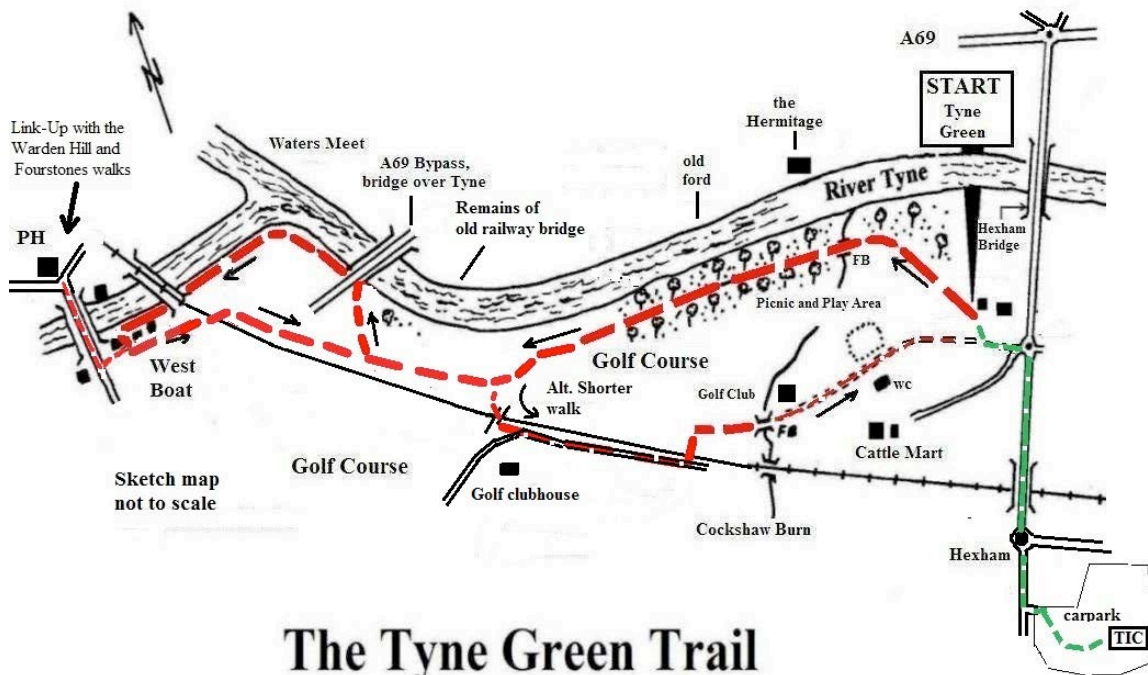


## The Tyne Green Trail

This easy going circular walk is on level ground throughout. It follows the course of the River Tyne between Hexham Bridge and the turning point just past Watersmeet. The return is on quiet lanes and good paths. The walk can be extended to Warden Hill in which case you will need to pass the Boatside Inn just over the river a few hundred yards away.



## The Tyne Green Trail

For those starting out from the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) the walk proper can be reached in 5-10 minutes. Walk down to the bottom of the Wentworth car park where a right turn onto the main road will take you over a small roundabout and railway bridge. Turn left at the next roundabout, which is just before the river bridge, and Tyne Green is a short distance ahead. The way between the TIC and Tyne Green is marked in green on the sketch-map.

Much of the information which follows is included by kind permission of the Tynedale Council (now defunct) and is based on its brochure.

Due to the nature of the area, dominated by the River Tyne, detailed route descriptions are not given, but pictures and additional information have been added to support the sketch map as appropriate to aid walkers. The route can be walked in either direction and a start can also be made from any suitable intermediate point. The sketch map is provided to help locate the features you may see while in the area.

The full trail is approximately 4 ½ miles in length although a shorter trail, about half that distance, goes as far as the railway crossing. The Trail has been marked with red and blue wooden waymarkers although, with the passage of time, the condition of any wooden markers cannot be guaranteed.

The Trail proper starts at Tyne Green, near the main river bridge, and many find that following the riverside towards West Boat, via the 'Rivers Meet', and then returning slightly further away from the river along the quiet lane, gives a good balance. On the way, a few features you will come across are mentioned below, and in this case the arrows on the sketch reflect the order in which they appear

**Hexham Bridge** was built in 1793, from local sandstone, after floods combined with stretches of unstable river sands and gravel had wrecked three earlier attempts.

