

This is **durham**

## Horden



A walk of nature...  
...sea and history



Horden is situated off the A1086 Coast Road north of Hartlepool, on the coast of County Durham.

For information on getting to the coast using public transport, please go to [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info), or telephone 0871 200 22 33.





Horden Colliery in its heyday



St Mary's church

## Introduction

Horden is a former coal mining village situated on the coast of County Durham. Although coal mining dominated the village for almost 90 years the village's past can be traced back to medieval times. Old maps show very few settlements in and around Horden with Cotsford Farm and Horden Hall probably being the oldest link to the village's past. Both these old farmsteads are still standing and are landmarks on this walk.

The name Horden may well be derived from the Danish Yoden meaning Yew Dene. Denes and Gills are an important feature on the Durham Coast: carved from retreating glaciers during the last ice age they provide an important woodland habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals. Horden is surrounded by denes, from Warren House Gill in the north through to Ash Gill, Whitesides Gill, Blackhills Gill, Limekiln Gill and Castle Eden Dene in the south.

## 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:** Car park opposite pit wheel

**Grid reference:** NZ442416

**Length:** 4miles / 7kms

**Time:** Approximately 2½ hours

Enjoying a Real Good Time at BORDEN



## 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

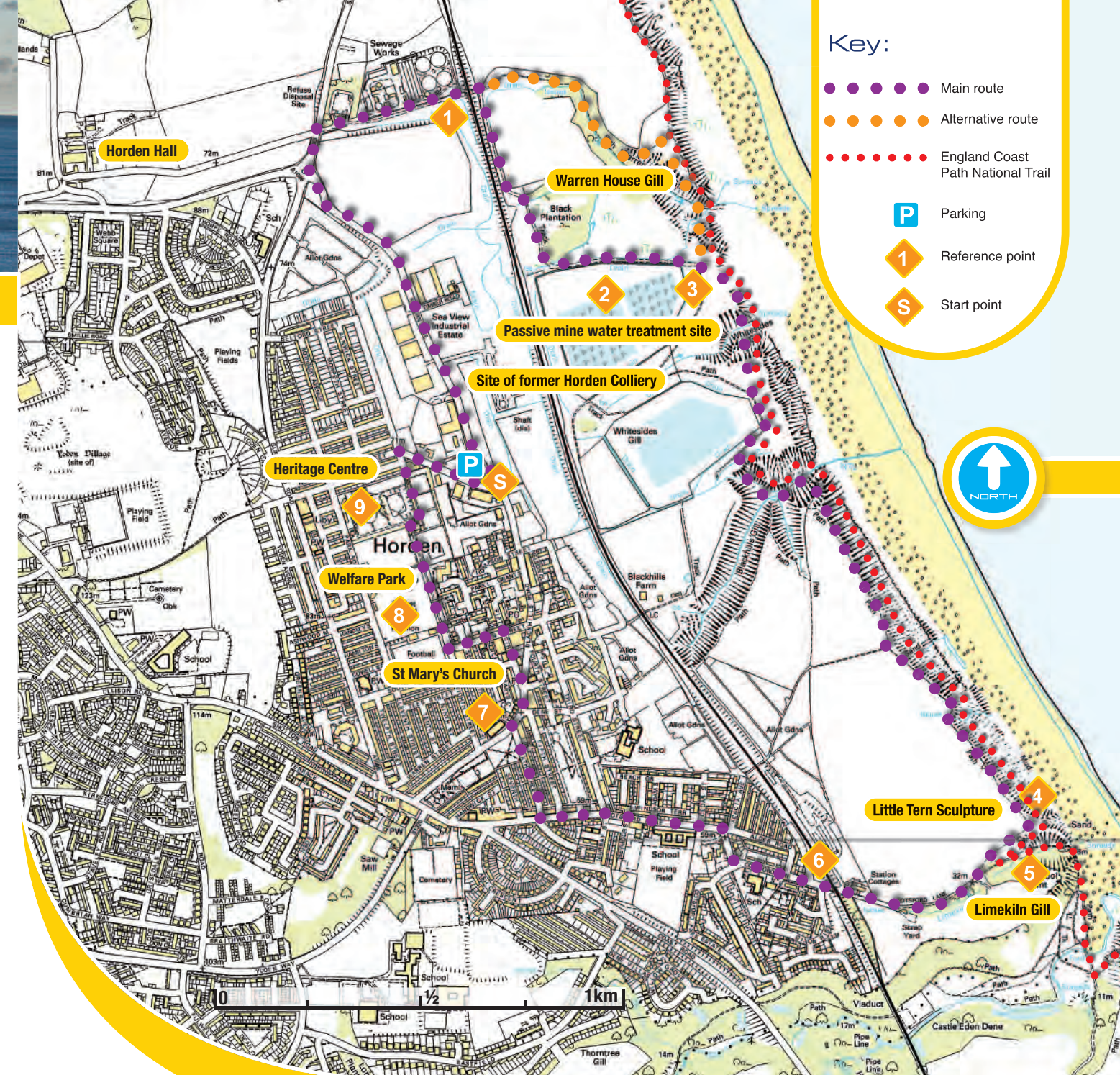
- S** Start. Parking is available at the car park opposite the pit wheel. Just opposite the car park is the site of the proposed Horden Rail Halt due to be opened in 2015-2016. Leaving the car park we turn north away from the village through Sea View Industrial Estate. On the right is the site of the former Horden Colliery which opened in 1900. The colliery employed 4,342 local people and was one of the deepest in the country. It dominated the village until its closure in February 1987. Continue along the road to the roundabout. Just across the road we can see the roof of Horden Hall, a medieval house built around 1600. Turn right and carry on down the road signposted Warren House Gill.
- 1** With the sewage treatment site on the left we continue along the track and under the bridge. Ahead we can see Warren House Gill, a National Trust owned woodland, the footpath opposite is an alternative route which leads to the beach if desired. It is thought that the name Warren derives from the old terminology meaning game reserve. After passing under the bridge turn immediately right and continue along the track.
- 2** The track eventually turns towards the sea. Just to the right is the passive minewater treatment site. This innovative scheme was

