

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

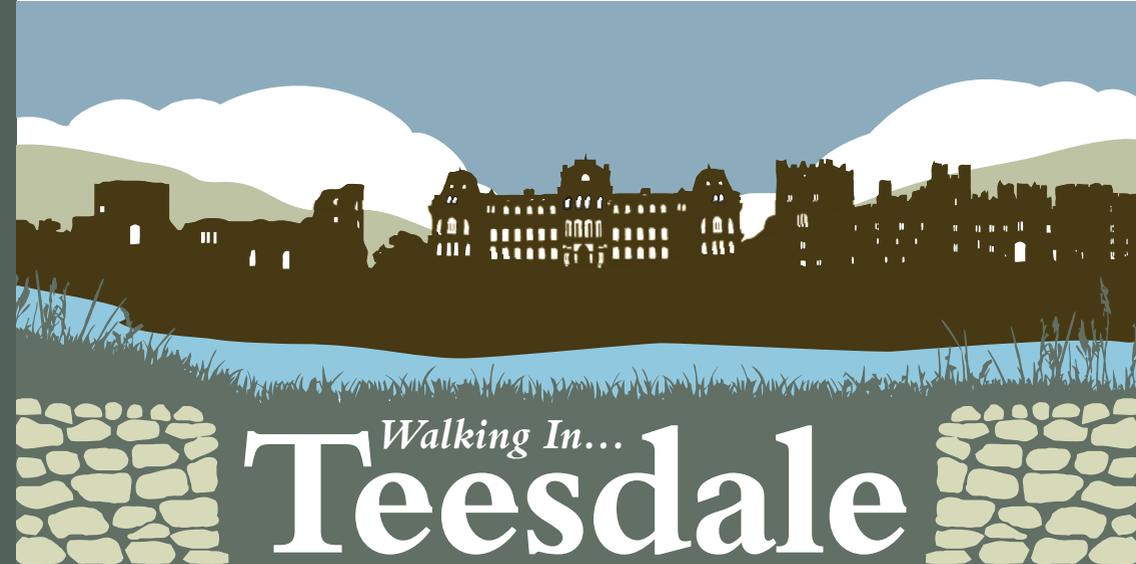
Walk 8 - High Force Circular

Walk 9 - High Force & Upper Teesdale Circular

Walk 10 - Staindrop Circular

Walk 11 - Bowes East Circular

Walk 12 - Bowes West Circular



Walking In... **Teesdale**

COTHERSTONE WEST CIRCULAR

START AT: THE FOX & HOUNDS,
COTHERSTONE

DISTANCE: 7 OR 3 MILES

TIME: 3 OR 1.5 HOURS

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- HEART OF TEESDALE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
- MAPS: JAMIE MCBAIN
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Series Walk...

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This is a moderate circular route, initially walking up Baldersdale then after a while on a country lane, heading across Cotherstone Moor. There is an option to shorten the walk by missing out the moorland and returning directly to Cotherstone.

PLEASE NOTE: dogs are not allowed on Cotherstone Moor.

Route Information

Ordnance Survey Map 92
Ordnance Leisure Map 31

Cotherstone started as an agricultural community from Anglo Saxon times, and during the 19th century developed more as a commuter settlement with the coming of the Tees Valley Railway. Many cottages were rebuilt, new houses constructed and shops opened in this period, and the village became a popular centre for exploring the surrounding countryside. Cotherstone cheese is still made locally.

From the Fox & Hounds(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, a sign-posted path goes off to the right just past a black barn. Follow this path along the right hand edge of the field; when you reach the next field at a gap go through this and bear slightly left. Cross three more fields to arrive in the back lane of Cotherstone at a fingerpost. 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 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 track which crosses several sleeper bridges. In the distance you will see a group of pine trees which you aim 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.