

The combined waters take the name of Stanley Burn as they scour into the steep bank on the further side where overhanging trees clutch in peril. The trail curves right and then left before reaching a flatter and broader section of bank. Here, bear left up a slight incline to a 4-way sign post **11**.

At the sign post, turn left, marked "Prudhoe 1", climbing the broad stairway and along a fenced lane through the site of Prudoe Hospital. Cross the main driveway and continue ahead, ascending the fenced lane, with a line of street lights to left. Continue ahead up the narrow pathway, passing garden fences and hedges. A sign post marks the end of the path as it emerges into a residential street. Here, continue straight ahead along Park Avenue, turning left at the T-junction **12** into Park Lane.

At next T-junction, cross Moor Road and turn right to find "The Gables" **13**. Turn left after this house along the entrance to the College Media Centre. Do not enter Media Centre site, but turn left on the bridleway behind "The Gables", turning right along hedgerow and then left at power-line pole. The depleted plantation on left is the remains of Nanny's Nursery. Halfway along this neglected copse turn right keeping hedge to left. At hedgerow end, bear slight right along the footpath through the field gate **14** and not the kissing gate.

Continue along the footpath with the fence and a boulder to your right, then turn right onto the path leading back to Highfield Lane **3** returning to car park as on outward section.

Hyons Wood

Hyons Wood is a 200 acre (80ha) semi-natural ancient broadleaf woodland; its history dating from the 16th century. Since then, natural regeneration has replaced trees felled for timber. The area was mined for coal until 1960 but there is little evidence of woodland management since the pits were abandoned. It is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory and is a Site of Nature Conservancy Interest (SNCI). Prudhoe Community Partnership (PCP) have identified the area as an amenity for the local community and significant for its biodiversity value.

Pass quietly along, watching for deer and other wildlife. The bridleway is popular with local horse-riders and cyclists. Note that it is unlawful to use recreational motor vehicles on the bridleway or in the woodland and the police will take action against offenders.

Walk 3. Durham Riding, the Seven Bridges over the Red Burn and Stanley Burn and Prudhoe Moor

*A circular walk of 4½ miles (7km) with fairly long gradients - allow 2 hours
Moderate going; care needed on gradients when wet.*

Walk 4. Durham Riding, Hyons Wood, and Mickley Moor

*A circular walk of 5 miles (8km) with fairly long gradients - allow 2¼ hours
Moderate going; care needed on gradients when wet.*



Photograph: Paul Bannister

Please follow the Countryside Code.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals
- Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people
- Respect livestock by keeping dogs on a lead and taking extra care not to approach lambs or calves
- Good footwear is recommended



Paths Around Prudhoe



Woodland, Farms and Bridges.

Two walks around Durham Riding, Hyons Wood and Mickley Moor.

Starting point for both walks

Both walks start from map point **1** in the car park of the playground in Highfield Lane. The same route is followed for the first 1½ miles (2¼ km), before diverging south of Durham Riding **7**.

On leaving the car park, turn right into Highfield Lane. After the brick barn, turn left **2** onto the way-marked footpath. A gentle climb takes you across two fields. **3** Turn right towards the plantation and then left in front of the plantation, keeping the fence to the right. Pass through a gateway and at the end of plantation turn right.

Keeping fences and hedgerows to your right, turn left downhill, past **4** and turn left again. Go through the second field gate on right **5** which is way-marked as bridlway.

Descending the field, bear left, passing under a powerline. At the far left corner you see a gateway way-marked as bridlway with a stile to the right. Use the bridlway route and continue downhill with hedgerow on right. Approaching the bottom of this field, the old farmstead of Durham Riding comes to view, ahead right.

Notice the striking *weathervane atop The Dovecote*. Passing the farmstead, cross the driveway of Durham Riding, entering a gateway opposite, way-marked bridlway **6**.

On entering the field, keep the land drain to right, descend to a small bridge across Stanley Burn. Continue straight on a gentle ascent to a gate with stile into the old lonnen (green lane) **7**.

