

# ENJOY WALKING IN TEESDALE

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

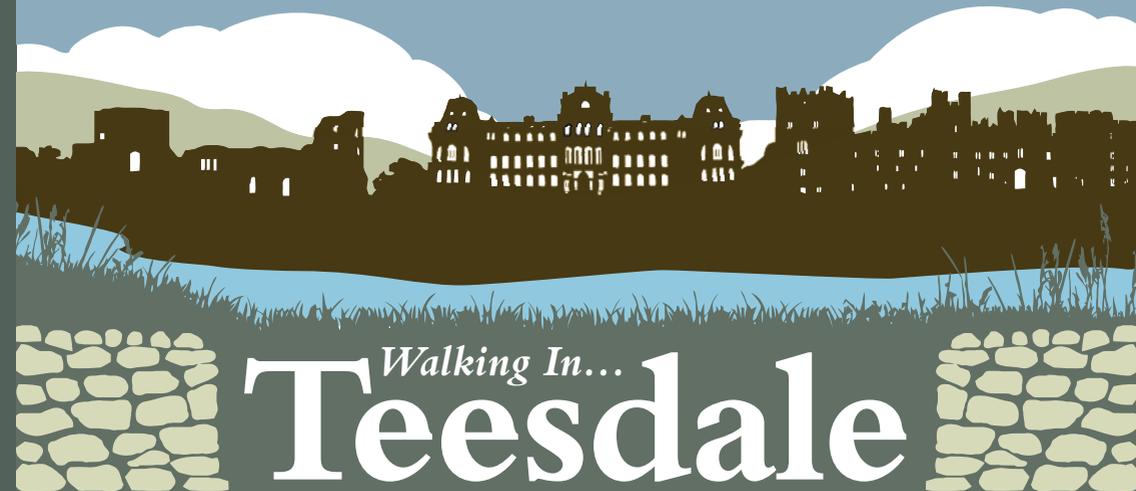
Walk 8 - High Force Circular

Walk 9 - High Force & Upper Teesdale Circular

Walk 10 - Staindrop Circular

Walk 11 - Bowes East Circular

Walk 12 - Bowes West Circular



## BOWES EAST CIRCULAR

START AT: BOWES CAR PARK  
OPPOSITE VILLAGE HALL

DISTANCE: 3.5 MILES

TIME: 2 HOURS



the  
**witham**  
Culture • Community • Commerce

3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle DL12 8LY  
info@thewitham.org.uk  
01833 631 107  
www.thewitham.org.uk

The Witham would like to thank the following people and organisations for their help and support in the production of this leaflet:

- WITHAM VOLUNTEERS
- HEART OF TEESDALE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
- MAPS: JAMIE MCBAIN  
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Series Walk...  
**Nº. 12**

*A leisurely walk of 3½ miles, along lanes and across fields in the valley of the River Greta. In the churchyard of St. Giles, up the hill on the left, is the grave of William Shaw, headmaster of the old school in the village known as Shaw's Academy. This became Dotheboys Hall in Dickens' "Nicholas Nickleby".*

# Route Information

Ordnance Survey Map 92  
Ordnance Leisure Map 31

*From the free car park by the crossroads at the eastern end of Bowes, you will walk up through the village past St Giles church and Bowes Castle, built in 1170 on the site of an earlier Roman Fort. From there you descend to the River Greta, cross the bridge, and walk east high up in the valley. The return route is part track and part fields lower down nearer the river.*

From the car park at Bowes (1) walk up through the village. Turn left down a narrow lane just past the churchyard (2), and at the bend in the lane is the entrance to Bowes Castle. Continue along the lane, past the graveyard on the right, and soon go right through a stone stile on a sign-posted footpath which goes diagonally left across a field. Go through another stile in the middle of the stone wall and continue ahead in the

same general direction, into the woods above the River Greta. The path leads downhill to a track, where you turn left and soon meet a lane close to Gilmonby Bridge (3). Turn right along the lane through Gilmonby to a sign-posted T-junction (4).

Turn left along the lane where you will get extensive views over the surrounding countryside. The Stang Forest is in the



Bowes Castle

distance over to your right. Where the surfaced lane ends after about a mile go straight on through a gate, along between dry stone walls, then through another gate. You are now in an area known as The Rigg, which is part of Scargill Low Moor. Bear left through the rushes and heather on a track which can be very wet in places. Aim for the right hand edge of the plantation of pine trees in the distance.

Just past the plantation you will see a stone building and a barn on your left. Go over the stone stile next to the gate and keep straight ahead across a muddy area to the wall ahead of you. Climb the stile in the corner and bear left across the wet field to join a farm track. (5) Turn left along the track where you will get good views ahead which include the village and castle of Bowes, and beyond to the summit of Mickle Fell, at 2591 feet the highest point in County Durham. On reaching the next farm, Plover Hall, keep to the left of the buildings and leave the track to go right and over a stile in the stone wall by the trees. This will take you into a small wooded enclosure and through another stile into a large field.

Keep straight ahead past a way-marked telegraph pole to another stile. Go straight through the next smaller field, and bear right onto the drive to Howlow Gill Farm. Go through the field at the right of the buildings, and then take care crossing over electric fences which are in this area. Look out for rubber tubing over the wire, and cross at this point. Head diagonally left across the sloping field and down to a track. Turn left along the track to the next field where you turn right, over another electric fence- take care again here. Head diagonally across the field, to a stile into the wood. Over this stile the path leads down to a small bridge and out of the trees by a stile on the edge of a large field.

Cross the field, aiming for the far corner of the plantation. Go over the stile next to the stone wall, and keep straight ahead across three more fields to join the road by an iron kissing gate. Turn right and follow the lane, over Gilmonby Bridge and up the hill, to the car park where your walk started.