

Follow this circuit and enjoy picking and eating Hexham grown produce as you go. Learn more about local food then and now. Be inspired to grow your own and collect recipes en route.

Start your walk in the Market Place, at the graphic panel in front of the Abbey.

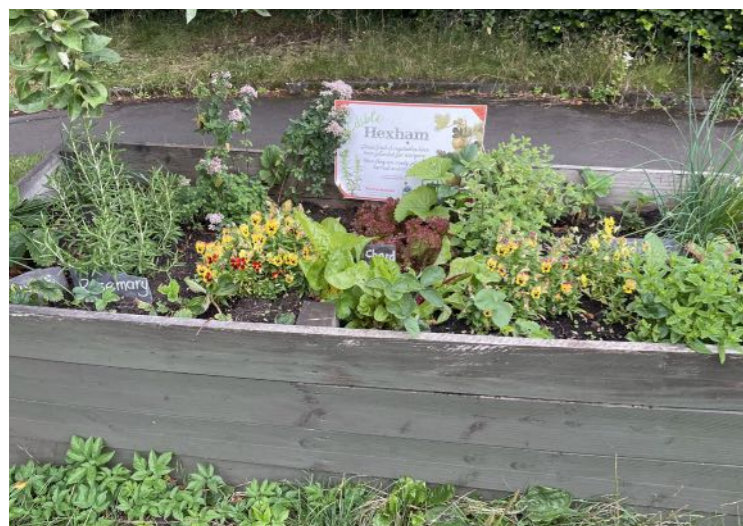
**1** Market Place. Hexham's medieval market traditions continue today in this historic square. Discover delicious local produce at the regular Farmer's markets (normally the second and fourth Saturdays of the month) and weekly Tuesday general markets. Imagine people several hundred years ago bringing produce here to buy and sell just as we do today. The 'Shambles' was built in 1766, providing cover for the sale of meat and keeping it as fresh as possible.



Turn right along Beaumont Street, stop at the Abbey car park. Edible riches once grew under your feet – the 18th century walled garden and orchards of Abbey House to your right were thought to extend across what is now Beaumont Street.

Continue, passing the old Corn Exchange, now the Queen's Hall Arts Centre, and The Granary next door, to end of street. The 'ice house' (early 'fridge') for Abbey House was to your right. Turn right, walk about 100 metres along road to the park gates and into car park.

**2** Your first 'Edible Hexham beds' are here at the edge of the Sele Park.



# The Edible Hexham Trail

Edible Hexham

Tour time: Approximately 1 hour  
Distance: Approximately 3 km (2 miles)

The Edible Hexham project aims to show how easy it is to 'grow your own', to enhance salads and meals with various leaves and herbs. It was set up by Transition Tynedale in 2014 and run entirely by volunteers. Help yourself – that's the idea! Look out for Edible Hexham recipes, pick some ingredients and be inspired.



**3** This was the front of Abbey House before it was largely abandoned in the late 1800's. Enjoy the colours and smells of this lovely garden, tended today by Abbey volunteers. Spot the many herbs and Edible Hexham beds near the archway. Herbs from the garden are frequently used today in the Abbey Café. Help yourself! Walk back into the Market Place through the Abbey Cloisters. Cross the market and walk under the arch by the medieval Moot Hall opposite. Continue walking.



**4** Spot the Edible Hexham bed on right by Bunters coffee house. The little enclosed area beyond and ginnel through to Fore Street is called 'Goose Market' – a sure sign of past activity.

**5** A little further, on your left, see the Edible Hexham beds in the café garden by the side of the Old Gaol, the oldest purpose-built gaol in the land. How grateful prisoners back then would have been for such fresh produce on their doorstep. Walk down the hill passing the Old Grammar school gardens high on your left. Stop where paths diverge at the bottom



Sheep and cattle grazed on the green spaces around here before they became public parks in the early 1900's, a far cry from what you see today. Today, the Sele is beginning to be managed in a more wildlife friendly way, a joint effort of 'Hexham Space for Nature' and Northumberland County Council. A short detour to the left takes you to the woodland borders created by Space for Nature and grassland where meadow plants will emerge in time – maybe even some edible ones??

