



# *Walking In...* Teesdale

## COTHERSTONE WEST CIRCULAR

START AT: THE FOX & HOUNDS, PUBLIC HOUSE  
COTHERSTONE

DISTANCE: 6 OR 3 MILES

TIME: 3 OR 1.5 HOURS

Series Walk...

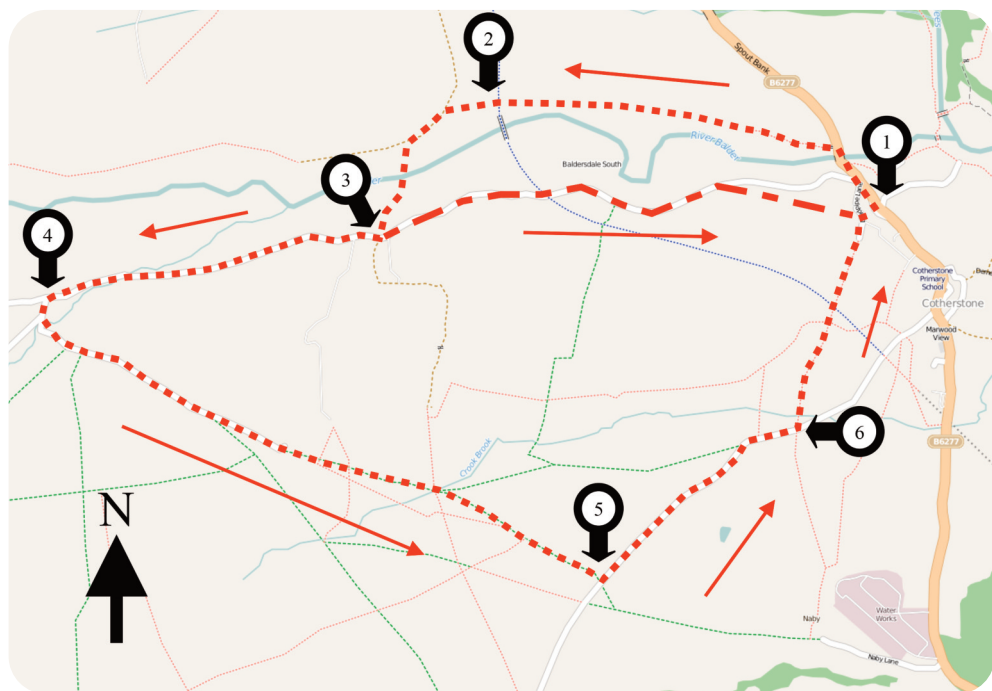
# N<sup>o</sup>. 7

*This is a moderate circular route up Baldersdale, over fields, along a quiet road and a bridleway along the edge of Cotherstone Moor. There is a shorter option by returning before the moorland section.*  
**PLEASE NOTE:** dogs should be kept on a short lead while crossing Cotherstone Moor.

## Outdoor Leisure Map 31

From the Fox & Hounds public house (1) follow the main road left down to the bridge over the River Balder, taking care of traffic on the way. Over the bridge turn left through a small wooden gate to follow the path diagonally right across the field. The path climbs up through the trees, and you will soon see Doe Park Caravan Site on the right. A stile is crossed and the path continues along the left-hand edge of four large fields.

On reaching a stile into the fifth field a view opens out of the impressive 9-arch viaduct built in 1868 to carry the old Barnard Castle to Middleton-in-Teesdale railway line. Your path continues straight across the field to some steps which take you over the old railway track(2) and across another field to a gate in the far left corner. Go through this then left along a farm track.





Goldsborough, Cotherstone

After about 100 yards, and before the gateway in a stone wall, leave the track and head left down the steep slope to a stile at the bottom end of the wall. Cross the stile into the lovely wooded gorge of the Balder. Cross the footbridge and continue up the path and along the top of another small gorge, to a gate next to a barn, to come out onto a country lane(3).

*For the shorter walk back to Cotherstone, turn left along the lane for about 1 mile. Pass West Park farm on your left and about 300 yards further on you will see a bridleway signpost to the right. Go past this and further along the road take the signposted footpath right and follow it along the right hand edge of the field. When you reach the next field at a gap, go through this and bear slightly left, then cross three more fields to arrive in the back lane of Cotherstone at a fingerpost signing the path which you have just walked. Turn right along the lane and then left to arrive back at the start.*

The main route goes right at (3) along the lane for just over a mile, over a bridge, and up to where another lane goes off to the left opposite a farm(4). Take this lane, over a cattle grid, and follow the left fork

over the bridge and up to the edge of Cotherstone Moor. Over to the right in the distance is the prominent, flat-topped outcrop of Goldsborough while behind you a lovely view of Baldersdale and Teesdale opens out. You may well see, or hear, the calls of birds such as grouse, curlew, lapwing, redshank and sky lark.

Where the road ends by the gated entrance to Booze Wood Farm, continue ahead, following the bridleway, over the rough grass and rushes. Keeping the stone wall to your left, but not following it, go over a rise in the ground ahead to pick up a faint track which leads you into a dip where you cross a stream. Keep straight ahead on the bridleway, which crosses several sleeper bridges. In the distance you will see a group of pine trees which you are heading towards. As you near the trees, which are just before the Cotherstone to Bowes road, you should see a large rock among the tussock grass and heather on your left. This is known as The Butter Stone, where during the time of the plague, farm produce was paid for by money placed in vinegar which acted as a disinfectant. You can see the hollow in the stone where the money was left. Join the road(5) and follow it left for about ½ mile. Just before a stone bridge go left over a stone stile in a wall, just beyond a gated farm entrance(6). A path will lead you over a small stream, by a plantation, then straight through 3 fields to cross the old railway line. Follow the line of telegraph poles down through the field, and aim for a gate next to a house in the right-hand corner of the field. Go through the small gate, and turn left along the lane to join the village street close 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.

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