The bridge makes a good place to view the weir downstream or sporting activities on the calmer waters upstream. From here you can also get a good view of Hexham's skyline including three of Hexham's most historic buildings.



**Views of Hexham Bridge**

One of these, **the Moot Hall**, which dates back to 1400 and earlier, sits on the opposite side of the market square to the Abbey and is clearly visible from the bridge and the A69 approach road. Also known as the gatehouse, this is where the Bailiff was based, courts held and civic business conducted.



The Moot Hall, part of the Hexham sky-line from Hexham Bridge

### **Tyne Green Country Park.**

The land which forms the park was gifted to the Hexham Local Board of Health in 1887 by Wentworth Blackett Beaumont (later Lord Allendale), in commemoration of the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Restoration work and environmental improvements have been grant-aided by the Countryside Commission which recognised the area of some 19 hectares as a country park in 1982. Today this picturesque area of open space offers facilities for watersports, fishing, and golf, a children's play area and picnic sites. Car parking is free alongside the roadway which borders the green.

**The broad avenue of mature trees** running parallel to the river includes species such as chestnut, sycamore, oak and large leaved lime, the latter commonly found forming avenues in country estates.



The avenue of mature trees along the banks of the Tyne

Across the river is a large Victorian house, **The Hermitage**, and, on the wooded slope behind, you may glimpse **St. John Lee Church**. Both names refer to St. John of Beverley, an early Bishop of Hexham, who sought solitude there.





The growing trees which surround the church still allow the very top of the church to be seen from the riverside. However, this picture views the church from the other side of the river while on the walk up the bank.

**Crossing the Tyne**, although now taken for granted, was a major problem from the earliest times. Prior to the erection of the present bridge in 1793, crossings had relied on a mixture of fords, ferries and what often turned out to be bridges built on a leap of faith and shifting sands. The East Boat Ferry operated a little upstream of the present bridge. Further along the river, just past the meeting of the waters, the West Boat Ferry also operated and the hamlet here once boasted its own tavern, some of the foundations of which can still be seen near the houses of West Boat, close to the river crossing.

**Old bridge and ford.** Near the brick shelter a ford once existed, often difficult and dangerous, carrying travelers northward. A bridge to replace it was started here in 1767, finished in 1770, and swept away by the great flood of 1771 which took away every bridge except that at Corbridge. Old Bridge End stands on the far bank.

Further upstream the **remains of the old railway bridge** seen here carried the Border Counties Railway, which went up the North Tyne valley. Built 1855-62, it branched off from the Newcastle to Carlisle Railway which opened in 1838, the first to cross the country, and closed about 100 years later.



**Waters Meet** is where the North and South Tyne join. The river along which the path continues is the South Tyne, flowing from the Pennines beyond Alston, while opposite is the North Tyne flowing out of Kielder Water, some distance upstream. The continued upgrading of Tyne water quality makes it one of the best fishing rivers in England today.

**Cockshaw Burn** once supplied water to the tanneries and mills that made Cockshaw and Tyne Green Road a busy industrial suburb. The Burn hosts a variety of aquatic life. Lift up a few stones and you may discover freshwater shrimps, stonefly and mayfly nymphs or even catch a glimpse of a stickleback or stone loach as it darts for cover.

**Notes:**

### **Terms and Conditions**

Please read the walks section of terms and conditions: [www.visithexham.net/terms-conditions.htm](http://www.visithexham.net/terms-conditions.htm)

### **Advisable**

Before starting a walk, it is always advisable to check the local weather forecast, take a full map and know how to use it. The Ordnance Survey continually updates its maps. The recent Explorer and Outdoor Leisure series are much bulkier than the Pathfinder and older first series, but they do have a considerable amount of fine detail and have the advantage of covering a greater area. Although these maps are not absolutely necessary for walks suggested on or downloadable from this website it is always wise to carry at least a copy of the Landranger 87 map which has a scale of 1:50,000 and covers the Hexham and Haltwhistle areas.

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