

Ryhope



From agriculture...
to coal



Location...

Ryhope is situated on the B1522 coast road south of Sunderland.

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.





Ryhope Village Green, 1920s



Ryhope West Station, 1900s

Introduction

The Village of Ryhope is located at the southern boundary of Sunderland. Ryhope was once a small agricultural settlement with several farms scattered around the Village Green, however, Ryhope followed the path of many other villages in the area by abandoning agriculture as the main employer in favour of coal. In 1859 a colliery was opened and two railway lines with stations were introduced to the area, linking Ryhope to Sunderland, Seaham and other Durham Coalfield mining villages. The colliery not only increased the population of Ryhope but it also

changed the landscape with the building of miners' houses, schools and infrastructure. The colliery was closed in 1966 and now only a single railway line runs through the village and there is no longer a station. The older village section is centred on a triangular 'green', which is surrounded by the oldest buildings in Ryhope. Along the route, look out for the blue plaques on some of the old buildings.

Ryhope Dene to the south of Ryhope Village marks the border of Sunderland and County Durham. Ryhope beach is a great place for rock pooling at low tide and bird watching.

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 England Coast Path National Trail.

Starting point

Start/finish: Ryhope Community Centre,
Black Road, Ryhope, SR2 0RX

Grid reference: NZ406 531

Length: Approximately 4km

Time: Approximately 1½ 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.



