

## LOCATION MAP

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping.  
Durham County Council (License No.100019779) 2006.



Other sources of information relating to this area and route can be found via the following websites: - [www.historyociety.org.uk](http://www.historyociety.org.uk) (Tow Law History Society)  
[www.keystothepast.info](http://www.keystothepast.info)

**Harperley POW Camp** can be contacted on tel:01388 767098



For information on public transport: - contact traveline via  
[www.travelinenortheast.info](http://www.travelinenortheast.info) or tel: 0871 200 22 33

### Walking Information


- Tell someone where you are going and your expected time of return
- Please respect the wildlife and farmland
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- Please keep dogs under close control

This area is covered by OS Explorer Map 305.

This walk is brought to you by The Mineral Valleys Project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, led by Natural England and implemented by local communities in conjunction with Durham County Council, tel:0191 383 3239.



If you need this information summarised in another language or format such as Braille or talking tape, please call the number below.

 (0191) 383 3239

## A MINERAL VALLEYS PROJECT WALK

# Tow Law, Thornley & Harperley (link)



### A LINK TO THE WEARDALE WAY

Route: approximately 3 miles/5km  
moderate

Starting from Bridge Street, Tow Law,  
through Thornley, Harperley and  
linking to the Weardale Way

# Tow Law, Thornley & Harperley

## A Mineral Valleys Project Walk

chaffinch



cowslip



Tow Law

The name **TOW LAW** is derived from Look-out Hill. The village of Tow Law emerged following the establishment of Iron Works by Charles Attwood in 1845. The coal reserves at Tow Law were used to smelt iron ore brought from upper Weardale.

The walk starts from the track through Barracks Farm (probably the oldest building in Tow Law), following tracks, over fields and pasture and crossing stiles and gates along the way.

The route descends gradually from 1000ft above sea level at Tow Law to 400ft at Low Harperley.

Thornley



The earliest reference to Thornley dates from 1070-80. In the mid 12th century a place of strength is recorded here, possibly on the site of the present Thornley Hall. The Hall was built in the 18th century, however some of the cellars and a doorway date from an earlier period.



Please take care when crossing the road here

Erected in 1943 **HARPERLEY POW CAMP** was built on requisitioned farm land originally to house Italian prisoners of war but soon housing 900 low-risk Germans POWs.

Harperley POW Camp



Weardale Way

Low Harperley

Follow the Mineral Valleys Walk signs.

**KEY:**

- The route
- Weardale Way
- Other paths

**SCALE:**

0 500m 1km  
 1/4 1/2 mile

The route links to the Weardale Way at Low Harperley. Witton-le-Wear lies approx. 3 miles (5km) to the south east along the Weardale Way and Wolsingham 4 miles (6.5km) to the west.