Walk straight on with low wall on your right. Turn right by skate park into the Abbey Grounds to the bandstand (1912), take left path, go through small gate in hedge on your right into the Abbey Refectory courtyard.



Now turn the page over

6 Imagine - the area in front of you was covered with nurseries and orchards until about 100 years ago. The three large Edible Hexham beds here bear a token to such abundant times – see what you can pick! Hexham was home to many dozen varieties of gooseberry. The Grosser (or gooseberry) Fair was held along the riverbank and Tyne Green once a year. Have you spotted the gooseberries on the Edible Hexham signs? And in some of the beds?



Follow the right hand path, cross the access road and continue with sports area to you left. You are on Hall Orchard Road, another echo of times past. Continue to imagine those orchards and nurseries. Turn left at end, cross to the station.



7 Hexham Station has been a thoroughfare for people and produce since its opening in 1835. With so many nearby orchards, it is said that, when you arrived at the station, the air was filled with the scent of apples. Today you are welcomed by these Edible Hexham beds – and can get fresh Hexham apple juice at Transition Tynedale's Autumn Apple Pressing event at the Farmer's Market.

The optional Orchard Walk route starts here – to the lovely Tyne Green riverside and Community Orchard. Approx 50 minutes – see panel on the right

Main route. Retrace your steps past the sports track to the car park admiring the view up to medieval Hexham as you go. Turn left at the zebra crossing, then right up the hill and continue on Priestpopple passing Orchard House on your right. Cross at the pedestrian lights. Walk another 200 metres. Note County Mills, once a flour mill and grain warehouse. 7+ Walk up Broadgates to your left. Bear right at the top then straight on into the alley between the houses. Do not be put off by signs, continue approximately 100 metres up through two gates to the school gates. The Community garden is on your right.



8 Hexham Community Garden. A little gem of a garden created by Transition Tynedale in 2010. Fresh fruit, vegetables and grass sofas are enjoyed by school children and volunteers of all ages. New volunteers always welcome! Have a good look around, get ideas for growing your own and don't miss the fruit area at the bottom. Return to Priestpopple, turn left. From here to the Tap and Spile pub is 'Cattle Market' - another clue to the past. Cross at the pedestrian crossing. Walk along the charming St Mary's Chare back to the Market Place passing the remains of the Chapel of St Mary on your right, with a plaque showing medieval trading.



