



Walking In...
Teesdale

**BARNARD CASTLE
TO COTHERSTONE**

START AT: SCAR TOP,
BARNARD CASTLE

DISTANCE: 4.25 MILES

TIME: 2.5 HOURS

For a circular walk please refer to
Walk 5 - Cotherstone to Barnard Castle

Series Walk...

N^o. 4

A walk through woods and fields, with a steep climb to the path high above the river and final descent through the trees back to the river. There are pleasant, pretty views, whatever the season, particularly of the castle. Crossing the two bridges at the end, there is the option to walk back to Barnard Castle or walk into Cotherstone.

PART OF THE TEESDALE WAY

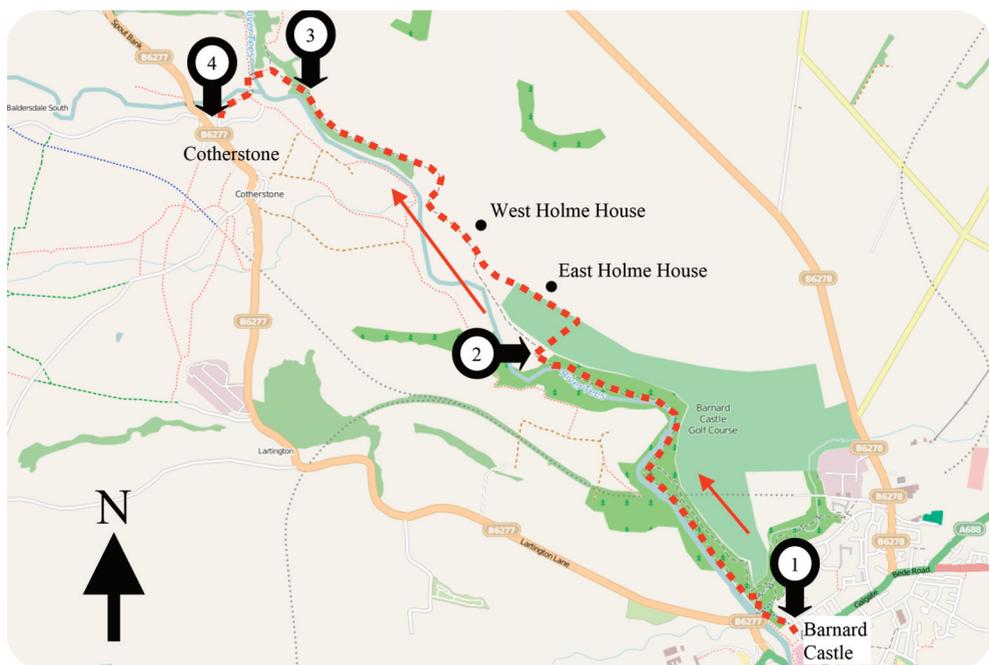
Route Information

Outdoor Leisure Map 31

Leaving by the footpath from Scar Top, you will pass the Silver Bridge with a photogenic view of the castle. Crossing Percy Beck to the Band Stand, the walk will take you upstream along the Tees through woods and fields, with a steep climb to the path high above the river. You will finally return to the woods and descend to a bridge crossing the River Tees and another crossing the River Balder. Here you have the option to walk back to Barnard Castle or walk into Cotherstone.

The walk is on part of the Teesdale Way which stretches from the moorlands of Cumbria and Durham to the industrial landscapes of Teesside and the coast. From Scar Top (1) take the foot path which goes along the side of the play area and mini golf course down past the former Gamekeeper's Cottage and into Flatts Wood, with the River Tees on your left.

Pass the bridge on the left, which is the Tees Aqueduct built in 1898 by the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board and known locally as the Silver Bridge. From here you can get a fantastic view of the castle, built by Bernard Baliol and his son of the same name around 1130 on the site of an earlier wooden structure, and if you are lucky, you might spot an otter, a dipper or a kingfisher.





View of Barnard Castle from the River Bank

Follow the path round to the right and cross the first wooden bridge on the left over Percy Beck coming to the open grassy area. This is known as the Band Stand since the time when concerts were held here in Edwardian times. Follow the footpath along the side of the river for about quarter of a mile. The path then splits, but soon joins up again. Take care when it splits a second time and keep to the left, as a steep stone-stepped path up to the right leads to the remains of the Tees Railway Viaduct. This was built in 1861 and carried the line from Barnard Castle to Middleton and Kirby Stephen via Stainmore.

Keep to the left when the path splits once more and stay with the river, passing the Wishing Stones (if you can pass between the Stones without touching them, and make a wish, it will be granted). When you reach a gate leading into a field, (2) pass through and go straight along the fence for about 100 yards. Turn right through a gate and climb up the steep path to the fields above, go through the gate, turn left and keeping the woods on your left, pass through several fields by the gates.

East Holme House will be seen to the right, then West Holme House where you climb a large ladder stile, and cross two fields following the yellow waymarker arrows on the stiles. After the second stile the path becomes narrow, and soon turns away from the river to follow a small stream, which is crossed by a bridge to climb to an open area. At the far side, climb over the wall by means of the steps and head for the right edge of the trees so you are again following the edge of the woods.

Follow the wall on your left for almost half a mile, crossing two very large fields. Half way across a third field, look out for a small gate on the left giving access into the woods (3). Go through and follow the path down through the trees to an open grassy area by the river. The house on the far side was formerly the local mill. Follow the path to cross the bridge over the River Tees, turn left and follow the path round to a smaller bridge which takes you across the River Balder.

You now have two choices. You can take either the steep grass hill immediately in front of you and start back towards Barnard Castle - see leaflet 'Cotherstone to Barnard Castle' (Walk No.5) - or follow the road on your right leading up into the village of Cotherstone (4). Here you will find two public houses; The Fox and Hounds and The Red Lion, and bus stops to catch the No. 95 or No. 96 buses back to Barnard Castle, or on to Middleton-in-Teesdale (but not on a Sunday!).

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 prow@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

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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

