



# *Walking In...* Teesdale

## ABBEY BRIDGE & WHORLTON CIRCULAR

START AT: EGGLESTONE ABBEY  
CAR PARK

DISTANCE: 6.5 MILES

TIME: 3.5 HOURS

Series Walk...

# N<sup>o</sup>. 2

*A circular walk following the Teesdale Way along the River Tees downstream from Abbey Bridge past Meeting of the Waters and picturesque Dairy Bridge, made famous in the painting by Joseph Turner, through fields to Whorlton suspension bridge, returning on the much higher north bank, also designated as Teesdale Way, back to Abbey Bridge.*

PART OF THE TEESDALE WAY

# Route Information

Outdoor Leisure Map 31  
Explorer 304

*From the free car park at Egglestone Abbey, the walk passes The Meeting of the Waters, where the river Greta flows into the Tees; past picturesque Dairy Bridge; a view of Mortham Tower medieval fortified manor house, built at the end of the 15th century; through fields to Whorlton suspension bridge; then returning to Abbey Bridge and Egglestone Abbey, founded in 1195 for a group of Premonstratensian canons and dissolved in 1540 by King Henry VIII.*

The car park at Egglestone Abbey can be found by leaving Barnard Castle past The Bowes Museum and following the signs for the A66. After crossing the narrow Abbey Bridge, controlled by traffic lights turn right along a lane, then shortly take a left fork up to the car park beside the ruins of the Abbey. Leave the car park(1) back along the lane to Abbey Bridge, built in 1773, which had a toll house at the end near you (the two round ‘flower

gardens’ were the two bases of the toll house). Cross the road (but not the bridge) to take the sign-posted path into the woods, down to the Teesdale Way, beside the river. There are stepping stones where the path crosses the Manifold Beck where sculptures mark the boundaries of Egglestone and Rokeby – this is a feature of all of the parish boundaries on this walk.





**Whorlton Bridge**

Cross the beck and up the steps continue on the path around the edge of the field. At the corner, go over the stile, through a small wood, and where the footpath meets a private road turn left along it, shortly to reach Dairy Bridge over the River Greta(2). Follow the lane gently uphill towards Mortham Tower, but very soon turn left, as signposted, Teesdale Way (Whorlton 1 ½ miles), towards a stand of trees surrounded by a fence. Cross the field, over a stone stile, and continue ahead keeping to the top of the field. There are lovely views over open fields down to the River Tees to your left.

Climb over a stile next to a gate and continue ahead until the next stile, where you will see the Rokeby and Wycliffe parish boundary markers. Cross the stile and bear left around the edge of a field for approx. 200 yards, and at the overgrown old stone wall turn right, and keeping the wall on your left, go past ruined barns on the left, and through a gate in the corner of the field. Continue along the side of the wall, through the gate directly ahead. Bear left diagonally across the next field to the bottom lefthand corner – a stone barn is visible at the bottom of the field – and over a stile onto the road(3). Turn left down to Whorlton Suspension Bridge where the views of the river are spectacular.

The current bridge was opened in 1831 as a toll bridge and is the oldest suspension bridge in the country still having its original chains. Across the bridge follow the footpath up the steps and almost immediately turn left along a path. Continue past houses, and then along the fiededge. Go through a gate and at the corner of the field follow the path as it drops down through a small wood and then up a short slope, keeping straight ahead through the gate to follow the path along the top of a slope topped by a line of trees. Curve left around the edge of the trees and down to a gate in front of you. Continue close to the wood through four gates and along the edge of the wood. After a while the path will take you down some steps, over a bridge and up the other side out of the wood into a field (4). Follow the path along the left edge of the field, as waymarked by the yellow Teesdale Way markers on the field gates. At a gate in a stone wall, at the end of the trees immediately on your left, continue ahead, to a gate in the top corner of the far wall. Continue straight ahead across the next field, passing just left of the large tree in the middle of the field and follow the signpost diagonally left down to a stone stile about 50 yards from the bottom of the wall ahead, cross it and maintain direction to cross a stile in the bottom left corner of the field. Continue until you reach a gate on the left, under trees down a slight dip and into the woods, signed Teesdale Way. (The path through the wood has only recently been designated a public footpath and at 2020 was not yet shown on Outdoor Leisure map 31). Follow the path down to the river, noting the disused limekiln with interpretation board. On reaching Abbey Bridge turn left to cross it, watching out for traffic, then turn right back to the start.

# 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](mailto: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.

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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

