



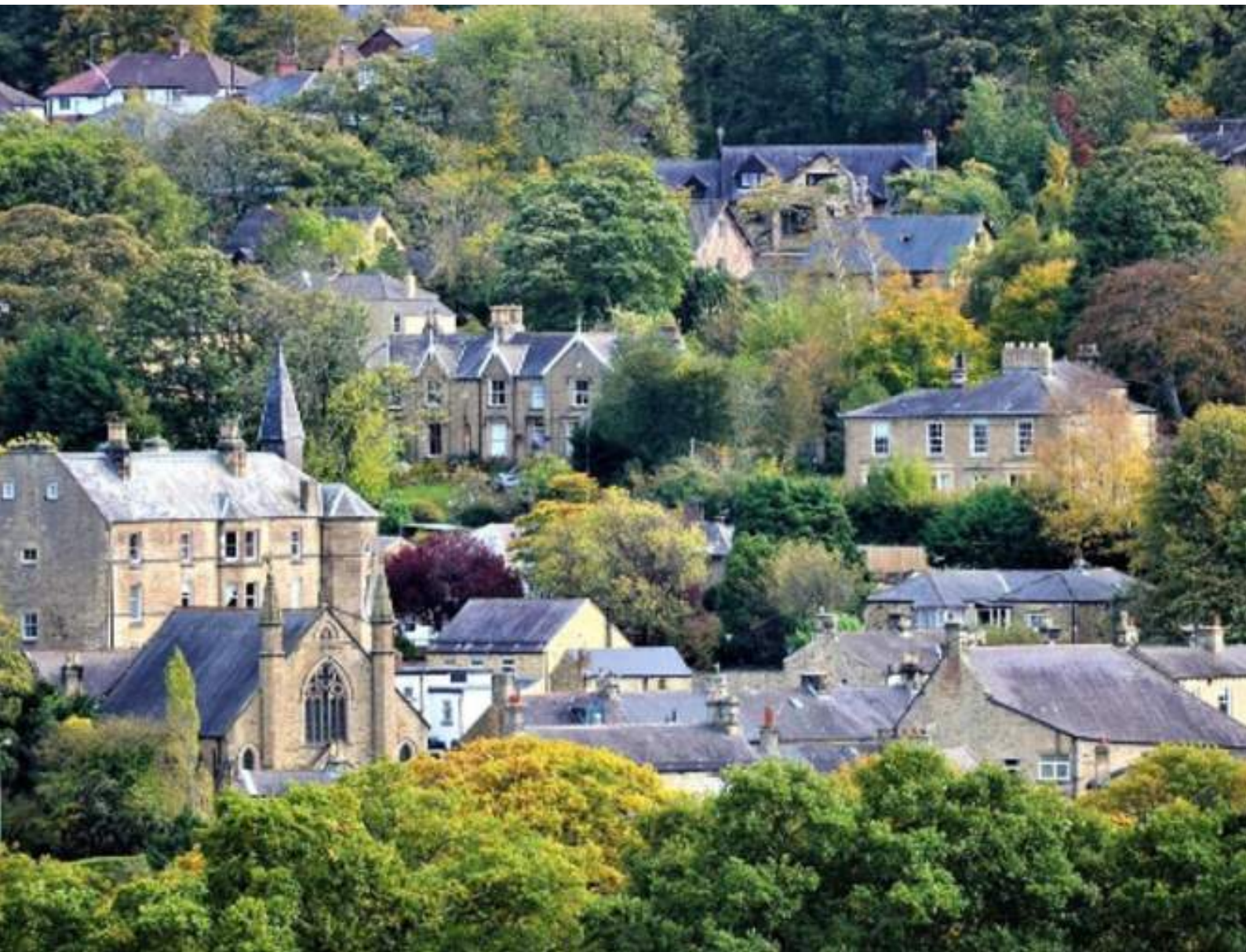
HARRINGTON BROWN

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LOCAL AREA GUIDE

Consett & Villages

Incorporating Shotley Bridge, Ebchester and Medomsley



History | Surrounding Villages | Property Types | Schools | Things to Do
Shopping & Leisure | Travel Connections

