



Souter Lighthouse

ROUTE 12

DISTANCE: 10 KM (6.25 MILES)
GRADE OF WALK: MODERATE
TIME: 2-3 HOURS

STILES ON ROUTE



MAP KEY:

1	ROUTE START	■	TOWN/VILLAGE
PH	PUB	P	PARKING
WC	WC		

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A** Souter Lighthouse
- B** Marsden Grotto
- C** Cleadon Mill (Ruins)

See pages 56-61 for information on nearby attractions.

The lighthouse at Souter Point was the most advanced in the world when it was built in 1871. Take time out from this spectacular coastal walk to climb the tower and visit the Victorian keeper's cottage, explore the adjacent coastline or visit Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, just along the coast at South Shields.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE:

- 1** From Whitburn coastal car park, follow the path, past a metal gate towards the sea. Go north, keeping Souter Lighthouse to your left until you reach a gate close to the lighthouse itself.
- 2** Continue north to the alternative car park and follow the path as it swings towards the coast road. Bear right before reaching the road and continue along the path marked 'coastal footpath' until you reach the Marsden Grotto car park. The ruins of a limekiln can be seen across the road and the Grotto can be accessed by steps or lift. If you take a break, read about the legend of Peter 'the hermit'.
- 3** Go west across the coast road and up a lane, keeping Lizard Lane Caravan Park to your right and the golf course to your left. At the top of the lane, cross the road and go slightly left to find a public bridleway to Cleadon Park. Follow it up a slight hill, keeping the quarry and nature reserve to your right and the golf course to your left. Stop and take in the breathtaking views covering Penshaw Monument to Tynemouth Priory. Continue towards Cleadon Water Tower, to a stile in the golf course wall. Go through this and cross the course towards the water tower, following the marked yellow poles. Take the minor of two paths left through bushes and after 100 metres, go through a kissing gate. Follow the wall and cross a farm track. At the modern sculpture, bear left through a kissing gate and head for the ruins of Cleadon Mill.
- 4** Keeping the wall to the left, follow the seaward path and cross a small field to a stile at the end of a wall opposite (between the trees). Cross the stile and follow the path right around the field and over a stile at the field corner. Follow the field edge path, cross a third stile and continue to a fourth, which takes you onto a farm track. Turn left for the buildings of Wellands Farm directly ahead.
- 5** Cross the farmyard and follow the farm road to the main road junction using stiles if the farm gates are closed. Turn left onto the housing estate road then right at the end of the houses to follow a marked public footpath running beside a caravan site. At the end bear left, cross the road and follow Cedar Grove seawards to Whitburn Mill.
- 6** Cross the mill field to the coast road, using either exit. The Army firing range should be visible ahead. Proceed if there are no red flags flying. Turn left, cross the coast road and follow it to the end of the rifle range where steps beside a bus shelter take you to join the coastal path. Turn left onto the path, which will take you past a lookout hut and onto the car park. 400 metres after the gate, a short cut swings left beside a fence to the car park. **If the red flag is flying, stay on the main coast road and follow Marsden Avenue on your right down to a seaward path to the lookout hut.**



"I'm always at my happiest beside the sea so the walk from Souter Lighthouse over the Cleadon Hills is a favourite. Souter itself is a gem but the walk also gives you breathtaking views in every direction and, if you pause a moment, you can watch ships leaving the Tyne for destinations unknown."

DENISE ROBERTSON,
 AUTHOR/AGONY AUNT

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT:

HOW TO GET THERE

From the A19 take the A194 to the A1300. From the A1300 follow signs to the coast leading to the A183.

START/PARKING

Whitburn coastal car park on the A183. OS Map Grid Reference NZ412635

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

To plan your route call 0870 608 2608 or visit www.traveline-northeast.co.uk

EXPLORER MAP 316