

Tyne Riverside Country Park - Walbottle & Throckley Dene

Length of Walk: 7km or 4 miles

Time taken: about 2 ½ hours

Terrain: There are some steep hills and rough paths. Some paths may be muddy following rain.

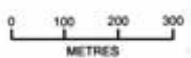
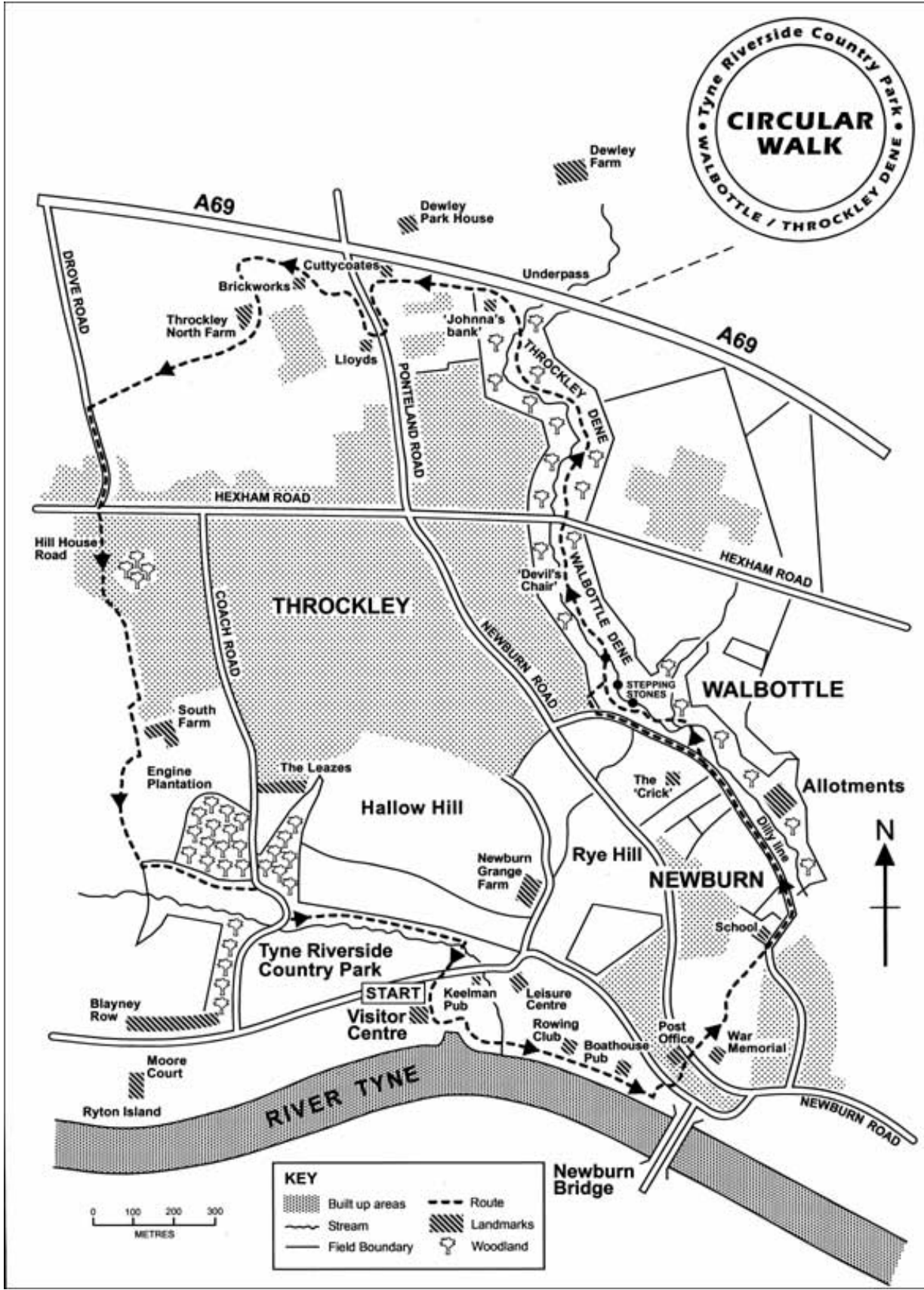
The walk starts at the Visitor Centre at Tyne Riverside Country Park at Newburn, where you will find ample free car-parking, toilets and an information room. Toilets are usually open daily between 9-5pm. The information room is open while the Rangers are in the building, and always on weekend afternoons. For further information contact the Rangers on 0191 2648501.

You are advised to wear suitable footwear and take waterproofs.

Tyne Riverside Country Park

CIRCULAR WALK

WALBOTTLE / THROCKLEY DENE



KEY

	Built up areas		Route
	Stream		Landmarks
	Field Boundary		Woodland



Starting from the Visitor Centre, cross the road towards the slipway. Bearing left, follow the path round the edge of the car park.

- ❖ As you look at the river you will be able to see if the tide is in or out by the water level. You may see animals that come upstream from the coast, such as cormorants, gulls or even a seal.

