

THE TEESDALE WAY – SECTION 2 (PRE-PUBLICATION INSTRUCTIONS)

Distance: 11 km/6.5 miles

Start & Finish: Cauldron Snout (Birkdale Bridge) (NY814287) to Holwick Head Bridge (NY889283)

Elevation: 466 m/293 m/-173 m

Terrain: Flat/undulating/hilly over upland pastures and riverbanks

Surface: Generally firm with muddy, boggy and rocky sections on trail, footpath and track

Exposure: Very exposed for the entire journey

Navigation: Generally distinct with some indistinct sections particularly in poor visibility. Way-marking is generally good and is for the Pennine Way. (OS Explorer OL31)

Facilities: High Force Hotel [0.5 km]

Comments: Section Two joins the River Tees from the outset and almost immediately plunges 30 m alongside the waterfall at Cauldron Snout (B). This is a physically challenging clamber involving a long, steep and exposed descent the route of which is indistinct at times and over rocks that are often very wet and potentially slippery. Please don't underestimate it and take care! Also, there is a long section of intermittent duck-boarding over a very marshy Lingy Holm (D) followed by an extremely rugged section under Falcon Clints (C) where large rocks extend all the way down to the river – thick-soled boots are recommended for walkers. Only very limited facilities are available within reasonable proximity to the end of this section. Car-parking at the finish is available at the hotel. To get there: cross the river via Holwick Head Bridge then turn L and continue upstream alongside the river to a gate in the corner of the field. Through the gate, climb the steps up through the wood, to the road. The car park is on the other side of the road.

Directions: From the E end of the bridge, turn off the track and continue downstream on the signed trail alongside the river before clambering steeply down Cauldron Snout (B) (see 'Comments' above). At the bottom, bear L on the trail – which is at times boggy, duck-boarded and very rocky, and which often runs along the very edge of what is now quite a wide and fast flowing river. Continue 3.5 km towards Widdy Bank Farm (F) then approximately 200 m before the farm, cross the stile and bear R off the track to another stile shortly afterwards. Over the stile, continue 1.5 km on the trail (alongside the river at first then over upland pasture) to Sayer Hill Farm (G). Descend the hill alongside the farm and turn R on the track. Continue to the bridge over Harwood Beck. Over the bridge, turn R and continue 1 km alongside the beck past Wheysike House (H) on the opposite side, to Cronkley Bridge. Cross the bridge then bear L and continue 0.5 km on the track to Cronkley Farm (J). Approaching the farm, turn R through a signed gate and continue on the trail around the perimeter of the farm buildings to another gate on the other side of the farm. Turn R through the gate and continue downhill to another gate at the bottom. Go through the gate and continue steeply uphill on a less distinct trail around the side of High Crag to a stile. Over the stile, turn L and continue 300 m on the upland pavement to another gate and stile in the fence. Cross the fence and continue uphill on the pavement onto Bracken Rigg then bear L at the 'mile stone' (K) and follow the trail downhill crossing the becks via FBs onto Pasture Foot. Continue 1.5 km on the trail alongside the river passing Forcegarth Quarry and Blea Beck Force (M) to the waterfall at High Force (N). From High Force, continue 1 km downstream on the FP before descending a flight of steps to the finish at Holwick Head Bridge.

