

THE TEESDALE WAY – SECTION 8 (PRE-PUBLICATION INSTRUCTIONS)

Distance: 12.5 km/7.5 miles.

Start & Finish: Gainford (village cross) (NZ169168) to Low Coniscliffe (lay-by A67) (NZ252140).

Elevation: 77 m/50 m/-27 m.

Terrain: Generally flat through farmland and villages crossing stiles of many types. Steeply undulating in the vicinity of High Coniscliffe

Surface: Generally firm with muddy sections on trails, road, footpaths and track.

Exposure: Most of this route is fairly sheltered with several villages en-route.

Navigation: Navigation is generally distinct. Way-marking is for 'Teesdale Way' and is good throughout the route (OS Explorer 304)

Facilities: Gainford [PH]; Piercebridge [PH]; High Coniscliffe [PH]; Low Coniscliffe [PH].

Comments: This is a predominantly flat route, ideal for the casual walker and which generally stays close to the river. It is the only section of the route to feature significant sites of Roman antiquity which it has in abundance around Piercebridge. Pleasant villages are encountered at regular intervals all of which offer attractive and inviting pubs.

Directions: From the village cross, head E out of Gainford on the road alongside the village green, past terraces Low Green and Tees View to the A67. Bear R and continue 0.5 km on the FP alongside the A67 to the signed gate on the R – just beyond St. Peter's School (A). Go through the gate and continue on the trail along a fenced corridor, through a tunnel in the railway embankment (B) then cross the field to a gap in the hedge opposite and bear R to continue 3 km on the trail, alongside the river, to Piercebridge. Approaching Piercebridge, follow the trail around Mill House (G) then continue on the road. Bear R in front of the garages and continue through the gap in the wall ahead. Bear R across the road (B6275) then turn L down the steps at the N end of the bridge (H). Go through the arch and continue to the signed gate at the corner of the wall. Through the gate continue alongside the river to a stile in the wall at the end of the field. Over the stile, turn R and cross the ditch, then continue 0.5 km on the trail alongside the river before bearing L across the field and crossing Carlbury Beck via a FB. Continue on the FP, past the site of Carlbury Mill (M) to the road (A67). Turn R and continue on the FP on the opposite side of the road into High Coniscliffe. Turn R off the road shortly before St Edwin's church (N), through a way-marked gate, heading downhill, and continue 5 km on the trail all the way to Low Coniscliffe. At several points the trail splits with optional tracks running parallel to each other: as long as you're heading generally alongside the river you're OK – take the trail nearest to the river if you're unsure. At the ford (P), continue on the track for 20 metres then bear R on the woodland trail again (the track itself takes a more direct route to Low Coniscliffe – see map). Continue on the trail as if follows the course of the river (There is also another shortcut available – see map). Under the motorway bridge continue on the trail to a small CP then bear R over a simple metal stile and continue alongside the river. At the end of the wood turn L and continue to the road. Turn R and continue on the FP then bear R through the signed gap at the large gate ahead. Continue down the green lane and over the field to the A67. If you're continuing with Section 9, turn R at the road, otherwise the lay-by is on the other side of the road, 100 m to the L, past the pub).

