

HAYDON BRIDGE



Explore the footpaths to the south of the village, with a choice of woodland and hill routes which reveal the expansive views and historical sites which inspired local artist John Martin.

WALKS AROUND HAYDON BRIDGE

Hills and Woods that Inspired an Artist

50p

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Hills and Woods that Inspired an Artist

Walk Summary

Longer route: Elrington, Branchend and Langley: 7½ miles, max height 981 ft

Shorter route: Spring Woods and Langley: 4 miles, max height 688 ft

Introduction

The southern slopes of the South Tyne Valley climb through a variety of woodland until they reach the northern foothills of the North Pennines. This is a walk which offers broad vistas, not only over the Northumberland landscape which unfurls below, but also into the history of the area from the imposing Langley Castle to its industrial and artistic heritage. The walk passes the birthplace of Victorian artist John Martin, and those familiar with his work can take added enjoyment in spotting the influences he took when he trod these very same paths as a boy.

Within a couple of miles the flora and fauna change from woodland to moorland, and the observant walker may be rewarded with a glimpse of a range of wildlife.

The routes in this leaflet can be combined to give walks of varying length to explore just as much or as little of this fascinating area as you wish.

Track from Langley to Threepwood



By air from Newcastle Airport

By bus 685 service Newcastle - Carlisle www.arriva buses.co.uk

By rail Newcastle - Carlisle service www.northern rail.org

By road A69 from M6 at Newcastle 28 miles

A69 from A1 at Newcastle 31 miles

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View from Humbleton Fell



Crossing the old railway above Langley

9 At the junction opposite the Haydonian Club turn left then left over the bridge by the Anchor Hotel to return to your starting point.



Byway to West Land Ends

8 At the road turn right and proceed with care to the bend. Cross the road to the grassed area and left along the minor road, signposted West Deanraw. Follow this road as it turns right, passing a farm, and then when the road turns left take the track straight ahead.

Follow downhill until it meets a road. Turn right, to keep heading downhill on the road and keep to the road as it turns right at the foot of the hill. From here walk for about a mile along the road to return to the village.



Stublick Chimney

Both routes: Start here

1 Leaving The Bridge turn left along Church Street and at the T-junction left again to cross the road bridge. At the bus stop on the far side cross the road via the traffic island and head up Whittis Road to the left of the brick terraced houses.

Longer route, continue below

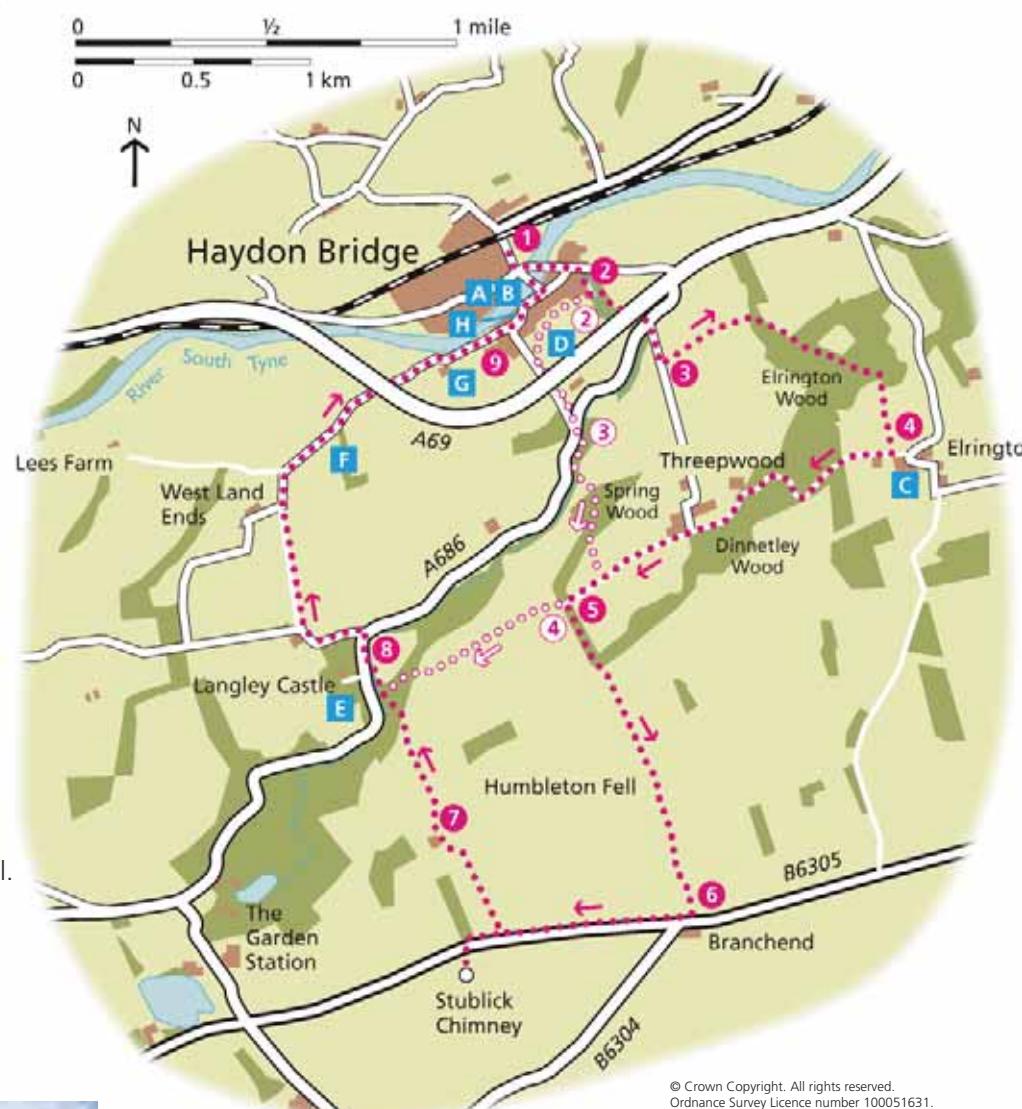
For shorter route follow from **2** (in box right)

