

This is **durham**

Castle Eden



A walk of wildwoods, castles...
...village life past and present



Castle Eden is situated off the B1281 south of Peterlee, on the east coast of County Durham.

Public Transport Information

For information on getting to the coast using public transport, please go to www.traveline.info, or telephone 0871 200 22 33.





Nimmos' Brewery workers circa 1880



An old photograph of The Village

The Factory circa 1870

Introduction

Castle Eden and its adjoining dene is one of the most interesting and picturesque parts of Durham.

The name 'Eden' is recorded twice before the Norman Conquest as Joden or Yoden. In 1150 the land was acquired by Robert de Brus who granted a chapel on his land to the monks of Cuthbert. The name 'Castle' has probably derived from his ancestral residence. The manor was sold to the Burdon family in 1758 and stayed in the family for many years and was developed as a nature reserve and Victorian playground. Castle Eden Dene is currently managed by Natural

England. It is a world where magical yew, oak, ash and dying elm create a home for other plants and creatures. 10,000 years of wild growth in a deep gorge has created a place you can explore again and again. This mysterious tangled landscape of trees, rocky outcrops and steep cliffs is a sensational survivor of 'the wildwood' that once covered much of Britain. Castle Eden Dene is home to an extraordinary variety of birds, more than 450 species of plants, and some of our favourite mammals, including roe deer and fox.

Preparing for the walk

Please take care on this walk. It is advisable to wear walking shoes/boots as the routes could become muddy in places. Be prepared for changing weather conditions and wear or carry appropriate clothing and a map.

Our coastal village walk leaflets have been designed as a guide to help you in your discovery and exploration of the Durham Coast with routes linked to the Durham Coastal Path.

Starting point

Start/finish: Castle Eden Inn

Grid reference: NZ423375

Length: 3 miles / 5 kms

Time: 1½-2 hours



The Countryside Code

Respect, protect, enjoy!

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

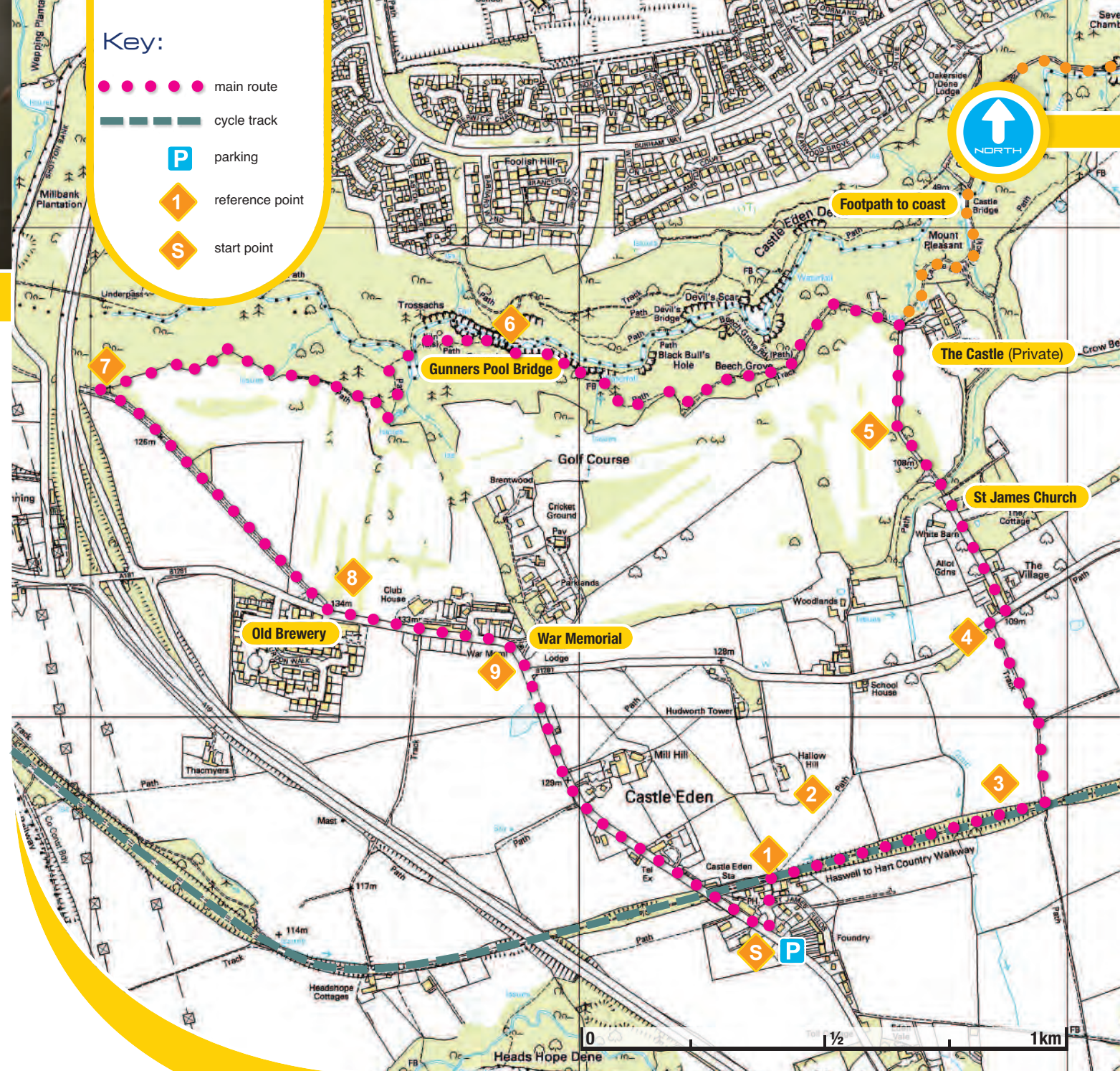
- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.



