

Williamston Barns

Hadrian's Wall and a drive to Corbridge along the military road

One of our favourite drives from the farm is along the old Roman military road, part of the B6318. Travelling from Williamston, join the road above Haltwhistle and travel east. The road is straight and resembles a Roman road, although in fact it was built by Hanoverian forces in 1746 to suppress the Jacobites to the North. There are great views from the Military Road, particularly looking north over Northumberland National Park towards Scotland.

The road runs alongside Hadrian's Wall for much of its length and it is a great route for stopping off to visit forts and museums along the Roman Wall, including Birdoswald, Vindolanda and Housesteads. All are worth a visit with Vindolanda, in particular, providing the most extensive Roman remains, artefacts and active excavation between April and September (weather permitting).

Turn right at the A68 to head south to Corbridge. The town was originally a garrison town for Roman soldiers and the houses here are all built with stone that would have been used on Hadrian's Wall. The bridge at Corbridge, was originally an old mediaeval bridge providing a crossing over the Tyne, and was replaced in 1674. It is a pretty town with a market square with plenty of small shops - including a great bookshop and delicatessen - and some great cafes.

Don't forget to visit RE (for really unusual homeware) in Bishop's Yard on Main Street. For lunch head to the Angel Inn, an old coaching inn with real fires and great local food. Alternatively we recommend you head to The Rat Inn at Anick - an award winning country pub (book on 01434 602814).

