

Common spotted orchid



Where the track meets the main road take the marked footpath to the left, which is the former Killingworth Waggonway. In the distance, slightly to the right, there is the spoil heap from what was once Weetslade Colliery.

Chaffinch



This site was reclaimed in 2005 along with the colliery's associated pit heap in Wideopen, to be transformed into a country park as part of the National Coalfields programme, which assists former coalfield communities across England by creating new employment, homes, leisure facilities and public spaces.

The reclaimed land includes a wildlife corridor with areas of wetland, planted heavily with reed beds and hanging trees to provide a valuable habitat for local wildlife.

The route passes Burradon Primary School on the right. Just after the school notice the clinker wall, made from brick and clinker, the leftover product from a hearth and furnace. Pass a group of houses and Strawberry Terrace on the right, the site of the former Burradon pit heap. Keep Burradon pond on the left and continue along the waggonway south back to the start of the walk.



Courtesy of Newcastle Chronicle & Journal
Last Day - Burradon Colliery 1975

Design: Sanaz Haji Rafiei

NORTH TYNESIDE

Waggonways



Burradon Walk

A pleasant country walk along well-maintained paths, offering panoramic views stretching to the coast and Northumberland, which takes in reclaimed land and a sixteenth-century pele tower.

Start : Entrance to Bailey Green Primary School, West Bailey, Killingworth
Distance : 3.2 km (1.9 miles)
Time : 1 hr medium pace
Terrain : Tarmaced paths and bridleways. Mainly flat with one gentle slope



Start the walk at the entrance to Bailey Green Primary School, on West Bailey in Killingworth. Follow the Killingworth Waggonway northwards, with the school on the right and Sure Start on the left, and go under a subway. Ignore a side path to the left and one to the right, and go straight over at the crossroads. Go straight ahead, along the path which is bounded on either side by original hedgerows.

After approximately 75m take the path to the right up a short slope. On the left is Burradon Pond.



Common reed has colonised this area along with reedmace and marestalk, soft rush and compact rush. House martins and swifts feed over the pond, and grey heron, coot, reed bunting, moorhen and mute swan are usually present. The pond was formed in the late 1980s as part of the reclamation work on the Burradon Colliery site. The plant life has become more diverse and northern marsh orchid, birds-foot trefoil, butterbur and smooth hawksbeard can be found. In the summer look out for skylarks.

Burradon Colliery (1837-1975) was served by a mineral line, which linked the colliery with the Killingworth Waggonway at West Moor eventually terminating at the staiths in Wallsend, where the coal was unloaded. The colliery is particularly famous for the 1860 mining disaster, which claimed 76 lives.

Continue up the hill and turn right on reaching a junction with another track. From the top of the hill panoramic views can be enjoyed in every direction.

Continue along the path bearing left at the top of the hill, and at the bottom take the left fork along a path with views over open fields to the right and hedgerows on the left.

On the left, almost hidden through the Sycamore trees can be seen the ruins of Burradon Tower.

This 16th-century pele tower is a scheduled ancient monument used as a fortified farm house during the border reivers era.

It was Burradon's main landmark and later became the home and offices of local tenant farmers.

Just past the tower are Burradon Farm cottages. The large trees approaching the tower and cottages are sycamore and wych elm.

Turn left and follow the path through the farmyard, passing the 19th-century Quarry cottages on the left.

