



20 NORTHUMBERLAND BLANCHLAND

■ Distance: 13½ miles/21.7km ■ Time: 6 hours ■ Grade: Moderate



Looking west across Devils Water from near Point 3.

PHOTO: VIVIENNE CROW



CHOSEN BY...

VIVIENNE CROW

If variety is the spice of life, this route is the vindaloo of the walking world. Take a pinch of grouse moorland, add a hint of sprawling forest, chuck in another good dose of more remote moorland and allow to marinate for several miles. Stir in a charming descent on a carpet of grass, simmer, and garnish with a riverside stroll through woods. Serve from a gorgeous conservation village on Northumberland's border with County Durham and tuck in!

1 Start

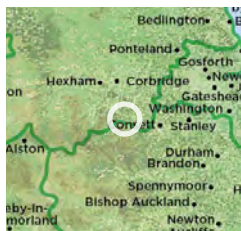
Leave car park, turn L along lane. After cottages and

remains of lead mine engine house at Shildon, keep straight ahead on rough track. As track swings R near Pennypie House on moorland edge, go through large gate on L. Bear R, keeping to broad track.

2 3 miles/5km

Nearing Slaley Forest, turn L. Go through gate into forest, later bearing L on wider track. About 370m after passing track heading R, fork L. Go through gate in forest fence; take L-hand option of two paths straight ahead, soon passing through another gate. Although peaty, the bridleway is great to walk: the ground is relatively firm and its location on the edge of the moorland means walkers have superb

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Large car park (with honesty box) on northern edge of Blanchland, grid ref NY964504, DH8 9UA

Is it for me? Mostly good paths and tracks, some open moorland; also forest and riverside paths; route briefly less clear near meltwater channel on Hope Fell; steady inclines

Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town Consett

Refreshments Café and Lord Crewe Arms (01434 677100) in Blanchland

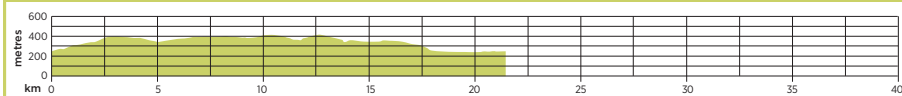
Public toilets Blanchland

Public transport Bus 773 Consett-Hunstanworth to Blanchland (Mon-Fri, weardale-travel.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorers OL43 & 307 (both required); Landranger 87

views across Devil's Water to the west.

GRADIENT PROFILE



20 NORTHUMBERLAND BLANCHLAND

OS Explorer maps OL43 & 307 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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3 ¾ miles/7.7km

Go straight over track crossing near metal shooting hut. About 450m beyond gate in wall, keep straight ahead (SSW) at waymarked junction.

4 6 miles/9.5km

Cross stile beside locked gate, pass to R of hut and aim for gate in fence just above hut. Turn R along track just before gate; after 90m, go L along grassier route.

5 6 ½ miles/11km

Eventually, reach a fence and old wall forming boundary of a felled plantation on edge of a glacial meltwater channel. Turn R, beside fence. At fence corner, keep straight on along top of slope above meltwater channel. Path descends, soon veering SW through bracken.

6 7 ¼ miles/11.8km

Cross stile on L, pass to R of sheepfold and follow bracken-swamped path rising diagonally R. At top of climb, cross eroded gully to continue WSW on narrow trail through heather (veering SW). Cross fence stile, turn L on track. When clear track bends R, keep straight through gate. Track swings L, passing abandoned buildings at Riddlehamhope.

7 10 ¼ miles/17.2km

Reaching Newbiggin, track bends L. Keep straight on, soon joining surfaced lane. Turn R at road junction.

8 11 ¼ miles/18.2km

Before bridge, take path on L – boardwalk at first. Follow River Derwent downstream

through partially wooded gorge. On edge of Blanchland, path crosses tributary bridge, heads diagonally L across grass and through wall gap. Turn R, cross road and go R on enclosed path. Continue by river for 700m to fingerpost.

9 12 ½ miles/20.1km

Go L. When path reaches B6306, go L again. Entering Blanchland, ignore first lane climbing R (towards cottages). Instead, take next R turn. Car park is on L in 130m. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING