



**Remains of a stone tower, Sheillow Wood**

The coal was used locally to power threshing machines on the farms, and as fuel in nearby lime kilns. Peat extraction is being carried out on the left.

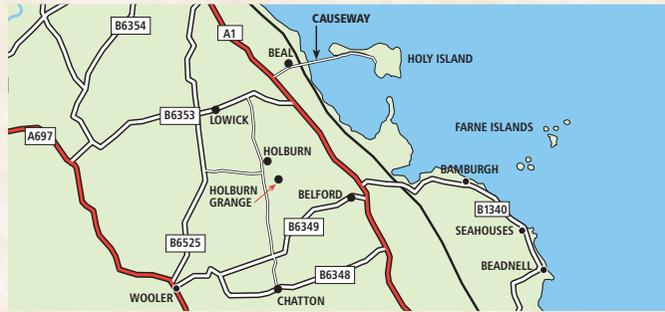
Shiellow Wood was planted after World War II, and the trees are now reaching maturity. The timber is mainly used for

products such as fencing material and pallets, although some trees were selected by boat builders at Amble for use as masts. Amongst the young trees opposite an area of reeds called Small Lake (which is gradually silting up), is the base of a stone tower. This is all that remains of the Holburn Colliery which was active until the 1860s.

Holburn Lake and Moss are important wildlife areas and are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In addition Holburn Lake is a Ramsar site having been designated as an Internationally Important Wetland Area on account of the large numbers of geese and wildfowl which roost here in winter. Please take every step to avoid disturbance to this site, especially in winter and spring. Please keep to the public right of way around the moss and that dogs are kept under close control, preferably on a lead.



**Towards Holy Island**



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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Distance**

The Walk is 4½ miles (7km) along tracks and paths involving some hills. Some of the paths may be wet or muddy in places and suitable footwear should be worn. Most fences are crossed at gates.

**Start/Finish**

St. Cuthbert's Cave National Trust Car Park (free) at Holburn Grange farm, signposted from the Holburn to Chatton Road, see location map. Grid reference NU 051 351

**Ordnance Survey Maps**

Explorer 340 Holy Island & Bamburgh (1:25,000)  
Landranger 75 Berwick-upon-Tweed (1:50,000)

**Be a Welcome Visitor**

Please take care not to disturb wildlife habitats, or consecrated

ground. The countryside is a living, working environment, where farmers earn their living. Please respect their life and work and leave no litter. Please follow the country code and take care on country lanes and tracks.

**Dog Walkers**

Please keep dogs on leads to prevent disturbance to stock and wildlife.

**Facilities**

There are no facilities at Holburn Grange or on the walk. The nearest shops and toilets are at Belford (6 miles), or Wooler (8½ miles).

**Tourist Information**

**Wooler**  
Tourist Information Centre  
Tel. 01668 282123.  
**Berwick - upon - Tweed**  
Tourist Information Centre  
Tel. 01289 330733

**Northumberland Countryside Service**

This leaflet is produced by Northumberland Countryside Service, part of Northumberland County Council.

If you would like to know more about our work send an A4 SAE to:

Northumberland Countryside Service,  
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Northumberland, NE61 2EF.

