

Enjoy a day exploring Rochester and Redesdale Forest

Welcome to Redesdale, a remote upland area in the wild heart of Northumberland that stretches all the way from the Scottish border at Carter Bar, to where the River Rede meets the River North Tyne at Redesmouth. This is an area rich in history, heritage and culture. Join us for the day to explore more of this unique landscape and learn more about its long history and connection to the natural world.

AM

The small village of Rochester - which sits on the A68 road between Corbridge and Jedburgh, five miles from Otterburn - is a landscape rich in archaeological remains. From here you can discover the former Roman outpost and garrison, **Bremenium Roman Fort** (NE19 1RB).

Explore this scheduled monument by downloading the Bremenium Fort Loop walking leaflet. If you'd like to learn more about Bremenium Roman Fort, you can also follow an audio tour around the site. Simply scan the QR codes on the signage at the Fort to get started.

Did you know Bremenium Roman Fort was built along **Dere Street**, the famous Roman road that linked York to outposts in southern Scotland? You can see the route of Dere Street - a dark line in the landscape - from the west gate of Bremenium Roman Fort.

Around half a mile south east from Rochester you'll find the **Church of the Holy Trinity** (NE19 1TA) in Horsley; home to some amazing examples of Roman gravestones. Inside the church itself, which has links to the Mitford family, you'll find a Roman altar and a recently restored Nelson pipe organ.

LUNCHTIME

Before leaving Rochester, you can enjoy lunch at the last café in England, **Rochester Relish** (NE19 1RH). This dog-friendly tea room serves warm lunches, sandwiches and sweet treats.

If you'd like to swap the last café in England for the last pub in England, head south along the A68 to **The Redesdale Arms** (NE19 1TA) - also known as the 'first and last' by locals. Here you'll find home cooked dishes using locally sourced ingredients and a well stocked bar serving real ales from Allendale Brewery and the First and Last Brewery.

PM

Feeling energised and refuelled after lunch, spend the afternoon exploring some of the area's hidden wonders tucked inside **Redesdale Forest** (NE19 1SW). Planted in the 1950s, Redesdale Forest is the most northerly part of Kielder Forest, covering 250 square miles.

Follow the A68 north to Blakehopeburnhaugh where the car park (NE19 1SW) marks the beginning of a series of walks. From here you can explore **Hindhope Linn** and its spectacular waterfall. Hindhope Linn is typical of the small, secret valleys that you can discover across Redesdale.

You can also join a longer five-mile walk along the Pennine Way to **Byrness Village** and **St Francis Church**. Built in 1793, St Francis Church houses the first commemorative stained glass window in England funded by, and in honour of, a workforce. It depicts workers building the nearby Catcleugh Reservoir and remembers the 64 men, women and children that died during the reservoir's construction.

Another piece of Redesdale's past lies deep inside the forest. Follow a 2.75 mile trail along forest tracks and open land to the Bronze Age burial site, **The Three Kings**, which takes its name from the fact one of the stones from the original four poster stone-circle has fallen down.

