

4 7.5km/ 5 MILES 2 – 3 HOURS EASY

Woods and Wells

Lady's Well



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Starting from the Forest Enterprise picnic site near Holystone this walk can be done in one or two stages. The first leg incorporates part of the Holystone Burn Nature Reserve with its juniper scrub and heather moor. The second section is through Holystone village, past ancient wells and along the banks of the River Coquet. Two easy family walks.

The walk - Part One

1 Start

Leave the picnic site and turn right onto the tarmac road. The road crosses a burn, after which a footpath leads from the road on the left.

2 0.3km/ ½ mile

Take this footpath – after 200m there is a fence with a stile. Cross the stile and carry on across the moorland. This is Holystone Burn Nature Reserve - a fine sweep of ungrazed heather and semi-natural woodland alongside Holystone Burn. The path winds across the

moor, between the trees and crosses two small burns.

3 1.6km/ 1mile

After 1km/ 0.6m the path climbs up to meet a forest track. Turn right here and follow the track back to the road. Turn right again. The stretch of road from here back to the original footpath follows part of a Roman road, built 2,000 years ago to link two major routes – Dere Street and the Devil's Causeway. Good roads allowed troops to move quickly to quell any rebellion against Roman

Authority. Continue down the road and either return to the picnic site or carry straight on towards Holystone village for the second part of the walk.

The walk - Part Two

4 3.5km/ 2miles

Leave the picnic site, turn left and follow the road towards Holystone village. The road crosses a cattle grid and runs close to Holystone Burn on the right. Approaching the village the road bends round to the left; at this point look out for the stone-built St. Mungo's Well on

the right hand side. St. Mungo, sometimes known as Kentigern, was a 6th century Scottish evangelist, though there is no record of his having visited Holystone. The well was built in the early 19th century and, according to popular tradition, was the watering hole for Muggers (hawkers).

5 4km/ 2.5miles

Continue on the road past the church on the right. At the junction turn left, following the sign for 'The Lady's Well', into a yard. The track bears round to the right and crosses a field to a small copse of trees and the Lady's Well. In AD 627 Paulinus (Later bishop of York) is reputed to have baptised 2000 converts here on Easter Day. In the 12th century Holystone was the site of a Priory of Augustinian Nuns and at that time the well was repaired and adorned with a cross. During the 18th century a statue representing Paulinus was erected. The well has an ancient history and the name is said to be a reference to the good ladies of the Priory.

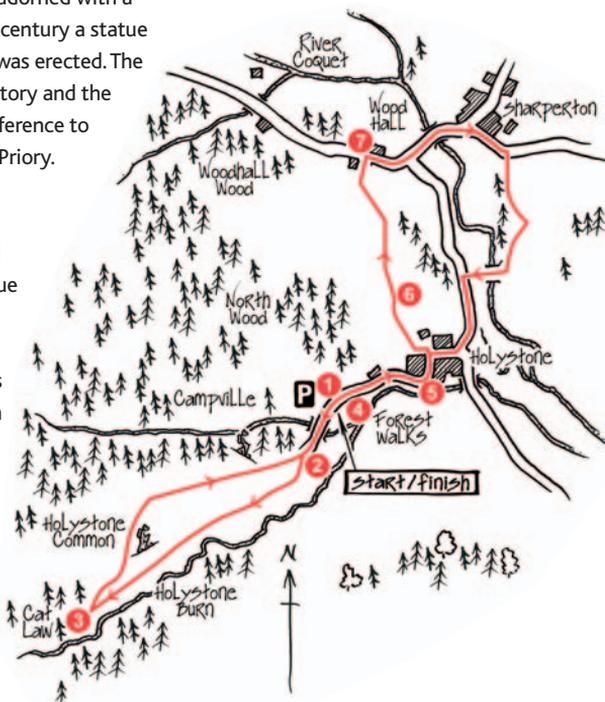
6 4.3km/ 2.6miles

Follow the track round to the stile and continue along the edge of the field. Go over the stile in the next fence, cross the next field and then a squeeze stile and step stile in close succession. Continue straight across the next field over another stile and then, keeping the

fence on your right, follow the track to the next squeeze stile. Walk down the lane to meet the road.

7 5km/ 3miles

At the road turn right, pass the T-junction and continue on to the bridge over the River Coquet. Follow the road past Sharperton on the left to the point where it begins to climb the hill. At the bottom is a finger post on the right (High Farnham 1). Go through the gate and, keeping the fence and hedge line on the left, follow the path up to the next gate. Go through the next gate and walk downhill to the footbridge across the River Coquet. Cross the bridge, follow the track across the field to the step stile and turn left onto the road. Follow the road back to Holystone village and the car park/picnic site.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain metalled road, moorland paths, forest track, agricultural grazing land

Stiles 8

Suitable for

Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking

Holystone Forest car park, grid ref. NT 951027

Nearest town

Rothbury

Refreshments

Star Inn, Harbottle, tearshop in Alwinton due to open April 2003 or Rose & Thistle Inn, Alwinton

Public toilets

Alwinton National Park car park (7km/ 4 miles)

Public transport

For information on transport services to and from Holystone 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 Explorer OL16 The Cheviot Hills

● To order Ordnance Survey maps for this walk contact National Park Visitor Centre, Rothbury tel 01669 620887