

Virtual DalesRail - Carlisle and district

By Aidan Turner-Bishop

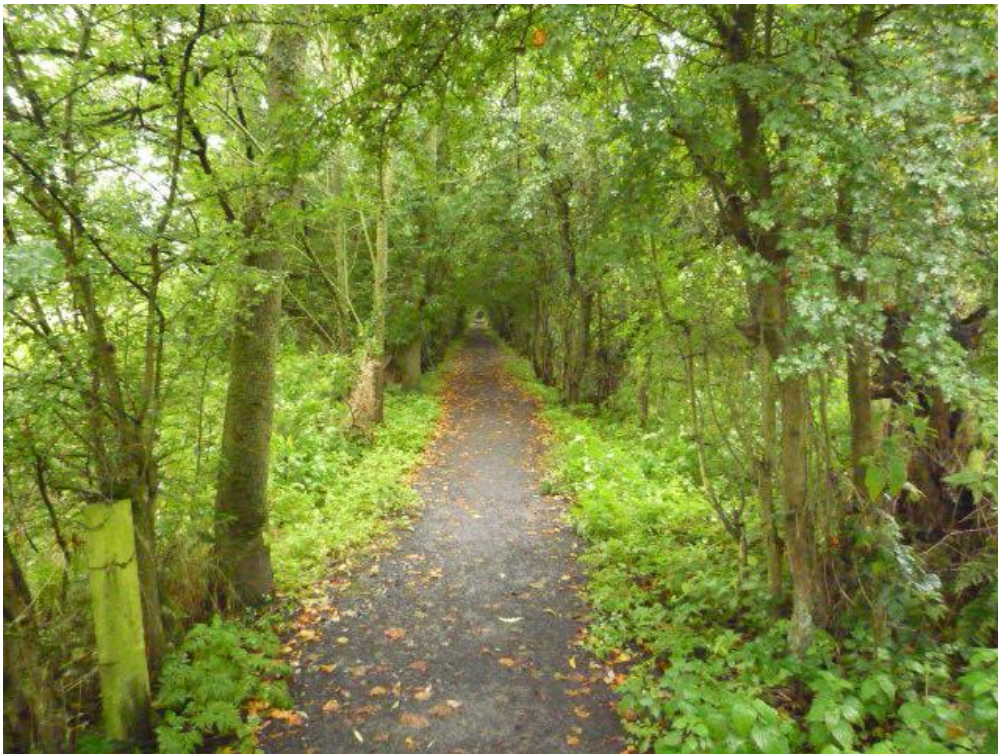
DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walk, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Send them to Richard Watts at communityraillancashire1@gmail.com or simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com.

Lancashire DalesRail is not just about walking in the Dales and Eden valley. When the train arrives in Carlisle there are over 5 hours before it returns to Lancashire. This is ample time for walks around the centre and suburbs of Carlisle or even, across the Scottish border by train, to Gretna Green, Britain's wedding theme village.

Carlisle history walks began with the late Alan Howard and his colleague Howard Hammersley. Today Stuart Leese and Aidan Turner-Bishop explore Carlisle, sometimes with groups that have reached over 20 at times.

Carlisle is at the junction of three rivers, the Eden, Caldew, and Petteril, each with its own 'secret' urban green riverside, which are liable to flooding at times. The 'back door' walk along the Caldew is especially pleasant in Spring: wildflowers, river birds, and plenty of intriguing local history. Yet our groups are able to reach the Tullie House Museum (café open on Sundays and toilets) by 2pm allowing time to explore shops and the city centre of Carlisle.

The riverbank walk alongside the Eden, part of Hadrian's Wall Way, takes you through hidden country paths only a short stroll from the centre.



Walking the vallum of Hadrian's Wall.

Our walk to Rickerby returns along an ancient green lane, exactly on the route of the Roman wall vallum; it's not every day you can walk a path which is over two thousand years old.

Carlisle has many quirky historical features such as the enormously tall Dixon's Chimney or the Cathedral – or half of one: the rest was demolished in the English Civil War. Oh, and don't forget that Carlisle was part of Scotland for many years (that's why it's not in the Domesday Book). Carlisle Castle is said to be the site of the first international football match (Scotland v England) in the sixteenth century.

On our walks we sometimes meet local people with curious tales. We met the lady who knew the singer Kathleen Ferrier and lives opposite Ferrier's music teacher when Ferrier lived in Carlisle, in a modest semi in Windermere Road.



Kathleen and her sister Winifred Ferrier's Carlisle home

We've visited the site of the largest Hadrian's Wall Roman fort at Stanwix, England's latest stone circle, Cavendish Square's private gardens, the delicious smelling ovens of McVitie's biscuit works, runic graffiti, England's first pillar box (well, a replica of it), Britain's former State Management public houses (when Carlisle's pubs were run by the Home Office), and even the very walk-in vaults where all the cash was stored at night from Carlisle's pubs. Oh, and we've ate ice creams watching bride and grooms emerge wedded, to the sound of bagpipes, from the Gretna Green Blacksmith's Smithy.

Come and join us explore England's Border City and its surroundings.

Want to find out more about Carlisle and the surrounding area then click on the following links:

Carlisle

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlisle>

<https://www.discovercarlisle.co.uk/>

Hadrian's Wall

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hadrians-wall/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian%27s_Wall

Tullie House Museum

<https://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/>

Carlisle Cathedral

<https://carlislecathedral.org.uk/>



Carlisle Cathedral (Days out with the kids.)