

Continue along the road and turn right into the woodland just before the bridge over the A1. This is the site of the former Seaton Burn pit heap. All the trees are planted in lines which was standard practice in the 1970s for the reclamation of pit heaps. Look out for alder, silverbirch and Swedish white beam, specifically chosen as they fix their own nitrogen in the soil and so can survive in the most impoverished grounds. This area holds the normal woodland species including goldcrest, great and blue tit, robin, dunnock and blackbird. Follow the markers through the wood. On leaving the forest turn right on to a road that originally led to the Brenkley drift mine. The elevated section is a former waggonway serving the Brenkley drift.

Take the path to the right just before Blezard Business Park which was built on the site of the former Seaton Burn Colliery (1844-1965). The old lamp rooms where the miners used to store and charge their lamps and the pit baths have been converted into offices. A rectangular concrete block covers the colliery shaft.

Continue to Blagdon Terrace, former miners' cottages. Turn left and then right into Brenkley Court which leads onto Front Street. Turn right and cross the road at the pelican crossing. Then turn left into Dudley Lane, passing Seaton Burn Community High School on the left.

Pass the entrance to Seaton Burn Hall on your right and Weetslade cemetery on your left. Take the next immediate turning on your right after Green Houses Farm and bear right again past Seaton Burn Dairy Farm, and the back of Seaton Burn Hall on the right. Go straight ahead through the gates/over the stile and continue straight ahead across the field. At the end of the field the ground slopes steeply towards the burn. Descend the steps, cross the bridge and follow the path with the burn on the right. Carry on past a wooden footbridge until the path turns left and follows the edge of the field.

Keep the former Weetslade Colliery pit heap on the left. The path crosses a grass track and also the Seaton Burn waggonway. A few steps lead to the rear of Greenfields Community Primary School. Go through the stile and follow the perimeter of the school. The path emerges beside a house at the corner of Lockey Park. Turn left and immediate right and follow the path, which leads to the starting point.



*Design: Kelly Gorski*

## NORTH TYNESIDE Waggonways

### The Seaton Burn Walk



**Start:** Opposite Woodlands Care Home  
**Distance:** 6.8 km (4.3 miles)  
**Time:** 2.25 hours medium pace  
**Terrain:** Stretches of road, bridleways and field paths with some muddy patches. Mainly flat, as much of the route follows the lines of early waggonways.

A relatively undemanding walk along the old Havannah Mineral Line and the Seaton Burn Waggonway, over to Six-Mile Bridge and on to the shafts from the former Seaton Burn Colliery. Enjoy the ecological delights of wetlands, woodlands and medieval farm land along the way.

The entrance to the walk is opposite Woodlands Care Home along the Havannah Drift Line.

The Havannah Mineral Line ran from the Havannah Drift Colliery on the outskirts of Brunswick and Dinnington which opened in 1950 and operated until 1977.

Continue along the path. On the left, behind a close boarded fence, is a scrapyard which was once the site of Wide Open Colliery.

Turn left at the junction to join the former Seaton Burn Waggonway.

This was formerly known as the Brunton and Shields Railroad built in 1826 to take coals from Brunton Colliery to the Tyne.

After a quarter of a mile, the pit heap of the former Weetslade Colliery, now a country park, becomes visible through the trees on the right.

Continue along the waggonway, ignoring paths to the right and left, eventually passing the rear of Greenfields Community Primary School on the left. Look out for views of Seaton Burn Hall, a grade II listed Georgian country house that is now the headquarters of Bellway Homes.

Along the route are mixed hedgerows of hazel, elder and hawthorn.

The path emerges on Bridge Street, at the point known locally as Six-Mile Bridge, so called as the bridge carried the waggonway over the road six miles north of Newcastle.

Six-Mile Bridge was once a tiny hamlet which formed part of the township of Weetslade.



Cross Bridge Street, and turn left past Burnbridge and over the burn. Turn immediately right and follow the burn.

On the left hand side is a circular mosaic made by local children. A few metres past the mosaic several paths merge. Continue straight ahead to Little Waters pond.

The pond provides a habitat for breeding mute swan, coot and mallard. Otters have also been sighted in the burn.

Take any of several paths to the left through Poplar wood.

This was a plantation of the Poplar developed in the 1950s and 1960s solely for the match industry. It is notable for the occurrence of lunar hornet moths. This moth mimics a hornet for protection.



Seaton Burn Colliery © The Francis Frith Collection, SP35QP

