



Hexham Old Gaol is the oldest purpose-built prison in England, and now houses a museum.



Photo: David Dixon, CC-BY-SA/2.0

There has been a church on the site of Hexham Abbey since the 7th century – a *cathedra*, or throne, survives from the original church. Other treasures include a Saxon crypt, and the gravestone of Flavinus, a Roman standard-bearer, showing the cavalry officer riding over the prone and naked figure of a local barbarian.



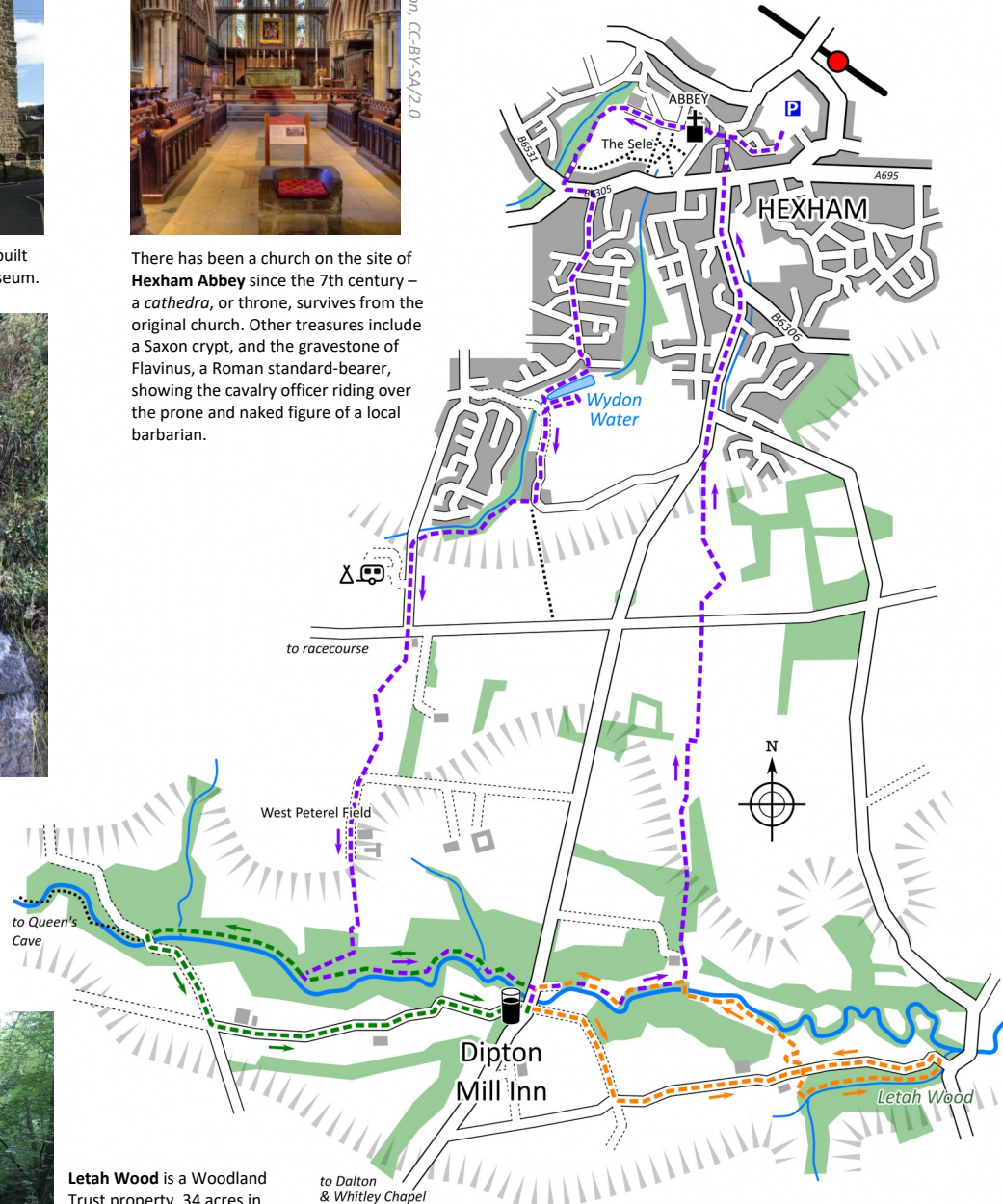
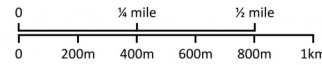
A cascade on the West Dipton Burn.



