

Useful information

Get there by bus



Journey and timetable information : **0870 6082608**
(Freephone) Minicom
0191 487 5686

Parking

- P** • Grass verge near Broadlee Farm
- P** • None available

Public toilets (including disabled)

- WC** • Allendale, Haltwhistle and Alston

Pubs



- Whitfield (4½ miles)
- Allendale (5½ miles)
- Alston (11 miles)
- Haydon Bridge (12 miles)

Shops



- Whitfield (4½ miles)
- Allendale (5½ miles)
- Alston (11 miles)
- Haydon Bridge (12 miles)

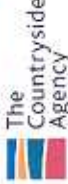
How to get there

The road leading to Ninebanks is located one mile south of the village of Whitfield on the A686 Haydon Bridge to Alston road. Follow the minor road signed to Ninebanks and Carrshield. Take the first right after Ninebanks, and then the first left after crossing the bridge, over the river West Allen. Follow this lane for 1½ miles to beyond a farm on the right named Broadlee. Go up the hill until you reach a turning on the right. Turn here, and park on the road verge on the right facing downhill.



This leaflet was produced by Northumberland County Council and part funded by:-

Northumberland



THIS PROJECT IS EXPERIENCED BY
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
European Regional Development Fund

Cover photo of Appletreeshield by Graeme Peacock

Appletreeshield Chapel

a moment in time

A circular walk in the beautiful
West Allen valley



NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Appletreeshield Chapel - a place for contemplation

The ruins of Appletreeshield Chapel evoke thoughts of past generations winding their way through the landscape, to come together in this peaceful location in prayer.

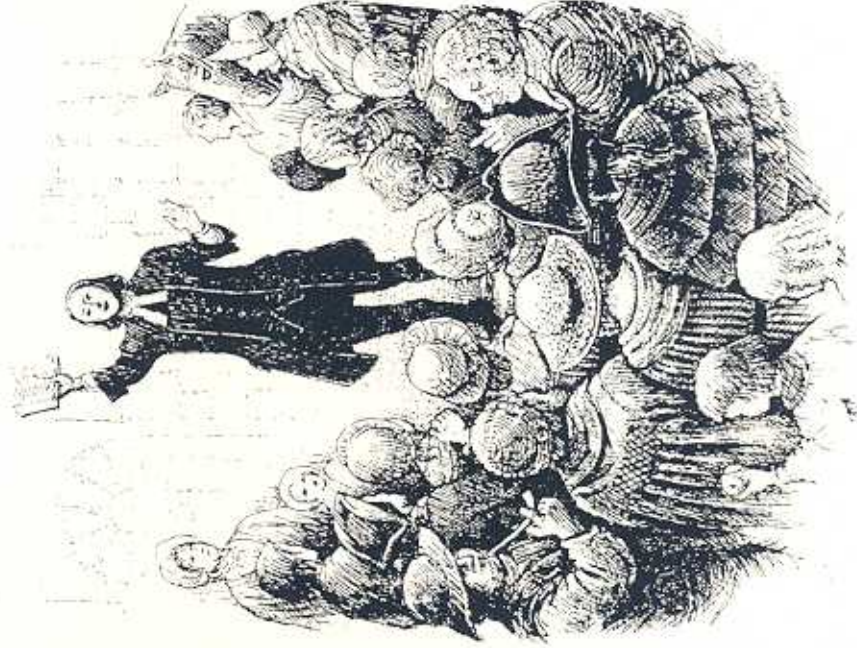
Found on a tongue of land at a junction of two shallow gorges, this Primitive Methodist Chapel, built in 1829 has been the scene of many sermons preached to families, who earned a living by both lead mining and small scale farming.

The North Pennines was a hot bed of religious nonconformity, breaking with the traditions of the Church of England. The Quakers paved the way followed by

the Methodist John Wesley and his "dissenting chapels & preachers" in the 1750s.

The nineteenth century saw a major expansion of nonconformity with the establishment of Primitive Methodists (popularly known as 'Ranters') when they broke ranks with the Wesleyans.

Primitive Methodism was brought to this area when a couple of travelling preachers walked over the hills from



Drawing of John Wesley by Stanley M. Scott

Weardale to Allendale. Their singing must have sounded quite stirring and military because they were initially mistaken for a government press-gang. Primitive Methodist Chapels were both simple and functional. The early chapels were often mistaken for cottages.

Picture the minister preaching to his flock in Appletreeshield Chapel, when; *"worshippers were occasionally interrupted by some wayfarer calling to get his pipe lighted, unconscious of the breach of decorum that he was committing and greatly embarrassing the preacher"*.

