



England 2018 – I

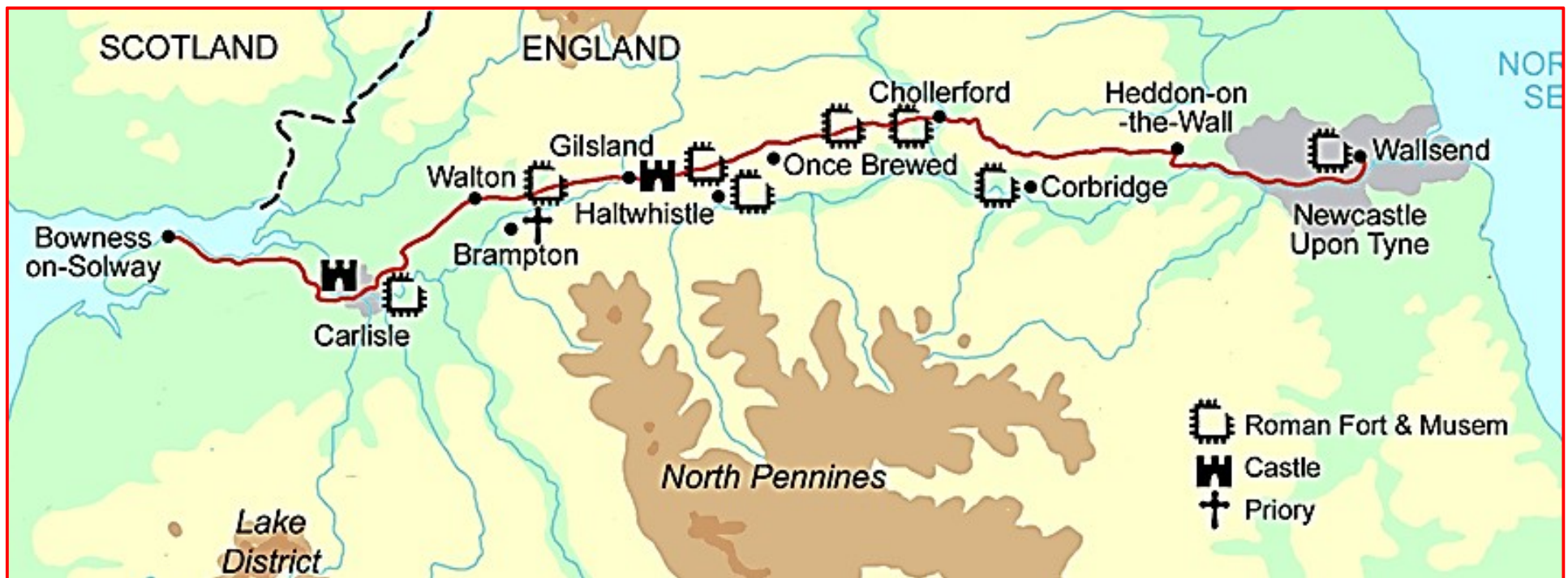
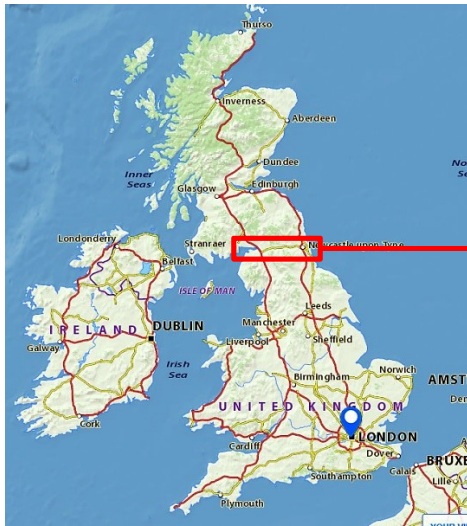
A walk along Hadrian's wall



A young man, at age 19, hitch hiked around Britain in 1967 and for the first time stood on Hadrian's wall. Then 51 years passed until next time.