Cross the bridge over the Reeth burn then turn right. Walk past the Rowing Club.

- ❖ There is a sculpture of the Tyne God on the wall. He has some fish and a basket of coal on his head!

Carry on past the Boathouse pub.

- ❖ The levels of past floods have been recorded on the wall –1771, 1815, 1832 and 1850.

Walk up to the traffic lights. Turn left, then left again onto the public bridleway. Opposite the Newburn Hotel, turn right.

Cross the road with care by the telephone box, then Walk up Station Road, past the Post Office, where you can cross Newburn Rd at the pedestrian crossing.

Turn left up the steps past the war memorial and follow the path uphill.

- ❖ You may hear cocks crowing in the allotments on the left. On the right, behind the wall, is the St. Michael & All Angels' churchyard.

At the top of the bank there is a grassy open space on the left.

- ❖ The hillocks are man-made, for BMX use.

Head for Newburn Manor First School straight ahead, following the path down the steps. Passing the school on your left, turn left just after the school gates, bearing left through two plantations of trees. Keeping left, you will see a green gate ahead with a horse stile to one side. Cross the stile and take the path ahead.

- ❖ The path is known as the Dilly Line, and follows the route of a former waggonway used to take coal from the pits to the river for further transportation. This area, known as "the Winning", takes its name from the winning, or getting, of coal. In the area of bracken on the left, is the gateway to the "Crick", which used to be a cricket field.

Take the path on the right downhill into Walbottle Dene.

This ancient woodland has many species of wild flowers such as wood stitchwort, bluebells and ramsons, especially in the spring.

Cross the metal bridges over the burn.

- ❖ The old stone abutments are all that remain of the original bridges.

Cross the burn again via 2 new bridges. You now come out into a bare open area.

- ❖ This is a good place to look for birds, such as blue tits, robins and wrens.

At the next bridge, look out for the huge variety of liverworts and mosses growing on the old stone bridge abutment. Follow the path down the stone steps/ramp.

- ❖ Shortly after, on the right, there is an outcrop of stone, which is the Little Whinstone Dyke. The niche in the rock is known locally as the Devil's chair.

Go up the steps to Hexham Road. Cross the road with care.

- ❖ On the left is a rope bridge, erected to help red squirrels cross the road safely.

Follow the path downhill, passing some steps on the right. Stay on the main path all the way through the Dene.

- ❖ The Rhododendrons were planted many years ago when the land was owned by the Duke of Northumberland.

Coming out of the woods, you will see a grassy area known as "Johnna's bank", named after a Mr Johnson who farmed at Dene head.

Pass through some black metal bollards and turn left over a bridge crossing the burn. Walk uphill, past the allotment on the right. Follow the path straight ahead.

- ❖ The A69 is to your right, and an industrial estate to your left. On a left bend in the road is the site of Cuttycoates, one of the last linear farmsteads in the area. Little is left of the farmhouse, but some remains of walls can be seen.

Go out of the gate at the end of the road. Turn right across the grass, crossing the road towards Lloyds (the tractor shop!). Turn right onto the grass, keeping the fence to your left, walk around the corner behind the trees to the Brickworks entrance. Follow the road to the right. (Sign says "weight limit 20 tonnes, 300 yds ahead.)

The road bends left, then right, through North farm.

- ❖ The farmland hedgerows here are great for blackberrying in the autumn.

Follow the track to its end. Turn left onto Drove Road, an old cattle droving route. At Throckley Bank Top, cross the road into Hill House Road. Follow the road down the hill, passing Hill House and crossing a stile in a stone wall. Take the steps downhill to South Farm.

- ❖ The views of the Tyne Valley are particularly good at this point.

Go through the gate, and walk straight ahead, past the farm buildings and bearing right at the end of the stone wall. Follow the path downhill to a gate and over a horse stile. At the path junction ahead, turn left.

- ❖ The wooded area on your left is the Engine Plantation, part of the site of the former Isabella Colliery. A bare circular patch in the field on the right marks the sealed-off pit shaft.

Pass through the black metal gate. Follow the road to the right, which turns into a dirt track. Take the next path on the left, through the wooden bollards, cross a wooden bridge and follow the path ahead.

- ❖ The willow and alder trees growing either side of this path show that the ground here is wet.

About 100yds after passing under the pylon, take the path on the right over the little bridge.

- ❖ The orange discolouration of the Reeth burn is due to water coming from the old mine workings.

Follow the path ahead through a stile, onto Grange Road. Take the path on the left, up and across the verge.

Cross the road, following the road on the opposite side back to the Visitor Centre, looking out for traffic.

We are Newcastle City Council's Rangers. As well as devising walks, we manage the Country Park and other Countryside sites in the area, such as Walbottle Dene, Percy Pit and Walbottle Brickworks. If you would like further information about these sites, our events programme or our volunteer or education services, please contact the Rangers (0191 2648501)