www.walksfromthedor.co.uk



Letah Wood is a Woodland Trust property. 34 acres in extent, it is thought to be the last wild daffodil wood in Northumberland.



three circular walks from

# The Dipton Mill Inn nr Hexham, Northumberland



**Dipton Burn**  
2 miles: Fairly easy  
Pleasant wooded walking in our local valley.

**Letah Wood**  
2 1/4 miles: Easy  
An easy stroll to a Woodland Trust property.

**Hexham**  
6 miles: Moderate  
Explore our historic local town and its surrounding countryside.

# Dipton Burn

## 2 miles: Fairly easy

*A relatively easy walk, though some narrow paths in woodland, muddy and wet after rain and unsuitable for wheelchairs. The woods contain many woodland bird species including Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Dipper and Grey Wagtail can be seen along the burn.*

**The public footpath that continues from this route along West Dipton Burn to Queen's Cave is difficult to follow, but the cave can be more easily reached via an unofficial path north of the burn as an extension of this route. Ask at the pub for detailed directions.**

**1** Park without blocking the gate opposite the Dipton Mill Inn and walk over the bridge, crossing the Dipton Burn toward Dipton Mill Cottage. **2** Opposite the cottage, turn left onto a footpath marked 'West Dipton Wood'. **3** After 400m, take the right fork at a fallen birch tree and cross a small stream at a stile with yellow tape. **4** Continue along a woodland path and cross a small muddy ditch. **5** Climb steps (muddy and slippery when wet). The path forks but converges again after 80m, so follow either fork. **6** Continue on the path just above the stream on your left and go through an open fence into a meadow. **7** At the end of the meadow, pass through a gate and follow the path back into the wood. **8** Continue for 300m, passing along an old fence and a remnant of moss-covered wall. **9** At a fork, follow the upper path to the right, crossing a steep-sided gully and stream. **10** Continue to a footbridge. **11** Cross the footbridge and follow a stony bridleway uphill. **12** Continue as the path opens out into wooded sheep meadows and on to a crossroads with a black barn. **13** Turn left at the crossroads down the lane towards a large silver-clad barn and farm buildings. **14** Carry on beyond the farm and continue to pass Shield Green Nurseries on your right. **15** Continue downhill and around an S-bend then along the lane to arrive back at the Dipton Mill Inn.

# Letah Wood

## 2¼ miles: Easy

*Allow 1.5 hours. Some muddy paths and wet grass after rain.*

**1** Park without blocking the gate opposite the Dipton Mill Inn and walk away from the pub on the bridleway at the rear of the car park. **2** Follow the path around a right-hand bend and uphill at a double gate. **3** Continue uphill, passing a metal scarecrow sculpture in the field on the right-hand side. **4** Turn left as the path reaches Hill Road at the public footpath sign for 'Smelting Syke'. **5** Stop at a metal gate on the left to look back for views over valley. **6** Continue along Hill Road, passing Newbiggin Hill Farm. **7** Continue down the lane passing a stile signed 'Hexham' on your left. **8** Take steep steps on the right at a green Woodland Trust sign into Letah Wood. **9** On reaching the end of the steps, turn left onto a boardwalk. **10** Follow the boardwalk and path past a bench on the left, then a fallen tree over the stream on your right. **11** At the gate at the end of the wood, turn left and follow the lane uphill as it bends to the left. **12** At the top of the lane, follow

the public footpath on the right-hand side signposted to 'Dipton Mill' opposite a brown barn on the left-hand side of the lane. **13** Bear left downhill under wires and follow the path as it curves right then left passing a lone hawthorn and through a gap between trees. **14** Follow the path as it runs beside a wire fence above the stream, then pass through a gate and over a narrow bridge. **15** Turn left after the bridge and follow the path along the stream. **16** Continue through a gap in a fence onto a track and bear left towards Dipton Mill Cottage. **17** Pass the cottage to the road and turn left; walk over the bridge back to the Dipton Mill Inn.