Hexham Community Orchard



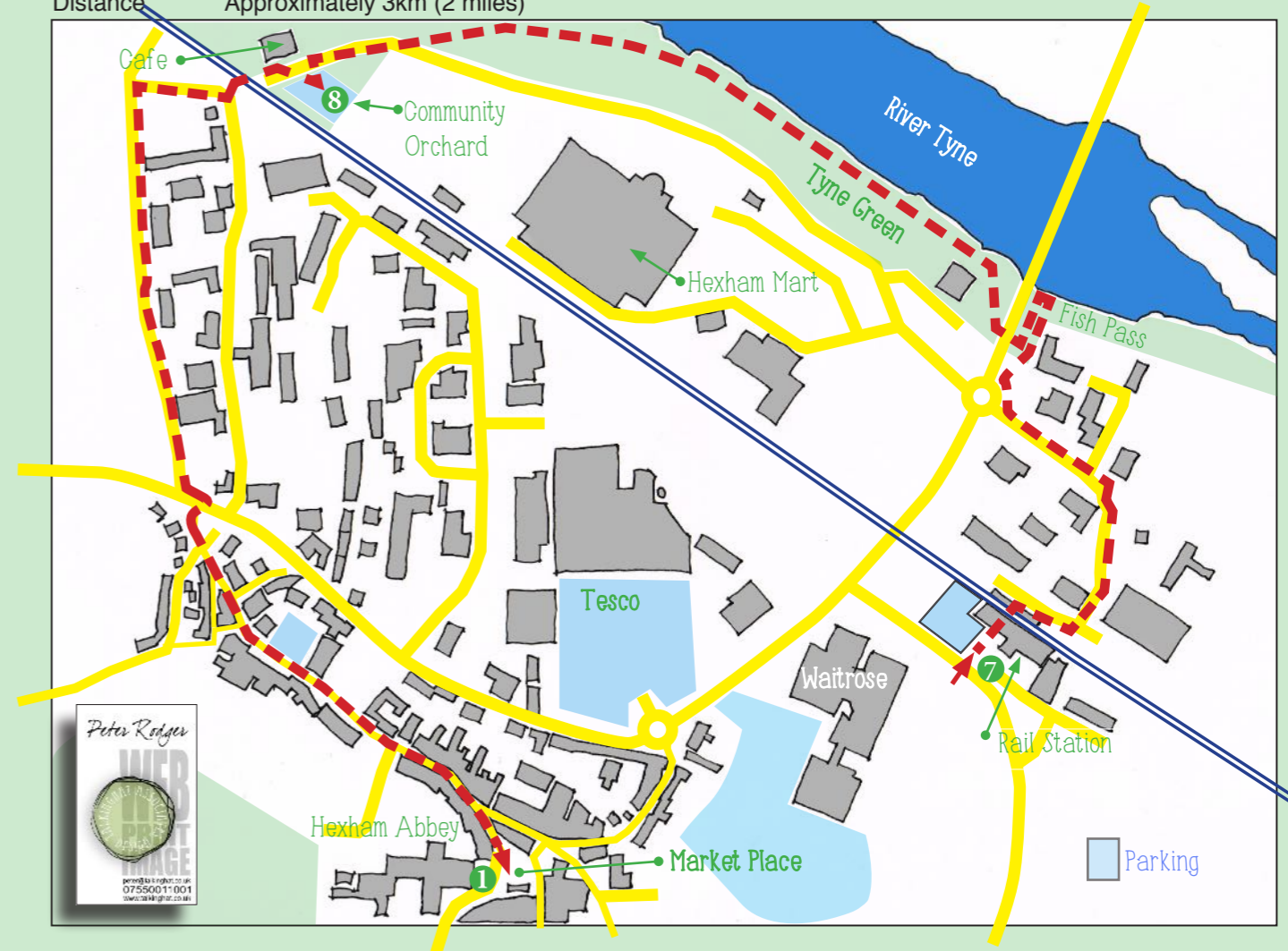
For more information about Edible Hexham and Transition Tynedale visit the projects section in the website.

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# The Orchard Walk

Edible Hexham

Tour Time Approximately 50 minutes.  
Distance Approximately 3km (2 miles)



Go into the station, over the railway footbridge and out to the car park. Follow the road around, passing units and outlets. Turn right down the footpath at the roundabout. Walk towards the river, continue to the river bank to see the water rushing over the weir and fish pass. This is where salmon leap in the Autumn. Retrace, go through the underpass to the river bank and Tyne Green.

Tyne Green, once boggy ground below the orchards, was dammed and drained in the 19th century and presented to the Hexham Local Board of Health in 1887 by Wentworth Blackett Beaumont (later Lord Allendale) for the leisure and benefit of the local people. Imagine the Grosser (or gooseberry) Fair mentioned earlier happening here. Hexham gooseberries - delicious with some local salmon!

Walk along the riverbank, turning to walk past the play area towards the car park, cafe and Community Orchard. The orchard is tucked away to the left of the car park

Hexham Community Orchard was planted by Transition Tynedale in 2014 with support from Tynedale Lions and Wylam Nurseries and sets an example of a different use of public space. We hope to see more fruit trees flourish once again in public areas one day.

Cross the railway, walk 100 metres right, then left up to the main road. Note the burn on your left. Cross main road. Walk back up to the Market Place via Gilesgate and Market Street. Pop through the arch on your right just up from the car park to peek at the old Tanners yard – a hive of old Hexham industry. Further up, divert to enjoy the gardens behind Hexham House (now Registry Office). Don't miss the sensory garden in the top corner to your right. Make your way back to the Market Place via the bowling green and Abbey.

To visit the Community Garden from here, walk along the pedestrianised shopping street, Fore Street, cross the road at end. Turn up Broadgates. Follow the directions from 7+

Ready for something to eat and drink? Reward yourself at one of the many local cafes and sample a bit of 'Edible Hexham' right there!

