

2 9km/ 5.5 MILES 3-4 HOURS EASY/MODERATE

Rothbury Terraces

© GRAEME PEACOCK



This is a lovely walk offering extensive views up the Coquet Valley to the Cheviot Hills and the Scottish Border. The going is easy and the paths are clear, winding through attractive woodland and across a heather moor.

The walk

1 Start

From Cowhaugh car park cross the footbridge over the river to the alley slightly off to your left. Go up the alley – this will bring you out onto Rothbury High Street. Cross the main road to the shops on the opposite side and then turn right and walk downhill to the Queens Head. At the Queens Head turn left up Brewery Lane, bear right at the DIY shop. Pass Rothbury First School and a group of bungalows on your left. Take the first left through a kissing gate into the fields, and follow the finger post marked 'Alnwick Road'. Follow the footpath over the fields to a tarmac road. Turn right here and continue along

the road, which turns into an unsurfaced track. At the end of the wood on your left is a stile. Cross the stile into the fields.

2 1.3km/ 0.8 miles

Bear diagonally right uphill passing Addycombe Farm. At the top of the field go through the first kissing gate and turn left onto an old carriage track. This land was once part of the large Cragside Estate and the clear tracks were laid out as carriage drives used by Lord Armstrong's family and their guests when out for an 'airing'. Cragside House and its immediate grounds now belong to the National Trust, but this tract of land still belongs to

the Armstrong Estate. Follow the track through the beech wood for approximately 1 km – watch out for the bird feeding station where you will sometimes see red squirrels feeding. Rothbury lies below and across the river rises the steep escarpment of the Simonside Hills. These sandstone hills were laid down about 300 million years ago when large sandy deltas spread across the area. Later, faulting and folding of the rocks produced steep escarpments all facing towards the Cheviots.

3 3.3km/2 miles

The track meanders through the wood to another kissing gate that

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leads out onto open moorland. The predominant heather on this moor is ling (*Calluna vulgaris*). This plant has been used since Neolithic times for bedding, thatch, fuel, baskets, ropes and brooms. Follow the clear track across the moor and around the hill for approximately 3kms/ 1.8miles – enjoying the magnificent view over Coquetdale and the Cheviot Hills as it unfolds before you.

4 6.3km/4 miles

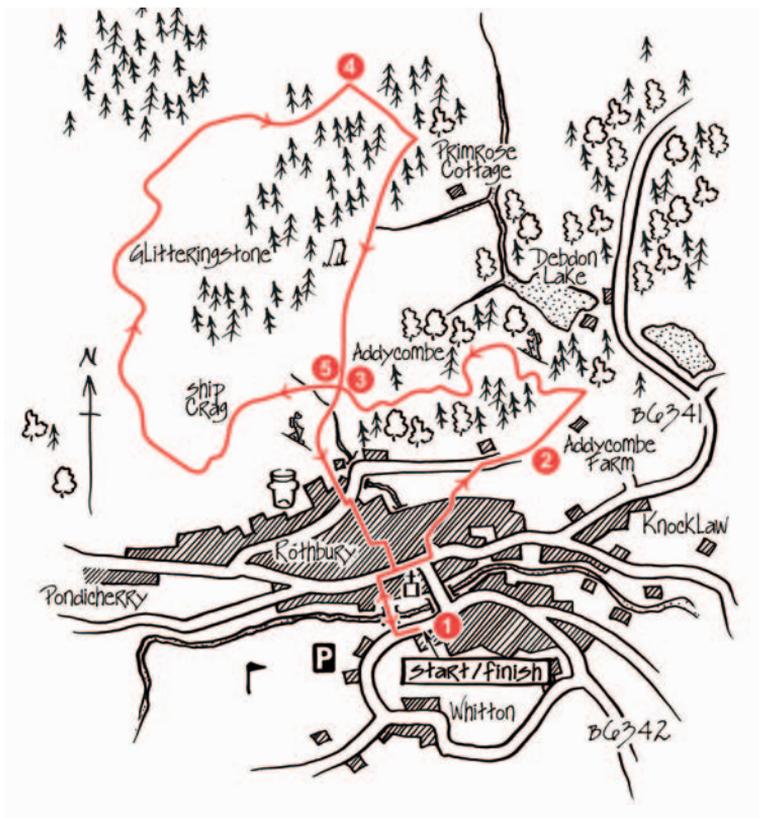
Eventually the track will bring you around to three 4m field gates. Go through the first gate, turn right and follow the forest road downhill for 400 m. Then turn right, following the direction of the finger post marked 'Rothbury 1¼' and follow the path. After 200m a footpath branches

off to the left to a wicket gate/stile.

Go through the gate and follow the well-worn footpath uphill over the moorland.

5 8km/5miles

The path crosses the carriage drive at the point where you previously emerged from the beech wood – continue straight over, following the path down the hill and over a stile to a narrow cut between the houses. At the bottom of this cut continue down the tarmac road and turn right at the junction on Hillside Rd, then immediately left down the steps onto a tarmac path. At the very bottom turn left then first right down the little alley between the shops known locally as the nick. This brings you back into the centre of town.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Field paths, moorland tracks and footpaths

Stiles 3

Suitable for

Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking

Cowhaugh car park, Rothbury, grid ref. NY 057015

Nearest town

Rothbury

Refreshments

Rothbury

Public toilets

Cowhaugh

car park & Bridge Street

Rothbury

Public transport

For information on regular bus services to and from Rothbury contact National Park Visitor Centre, Rothbury Tel 01669 620887, Traveline, public transport information line Tel 0870 608 2 608 (national rate) or visit www.jplanner.org.uk

MAPS

OS Landranger 81

Alnwick & Morpeth

● To order Ordnance

Survey maps for this walk

contact National Park

Visitor Centre, Rothbury

tel 01669 620887