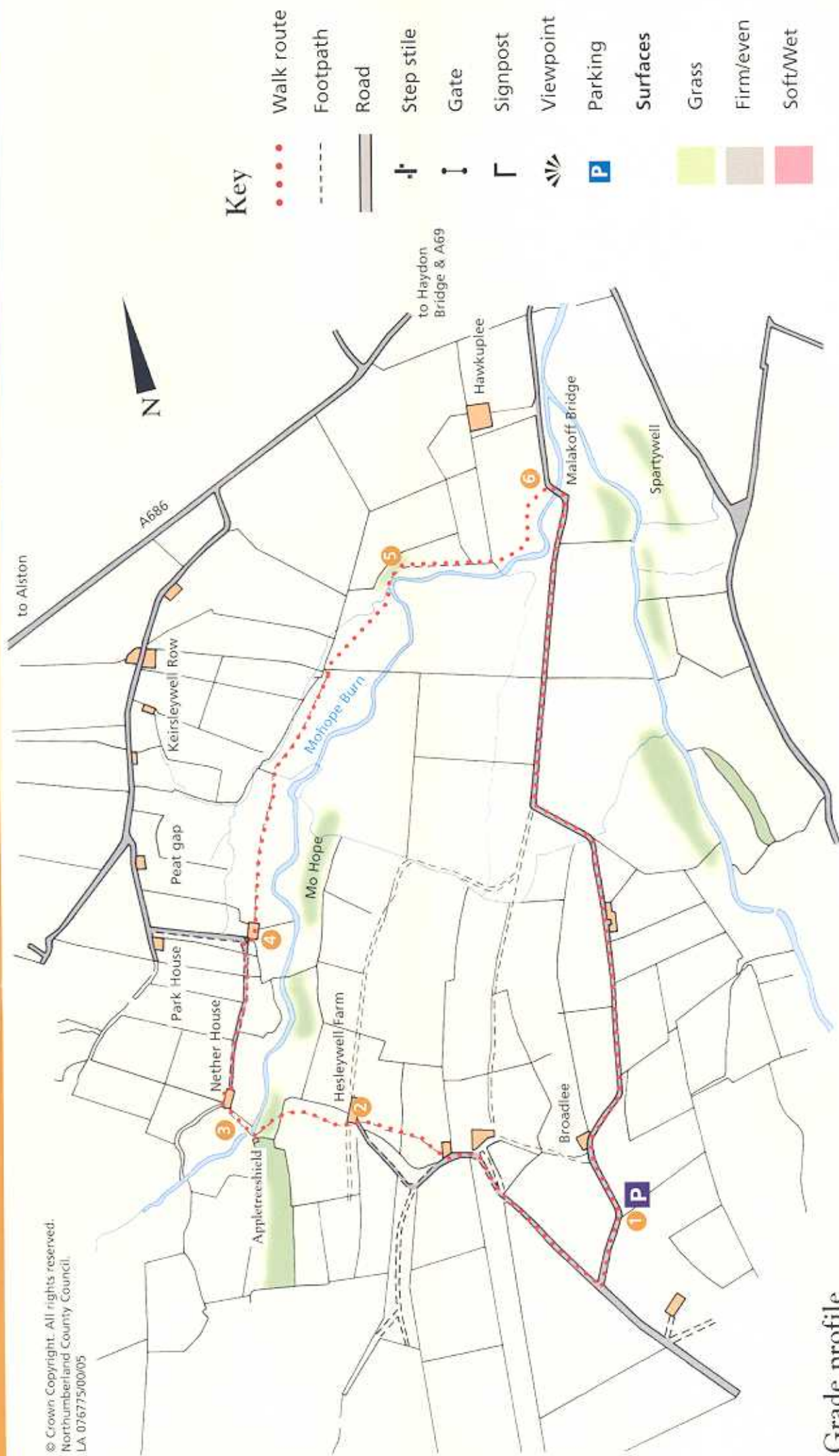
The late 19th century saw the demise of Appletreeshield Chapel when Primitive Methodism declined, accentuated by the fall in population with the closure of the lead mines.



Ruins of the lead industry can be seen throughout the West Allen Valley

Appletreeshield Chapel - a moment in time

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
 Northumberland County Council.
 LA 076775/00/05



Grade profile

Walk Directions

- 1 Walk up the lane, turn sharp right and follow the lane through the gate and onto the farm track. Bear left at the buildings, and through another gate. Cross the stone stile in the wall on the right and cross the field to Hesleywell Farm.
- 2 The path goes through the centre of the farm buildings, through an unhinged gate, and drops down into the field. Follow the path signs down the edge of the field by the wall, as this is a hay field. Go through the wicket gate and down through the woodland to the remains of Appletreesfield Chapel.
- 3 Cross the two footbridges and stile to the right and follow the wall up the field to exit through the gate at Nether House. Turn right and follow the lane until it bears left.
- 4 Follow the footpath sign to Malakoff Bridge through the garden of a house. The path follows a ridge between Mohope Burn to the right and a stream to the left.
- 5 As the footpath falls and the stream and burn converge, cross the stream to the left and follow the course of the Mohope Burn to Malakoff Bridge.
- 6 Go through the gate and onto the road, turn right and go over the bridge and up the hill to return to Broadlee Farm. The last stretch of the route is on this quiet road for a mile.



Writeley Shield Chapel is now the only Methodist chapel used for worship.



Many small holdings were abandoned following the closure of the lead mines.