



Otterburn Village Trail

Northumberland
National Park



From Otterburn Mill Car Park

Route: ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Grade: Moderate

Distance: 3 miles / 5 km

Time: 2 hours

Map: OS OL42 Explorer 1:25000
Kielder Water & Forest

Start & Parking: Otterburn Mill
Car Park

Terrain: Footpaths, road, may be muddy
in places, slight climb

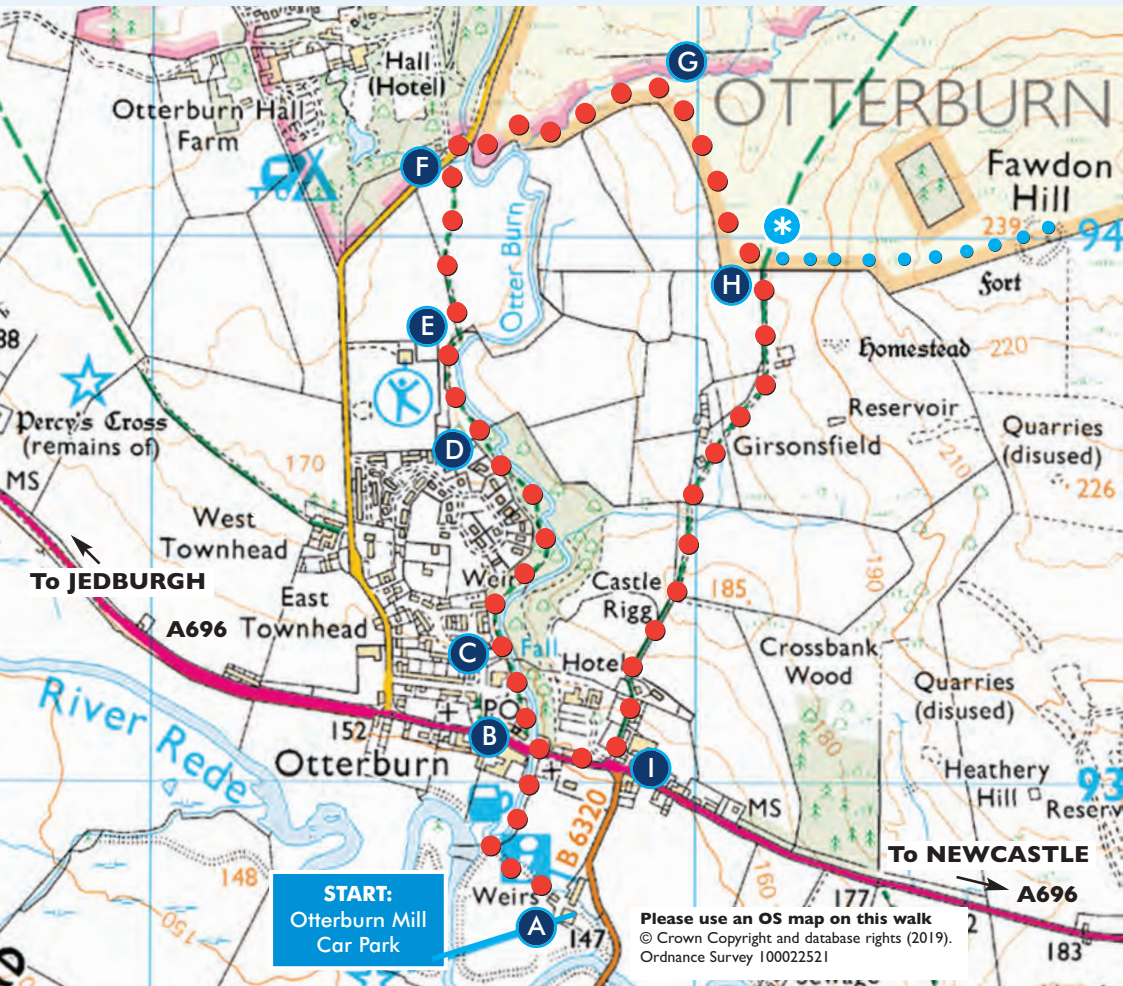
Description: A lovely walk following
the Otter Burn, with a short climb up
Fawdon Hill

Local Services: Otterburn

Please keep dogs on a lead, livestock
(sheep and cattle) graze the fields



Bridge over the River Rede at Otterburn



A Leave the car park through the wicket gate and cross the field to the footbridge. Go over the footbridge and turn right following the well worn path to the road, keeping the Otter Burn on your left.

