

In and Around the villages of Ireshopeburn, St John's Chapel & Daddry Shield



West Blackdene
The building with the stone framed mullioned windows at the end of the village is thought to be on foundations dating from 14th century. Looking westwards from Low Whitestones notice the curved bread oven on the gable end of the cottage

Enjoy the views up the valley towards Burnhope reservoir and down the valley to Westgate,

The now dismantled, Wear Valley Extension Railway between Stanhope and Wearhead followed the valley floor. It was opened in 1895 and closed in 1961.

Barbary lead mine was worked intermittently until 1930s.

Ireshopeburn
The hope in many Upper Weardale names means valley.



brown hare

During the summer, the roadways are lined with purple and yellow wild pansies.



wild pansy



common blue butterfly



Look up Levelgate Sike - an old stone bridge crosses the stream leading down from the old quarry and mine workings.

St John's Chapel
The village takes its name from the church of St John the Baptist which was erected in the high forest at the time of the great hunts. The present church (1752) was provided mainly through the efforts of the Moor Master, Sir Walter Blackett.



brown trout

The spawning grounds for salmon are in the gravel beds both up and downstream from the footbridge



salmon



common buzzard

This stone winding support was at the top of an aerial ropeway which lowered tubs of iron ore to the valley bottom during the First World War.



Ireshope Plains

Ireshope Plains - previously known as Cold Knuckles

During spring and summer many moorland and wading birds can be seen nesting.



oystercatcher

Look across the valley for a view of the Newhouse complex, High House Chapel and The Weardale Museum.

Look north across the valley. Notice the characteristic dry stone walls which are such a feature of the landscape. The regular pattern of fields on the higher slopes is allotments created when the common land was enclosed in the late 18th/early 19th centuries.

St John's Chapel

Harthopeburn
One of the few places where the native high forest has survived. As its name suggests it was once the home of red deer or hart. The burn cuts through beds of 'three yard and five yard' limestone, creating impressive waterfalls

Both stone and lead were extracted from the valley in the 19th century and there are signs of an old horse drawn railway

'Holme Pool' indicates that this is land susceptible to flooding. The picturesque waterfall is a Scar Limestone outcrop, forming a deep plunge pool which in bygone days was popular for bathing.

Daddry Shield

The long row of miners' cottages date from the early part of the 19th century, when lead-mining was in full swing.

In medieval times Daddry Shield had its pinfold for stray animals and also a corn mill.

This track, which affords splendid views of the lower and upper dale, originally allowed access from the medieval shielings to common grazing land. The names ending in shield indicate very early farms

early purple orchid



roe deer



harebell



dipper

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