created by the Coal Authority in 2011 to treat polluted minewater. There is interpretation here to explain how the site works. Continue towards the sea to the picnic area.

- 3** An aerial flight carrying coal out to sea was located here during the mining era. This is a nice tranquil place to enjoy the views along the coast. The footpath along the cliff top is the England Coast Path; follow this footpath south for approximately 1 mile. The path crosses Whitesides Gill and then down to Blackhills Gill. Before the colliery opened, Horden beach was a popular holiday resort: during the summer months the beach was full of people enjoying the sea and visiting the many ice cream sellers along the shore. Steps take us back up to the coastal path, and here we turn left and continue south.
- 4** There are impressive views along this section of walk and plenty of opportunities to sit and enjoy a break. The Little Tern sculpture represents the rare birds that visit our coast from West Africa every year. Follow the footpath inland until we reach a metal kissing gate on the left, exit the footpath here and onto a metalled road.
- 5** This area is Limekiln Gill and as the name suggests, there must have been a limekiln here in the past. The lime would have been used for improving agricultural land and in the production of mortar.
- 6** Continue up the road past Station Cottages on the right and towards the stone built farmhouse and barn of Cotsford Grange Farm, one of the first dwellings in Horden. Continue past the farm and bear left as the route takes us past Yoden Primary School on the left. The imposing building now called the Comrades Club was once a Police

- Station. We continue along Cotsford Road until we turn right at Sixth Street. These rows of terraced houses built specifically for miners and their families are typical of ex-mining villages across the north east.
- 7** At the end of Sixth Street we stand before St Mary's Church, known as the Miner's Cathedral. The church was built in 1911 with funds from local landowner and politician Colonel Roland Burdon. We turn right here before crossing left along Fifth Street opposite the Methodist Church which opened in 1910. Turn left at the junction onto Eden Street and past the Horden Social Welfare Centre.
- 8** Turn right at the end of the road through the gates into

- Horden Welfare Park. At the centre of the park is a large sculpture of a chrysanthemum flower.
- 9** The building on the left is home to the Horden Heritage Centre and Green Leaf café. The Heritage Centre is open every Wednesday 10am-3pm March to October. It is well worth a visit to see memories of long ago with themed rooms from the 1920's depicting what life was like nearly 100 years ago. The café is open 7 days a week and is a great place for a well-earned refreshment break. The footpath to the right of the sculpture leads us out of the park passing the bowling greens. Eventually we meet the main road. We turn right here past Horden Rugby Club and back to car park at the start.







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**Sunderland Tourist Information Centre (0191) 553 2000**

**Hartlepool Tourist Information Centre (01429) 523 408**

We have a number of local 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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