For nearly 400 years almost all of England and Wales was part of the Roman empire. In 122 A.D. emperor Hadrianus (Hadrian) ordered a defence wall to be built across northern England.



Today the Hadrian's Wall Path, 84 miles (135 km) long, mainly follows where the wall stood (and in parts still stands today). Some 12.000 people annually walk the trail, but a vastly greater number walk it only in parts.



On the evening of September 19, the storm from North America hit our starting point Bowness-on-Solway, resulting in a few hours of power failure.



But just before that happened we sat down at the Kings Arms, where we had fish & chips (what else?), and later enjoyed the fire at Wallsend Guest House.



The next day, at the Path Pavillion in Bowness, we stamp our path passports, and then – let's go!
"Good luck go with you" it says over the entrance.



After a mile we take a short break for photography. Background is provided by Solway Firth of the Irish Sea, and Scotland.



Along the trail you are often reminded of Britain's history. In Burgh-by-Sands King Edward I died of dysentery in 1307 during a campaign against Scotland's Robert the Bruce.



Inside the walls of Carlisle Castle lots of things have occurred. For instance, in 1568 Mary (Queen of Scots) Stuart was held in detention here.



Still no wall in sight, but east of Carlisle we can at least walk where the wall once stood.



En route we pass the 17th-century dwelling Old Wall Cottage.



At Hare Hill, east of Walton, we eventually see a part of Hadrian's Wall, though partly added to in the 1800's.



Along Hadrian's wall *turrets* (watch towers) were built, and with a Roman mile's (1480 m) interval also *mile castles*. Here we are at turret 52a at Banks.



At Birdoswald are the remains of one of the bigger forts the Romans built near to the wall.



Today the wall east of Gilsland is guarded by very peaceful soldiers.



We are getting closer to Walltown Crag and other high areas.
On our way we pass the ruins of Thirwell Castle (right).



Remains of the 14th-century Thirwell Castle.



Walltown Crag.



View west, close to turret 45a at Walltown Crag.



Trees fighting the wind.



Milecastle 42 and Cawfield Crag at Hole Gap.









At the top of Winshield Crag, 345 meters above sea level, and the highest point on the trail.



Below us lies today's destination, the Twice Brewed Inn.



Sheep don't care about tired walkers.



Almost there. And tomorrow is our day of rest, with only a few miles to walk to the excavations at Vindolanda.



The fort Vindolanda and adjoining civil settlement was built around 85 A.D. and continued to be used to the end of Roman Britain, i.e. around 400.





After one day's break it is time to start walking again.



Looking back at Twice Brewed, and with turret 39 below us.



Walking towards Highshield Crag and Crag Lough.



View west with the top of Winshield Crag.



Milecastle 39 is passed before we reach Highshield Crag.



Sycamore Gap is shown in the Kevin Costner movie
Robin Hood: Prince of thieves from 1991.









The remains of the fort Vercovicium (Housesteads) can also be seen during the walk.



With more than 800 people living in the fort hygiene was important. In this communal latrine the sewer below the benches was flushed by water and out via a culvert under the fort wall.



Near the fort Brocolitia are the remains of a Mithras temple.



Mithras was a god in the later Roman empire, and have similarities to the Persian Mithra.



A day with strong winds, so the quarry of Limestone Corner gives nice, to quote Dylan, *shelter from the storm* in time for afternoon tea.



The winds are even stronger the next day when we walk
from Wall near Chollerford to Heddon-on-the-Wall...



...but with afternoon comes sunshine and a nice tea break at the Robin Hood Inn.



Early morning on our last day of walking.

The last look at the wall (here with a
potter's oven) comes at Heddon.





Closer to lunch time we reach the river Tyne, and follow it more or less during the rest of the walk.



It's a long way to walk in Newcastle. On the opposite side is Gateshead with concert hall The Sage, and the Millennium Bridge.



After a day's walk of 30,5 kilometers we reach our final destination Wallsend at 16:45.



Yes, we made it!



