



Walking In...
Teesdale

**COTHERSTONE
TO BARNARD CASTLE**

START AT: FOX & HOUNDS PUBLIC HOUSE
COTHERSTONE

DISTANCE: 4.25 MILES

TIME: 2.5 HOURS

For a circular walk please refer to
Walk 4 - Barnard Castle to Cotherstone

Series Walk...

N^o. 5

A leisurely walk which rises high above the River Tees, then leads through fields and woods, with several becks on the way. You will pass a disused quarry, a fishing lodge with lake, and one of the abutments of the old Tees Railway Viaduct, before finally crossing the River Tees and back to Barnard Castle.

PART OF THE TEESDALE WAY

Route Information

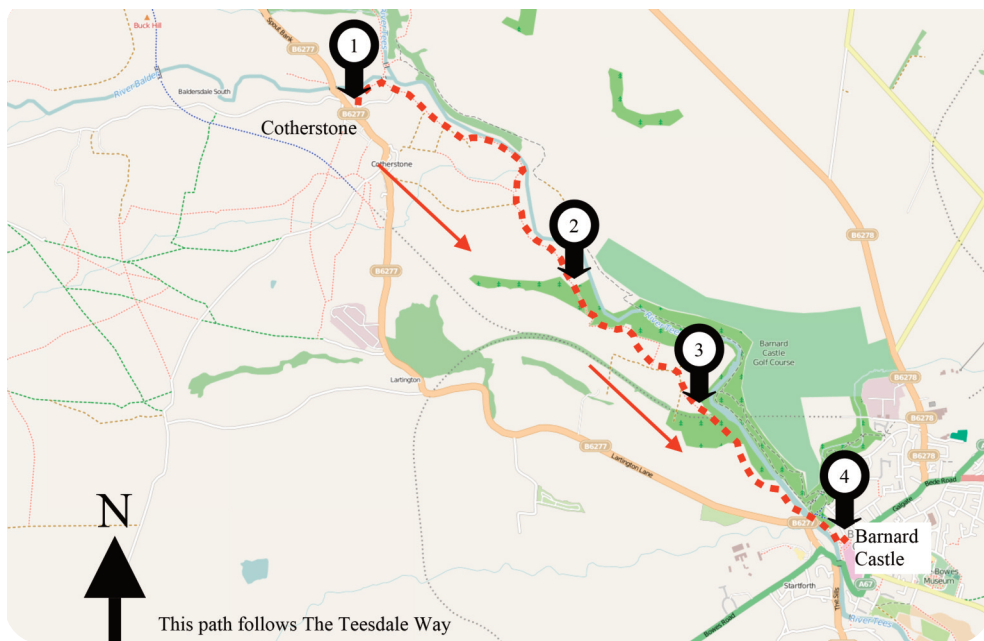
Outdoor Leisure Map 31

The start of this walk can be reached by taking a 95 or 96 bus from Barnard Castle, to the bus stop in Cotherstone just opposite The Fox & Hounds public house.

Leaving Cotherstone by the minor road opposite The Fox & Hounds, walk down to where the Rivers Balder and Tees converge – known as The Hagg. Take the steps and steep path to the right that rise high above the river, before gradually descending through fields and woods with many interesting features along the way, including a disused quarry, Lance Beck, Cooper House, a lodge with a lake, Grise Beck with tiny clapper bridge and Scur Beck to finally cross the footbridge over the River Tees to bring you up to the castle to Scar Top and the town of Barnard Castle.

