

# 208

YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall

## Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads Crags and Vercovicium Fort

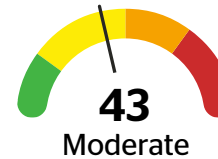
Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX

**Historic ridge and moorland walk**

**Distance:** 7.9 miles (12.7km) **Ascent:** 338m (1,109ft) **Time:** Allow 3h 45m to 6h

**Map:** OS Explorer 1:25k (OL43) Hadrian's Wall

**Start/Finish:** OS Locate NY 752 668 **what3words** ///streak.mysteries.warmers



A walk along the ruins of Hadrian's Wall. Follow left around the hostel to the main road. Cross the road and pass through the flagstone paved section. Follow the lane uphill and pass through a gate on the right behind a cottage. Join Hadrian's Wall path and follow its undulating course east along the ridges and crags. Approximately 1km after Housesteads Fort (with its extensive remains) turn left through a gate marked Kings Wicket, and follow a generally well defined path roughly parallel and 3-400m to the north of the wall along the moor. At the minor road turn left, then left again at the top of the hill to rejoin the wall path for a short distance before reaching the same cottage and re-tracing your steps to the hostel.

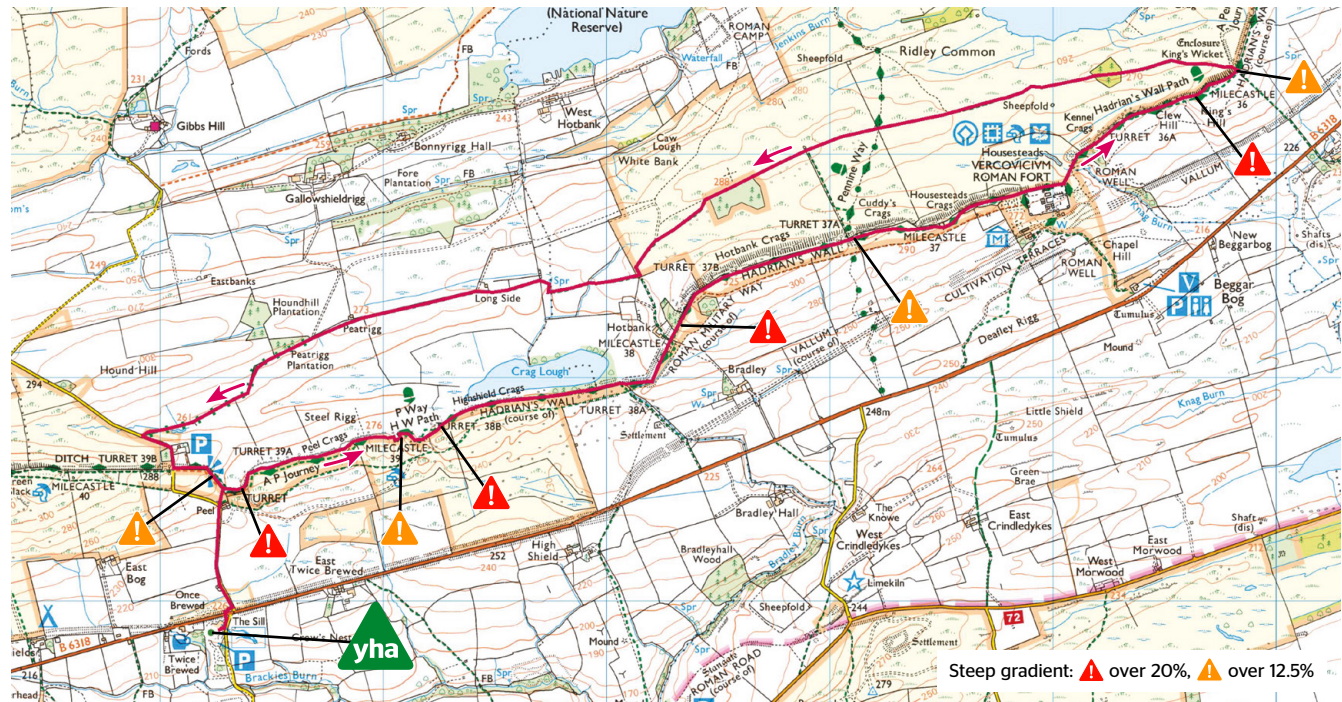
### Hazards

Take care crossing the B6318. Watch out for cars on the road up to the wall. Exposed cliff edges along the wall path in places. In winter the route may become hazardous, especially if covered in snow and ice, and may require winter clothing and footwear.

### Accessibility

There are stiles on the route and gates and paths less than one metre wide. There are some areas of steep, rocky and rough path with narrow and steep flights of steps.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.



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### Points of interest

The first half of the walk follows the course of Hadrian's wall with the remnants in evidence to varying degrees. At intervals along the walk are milecastles and forts, particularly the extensive Housesteads fort which is a popular visitor location. Sycamore Gap, with the tree made famous by the 1991 film Robin Hood, is just after Milecastle 39. Panoramic views north and south along the full length of the wall.

### Facilities

Food, drink and toilets available at the YHA and The Sill. Toilets and refreshments at Housesteads Fort visitor centre (750m off route).



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.  
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

### Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast ([metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](http://tidetimes.org.uk)).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) ([relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms](http://relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms)).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated ([yha.org.uk/route-card](http://yha.org.uk/route-card)).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit [adventuresmart.uk](http://adventuresmart.uk)

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to [yha.org.uk/walks](http://yha.org.uk/walks)

If you encounter problems with this route contact [walking@yha.org.uk](mailto:walking@yha.org.uk)



Scan or click to shop  
for OS maps online  
[osmaps.com/yha](http://osmaps.com/yha)

Share your walks



## What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

## Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

## You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

## In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.