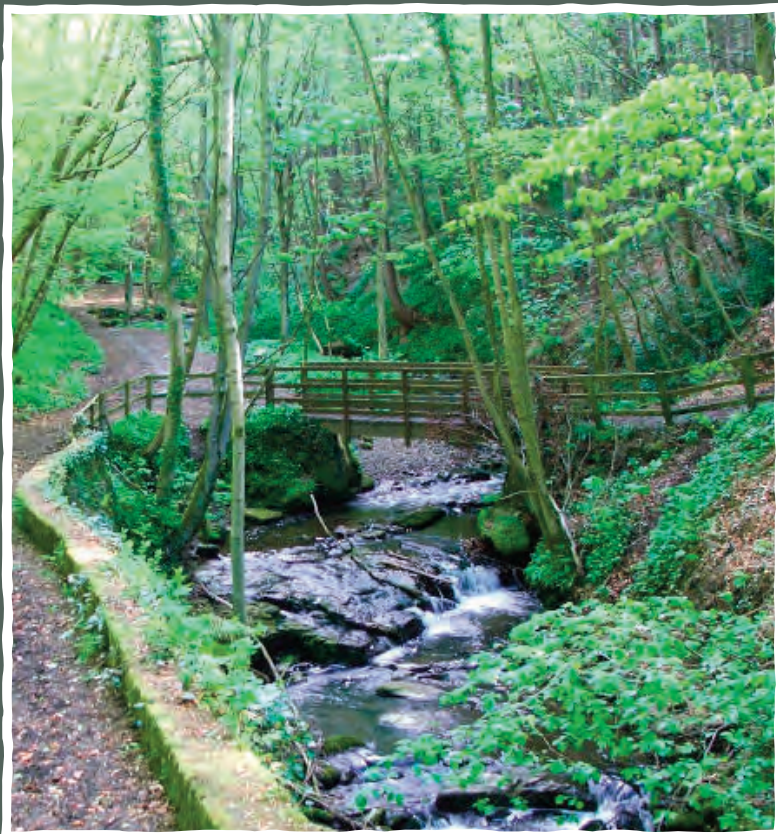




Flatts Wood & Percy Beck

Two Beautiful Woodland Walks in Barnard Castle



Route 1: 30 - 45mins (1.1 km / 0.7 miles)

Route 2: 60 - 75mins (1.7 km / 1 mile)

BOTH ARE CIRCULAR WALKS

Flatts Wood Woodland Walk

Introduction

Welcome to Flatts Wood and Percy Beck, often referred to as Barnard Castle's "green lung". It's the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of the town centre and enjoy some peace and quiet.

In medieval times, the Flatts was a large open area of land adjacent to the Castle and was used as a military training area. The woods that bordered this area became known as Flatts Woods. The Flatts are now Flatts Road, Raby Avenue, Vane Road and Cecil Road.

In the 9th Century, both the Flatts and the woods were given to the Church (the Prince Bishops of Durham). In the 11th Century, the land was seized by the Earls of Northumberland but after a failed rebellion, King William II granted the land to a loyal supporter, Guy de Baliol (much to the anger of the Prince Bishops). He constructed a timber fortress and associated earth works, but it was his nephew (Bernard) and then his son, who constructed a stone fortress and the town walls, granted a market, set out field systems, pastures and demesne land and created a hunting park (incorporating the woods). In the 17th Century, the Vane family of Raby Castle bought all of the land and it remains in their ownership today. Raby Castle is the seat of Lord Barnard.

About 200 years ago, Dr. George Edwards (a local philanthropist) began to lay out paths through the woods. At that time, Barnard Castle was a hive of industry with mills dotted along the riverside. The workers lived in squalid conditions with inadequate sanitation, and he was driven by a desire to improve their health by offering them fresh air and exercise on their doorsteps. Two main paths were laid out: The Cleveland Walk & The King's Walk. The routes in this leaflet incorporate both paths.

The Cleveland Walk took visitors from the town's railway station (at the top of Woodside, where the old station house can still be seen) along the top of the woods to Nab End and into the town centre. The walk takes its name from the Duke of Cleveland, one of the titles bestowed on Lord Barnard.

The King's Walk took people from Scar Top, down to the River Tees and then up into the woods to join the Cleveland Walk.



Durham County Record Office D/CI 5/109

What Can You See In The Woods?