2 At the top of the hill turn left and follow the narrow path to the right of a high wooden fence, down to a footbridge and into a wood (Gees Wood).

Follow the path uphill and then under the bypass viaduct until you come to a road. Cross the road with care and head up the lane to a gate on your left with a signpost to Elrington.



The A69 viaduct in Gees Wood



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6 Turn right and follow the road to the right (signed Alston 15). Take care of traffic on this stretch.

At the signpost for Humbleton turn right through the gate* onto the fell and make your way downhill towards the cottage and past it to a stile.

*For a short detour to Stublick Chimney, continue on past the gate. Built in the C19 to channel fumes from the lead smelting mill at Langley a mile downhill, the chimney has been restored and is well worth a visit.

7 Cross the stile and go straight ahead on an indistinct path that curves to the right, dropping down the tree-covered hill to a stile into the field. Head down the field towards two ladder stiles that provide a route across the steep sided railway cutting. From here the path leads half right downhill and past the corner of a wall to a stile leading into a wood.

Cross this stile and turn right to descend steeply, through the woods, eventually joining a rough track. Follow the track downhill to meet the road near Langley Castle.

Spring Woods (shorter) Route

Follow direction **1** for both routes, then continue below.

2 At the top of the hill turn right along the lane and on reaching the school car park at the end turn left, up the steps to a playing field. Go half right to the far corner of the field, through the wicket gate and left up the road.

At the junction cross the road towards a seat, turn right for 50m then left at the signpost for Threepwood and Branchend.

3 Follow this path down and over a footbridge, right then up through the woods, crossing a field between two wickets on the way. After emerging from the thick conifer wood go diagonally right up to a stile and continue up the field, bearing right to follow the wall to a stone squeeze-stile in the top right corner. Cross the stile and turn right along the lane to a gate at the end.

4 Go through the gate and follow the track as it bears right to a gate. Go through the gate, turn left and keep to the track across the top of this field. Go through another gate and keep straight on with the wall on your right. After a third gate the track descends to the right, through another gate and into a wood. Follow the track downhill, eventually meeting the road near Langley Castle.

Joins longer route here – follow from **3 onwards**

3 Go through the gate and follow the waymarks to a third field, where you bear right to a wicket gate on the edge of a wood. Descend into the wood, cross a footbridge and head uphill.

Join a wall and keep it on your left. At the corner of the wall continue uphill. The path runs through a slight gully but in damp conditions it may be easier to walk on top of the left bank.

When you reach a clearing keep straight uphill, and at the edge of the wood find a gap to the right of a fallen bush which will lead to a stile.

Climb the stile, cross the field and after the gate follow the track, with the wall on your left, to meet an unsurfaced lane.

4 Turn right and follow the track over a bridge and through a field gate. Keep right at a fork, going through another gate. The track then leads downhill over a bridge and up to pass a large house.

Where a road joins from the right continue straight on, past a farm and on to a field gate at the end of the lane. Look out for a step through stile in the wall to the right – this is where the shorter Spring Woods route joins, and offers a shortcut back to Haydon Bridge.



5 Go through the gate then turn left to follow the line of the wall uphill to reach an old railway embankment. On reaching this go through the gate to your left and turn right to follow the waymark uphill along the line of the wall. Towards the top of this steep climb bear left to cross a ditch and join a track leading to a gate.

After the gate continue straight on with a fence to your right to a stile in a dip. Cross this and continue uphill towards the farm buildings where you join the road. As you gain altitude it is always good to pause and look back as the Northumberland landscape unfolds behind you. All along this stretch there are unenviable views of the Northumberland hills, way beyond the Hadrian's Wall ridge and all the way to Cheviot itself and the Scottish border.



Heading towards Branchend