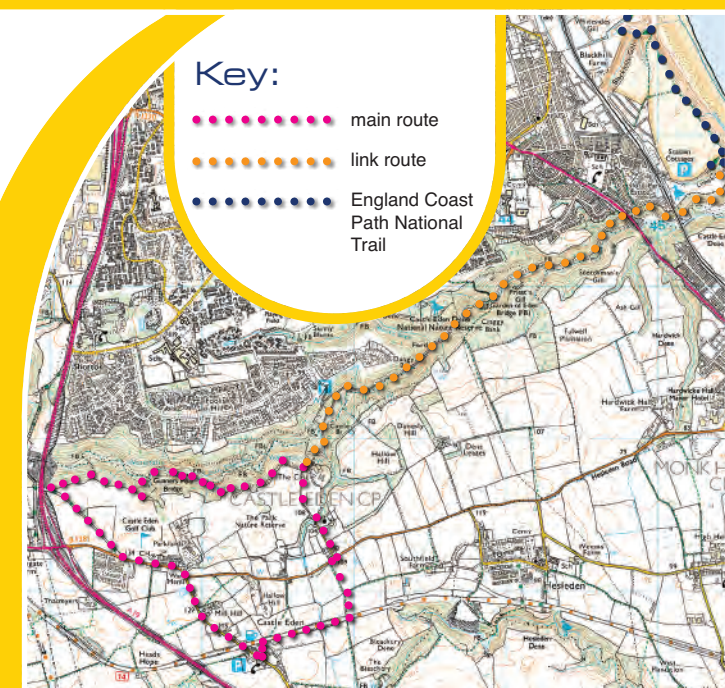


The walk

- 1 To the rear of the Castle Eden Inn and car park between two garden fences is the entrance to the footpath marked by a 'Public Footpath' sign which leads on to the Hart to Haswell Cycleway. At the junction turn right on the cycleway. To the left is the old Victorian Station House with two very large chimneys and a Welsh state roof with a Flemish brick bond. The last regular passenger train to leave this station was in 1952. Here there are views across open countryside.
- 2 On the left is Hallow Hill, meaning a tongue of land between two streams, in this case the Castle Eden burn and the stream in Bleachery Dene. The name Bleachery suggests a cottage industry in textiles and was at one time linked to the Salvin family who had a sail making industry near the brewery. There was also a small rope making enterprise.
- 3 Continue along the track until the crossroads where we turn left on the path alongside farm fields and marked 'Castle Eden Castle'. This leads to the Hesleden Road.
- 4 Cross the road here, turn right and then left and enter The Village. Continue walking towards the first of the castle gates. St James Church is located on the right. The church is constructed of fine sandstone and local limestone cut into regular blocks. The building style is neo-Gothic and was common during the Victorian period.
- 5 Proceed along the approach road to the impressive castle which was restored in 2004, now in private ownership. Continue to the end of the road and through the gate into Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve, the largest of its type in County Durham. Turn left where the track descends into the dene. Ignoring the track on the right (Beach Grove Road) continue as the path winds its way through the dene. This section is steep in places. There is a fork in the path along this section, keep right here. After crossing a small footbridge the track descends to Castle Eden Burn.
- 6 Soon you arrive at Gunner's Pool Bridge, don't cross the bridge but continue on the path (you can of course walk to the middle of the bridge for a superb view of the gorge). The track now narrows and falls to the stream below. Cross the first of two footbridges then bear left to cross the second footbridge. Carry on straight ahead where the track leads steeply up the dene. Ignore the left track soon after crossing the bridges. There are some impressive larch trees on this section of the walk.
- 7 Reaching the top of the path a golf course appears on the left and remains with you until you reach the A19 road. Leaving the dene turn left and follow the old metalled road towards the Old Brewery passing a road barrier.



- 8 The brewery was opened by Nimmo and Son in 1826 and closed in 2001. The site is now a restaurant, offices and housing. At the end of this road opposite the Old Brewery turn left as you join the terrace called 'The Factory'.
- 9 After passing the War Memorial, cross the Hesleden Road once again. Mill Hill Farm stands high on the left. Many buildings between here and the station are very ornate. Some have elaborate wooden gable ends and finials above dormer windows. In others there are tall chimneys with coloured bricks. This is the influence of two architects, Butterworth and Teulon, who worked in the high Victorian period making use of patterns in coloured bricks. Follow the path back to start point.





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www.thisisdurham.com**

Sunderland Tourist Information Centre (0191) 553 2000

Hartlepool Tourist Information Centre (01429) 523 408

We have a number of village walks leaflets to download from our website. They are in PDF format but are also compatible to be read through the BLIO App on smartphones and tablets.



Heritage Coast
Durham



Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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Acknowledgments:

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