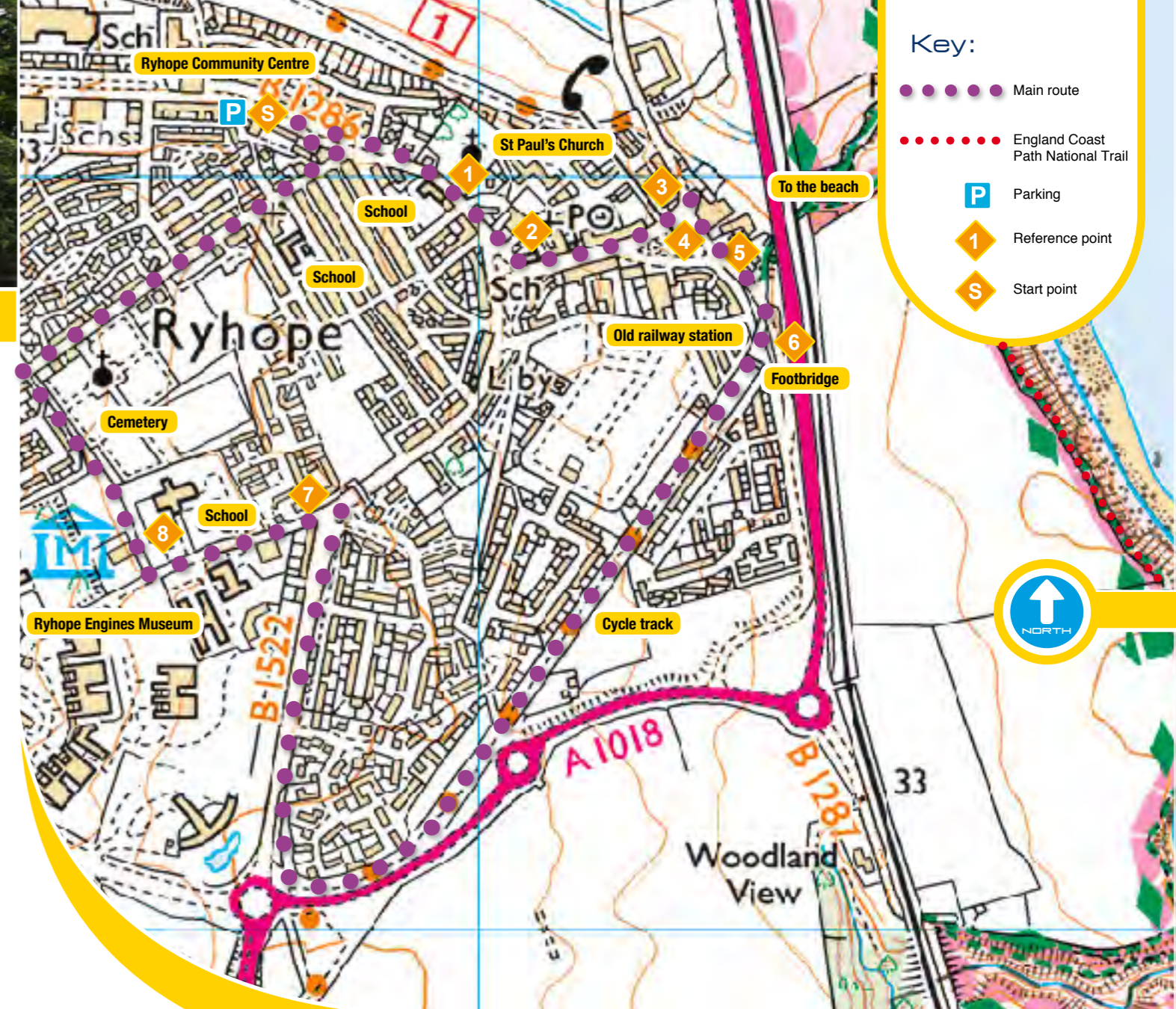


St Paul's Church

The walk

- S** The Community Centre (start of walk) was once the old Miner's Welfare Hall. The brick-built building was constructed in 1880; it had a large lecture hall to seat 800, reading, recreation and billiard rooms, a committee and secretary's room and a library. The community centre is now home to Ryhope Community Association and used as a focal point for the local community. From the front entrance to the community centre turn left and head up towards St Paul's Church which can be seen in the distance.
- 1** St Paul's Church, with its distinctive tower was built in 1870 and replaced the original church which was built in 1826. The original church still stands further along the road, it was converted to a school then used as a rent office after a school was built opposite (now derelict). Looking across the road from the church towards residential houses it is hard to imagine this area was once the site of the Village pond. Surveys suggest the pond was man-made and was probably designed as a fishpond for the 'Wilderness' hotel. 'The Wilderness' and 'The Chestnuts' on Clif Road have their origins in farming. 'The Wilderness' was frequented by the Bishop of Durham and the Earls of Lumley and Scarborough as a summer retreat to take advantage of the nearby sea-bathing.
- 2** Continue on passing the Old Rent office on the corner and turn left towards the village green. The Village Green was the heart of the old village where a memorial to the dead of two world wars stands proudly in the centre. Surrounding the green are some of the oldest

- buildings in Ryhope including fine examples of early 19th century limestone cottages (just past the Post Office).
- 3** Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and head towards the Albion pub. To the left of the Albion pub is Forge Garage which, as the name suggests was the site of a forge or smithy, probably used by the local farms for shoeing horses and repairing farm machinery and head left towards the Albion pub. The Albion Inn was once called the 'Ship Inn', at the rear of the building the remains of an 18th century stone cottage can still be seen today.
- 4** A water trough can be seen on the north east corner of the green and would have provided fresh water for passing horses, sheep and cattle as well as travellers. The Green, designated as common land would have been used as grazing for sheep and cattle. A local boy was paid a penny a day to prevent animals straying down to the beach.
- 5** From the Albion pub turn right and head toward the next corner of the Green. From here cross the road, walking straight ahead along the top estate road with the housing estate on the right and wall to the left (not the main road) towards the Railway Inn. The impressive Ryhope Hall once stood at the corner where there is now a housing estate. The Hall was built around 1675 (without the notable tower). The hall served many purposes from a Coaching Inn to a residential property before finally being owned as a private residence by the Streatfield family, the owners of Ryhope Colliery. The hall was destroyed by fire in the 1950's



- 6** and demolished in the 1960's. At the end of the road a disused footbridge comes into view. This is the route of one of the old railway lines that served the village, it is now a cycle track. Turn right under the footbridge and continue along the cycle track until the roundabout. Look out for the pit pony statue at the roadside. At the roundabout turn right along Stockton Road.
- 7** At the third traffic island cross the road and turn left signposted Hopewood Park / Engines Museum. The impressive Engines Museum and Pumping Station comes into view. More information can be found at www.ryhopeengines.org.uk, the museum is well worth a visit, please check opening times online.
- 8** Continue past St Paul's School and turn right along the public footpath in between the nursery and the primary school. At the end of the path turn right passing the cemetery and old fire station (now Blue Watch Youth Centre). Cross the road at the junction next to the Guide Post pub, turn left and back to the community centre.



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Visit: **www.durhamheritagecoast.org**
www.thisisdurham.com

Sunderland Tourist Information Centre
www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk

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
Sunderland-Durham-Hartlepool

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

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#Fourteen

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