Flatts Woods are a wonderful place to be any time of year. In Winter, the Holly and Snowdrops offer colour whilst in Spring, the woods come to life again with Wild Garlic, Primroses and Bluebells carpeting the banks leading down to the beck. In Summer, a host of beautiful flowers and an array of wildlife can be seen whilst in Autumn, the woods are a blaze of colour with the falling leaves.

Throughout the year, the following birds, animals and flowers can be seen:

- *Bluebells*
- *Arum Lilies*
- *Red Campion*
- *Marsh Marigold*
- *Celandine*
- *Wood Anemone*
- *Wild Garlic*
- *Dogs Mercury*
- *Primrose*
- *Violet*
- *Roe Deer*
- *Rabbit*
- *Chiff-Chaff*
- *Blackcap*
- *Redstart*
- *Garden / Wood Warbler*
- *Spotted Flycatcher*
- *Bullfinch*
- *Willow Warbler*
- *Pied Flycatcher*
- *Dipper*
- *Goldcrest*
- *Greater Spotted Woodpecker*
- *Heron*
- *Marsh Tit*
- *Wren*
- *Robin*
- *Blackbird*
- *Wood Pigeon*
- *Grey Waytail*
- *Nuthatch*
- *Tawny Owl*
- *Jay*
- *Tree Creeper*
- *Woodcock*
- *Redpoll*



Other Points Of Interest:

The Bandstand

At the junction of Percy Beck and the River Tees, this sunny glade was created with seats and used as a venue for outdoor brass band concerts. A great place to enjoy a picnic and a paddle!

St.John's Footbridge

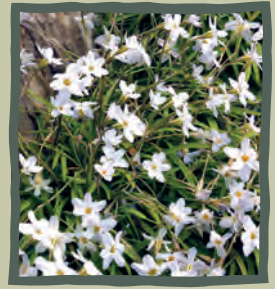
The very first bridge was erected in 1841 as before that people had to negotiate the adjacent ford or use stepping stones. The present bridge is made from a single oak tree.

Tees Aqueduct

This 45m bridge across the River Tees was built in 1898 by Head Wrightson & Co. Engineers from Thornaby-on-Tees for the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board. It carries a major water pipe across the river and was designed to take water from upper Teesdale downstream to the towns and industry on Teesside.

The Methodist Church

This imposing building was designed by Morley of Leeds and opened in 1894.






Useful Route Information

- Both walks start and finish at the Methodist Church at the junction of Horsemarket and Galgate. Parking and toilets are available in the town centre nearby; please note that there are no toilets on either walk.
- Route 1 is a short circular walk from the town centre, following part of the King's Walk. It commences at Scar Top, goes down Orchard Brae, passes both the Tees Aqueduct and St.John's footbridge and enters the woods via a large access bridge. It closely follows the beck but then leaves the King's Walk to turn right and cross the second footbridge, goes up a stepped path to Nab End and back into town via Raby Avenue and Flatts Road.
- Route 2 takes in all of the King's Walk and part of the Cleveland Walk to do a longer circuit through the woods. Follow the King's Walk from Scar Top, but do not turn right over the second footbridge in the woods. Follow the sign for "Woodside" and continue up through the woods passing over a third footbridge. Go up a steep ascent to a path junction. Turn right here, following the sign for "The Town Centre". You're now on the Cleveland Walk. Follow this top path all the way to Nab End to go back into the town centre via Raby Avenue and Flatts Road.
- Please note that both walks go over uneven ground, across different gradients and can be muddy in places all year round. Children should be supervised and care must be taken at all times. Appropriate footwear should be worn.
- Both walks are only suitable for all-terrain pushchairs if the steps on Route 1 and the steep climb on Route 2 are considered.





Map Key:

-  start and finish point for both walks
grid ref: NZ 0493 1662
-  Route 1 -
The King's Walk
-  Route 2 -
The Cleveland Walk

The OS map for Barnard Castle is
OL 31 1:25,000 map - North Pennines
(Teesdale and Weardale)

TEESDALE WAY
TO COTHERSTONE

PERCY BECK

WOODSIDE

KINGS WALK

CLEVELAND WALK

ST JOHN'S FOOTBRIDGE

BAND STAND

RIVER TEES

CECIL ROAD

NAB END

RABY AVENUE

VANE ROAD

VERE ROAD

BALLOL ST.

TEES AQUEDUCT

LARTINGTON LANE

WEIR

ORCHARD BRAE

FLATT'S ROAD

FARMERS WAY

MARSHALL ST.