All photos © Ingemo & Charley Nilsson, September 2018.

Se also following summary with information re. distances etc.

After this walk we travelled by car in the Cotswolds and Midsomer Murders-area. See part II, *Shakespeare, Churchill and Midsomer* and III, *Castles, churches and Roman baths!*



Summary

On 20–27 September 2018 we walked the entire Hadrian's Wall Path from Bowness-on-Solway in the west to Wallsend/Newcastle in the east. Our walk comprised eight days, including one resting day. We used the Countours company to arrange accomodation at suitable intervals, and to transport what luggage we didn't need during each day's walk. It all worked very well.

Thanks to Mickey & Mickey, Phillippe, Eric, Archie, Alex and others we met on the trail, for nice encounters and encouragement!

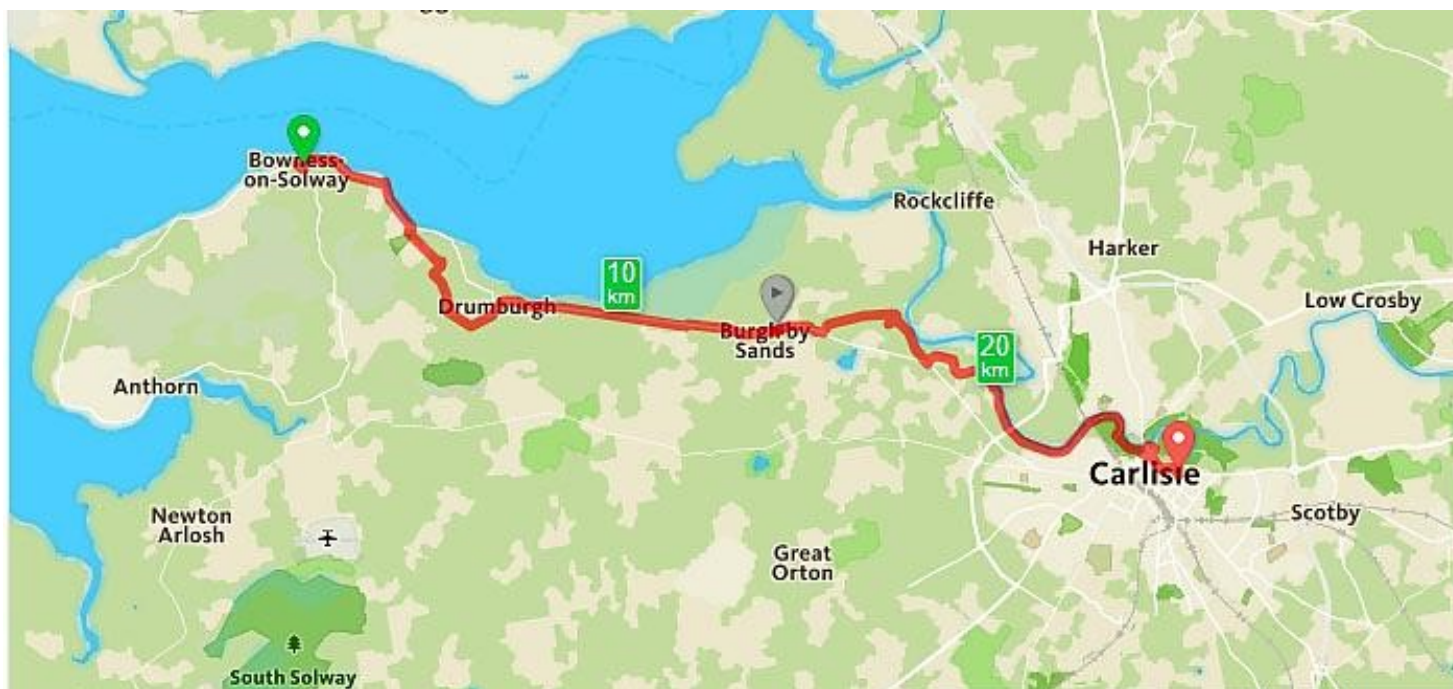


<u>Day</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Length km</u>	<u>Total length km*</u>
1	Bowness–Carlisle	23	27,4
2	Carlisle–Walton	19	19,7
3	Walton–Gilsland	13	17,9
4	Gilsland–Once Brewed	13	19,2
5	Resting day in Once Brewed, walk to Vindolanda		5
6	Once Brewed–Chollerford (Wall)	19	23,5
7	Chollerford (Wall)–Heddon (Iron Sign)	24	20,5**
8	Heddon (Iron Sign)–Wallsend	24	30,5
		135	163,7