# Hexham

## 6 miles: Moderate

*An interesting mix of town, woodland and open country, with some muddy paths and steep sections after wet weather. Allow 4 hours. The route as described starts from the car park at Hexham Leisure Centre; if starting at the pub, begin at step 30.*

**1** Leave the car park at Hexham Leisure Centre at the southern end, via steps to the town centre between Wentworth Café and the public toilets onto Hallgate. **2** Bear right at Hexham Old Gaol. **3** Continue through the narrow arch at Moat Hall and cross the market square towards the Abbey. **4** Bear right around Hexham Abbey, following the path under the stone arch, and continue along the road with a bowling green on the right-hand side. **5** Bear right at Sele Play Area. **6** Follow the path into woodland and downhill; bear left at the stream, walking uphill on a path with a picket fence on the right. **7** At the end of path/wood proceed down stone steps onto Seal Terrace. **8** Turn left at the end of Seal Terrace on reaching Temperley Place. **9** Walk 100m downhill on Temperley Place, then cross the road to follow St Cuthbert's Lane uphill, passing a postbox. **10** Continue uphill passing St Luke's shops on the right on St John's Road. **11** As St John's Road bears right, go straight ahead towards Wydon Grange. **12** Walk up Wydon Grange to the public footpath and interpretation board for Wydon Water. **13** At Wydon Water, follow the tarmac path to the right around the pool and over a footbridge. **14** Take the right fork 100m beyond the waterfall, and follow the path through a hairpin. **15** At the gate, turn left uphill at the Wydon Burn sign. **16** Turn right after 50m and follow a stony path uphill past Willowbrook House. **17** The path joins a tarmac lane and as it reaches the end of the houses, go through a kissing gate into a field on the right-hand side signposted 'Causey Hill'. **18** Keep to the bottom of the field and go through a second kissing gate in the field corner into the wood. **19** Follow the path to the left over a fallen tree and up a bank (muddy after rain). **20** Cross the stile at the end of wood and continue to follow a muddy path above the burn. **21** Cross over a stile in the wall and turn left uphill on the lane, passing Benson's Hill Farm (left) and the entrance to Causey Hill Holiday Park (right). **22** At the top of the lane, go straight ahead over steps following the public footpath sign for West Dipton Burn. **23** Cross through three fields using gate and

stile beside overhead wires. **24** At the end of the third field cross a stile between oak and ash trees onto a lane and follow the lane towards the farm buildings. **25** Follow the path to the right side of West Peterel Field Farm to a metal gate/stile. **26** Follow the path along the field edge for two fields, then cross between trees and deer fence into a wood and through a metal gate. **27** Continue along the path downhill to the valley floor, then turn left through a gate into a meadow. **28** At the end of the meadow, follow a path through a gap in the double fence and above the burn through the wood for 1km. **29** At the end of the wood, turn right and walk 50m over the bridge to the Dipton Mill Inn. **30** On leaving the Dipton Mill Inn, head down to the stream, cross the bridge and turn right immediately after Dipton Mill Cottage. **31** After 200m, take a path to the right at a field gate and follow along the stream to a footbridge. **32** As you approach the footbridge, bear left through a gate towards Hole House; follow the path around the right side of the house and over a footbridge into a wood. **33** Walk up through the wood to a stile; cross and continue through two fields, crossing stiles. In the north-east corner of the third field beside a derelict brick building, go through the gate to the other side of the hedge and walk towards a memorial bench. **34** Pass through a gate beside the Rambler's Association Memorial Bench and continue to a stile. **35** Cross the lane and over a stile following the path signed 'Hexham' through two fields and down a steep hill to a gate/stile to the left of a white cottage at the bottom of the hill. **36** Cross the stile and turn right down Dipton Mill Road; continue to a T-junction beyond Greenbank Cottage then bear left. **37** At a T-junction, cross the main road into a pedestrianised shopping area in the town centre and follow it through to the market square (*if you started from the pub, bear left to the arch into Hexham Abbey and jump to step 4*). **38** To return to the car park, bear right to Moot Hall and pass through the arch towards Hexham Old Gaol. Walk around the Gaol and downhill to the stone steps at the bottom of Hallgate.


## The Dipton Mill Inn

Dipton Mill Road, Hexham NE46 1YA

tel 01434 606 577

email [inn@diptonmill.co.uk](mailto:inn@diptonmill.co.uk)

web [www.diptonmill.co.uk](http://www.diptonmill.co.uk)

 @diptonmill

 @diptonmillinn

Please see website and social media for opening times and today's menu.

Home of the Hexhamshire Brewery, the Dipton Mill is a cosy, welcoming country pub with real fires, real ales and a real warm welcome.

What could better than sipping a pint of ale in our wood-panelled, low-ceilinged, cosy inn or enjoying the sunshine in our sunken garden area complete with mill stream?

Please observe the countryside code and park with care.