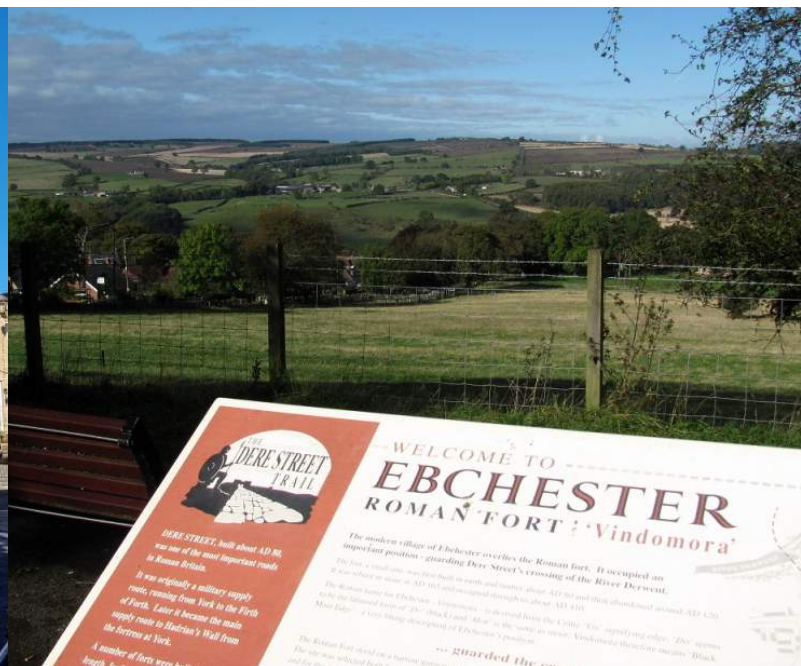
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Shotley Bridge, Ebchester and Medomsley are villages on the northside of the town of Consett in County Durham, not far from the boundary with Northumberland.

Shotley Bridge and Ebchester sit aside the River Derwent, while Medomsley is on higher ground to their east. Consett is also on high ground overlooking the river valley. In fact, Consett is the third highest town in England.

These towns and villages are at the edge of the North Pennines, England's second largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which some claim as the most beautiful countryside in England. Think heather moors and dales, high rivers, dramatic stone formations, and inspiring walking country.

Another huge attraction is the area's proximity to Newcastle, Gateshead, Durham and the north-east coast of England and Scotland. The area is well-connected when it comes to transport with good schools well-represented.



"At about 900 ft (270 metres) above sea level, Consett is the third highest town in England."

History of Shotley Bridge, Ebchester and Medomsley

Before the Industrial Revolution, the area of Consett was quiet. It was the area's deposits of coal and limestone that brought people here. The rich deposits of iron ore found in the local area led to the birth of the steel industry, which Consett was renowned for.

Shotley Bridge

Originally simply a handy ford-crossing point of the River Derwent, the first stone bridge was built here in 1820. There were some grain and paper mills too. At the height of the area's steel industry, a group of German sword-makers settled here as the fast-flowing river Derwent was ideal for tempering blades.

Ebchester

Sometime in the 6th or 7th century, Ebba, the daughter of local king Ethelfrith, built a monastery on the ruins of an old fort here. It didn't last long, thanks to Danish invaders, but a church was built on the site a few hundred years later and dedicated to her.

Medomsley

A settlement grew up here possibly for its advantageous position on a hill with views across the Derwent valley. Indeed, it's thought the word Medomsley derives from an old English word for clearing.



"In 1841 the total number of houses in the entire Consett area was just 39. Mostly farmhouses and centres for country estates, their total population was only 195. 10 years later there were 537 houses and the population was 2,777. The population has been increasing ever since."

Property Types

People like to live in Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, Medomsley and Consett not just because they are close to a lovely river on the edge of some of the wildest parts of beautiful England, but the housing quality is excellent, and most amenities are well within reach. The area is also a convenient and well-connected location for commuting into Gateshead, Durham and into the Northumberland market towns of Corbridge and Hexham.

Generally, properties in and around Consett are much sought after, but as an ongoing, upcoming area, it's still deemed good value. It's perfect for young families, with easy access to the surrounding Durham and Northumberland countryside. There are some great primary and secondary schools here too.

There's one main postcode for Consett and its surrounding villages – DH8.

The average value of property in the DH8 area at the time of writing is £180,000. Detached houses average just under £240,000, semi-detached under £150,000, terraced houses and flats average £132,000.