*/Total length includes existing diversions as well as walking to and from lodgings and restaurants, all according to RunKeeper.

**/Our accomodation was a couple of miles west of Heddon, so this day was shorter than expected and the following longer.

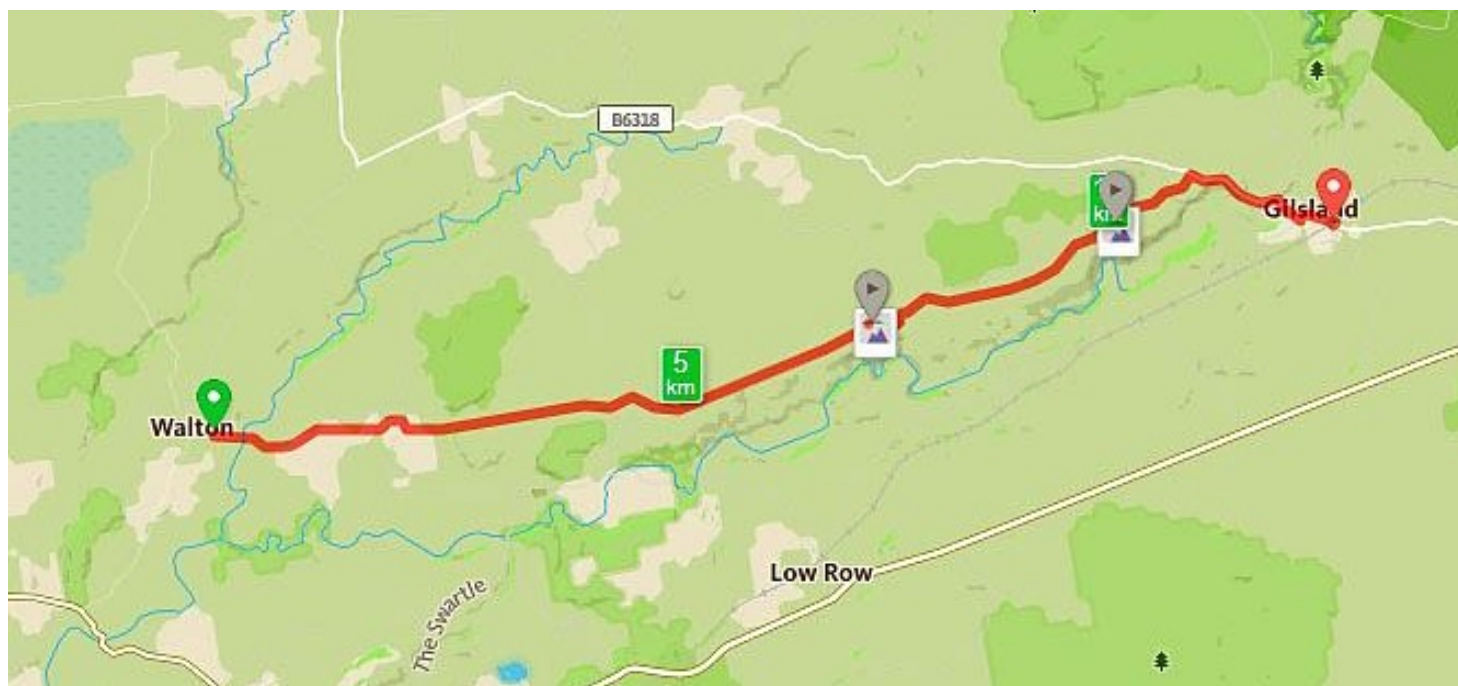
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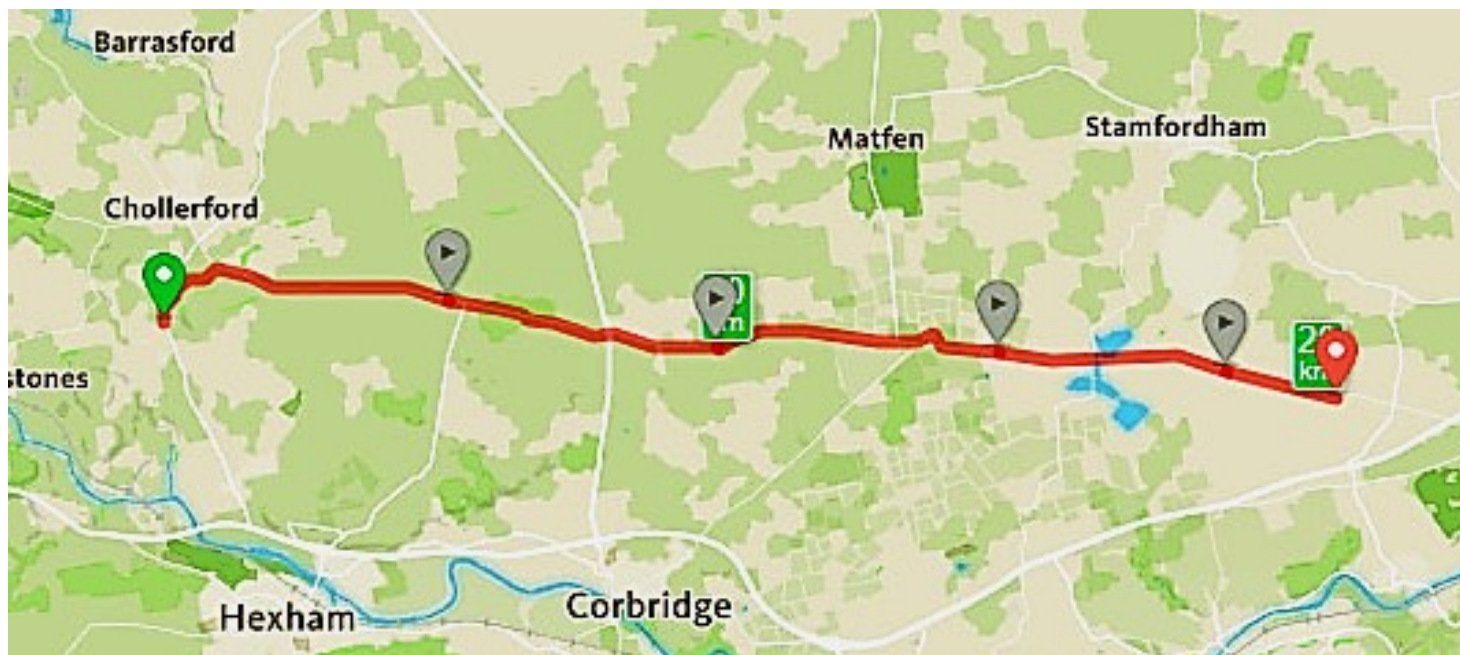
