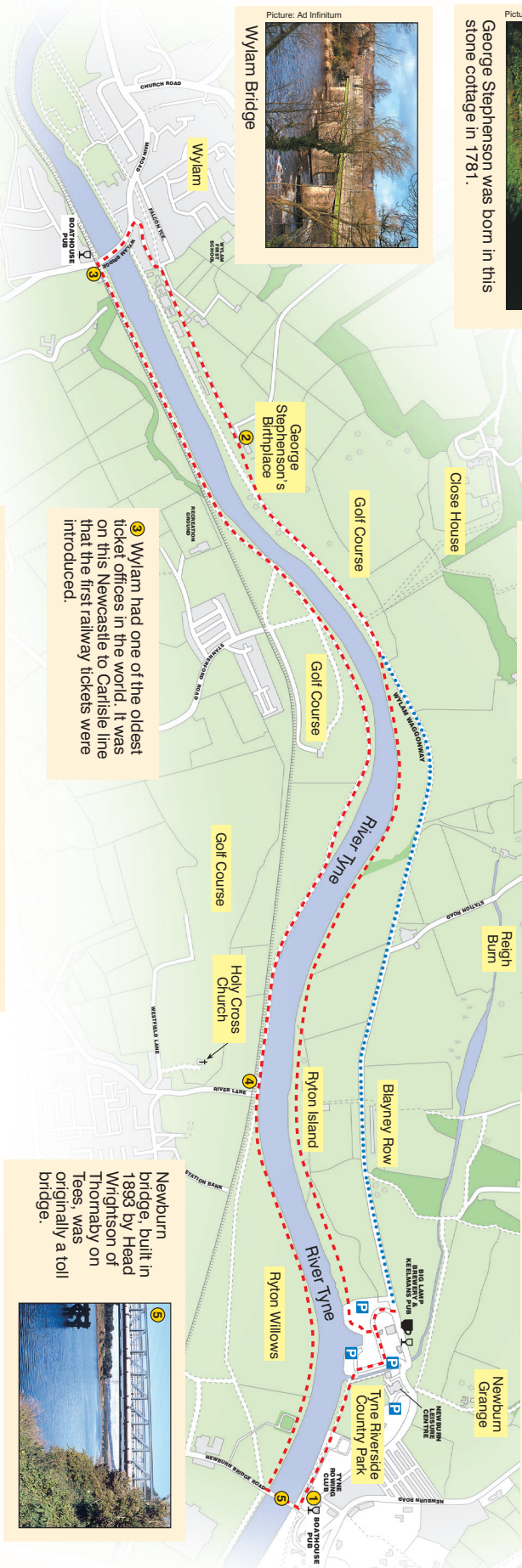


Picture: Ad Infinitum



Picture: Ad Infinitum

Wylam Bridge



George Stephenson's Birthplace

Golf Course

Clouse House

Golf Course

Heddon Hall

Reigh Burn

Golf Course

Golf Course

Holy Cross Church

Ryton Island

Blayney Row

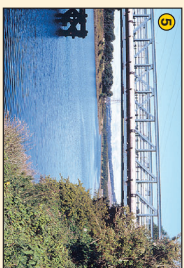
Ryton Willows

Newburn Grange

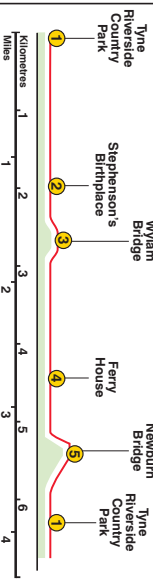
Tyne Riverside Country Park

Wylam had one of the oldest ticket offices in the world. It was on this Newcastle to Carlisle line that the first railway tickets were introduced.

Newburn bridge, built in 1893 by Head Wignightson of Thornaby on Tees, was originally a toll bridge.



Gradients



Picture: Ad Infinitum



In the 14th Century Cistercian Monks from Morpeth crossed the river Tyne near Holy Cross Church on their way to Chopwell. Its use continued into the last century where a toll was introduced of 1d (one old penny) each way.

Key to map

- - - Main route
- . . . Alternative route
- P Parking
- ☪ Refreshments/Pub