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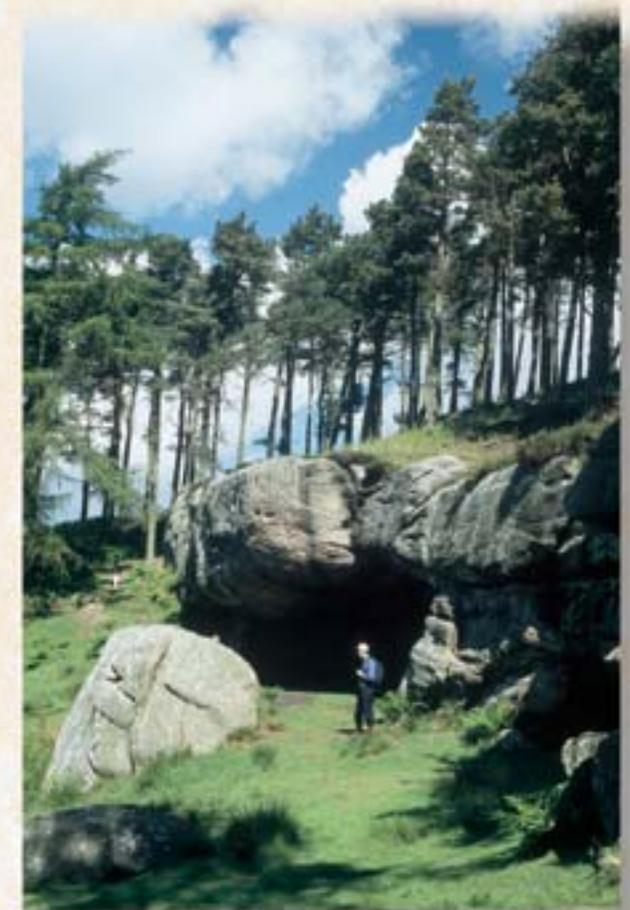
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Discover Northumberland