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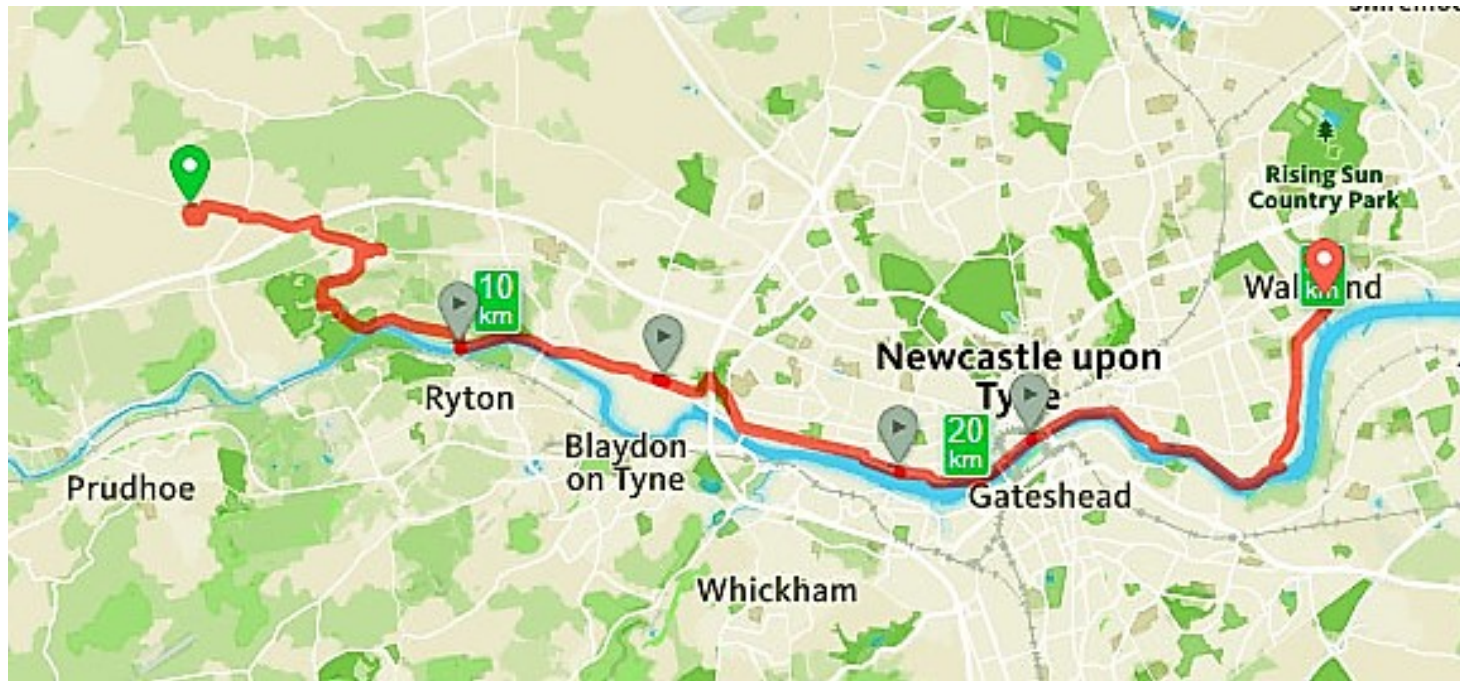
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At the end of our journey,
with Belgian friends
Phillippe and Eric.