Areas with high-end property values include Shotley Bridge, Knitsley, Iveston, Medomsley, Hamsterley Mill, Lanchester, and neighbouring Stocksfield. The local and surrounding villages and areas have a number of high-value homes at £1m+ that sell on a regular basis.

Shotley Bridge

The average value of property in Shotley Bridge is £208,000. Detached houses average £290,000, semi-detached over £158,000, terraced houses £137,000 and flats average £127,000.

Ebchester

The average value of property in Ebchester is £397,000. Detached houses average £475,000, semi-detached under £145,000, terraced houses £132,000 and flats £134,000.

Medomsley

The average value of property in Medomsley is £94,000. Detached houses average £238,000, semi-detached £145,000, terraced houses £100,000 and flats £80,000.

*All information correct January 2022



Schools and Colleges in Consett and Surrounding Areas

There are many 'good' rated pre-schools, primary and secondary schools in and around Consett and its villages. Independent schools and further education establishments are also well represented, the main draws of the latter being Gateshead College and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Nursery, Pre-Schools & Primary Schools

Beechdale Nursery School, Ofsted Outstanding
Benfieldside Primary School, Ofsted Good
Bishop Ian Ramsey Pre-school, Ofsted Good
Kids Active, Ofsted Good
Little Tots Academy, Ofsted Good
Shotley Bridge Nursery School, Ofsted Good
St Patrick's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Ofsted Good
Stepping Stones Co-operative Nursery, Ofsted Good
The Nursery, Ofsted Good
Tilly-Mints Cherubs Day Nursery, Ofsted Good

Secondary Schools

Consett Academy, Ofsted Requires Improvement
Derwentside College, Ofsted Good
Prudhoe Community High School, Ofsted Good
Queen Elizabeth Hexham High School, Ofsted Good
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School, Ofsted Outstanding
Wolsingham School, Ofsted Good

Independent Schools

Bahr Academy
Cumbric
Dame Allen's Senior Schools
Delta Independent School
Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation

Local Further Education

Gateshead College
Newcastle College
South Tyneside College
Durham University
The University of Sunderland
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
University of Northumbria at Newcastle



"Consett was a global first in having a Salvation Army Corps
Band back in 1879."

Things to See and Do in Consett & Surrounding Areas

The Heritage Trail

This is a circular trail dedicated to bringing together the outstanding beauty of north-west County Durham and its steel industry history. The footpath is about four miles long and takes two to three hours. The walk will take you to Lydgetts Junction, Hownsgill Viaduct, Allensford Country Park, and alongside the Dene Burn and River Derwent. The trail isn't suitable for cyclists except where it coincides with National Cycle Routes 7 and 14.

Beamish Museum

This World Famous Open Air Museum is another way to get a real sense of the areas' history, telling the story of life in North East England during the 1820s, 1900s, 1940s, and 1950s. It covers about 350 acres, and you can see buildings, artefacts, vehicles, and industrial equipment. Highlights include a 1913 town complete with tramway, bakery, department store, terraced housing, coal yards and ironworks. You can also see the 1940s farm and wooden wagonway. Buy a ticket for the museum once and you will have unlimited entry for one whole year!

Derwent Reservoir

One enormous expanse of water that can be walked almost all the way around. Be warned: the stroll's loop is quite long at around 10 miles, and some of it is on road. There are several shorter walks on the edge of the reservoir if you don't mind doubling back on yourself and these walks are very picturesque. There is an excellent play park and the Boat Shack Café is well worth a visit. The reservoir is a magnet for people who enjoy fishing too! Derwent Reservoir also hosts a sailing club, which holds many events throughout the year, including windsurfing, sailing, running and triathlons.



"Some steel from Consett was used in the building of the Eiffel Tower in Paris! It can also be found in some British nuclear submarines."

Things to See and Do in Consett & Surrounding Areas

Terris Novalis

Sculpted by Turner Prize winner Tony Cragg, these two monumental memorials to the steelworkers of County Durham are massive depictions of an engineer's theodolite and measuring level. They're built on the site of Consett's steelworks and the oldest commercial railway line in Britain, the Stanhope and Tyne Railway Line. From there, you'll get cracking views across to the North Pennines, but it can get a bit chilly, so wrap up warm!

