

<p>Distance: Approx. 6.5 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: Approx. 3 hours</p> <p>Terrain: Good solid paths and across farmland which can be muddy in the very wet weather and winter.</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: 501ft</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Good for dogs but please bear in mind dogs should be on the leads across farmland and during nesting season.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Cafes and pubs in Seaham.</p> <p>Parking: Ample parking at Nose's Point.</p> <p>OS Maps: 308</p>	<p>Seaham Coastal Path</p> <p>Background: Nose's point in Seaham is an important wildlife conservation area. The cliff top grasslands are unique in the British Isles. In addition, ground nesting birds, such as Skylarks, which are under threat in the UK are found here. During nesting season, for this reason, please keep your dogs on leads.</p> <p>The Durham coast is the only place in Britain where Magnesian limestone meets the sea. This creates an unusual natural environment which a combination of grassland plants and animals that can be found nowhere else.</p> <p>Nose's point was the location of the former Dawdon Colliery. The pit was the mainstay of Dawdon's economy; at its height it employed 3300 men and in its lifetime broke both national and European production records. It was one of the last pits in the North East to close (1991).</p> <p>The coastal denes are a distinctive feature of the Durham Heritage Coast. They were cut out by melt water during successive ice ages. Hawthorn Dene (which this walk goes through and loops around) is a semi natural ancient woodland nature reserve.</p> <p>Route Description: We started this walk at the car park near Nose's point in Seaham. We followed the Durham Coast path from the car park, following the rail tracks. Cross the railway bridge when you get to it and head towards the Quarry.</p> <p>Once you reach Hawthorn Quarry, with the entrance on your right take the path straight ahead and head into Hawthorn Dene. Follow the path up and out to the viaduct railway bridge and follow the railway tracks again until you reach a crossing point. There is no bridge here so be extremely careful when crossing the tracks. Head up the bank after crossing the track and follow the path along the edge of the field. This field had cows when we crossed through so keep dogs on leads. The field gets quite steep but once at the top turn right and then after a few hundred meters left onto a farm road.</p> <p>Follow the road until you reach the farm build on your left and cut across the field ahead, cutting across it diagonally. Then follow the path right to the edge of the dene. Follow the path along the edge of the dene until you reach the entrance to get back into Hawthorn Dene. This part is very steep and slippery when wet.</p> <p>Follow the path through the Dene until you come up and out heading towards a farm. Follow the footpath through the farm onto the road. Follow the road for a short time until you see the footpath take a left. Follow this footpath until you come out onto another road. This will then lead you to the footpath back through the dene and then out along the edge of the Quarry.</p> <p>Once you reach the Quarry follow the path you first took back to the car park.</p> <p>Points of Interest: Nose's Point, Hawthorn Dene, and Hawthorn Quarry.</p>
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