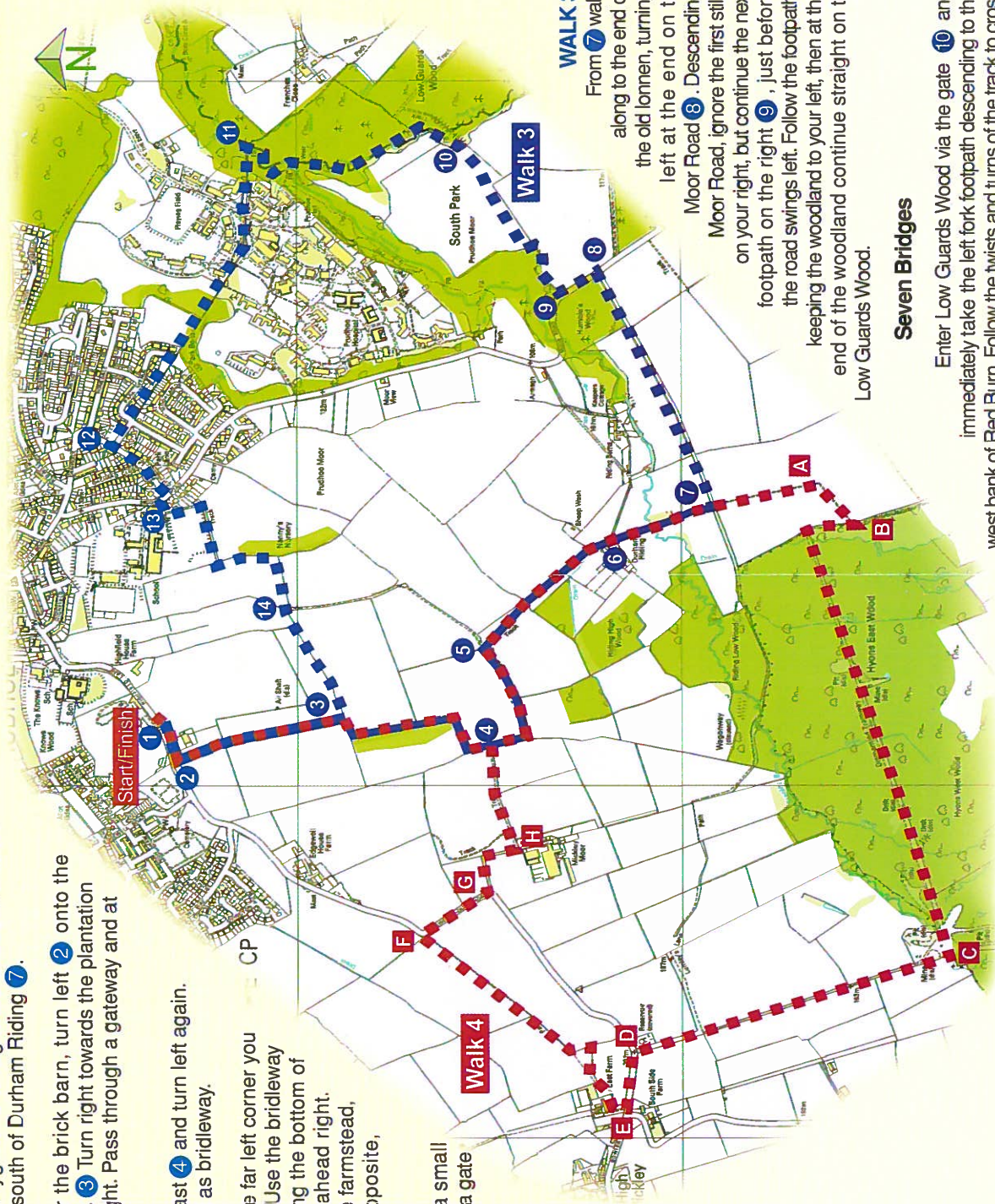
PARTING OF THE WAYS - from point **7**

Walk 3 - Seven Bridges - turn left along the old lonnen.
Walk 4 - Hyons Wood - cross the old lonnen and ascend the bridlway ahead.

WALK 4 - Cross the old lonnen **7** and ascend through the fields to a "stumpy" way-mark **A**. There turn right, keeping the remnants of a colliers' "rolley way" (railway) to right and enter Hyons Wood by the gate **B**. Turn right and then sharp left along the level and almost straight route of the disused railway. Do not depart from the track as the vegetation here hides old drift mines, shafts and sink holes.

Continue for ¼ mile until the way-mark post, where the track broadens into a wide clearing **C** at the old Hedley Pit yard. Here, bear right onto the track of red brick chippings for the steady 900m (½ mile) climb to the reservoir dome **D** at the main road. If you wish to shorten the walk slightly, you may turn right on the main road to **G**. Otherwise, turn left at **D** and immediately before the road junction for High Mickley, enter the driveway to East Farm **E** on the right. Just inside the driveway turn right in front of the farmhouse garden wall, keeping the lattice fence to your left. At the end of the fence, bear left and through the gate with bridlway marking. Keeping the hedgerow to right, follow the track, turning sharp left and then right onto a straight section of track to the main road **F**.

Turn right up the road, turning left at the bridlway **C** on the driveway to Mickley Moor Farm. Count the telephone poles; 1, 2; turn right; 3; and turn left into field **H** before reaching pole 4 and the farmstead. Keeping the hedgerow to right follow the track then pass through a field gate **4**, rejoining your outward route. Turn left retracing your steps around the plantation to **3**, then back across the fields to Highfield Lane.



WALK 3
 From **7** walk along to the end of the old lonnen, turning left at the end on to Moor Road **8**. Descending Moor Road, ignore the first stile on your right, but continue the next footpath on the right **9**, just before the road swings left. Follow the footpath, keeping the woodland to your left, then at the end of the woodland continue straight on to Low Guards Wood.

Seven Bridges

Enter Low Guards Wood via the gate **10** and immediately take the left fork footpath descending to the west bank of Red Burn. Follow the twists and turns of the track to cross all seven timber bridges of this famous and delightful trail as you pass from the west bank to the east and back again.

Bear left after crossing bridge 1. After bridge 2, take your time and enjoy the tranquility as the waters trickle down the rocks into the small pool below. Bridges 3, 4 and 5 now follow in rapid succession. After crossing bridge 6, ignore the "permissive path" bridge on the left, but turn sharp right to cross bridge 7 over Stanley Burn, flowing from the left to join Red Burn on your right.