In the village of Cotherstone (1), take the lane opposite The Fox & Hounds public house and walk down past a grassy area and a house to where the Rivers Balder and Tees converge. Ignore the bridge over the Balder, and turn right to follow the path to go up a steep, grassy slope and pause at the top to look at the spectacular

view up the river. Where the path joins a track, turn left and immediately go through two gates which follow the Teesdale Way, with the river far below you on the left. Pass the grave of Abraham Hilton, a past supporter of local charities. Cross over the track which leads down to The Old Mill, go left





Confluence of Rivers Tees & Balder

along the path and soon through a wooden gate to a farm track. Continue to the left along this track, then after 100 yards left again following the path down and through a wooded, disused quarry. In spring this is full of the smell of wild garlic. Go through the gate and keeping the river on your left, cross the field to a wooden footbridge over Lance Beck. Follow the steep path up the field towards Cooper House, following the waymarkers. Go through the gate to the right of the buildings and follow the wall until reaching a footpath gate on the left. Go through this and crossing the field diagonally, go through a gate and continue to another gate by the wall next to some barns.

Walk alongside the edge of the field then go through a gate and follow the path down to where there is a lodge on the right, and a fishing lake and the river on the left. At the bottom of the slope, bear right at the signpost, crossing Grise Beck by a stone clapper bridge (2), and climb sharply up through the pine trees of Towler Hill plantation, where the path can be muddy at times. Go through the

gate into a field and turn left, keeping to the side of the woodland, to a gate. Continue with the fence on your left, and soon down a few steps into a small gully and up the other side. Follow the fence round to a gate leading into a small copse, drop down the steps over a wooden bridge and climb up to a gate. Go through the gate and, follow the fence on the left, to the far corner then turn to continue along the fence-line to reach a track, and turn left to follow it to a gate. Go through this onto the Towler Hill Farm road, following it to the right, away from the farm.

Walk along the track until you see a gate on the left which you go through and follow the path around the top of the field and at the corner of the field, go through the gate and turn left to another gate. Ahead of you are the remains of the Tees Railway Viaduct (3). Go down the steep steps of the former railway embankment to continue along the woodland path. On reaching a farm road continue ahead passing Tees Cottage to the left, and over Scurr Beck just above where it flows into the Tees. The track becomes a surfaced road to reach the main road, where turn left and left again over the footbridge/aqueduct built in 1893 by the Stockton & Middlesbrough Water Board and known locally as the Silver Bridge from where there are fine views of the river and castle. Turn right and follow the riverside path downstream, stopping to enjoy the sculptured seats, known as the Roman Ford Picnic Site. Turn left and follow the path up to Scar Top (4) and the town of Barnard Castle.

ENJOY WALKING IN TEESDALE

It is recommended that you take the appropriate Ordnance Survey map with you, see inside, and know how to use it. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Whilst every effort is made to provide accurate information, walkers head out at their own risk.

If you encounter any problems with the condition of the public rights of way, please contact pro@durham.gov.uk or ring 03000 265342 with the details.

There have been various incidents in recent years involving cows. This is very often when people have a dog but this is not always the case. It is advisable not to get between a cow and its calf. The NFU advice is that if you have a dog to let it go if cows threaten you.

These leaflets are based on an earlier set of walks and thanks to all who helped with previous versions. All the routes and descriptions were walked and checked in 2020.

Thanks to; Jo Bird, Graham Young, Lynda Bares and Barnard Castle Ramblers, Sue Berresford, Alex Kaars Sijpesteijn, Visit County Durham, Chris Clark, Nicky Grace, Mike Ogden - Durham County Council.

Walk 1 Barnard Castle & Abbey Bridge Circular

Walk 2 Abbey Bridge & Whorlton Circular

Walk 3 Barnard Castle & Lartington Circular

Walk 4 Barnard Castle to Cotherstone

Walk 5 Cotherstone to Barnard Castle

Walk 6 Cotherstone East Circular

Walk 7 Cotherstone West Circular

Walk 8 Staindrop Circular

Walk 9 Bowes East Circular

Walk 10 Bowes West Circular

Walk 11 Barnard Castle & Stainton Circular

Walk 12 Barnard Castle West Circular. The Bridges Walk

the
witham
Culture • Community • Commerce

3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle DL12 8LY

info@thewitham.org.uk

01833 631 107

www.thewitham.org.uk

Leaflets and visitor information are available from
The Witham Community Arts Centre.

Walk leaflets made available by Making Barney Brighter Together