Hownsgill Viaduct

Viaducts always look better when you aren't on them! From a short distance away, this old 210-metre long, 46-metre high railway bridge is an incredible sight. Built using three million bricks and an awful lot of effort, this engineering designer's dream opened in 1858. Nowadays, it's part of a national foot and cycle path making it part of the Coast 2 Coast cycle route from Whitehaven on the West coast of England to Tynemouth or Sunderland on the East coast.

Derwentcote Steel Furnace

Part of the Land of Oak and Iron Project dedicated to Derwent Valley heritage, this Grade 1 listed old cementation furnace that produced high-grade steel for springs and cutting tools was originally built around 1720. There are 45-minute guided tours that include a look inside the worker's cottages and a water wheel.

Allout Adventures

There's something for everyone here! Located at The Pursuits Centre at Slaley Hall Hotel in Hexham, here you can participate in a range of exciting outdoor activities. There's quad biking for kids and adults, clay pigeon shooting, axe and knife throwing, archery, power turns, segway and crackshot!

If it's adventure you're looking for, other options include rock climbing at some stunning locations within an hours drive, coastering, and many other fun activities with **'Wild About Adventure'** based in Northumberland.



Top 3 Children's Activities in Consett & Surrounding Villages

Blackhill and Consett Park

This park was given by the Consett Iron Company to its workers sometime in the 19th century. In those days, it included a pavilion, bandstand, fountain, and tennis courts. Nowadays, it's a fun chill-out area with lots of greenery, an educational facility, and two bowling greens. Perfect for kids to let off steam, the park is a lovely green space in a beautiful setting. There is a versatile range of play equipment suitable for all abilities and ages. Additionally, there is a regular 5k park run hosted here. It's a great social event and an opportunity for locals to keep fit and active.

Believe & Be

Now, this is intriguing. Believe town is where young children can have a couple of hours of role-play pretending to be police officers, builders, shopkeepers, shoppers, chefs, and housekeepers. Parents can sit and have tea or coffee while the children develop social skills and have fun.

Allensford Country Park

Here among the 14 acres, you'll find a children's adventure playground with a range of cool equipment to keep them happy for hours! There's also a picnic area and a cafe for takeaway snacks and drinks. For adults, there's a chance to sample the beautiful riverside woodland walks and gaze at the magnificent views of the Derwent Valley.

"Funny man Rowan Atkinson of Blackadder and Mr Bean fame was born in Consett in 1955."



Shopping and Leisure in Consett & Surrounding Villages

Shopping

Consett is the central retail hub for Shotley Bridge, Ebchester and Medomsley. There are plenty of independent shops to browse in, with the main shopping area being in the centre of town. Larger stores can be found in Hermiston Retail Park, on the edge of the Consett Road (A692). The town's supermarkets include Aldi, Lidl, Iceland, Morrisons and Tesco.

Restaurants

There are many great places to eat in and around Consett and its surrounding villages. Hot favourites include Derwent Walk Inn on Ebchester Hill, Sambuca (Italian), The Jolly Drovers on Pont Lane, The Pavilion (Chinese), The Old Court House Bar & Kitchen, The Old Mill in Knitsley, The Royal Oak and The Miners Arms on Manor Road in Medomsley, or The Travellers Rest in Forster Street.

In Shotley Bridge, try Rumi's (Indian) or Oleys at the Crown and Cross Swords, or Sale Pepe (Italian). Also worth a look in Ebchester is Santonios Restaurante (Mediterranean).

For some café delights, visit Isabellas in Shotley Bridge, Sweethearts in Blackhill and Maddisons in Consett, there is also an award-winning and very popular bakery in Blackhall Mill called 'The Bakery.'

Pubs

Arguably some of the best watering holes in and around Consett are Demi Sports Bar on Albert Road, Derwent Walk Inn on Ebchester Hill, The Cricketers on Durham Road, The Fountain on Medomsley Road, The Grey Horse on Sherburn Terrace, The Jolly Drovers on Pont Lane, The Miners Arms on Manor Road in Medomsley, The Royal Oak in Medomsley, The Travellers Rest on Forster Street, the Kings Head in Shotley Bridge and our favourite, the Crown and Cross Swords, also in Shotley Bridge.





Shopping and Leisure in Consett & Surrounding Villages

Cinema and Theatre

The main big entertainment venue in Consett is the Empire Theatre and Cinema on Front Street.

