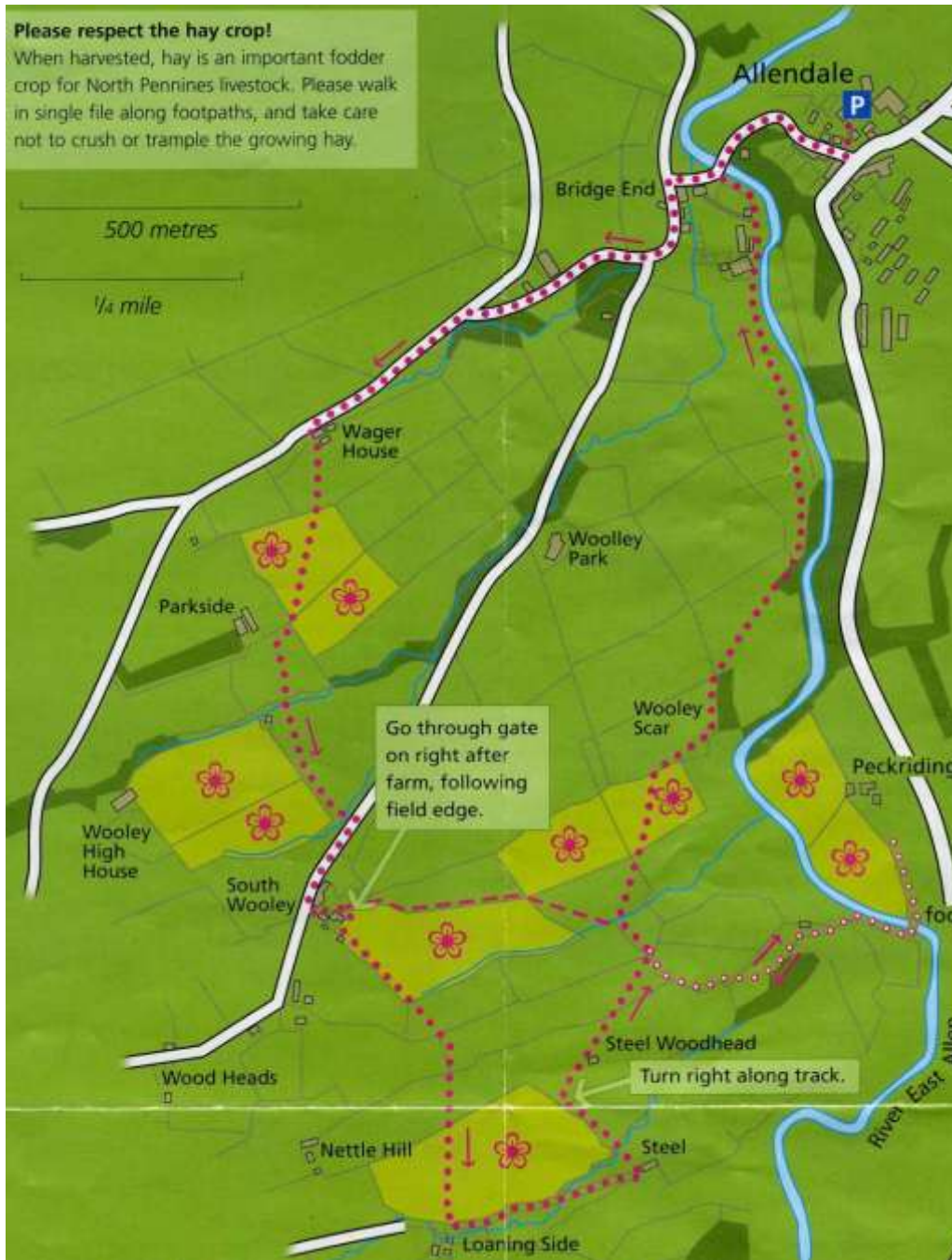


ALLENDALE HAY MEADOWS

The walk starts in the interesting village of Allendale on the northern edge of the Pennines. Centuries ago it was the very busy centre of the local lead mining industry of which there are many remains still visible. Today, the farmers are encouraged to manage the fragile hay meadows, now only 11 square kilometres remain in the UK, half of them in the Northern Pennines, which were endangered by modern farming methods including ploughing, the use of fertilisers and drainage. The meadows are an internationally important habitat on a par with the rain forests of the Amazon or the coral reefs of Australia and their future depends on using traditional farming methods supported with grants from environmental schemes. They are filled with many different species of flowers and grasses. They are a joy to observe in June.



A walk of about 3 miles from Allendale promoted by the North Pennines AONB –



The Friends Meeting House over the river and on the left of the road, founded in 1735



A typical Dales farmhouse with stone walls and stone slab roofs.



Scenes from the Hay Meadows in late June or early July, depending on the variable weather.

The Monday walkers were late this year since the June weather was not conducive to walking through fields of ripe hay, but enjoyed a warm walk finished off at the Allendale Bakery, sited on the old Smelt Mill.