



Walking In... Teesdale

BARNARD CASTLE WEST CIRCULAR THE BRIDGES WALK

START AT: SCAR TOP,
BARNARD CASTLE

DISTANCE: 11 MILES

TIME: 5.5-6 HOURS

Series Walk...

Nº. 12

A long, leisurely walk through the ever changing Deepdale Woods Nature Reserve; through open fields to the historic and picturesque Nabb Bridge over Deepdale Beck; down to the village of Boldron; past the ruins of Egglestone Abbey and back to Barnard Castle.

Route Information

Outdoor Leisure Map 31

Leaving Barnard Castle via Scar Top, enjoy this long but leisurely circular walk through Deepdale taking in ever-changing woodlands and across fields offering lovely views of Teesdale. Discover the stone-arched Nabb Bridge, and a former packhorse bridge, both only accessible on foot, and the lovely 17th century Thorsgill packhorse bridge, near historic Egglestone Abbey.

From Scar Top near the entrance to the castle take the footpath along the side of the play area and mini golf course down into Flatts Wood, with the River Tees on your left. Cross the bridge over the river, known locally as the Silver Bridge, which is an Aqueduct, built in 1893 by the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board. Carefully cross the road and go through the gate in front of you into Deepdale Woods. Continue along the path until just before a ford across a stream. Take the right fork and over the footbridge, then keep right to go up the hill. Continue forward to the top of the wood, where you will find a gate into a field. Go straight ahead to another gate and on to Raygill Farm. On reaching the farmyard, turn left, follow the signpost and then left again into the lane and follow it to a 'T' junction, with The Camping & Caravanning Club site on your right. Turn left here and follow the tarmac lane where it turns right, but where it turns left to Osmond Farm after about 100 yards, keep straight ahead on the unmade track through a number of gates, and across a lane which is the route of the old railway line. Cross the next field, then head left towards the farm at the top left of the field - The Rigg. Go straight through the farm yard to a gate in the stone wall slightly to your left, then straight ahead through the gate opposite, then left onto the track ahead. Continue through the wood to a farm (Low Crag), through

the farmyard, then down a track to the left. Head across the field, past the side of a house (High Crag), then down a sunken lane to Nabb Bridge. This picturesque bridge was built over three hundred years ago by a local benefactor in thanks for being saved from drowning nearby. The inscription says: "William Hutchinson, of Delroo, Esquire, whose great charity was most exemplary in all respects, so likewise in the building of this bridge at Cragg, the place of his most happy nativity, which was built in August 1699. Edward Addison, fecit". Cross the bridge then go left up the hill to the farm (Nabb Farm). Keep to the right of the farm buildings, and beyond them go left through the gate and turn right onto the farm track. Follow this to the next farm (North Thornberry). Just past North Thornberry on a right hand bend, go left up the grass track for about 10yds, then over the stone stile on your right. Across the field head for a gate in the stone wall halfway up the hill. Go through this and keep straight ahead, then through a gate by a barn, and continue straight ahead to the farm (North Field). Follow the track through the farmyard until you see a barn with outside stone steps on your right. With your back to the steps go through the gate in front of you, and go half right to a stone stile in the corner of this small meadow. Continue towards the end of the barn ahead, and cross the stone stile beside it,

and continue ahead. After passing the buildings go through the gate ahead and then through another gate at the opposite side of the field. Keep ahead, aiming for a prominent concrete ladder stile to cross the former railway line, then up and through a gate. Continue straight ahead, following the hedge on the right, passing through two gates to reach the farmyard of Smart Gill. Turn right onto the farm track, over the stream, then through a gate on the left. Head towards the double electricity poles, then to the right hand corner of the next field, go through the gate and along the field edge to a stile to reach the main road (A67) at Startforth Grange. Turn left and after approximately 100yds carefully cross the road to a stile into the field. Keep straight ahead and over a stile on the other side of the hill. Head for the top right hand corner of the next field to the next stile. Cross the bridge over the stream (Thorsgill Beck), bear slightly left across the field to the line of large trees on your right, then turn left and over a stile on to the minor road to Boldron. Turn right along it then left in the village, then shortly left again over a stone stile by an open grassy area on your left. Keep straight ahead over two more stiles and through a gate, slightly right over another stile, through the stones, and over another stile next to a barn. Go past Athelstan's Well (current wellhead dates from 1879 and used to feed Rokeby Hall nearby). Continue to the stone bridge in the far right hand corner of the field, known by Boldron people as a packhorse bridge, which it's low parapets suggest, but it now has a stile at each end. Turn right along the stream (Thorsgill Beck), over the stile, then slightly left to a stile at the side of a gate. Carry straight on to a gate in left handcorner of field, through another gate, then turn sharp right



Nabb Bridge

by a gate on your left. Cross the field, through a small copse, and straight across two more fields to a lane. Turn right down the lane, up some steps into the wood, and carefully across the road (B6277). Follow the footpath down through the wood by the stream (Thorsgill Beck), crossing a footbridge, then through a gate into a meadow. After about 200yds, cross the footbridge on your right, turn left along the base of the hill to a gate onto the minor road. To your left is Bow Bridge, a 17th century packhorse bridge, which you may use to cross Thorsgill Beck before continuing along the road. Part-way up the hill, turn right through a stone squeeze-stile in the hedge (marked as "The Teesdale Way"). Continue through 4 fields, turn right down the road to Riverview Caravan Park, then left around the static caravans to a public path and gate to your left. Follow the lane until you see a footpath angling down on your right. Go down the path to cross Thorngate Bridge (known locally as "The Green Bridge"). Continue straight up through the town to return to the starting point.

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

the.
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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

