

# 10 Leisure Walks of Discovery

## A Boot Up NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD

Anthony Toole

Newcastle and Gateshead lie at the heart of what was once the industrial powerhouse of Britain. Although these once-powerful industries have largely now gone, their relics cannot easily be erased. With assistance from the Newcastle and Gateshead Councils, and the Northumberland and Durham Wildlife Trusts, they have been transformed into parks and Nature reserves. Barren pit heaps have become flower-covered grasslands. Subsidence hollows are now water filled, their reed-bed fringes providing shelter for wildfowl. The cuttings and embankments of abandoned railway tracks are now colonised by trees and dense shrubbery.

The walks in this book, which all lie within a 10-mile radius of the centres of Newcastle and Gateshead, vary in length from 2 to 6 miles, and are all accessible by public transport. For the most part, they follow level footpaths, though some contain short, uphill sections. They are all suitable for families, or for groups who wish to follow a leisurely rather than an energetic route.

With the exception of the Quaysides walk, they take footpaths through reclaimed, former industrial land, many of them along the courses of old railway tracks. The walks focus on Big Waters; Havannah Nature Reserve; Weetslade Hill; Swallow Pond and Rising Sun Hill; Newcastle and Gateshead Quaysides; Newburn and Wylam; Blaydon Burn; Clockburn Lake; Watergate Forest Park; Causey Arch.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the area.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

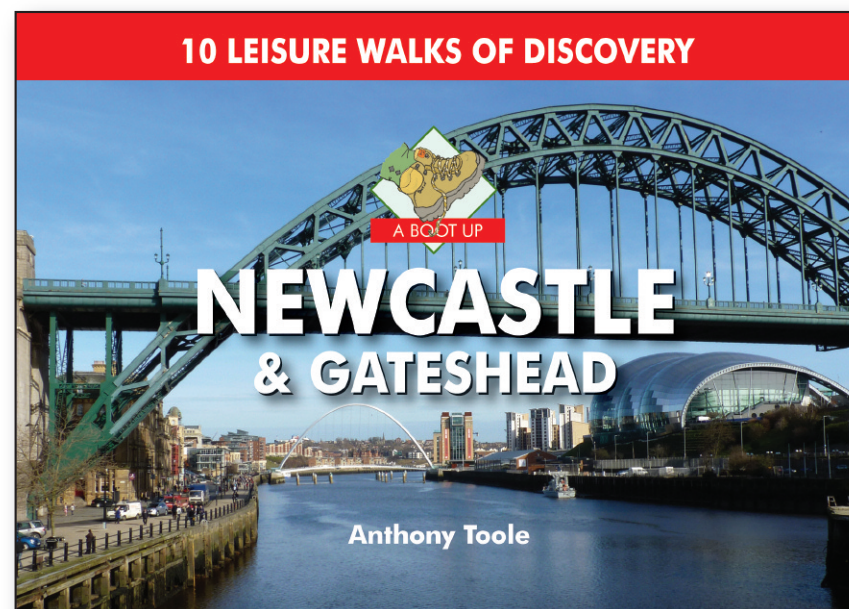
Anthony Toole lives in Newcastle upon Tyne, and spends much of his time walking in and writing about the hills of the north-east. He contributes walk descriptions regularly to BBC *Countryfile* Magazine and also contributed to the AA publication, *50 Walks in Durham and Northumberland*. He writes outdoor features for *The Northumbrian*, *The Countryman* and *North-east Life* magazines. He is a prizewinning member of Outdoor Writers' and Photographers' Guild and Writers and Photographers Unlimited. He has also written *A Boot Up the Northumberland National Park*, *A Boot Up the Northumberland Coast* and *A Boot Up the Durham Dales* also for Halsgrove.

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## HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



**Format:** Hardback with full colour cover, 64pp, 110x155mm, illustrated with colour photographs and sketch maps.  
**Price:** £4.99  
**ISBN:** 978 0 85710 078 8  
**Imprint:** PiXZ Books  
**Published:** May 2013



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# A BOOT UP NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD



Urban view from Rising Sun Hill.



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Big Lamp Brewery, Newburn.



Ruins of Bessie Drift Mine.



Gateshead Millennium Bridge.



Boulder slope and lake, Watergate Forest Park.



Example of a double-page spread.