

THE TEESDALE WAY – SECTION 4 (PRE-PUBLICATION INSTRUCTIONS)

Distance: 7.5 km/4.5 miles

Start & Finish: Middleton in Teesdale (Middleton Bridge) (NY946252) to Eggleston Bridge (NY996232)

Elevation: 222 m/264 m/199 m/-23 m

Terrain: Flat/steeply undulating on riverside trail, farmland, woodland and through a rural village

Surface: Generally firm on trail, road, tracks and FP including an extensive section of slippery, uneven, rocky and heavily rooted trail with steep drops to the river in some cases. Some wet and potentially very muddy sections

Exposure: Mostly sheltered with some exposed sections of high ground

Navigation: Navigation is generally distinct for the first half of the journey (Middleton to B6282). Way-marking is for the Teesdale Way and is generally good for the first half of the journey but with very little on the second half (OS Explorer OL31)

Facilities: Middleton in Teesdale []; Eggleston []

Comments: This is a fairly rugged section which crosses a series of steeply descending streams that feed into the river downstream from the caravan and camping park. Although there are flights of wooden steps to assist passage in and out of these mini-ravines the climbs, though short, are strenuous and potentially dangerous so please take care. After South Terrace (above Eggleston village) the route is entirely on or alongside roads where the traffic can be fast-moving, particularly on the short section after Eggleston village

Directions: Leave the N end of Middleton Bridge through the gap in the wall and continue 1.5 km downstream on the FP (which becomes a very rocky trail in parts) alongside the river to the caravan and camping park (B). Shortly after the park, at the top of a short climb, bear R where the trail splits and continue steeply down and up a series of wooden steps for 0.5 km before finally descending onto a flat section alongside the river that extends as far as Red Scars Quarry (C). Just after the quarry and shortly after crossing a narrow stream, continue on the trail uphill to a large gate. Through the gate, bear L on the steeper of two trails and continue uphill to a track, then to the main road (B6282). Cross the road and continue 0.5 km on a minor road (sign-posted Blackton/Stanhope) past the Baptist chapel (D) to the 'Saddle House' (E) on the R. Turn R downhill immediately after the Saddle House and cross the Eggleston Burn via the FB (if the river isn't fordable) then continue uphill on the track and cross the Blackton Beck by the same optional means. Continue uphill on the track to the junction with the road, then go straight ahead, still on the track (don't turn R into the caravan park), towards a couple of houses listed on the map as 'Newtown' (F). At the second house continue straight ahead to a stile that is hidden from view to the L of the gate (don't turn R into the field in front of the house). Either follow the arrow to the L of the trees and continue to the stile in the wall over the top of the hill OR continue alongside the wall on the R then bear L uphill at the corner to the same stile. Over the stile, cross the field to the corner of the wall of Egglestone House (H) then continue alongside the wall to the stile onto the road at South Terrace. Over the stile, bear R on the road and continue to the junction with the B6278. Turn R and continue on the FP to the next junction into Eggleston village. Continue downhill on the road between the pub and the village green. Turn L around the bottom of the village green then turn R and continue to the main road (B6282). Turn L and continue over the brow of the hill towards the junction on the R. Cross the road and continue 0.5 km steeply downhill on the B6281 from the junction, past the gates of Eggleston Hall (K) and Hell Beck waterfall (L) to the finish of the section at Eggleston Bridge.