B Cross over the main road, turn left and then right following the fingerpost signed 'Otterburn Hall 1 mile'.

C Follow the footpath upstream, with the fence on your left and the Otter Burn now on your right. Go through the gate and continue along the path.

D Go through another gate, cross over the two sleeper bridges and continue on through the small area of silver birch woodland, the village sports field is on your left.

E Go through the wicket gate in the fence ahead. Follow the path straight on through the field to the gate leading out onto the road by the house.

F Turn right along the road. After 100m at the fingerpost signed 'Otterburn Village Trail' turn right through the gate. Continue on the track over the sleeper bridge and up to the left, keeping the fence, then the wall on your right.

G At the corner of the wall turn right, and carry on through the field gate ahead. Continue on to the next field gate in the wall straight ahead.

*** POINT H - ● ● ● FAWDON HILL**
Do not go through the gate instead turn left and follow the wall, then fence, on your right, up the hill. Go through the gate at the top and continue on for approx 100 metres. You are now at the top of Fawdon Hill hillfort. Retrace your steps back down hill to the field gate in the wall at Point H.

H Go through the gate in the wall and continue straight on, keeping the wall on your right. At the corner of the wall follow the track down, with the fence on your right, to the wooden gates at Girsonfield Farm. Pass through the gates, and turn left onto the farm road. Continue on along this road back down to the village.

I At the main road turn right. Cross over the road before the bridge and take the footpath on the left alongside the Otter Burn and back to Otterburn Mill car park.

Information



Otterburn Mill

heron

Directions to the walk start point

From Newcastle: Otterburn is on the A696, just 23 miles north of Newcastle. In Otterburn take the first left onto the B6320. Otterburn Mill car park is on the right.

From Rothbury: Follow the B6341 west through Elsdon, at the junction with the A696 turn right. In Otterburn take the first left onto the B6320. Otterburn Mill car park is on the right.

From Bellingham: Follow the B6320 north, to Otterburn, the Mill is on the left, just after crossing the narrow bridge over the River Rede.

Public Transport

T: 08712 002233

www.traveline.org.uk

Local facilities

Food is available at Otterburn Mill, William De Percy Inn and Otterburn Tower Hotel. Otterburn Mill also sells a wide selection of outdoor wear, as well as the Otterburn Mill Pram Rug. Local tourist information is available here. In the village there is also a small shop, The Border Reiver, selling groceries.

The Otterburn Ranges

You may hear the distant sound of military training from Otterburn Ranges, owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and established as a training area in 1911. It is the aim of Northumberland National Park and the MOD to encourage as much access to the area as possible, however when red flags are flying no access is permitted to the Controlled Access Area of the Range. For further information: www.otterburnranges.co.uk

Local History

Built in the 18th century Otterburn Mill used the natural resources of sheep wool and water power to produce Otterburn Tweed. In Victorian times an 'Otterburn' was a hardwearing rug to keep you snug on a coach ride. These 'bull's lug' (heavy duty!) blankets were woven in the Mill.

William De Percy Inn reminds us of Henry Hotspur, the then Lord Percy (Duke of Northumberland) taking on Scottish rival James, Earl of Douglas in the bloody battle of Otterburn in 1388.

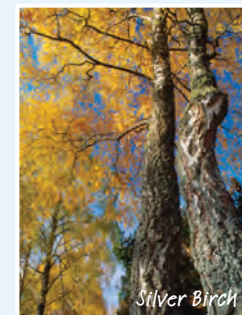
Otterburn Tower Hotel stands on the site of a fortified tower (pele house), built to keep families and possessions safe from clan rivalry, known as border reiving in the 13th to 17th century.

Fawdon Hill contains the remains of an Iron Age hillfort, where a timber round-house would have stood.

Wildlife

The Otter Burn joins the River Rede south of the village. Clean waters and a good supply of fish has meant that otters can be seen in the area. Spotting these shy creatures is difficult, but look for evidence - otter footprints and spraint (poo) can sometimes be spotted along the riverbanks.

Birds to look out for whilst walking up the burn include heron, grey wagtail, and dipper. On the moorland you may see curlew and skylark, and buzzard, circling overhead.



Silver Birch

The silver birch woodland alongside the Otter Burn has many wildflowers in summer, including betony, meadow-sweet, birds-foot trefoil, harebell and tufted vetch.

Otterburn



Fawdon Hill



Buzzard



Meadowsweet



Otter and tracks in mud