**WALKS**  
IN NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

**St. Cuthbert's Cave**

A 4½ mile walk exploring the countryside around this historic feature

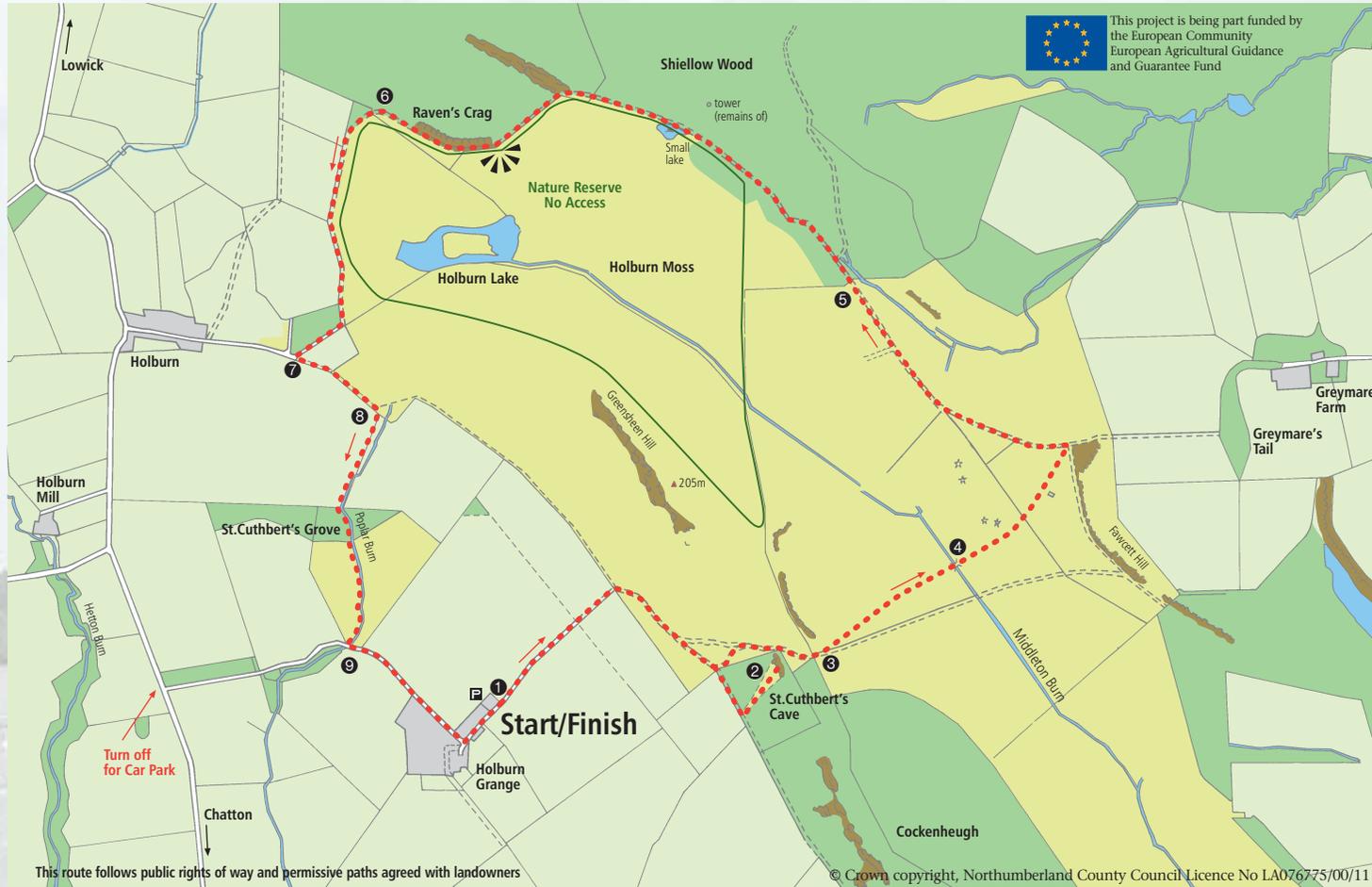


Northumberland COUNTY COUNCIL

The Countryside Agency

# Walk directions

- 1 Turn left out of the car park and follow the track up the hill signed for St. Cuthbert's Cave. At the gate and stile at the top of the track turn right, and follow the grassy track through the gorse, keeping to the right as the path splits. Go to a gate in the corner of the wood. Pass through the gate and after a short distance turn left up to St. Cuthbert's Cave, the rock outcrop in the clearing ahead.
- 2 As there is no exit above the cave, please walk back to the gate in the corner of the wood, turn right and walk uphill alongside the wood to reach a waymarked gate at the top of the hill, from which you may see Holy Island in the distance.
- 3 Pass through this gate and then the gate on your left, and bear right, following the waymarker posts through the gorse and go downhill to a footbridge with gates on either end.
- 4 Cross the bridge and go straight ahead, uphill, to a gate. Continue ahead over a slight rise, and aim for a gate and stile on the left side of the gorse



covered hill in front. Turn left onto the stone track and follow it to the woodland.

5 Continue through a gate into the forestry plantation and go straight ahead along the track. At the track junction continue straight ahead, signposted to Holburn. Continue along this track which eventually goes through

a gate and bends left. After a short distance the track bends right, and this is where you can see Holburn Lake on your left. Continue along the track as it passes below Raven's Crag.

6 The track passes through a gate, and bends left. Continue along this track, which eventually turns right through a gate, until you reach the end of

the stone wall. Leave the track and turn left through a gate in the wall.

7 Continue along a grassy path for a short distance, pass through a gateway, and as the path begins to head left, bear right to a small gate in the fence.

8 Go through the small gate and downhill along the field edge to a metal gate in the edge

of the woodland. Go through the wood, and at the next gate continue straight ahead along the edge of the field, and to a gate on the road.

9 Turn left along the road and follow it back to Holburn Grange farm. Turn left at the junction and back to the car park, which is on the left past the cottages.

## Points of Interest

St. Cuthbert's Cave is an overhanging outcrop of Sandstone rock, supported by an isolated pillar of stone. It is reputed that the monks of Lindisfarne brought St. Cuthbert's body to this place in AD875 following Viking raids on the Island.



View from St. Cuthbert's Cave

In the Mid 19th Century the entrance was enclosed by a stone wall and used as a 'lambling shed'. Once owned by the Leather family, the area was for a time the family burial place, being consecrated in 1936. Memorials to members of the family can be seen on isolated sandstone outcrops. In 1981 the wood was given to the National Trust, who manage it today. (Please respect the area and leave it as you found it)

## A Historic Landscape

The area just beyond Middleton Burn is covered in the remains of bell pits where coal was extracted two centuries ago. As each pit was exhausted, the miners moved along the seam and started afresh, leaving a series of mounds across the ground.



The Cheviot Hills