SCAR TOP

GALGATE

WC

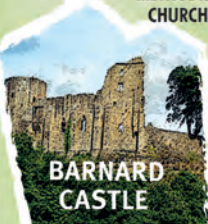
BARNARD CASTLE

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THE METHODIST CHURCH

HORSEMARKET

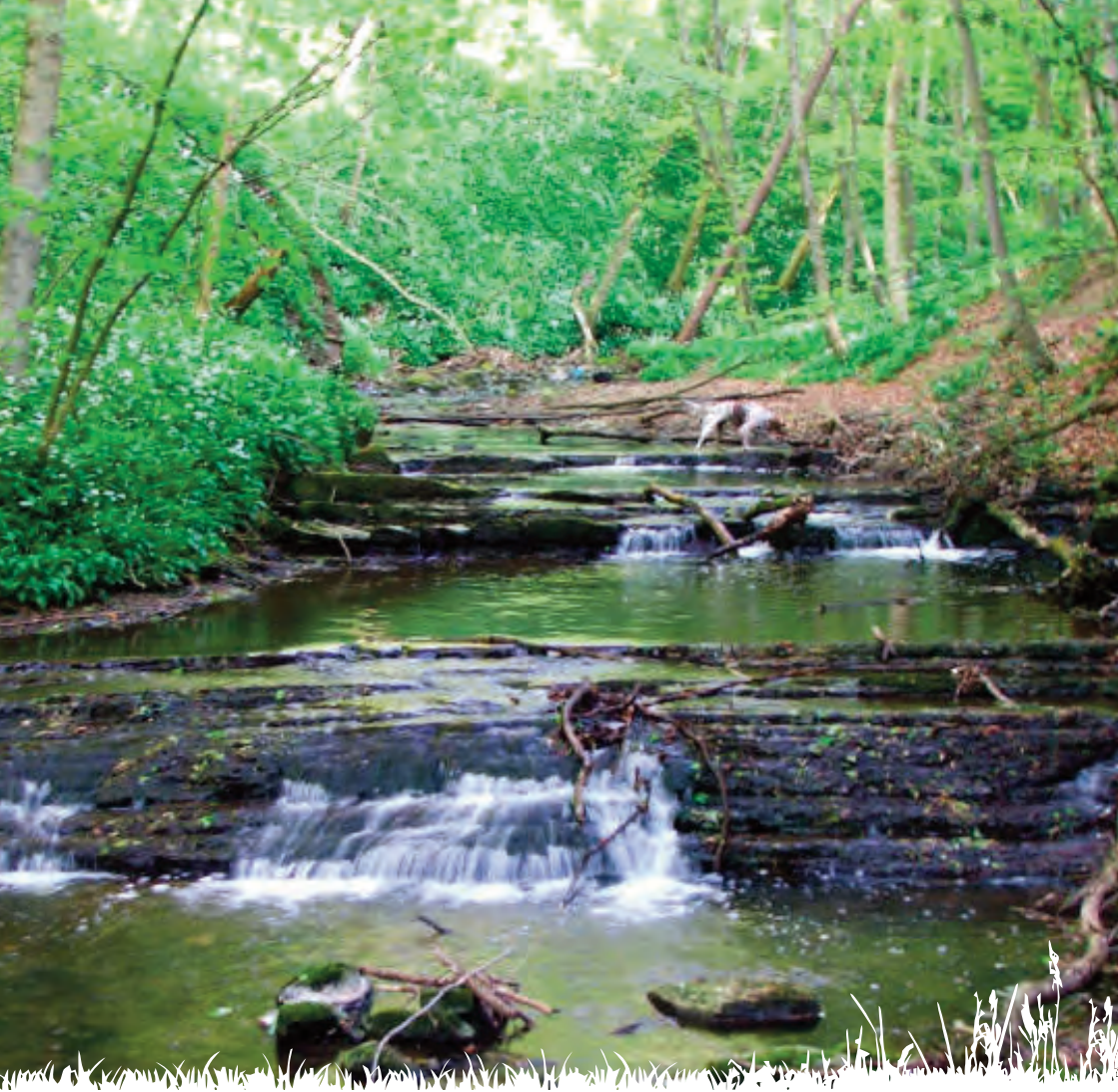
THE WITHAM TOWN CENTRE



BARNARD CASTLE

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

Walk leaflets made available by Making Barney Brighter Together

