



Walking In... Teesdale

BARNARD CASTLE & ABBEY BRIDGE CIRCULAR

START AT: SCAR TOP,
BARNARD CASTLE

DISTANCE: 3.75 MILES

TIME: 2 HOURS

Series Walk...

N^o. 1

A picturesque leisurely walk of 3.75 miles, along lanes and across fields by the banks of the River Tees to Abbey Bridge and back. On the way you will pass the ruins of Egglestone Abbey.

PART OF THE TEESDALE WAY

Route Information

Outdoor Leisure Map 31

Leaving from Scar Top down the footpath by the castle wall, you will cross the river by The Green Bridge, and from the south side will get panoramic views of the river and modern apartments converted from former mills. The walk will then lead you through the caravan site, across fields, down the lane past Egglestone Abbey and over Abbey Bridge. You will then return on the north side of the river, through woods and across fields.

From Scar Top (1), keeping the castle on your left, follow the steep path downhill, which brings you to the River Tees above County Bridge. The bridge was built in 1569 and until 1974 was on the boundary between Yorkshire and County Durham. Do not cross the bridge, but continue on the pavement along Bridgegate, keeping the castle on your left, for about 250 metres as far as the street corner.

Turn right here along Thorngate, an attractive street with a number of fine restored houses and former weavers cottages (note the weavers windows). Continue over the Green Bridge to cross the River Tees (2).

Once over the bridge, go up the steep path ahead and turn left at the top to proceed along a path and then a road, with fine views over Barnard Castle.





Abbey Bridge

At the end of the road, go through a small gate in the stone wall and bear right through the caravan site. Staying on the tarmac road, head uphill and, shortly after leaving the site, go through the kissing gate in the fence on your left. Keeping to the left, now continue through four fields.

Pass through the narrow “squeeze stile” at the end of the last field and onto a narrow lane, where you turn left downhill to Bow Bridge, a 17th century packhorse bridge which you can use to cross Thorsgill Beck. On the high ground beyond the beck stand the remains of Egglestone Abbey (3), founded in about 1198. It is an English Heritage site, and entry is free of charge. Continue along the lane to Abbey Bridge (4), a former toll bridge built in 1773. The remains of the circular toll buildings can be seen on the southern end of the bridge.

Cross the bridge, taking great care of vehicles on the road, especially if you pause to see the river from one of the niches on the bridge, and once over, go through a small gap in the stone wall on

your left at the end of the bridge. You are now on the Teesdale Way, which stretches from the moorlands of Cumbria and Durham to the industrial landscapes of Teesside and the coast. From here a narrow, twisting path follows the north bank of the River Tees through an area of woodland. Across the river on your left you will see Egglestone Abbey again and below, right next to the river, the remains of an old paper mill where paper used to be laid out to dry on the rocks. From the higher ground on your right, the famous English painter JMW Turner painted a view of the abbey and of the mill when it was still in operation in the early 19th century.

On reaching a hand gate, continue into the field and follow the river bank, passing through several gates and alongside a high metal fence on the right. At the end of this fencing bear very slightly right across the field to the ruins of a small stone building, a former flax mill. Turn left and through the gate, keeping close to the river, across the field and through Mill Farm, once a busy corn mill. Continue along the track across the Demesnes and ahead via Gray Lane to the crossroads of Thorngate to the left, Bridgegate ahead, and to the right the steep street of The Bank. Take the latter to return through the town centre, or ahead along Bridgegate to return by the outward route, back to the 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 prowd@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

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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

