



Haig, Whitehaven

Wildflower walks and mining heritage on the stunning Colourful Coast



3 miles/4.8km

Approximately 1 hour at a leisurely pace.
10,135 steps



Opening hours: All year round



FREE entrance



Car parking: Free, on site



Toilets: No



Café: No but perfect for picnic



Dogs: Must be kept on a lead at all times



Accessibility: Surfaced paths. Some sections involve 50m climb above sea level to clifftop.

Step by step walking route

1. Start at Saltom Pit - the first undersea coal mine in England, built in 1729. Saltom Pit was built at sea level as horses were needed to raise the coal. This site is now an ancient scheduled monument and though access is difficult you can still see what is left of the buildings from the clifftop.
2. Follow the main clifftop path and you now join Wagon Way, a railway line that runs all the way between St Bees Head and the harbour.
3. You will then come across King Pit, built when steam power enabled the shaft to be deeper, and so it is located on the clifftop. In 1979, this pit was the deepest man made hole – look out for the stone cap over the shaft with an information panel. Next head down towards the harbour and to discover the history of Wellington Pit. Wellington Pit represented a new era in coal mining with much larger workings and tunnels reaching much further under the sea. Built in 1840, this pit was the showpiece of the harbour, designed to look like a castle with a vent modelled on a candleholder – look out for the candleholder which still remains today, even though not much of the pit remains.

The countryside code

Respect - Protect - Enjoy

Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs



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5. The steep steps down to the harbour were access for houses built into the hillside for the workers, now converted to gardens. From here take a look along the Old Quay where you can see railway lines cut into the stone – once used to move coal all around the harbour by steam trains. Look for the end of an era mining memorial at the harbour, and then further around the harbour you will see the 'Long Tom' cannon.
6. Continue onto Memory Walk, where the path and wall are full of quotes from locals. The Memory Walk was completed as part of the Haig Colliery restoration works, connecting the coast and clifftops with the town. At the Candlestick Terrace look for the large mosaic depicting Whitehaven's key industries. Last in the line of pit developments was Haig Pit which operated until 1986, and was the largest coal producer of the Cumbrian coal field.



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