Gym and Health

In Consett, you'll find the Consett Leisure Centre on Medomsley Road. There's a gym, pool, workout rooms, and regular fitness and aqua classes. Also, try The Gym (Consett) and Steel Town Gym on John Street, CoreFit on Ann Street, Cutz and Curves Gym on West Parade, and Spartan Performance in Number One Industrial Estate. For yoga and Pilates in and around Consett, visit Jacqui Gunion Yoga, Emily Shaw Fitness, Calm Waters Therapy, DanceMax Studio and DC Studio's Exercise Performance and Healthy Living.

Golf Clubs

There are several good Golf clubs near Consett. In Consett itself is the Consett and District Golf Club. There is the Hobson Golf Club in Burnopfield, South Moor Golf Club in Stanley, Beamish Park Golf Club at Beamish near Stanley and Stocksfield Golf Club. There are also championship golf courses at Slaley Hall Hotel in Northumberland and Ramside Hall Hotel and golf resort in Durham.

Other Sports Clubs

Shotley and Benfield Tennis Club is an award-winning club on Benfieldside Close and we are delighted and very proud to be the main sponsors of this excellent tennis club with its outstanding facilities. The Club has six artificial grass courts including one indoor court in a covered air dome. There is an excellent coaching programme for budding Emma Raducanu's and other activities to get involved with!

Shotley Bridge Cricket Club is also a great place for learning and playing cricket with the 'All Stars Cricket Coaching' programme which runs for kids. In fact, Shotley Bridge Cricket Club is the home of the One Day Cricket World Cup winning, England Team captain and now England Team coach Paul Collingwood.

For BMX and mountain biking enthusiasts, Chopwell has a Pump track. The woods at Chopwell have superb mountain bike routes for all abilities, including black runs for advanced riders. A 30-minute drive from Consett is Hamsterley Forest where there are mountain biking trails and the downhill 'Transition Extreme' runs. There are also activities and great play areas for children including Gruffalo Trails run by the Forestry Commission.



Travel Connections

Situated about 15 miles south-east of Newcastle and about 12 miles north-west of Durham, Consett and its surrounding villages are perfectly positioned for excursions north and south in the UK as well as west across the Pennines to Carlisle and the Lake District. The area is well connected when it comes to transport. There are good bus services, and railway stations are within a few miles.



The nearest couple of railway stations to Consett are on the Tyne Valley Line between Newcastle and Carlisle via Hexham: Stocksfield (7 miles) and Prudhoe (8 miles). Durham station is about 11 miles away, and Newcastle station is about 12.5 miles away. Durham and Newcastle stations are both on the East Coast Main Line serviced by North Eastern Railway Trains. Direct trains from these two main cities take about three hours to London and about an hour and a half to Edinburgh.



Consett's location for those travelling by car is a dream. The north-south A68 runs just west of the town, while the A694 just north, and the A692 just south of Consett takes you into Gateshead, Newcastle and on to the vital A1/M1 north-south trunk road/motorway in about half an hour.



The nearest large airports to Consett are Newcastle Airport (13.5 miles), Teesside International Airport (28 miles) and Leeds Bradford Airport (68 miles). The list of destinations that can be reached direct from Newcastle airport is extensive (around 50 in total, from Alicante to Zakynthos). There are also direct flights to major world hubs such as London Heathrow, Amsterdam, Paris and Dubai



The main bus company, Go North East, services Consett with lots of local bus routes. The main ones out of town include the X15 that takes about half an hour to Durham from Shotley Bridge and Consett. The 16 and 16A also go to Durham via Stanley. The X45 and X46 take a little bit longer into Newcastle. The X70, X71, and X72 connect Consett and Medomsley with Newcastle, Gateshead and Stanley.




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All so professional and excellent communication from Julie! Highly recommended! Thank you very much!

D.R

I wouldn't hesitate in recommending Harrington Brown, they're a really warm and friendly team.
They answered all my queries quickly and helpfully, guiding and supporting our house purchase
with the utmost professionalism.

V.B

If you're looking for an estate agent I can recommend Jennifer and Julie at Harrington Brown who have been fantastic. It's great to have a local run business in Shotley Bridge who look after your needs and keep you updated every step of the way. I had a property to rent out and they could not have done anything more to assist me and they got it rented so quickly. Thanks so much.

K.S



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