The Banks Promenade

Stamping point: The Banks Promenade or the King's Arms pub, CA7 5AF. NGR NY 223 628. Also Lindow (village) Hall (next to King's Arms).

Located: The Banks Promenade in the Romanesque wooden shelter overlooking the Solway.

When available: The Banks anytime. The King's Arms and Lindow Hall during opening hours.

Sands Centre, Carlisle

Stamping point: Sands Sports Centre, CA1 1JQ. NGR NY 402 565.

Located: in the centre café - access via glass door from riverside path. If locked access at front entrance.

When available: normal opening hours.

Birdoswald Roman Fort

Stamping point: English Heritage museum, CA8 7DD. NGR NY 615 663.

Located: inside shop, also outside box.

When available: normal opening hours in shop; outside box available out of hours.

Housesteads Roman Fort

Stamping point: English Heritage museum, NE47 6NN. NGR NY 789 687.

Located: outside next to museum entrance.

When available: anytime.

Chesters Roman Fort & Museum

Stamping point: English Heritage museum, NE46 4EU. NGR NY 911 704.

Located: inside museum and outside box on wall at car park entrance.

When available: normal opening hours in museum; outside box available out of hours.

Robin Hood Inn

Stamping point: entrance to pub (1 mile west of Whittledene reservoir), NE18 0LL. NGR NZ 050 684.

Located: outside on right-hand-side porch entrance.

When available: anytime.

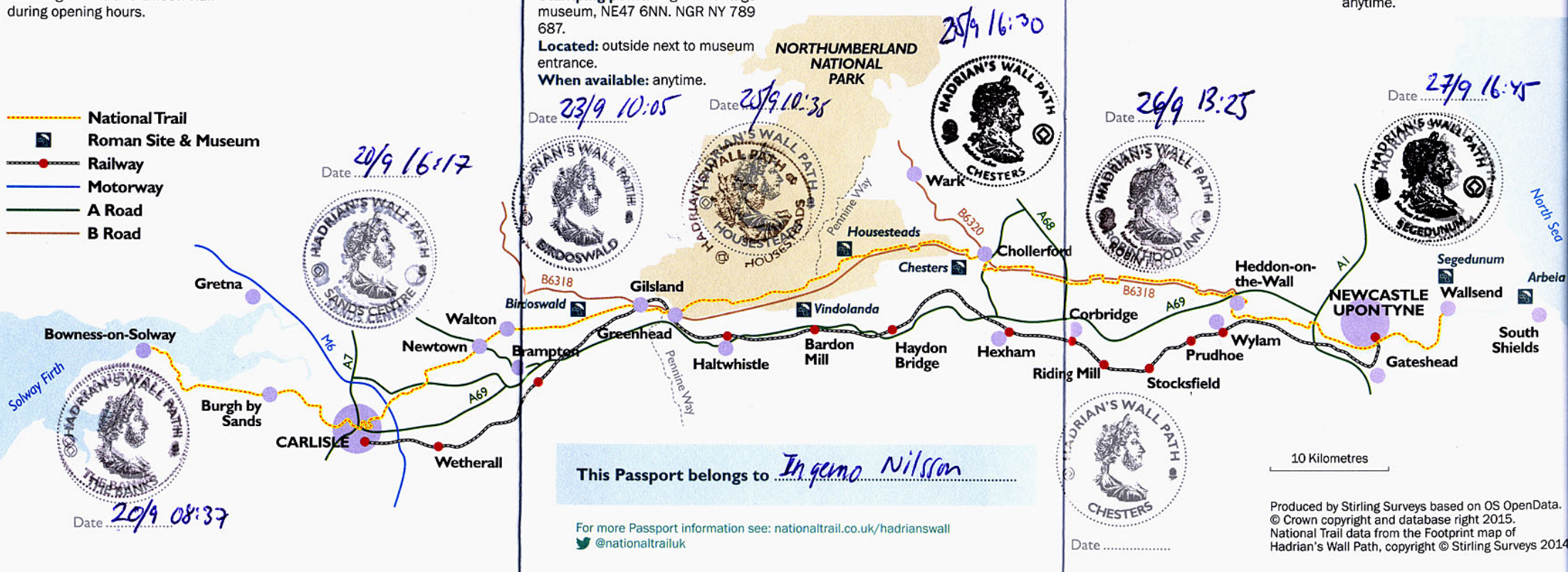
Segedunum Roman Fort & Museum

Stamping point: Museum shop, also at rear entrance, NE28 6HR. NGR NZ 301 661.


Located: inside main entrance to museum and outside box at rear of building.

When available: normal opening hours in museum; outside box anytime.

-  National Trail
-  Roman Site & Museum
-  Railway
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road



This Passport belongs to *Ingemo Nilsson*

For more Passport information see: nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall
 @nationaltrailuk

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Hadrian's Wall Path *I Walked the Wall*

covering **84** miles from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway,
reaching a height of **1132** feet, passing **16** forts,
79 milecastles and **160** turrets.

Name Charley Nilsson
Date 2018-09-27

Proceeds from this certificate enable
the vital maintenance of Hadrian's
Wall Path and its archaeology. Thank
you for helping us to protect it.

nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall
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