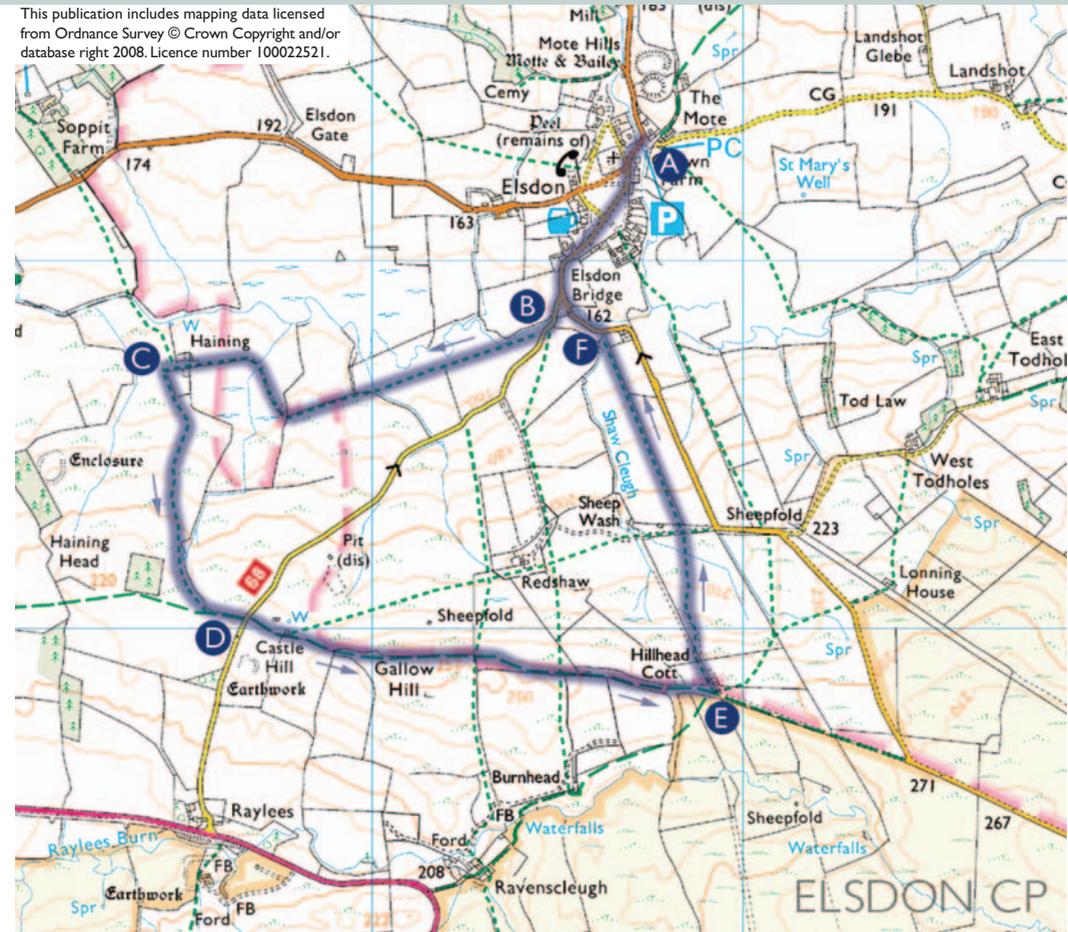




# Elsdon Burn walk

**Grade:** Easy | **Length:** 2.5 miles (4km) | **Time:** Allow 2 hours | **Map:** O.S. Explorer OL42

- A** Start from the car park in Elsdon. Cross the bridge back into the village and turn left, following the road to Newcastle and Morpeth around the village green.
- B** Just outside the village take the right hand fork (signed Newcastle) over the bridge with metal railings. Cross the small stile on your right. Head straight across the field, cross the small footbridge and follow the line of the wall/fence up the hill (keeping the fence on your right). At the corner of the field go through the gate on your right and follow the grass track to the line of trees ahead of you. Follow the footpath along the original cart track to Haining.
- C** Pass in front of the house, now derelict, go through an old gateway and follow the wall on your left as it turns the corner. Now head for the dense block of conifers on the skyline in front of you. At the conifers the footpath then follows the fence line on your left to a gate onto the road.
- D** Go through the gate on the other side of the road. Castle Hill lies on your right, keeping the wall on your left walk over Gallow Hill, stopping to admire the view at the highest point. Continue to follow the wall to the gate in the corner of the field. Go through the gate and keeping the wall now on your right, head for Hillhead Cottage. Go through a small wooden gate and follow the line of the old wall on the ground almost up to the house.
- E** At the corner of the house turn left and walk to a stile in the fence. Cross the stile and walk downhill to the barn ahead of you. At the tarmac farm track turn right and then left over the ladder stile after the barn. Go straight down the field and through the gate at the bottom.
- F** Follow the road back to the village.



**Start at O.S Grid Reference:** NY 937 934

**Car Parking:** In Elsdon, near the village green

**Nearest National Park Centre:** The Coquetdale Centre, Rothbury

**Terrain:** Road, footpaths and farm tracks, some inclines, may be muddy



## Elsdon Burn walk

### Getting there

Heading South on the A68 from Carter Bar:  
Turn left onto the A696 (signed Newcastle), just past Otterburn turn left on to the B6341 to Elsdon.  
The village car park is through the village on the right

Heading North on the A696 from Belsay:  
Turn left on to the B6341 (signed Elsdon).  
The village car park is through the village on the right.

From Rothbury on the B6341:  
Follow the B6341 to Elsdon, the car park is on the left as you come in to the village.



Hare



Small Copper Butterfly



Reproduced from the 1949 Ordnance Survey map.

All photographs ©: John Steele, NNPA.

### Local facilities

Food and accommodation are available in Elsdon.

The Bird in Bush Inn serves a range of ales and good food, especially Sunday lunches.

In the old schoolhouse dating from 1700s, the Impromptu Tea Room welcomes walkers and cyclists and caters for vegetarians.



Picturesque Elsdon

### Follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Elsdon Church

### Points of Interest

Elsdon is the historic capital of Redesdale and was once a very important settlement. From the car park, look out for the old Mill House by the burn on the Rothbury road. Behind you are the Mote hills earthworks – relics of a Norman Motte and Bailey and site of an old Anglian Moot. Across the road is a Northumbrian Pele tower from the time of the Reivers, although a tower is recorded on this site as early as 1415.

The church dates back to the 12th Century and its churchyard contains several interesting gravestones, some listed. It is reputed to hold the dead from the Battle of Otterburn (1388).

Crown Farm used to be an inn as was Bacchus House with its statue of the god on his wine barrel above the front door. Over the bridge, Raylees Farm was once also an inn! Across the green is the surviving inn, the Bird in Bush.

The trees in the village green mark the old cock pit, and a bear baiting site is marked by a stone near the bus stop. The 18th century circular Pinfold is the old pound, where stray animals were kept until owners could pay for their return. Pinfold Cottage used to be a smithy and the Old Smithy itself is on the other side of the green.

You can see several ruins as you climb the hill, remnants of previous habitation. Look out for curlews, little owls and buzzards, and brown hares streaking through the fields.

Looking back towards The Haining you can see the cottage, Elsdongate, that was the toll house on the road from Otterburn. The Elsdon coal mine was on this road in former times.

*This walk has been produced in partnership with the people of Elsdon.*