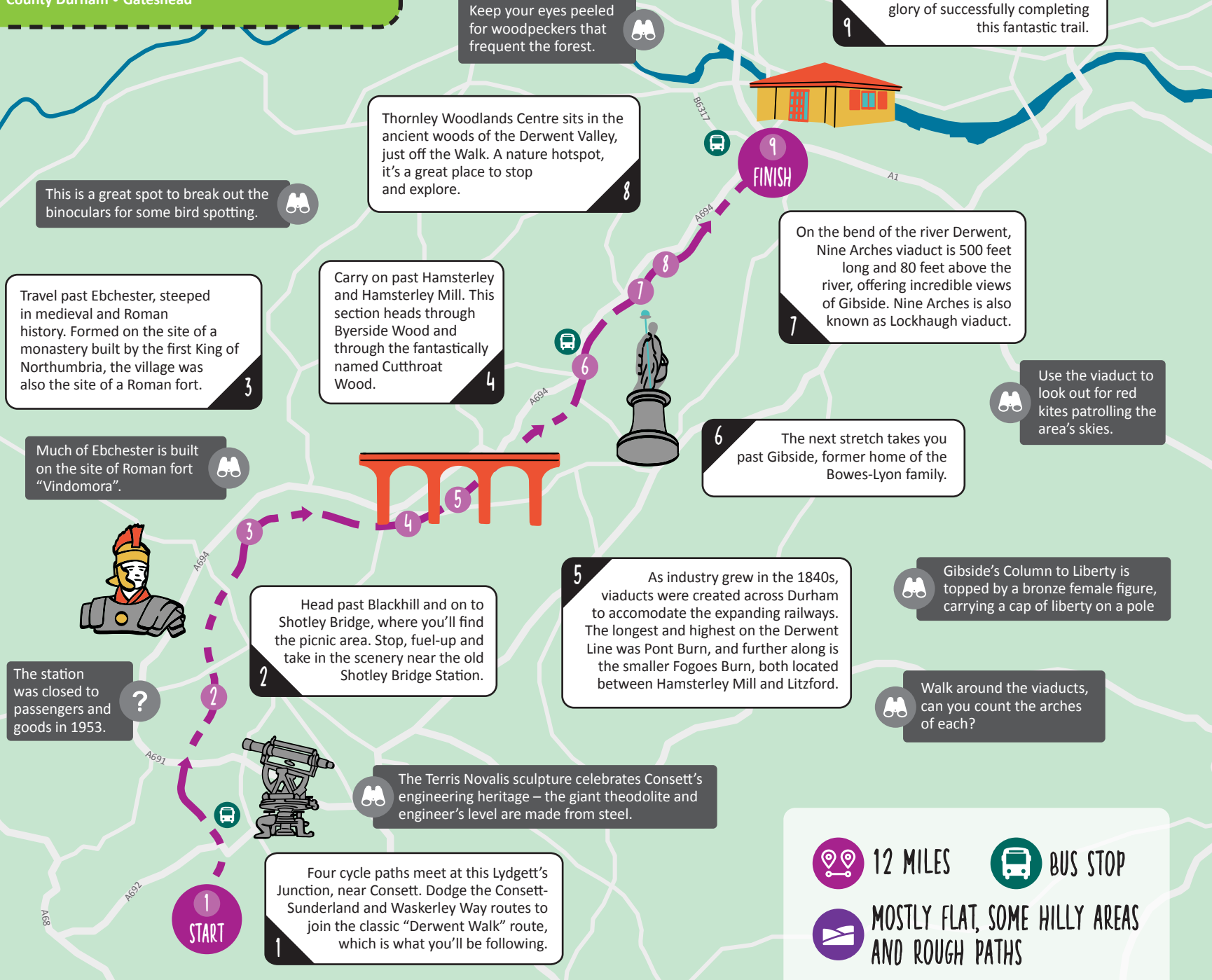


DISCOVER DERWENT

County Durham • Gateshead



Keep your eyes peeled for woodpeckers that frequent the forest.

Swallowwell Visitor Centre is your finish line – rest your feet and bask in the glory of successfully completing this fantastic trail.

Thornley Woodlands Centre sits in the ancient woods of the Derwent Valley, just off the Walk. A nature hotspot, it's a great place to stop and explore.

This is a great spot to break out the binoculars for some bird spotting.

Travel past Ebchester, steeped in medieval and Roman history. Formed on the site of a monastery built by the first King of Northumbria, the village was also the site of a Roman fort.

Carry on past Hamsterley and Hamsterley Mill. This section heads through Byerside Wood and through the fantastically named Cutthroat Wood.

On the bend of the river Derwent, Nine Arches viaduct is 500 feet long and 80 feet above the river, offering incredible views of Gibside. Nine Arches is also known as Lockhaugh viaduct.

Use the viaduct to look out for red kites patrolling the area's skies.

The next stretch takes you past Gibside, former home of the Bowes-Lyon family.

Much of Ebchester is built on the site of Roman fort "Vindomora".

As industry grew in the 1840s, viaducts were created across Durham to accommodate the expanding railways. The longest and highest on the Derwent Line was Pont Burn, and further along is the smaller Fogoes Burn, both located between Hamsterley Mill and Litzford.

Gibside's Column to Liberty is topped by a bronze female figure, carrying a cap of liberty on a pole

The station was closed to passengers and goods in 1953.

Head past Blackhill and on to Shotley Bridge, where you'll find the picnic area. Stop, fuel-up and take in the scenery near the old Shotley Bridge Station.

Walk around the viaducts, can you count the arches of each?

The Terris Novalis sculpture celebrates Consett's engineering heritage – the giant theodolite and engineer's level are made from steel.

Four cycle paths meet at this Lydgett's Junction, near Consett. Dodge the Consett-Sunderland and Waskerley Way routes to join the classic "Derwent Walk" route, which is what you'll be following.

12 MILES BUS STOP

MOSTLY FLAT, SOME HILLY AREAS AND ROUGH PATHS

The old Derwent Valley Railway used to carry passengers and goods between Newcastle and Consett until closing in 1962.

It passes many points of interest, including Derwenthaugh cokeworks, Axwell Hall, Hollinside Manor and Gibside Hall. There are also old railway platforms, bridges and houses along the route.

The full expanse of this popular "line" stretches from Consett to Swalwell, but walkers and cyclists can also do it in sections at their leisure.

THE ROUTE

1. Up the junction
2. Fueling station
3. Walking through history
4. The Mill road
5. Bridging the burns
6. Gambol along to Gibside
7. Nine Arches
8. Centre of the woodlands
9. End of the line

HOW TO GET TO THE START

Visit livemap.nexus.org.uk and enter the postcode **DH8 9AA**.

SUITABILITY

Full route

Full route

Full route

Full route

The route is fully accessible to walkers, wheeled pedestrians and cyclists.

**GoSmarter
GoActive**

www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk