

# Mark's Big Book of Local Walks Volume 2

*For staff and students to read and enjoy*

First Edition

June 2020



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## Map Reading

Some of the walking routes enclosed you may have already completed on Outdoor Education and will therefore be familiar to you when you revisit them.

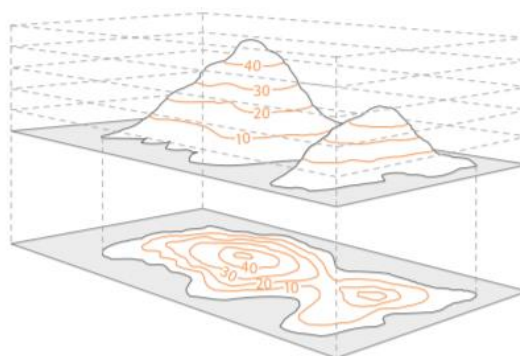
Route description, visual prompts and a route map will aid you for the routes you have yet to try.

If you are concerned what action to take if you begin to struggle to navigate half way through the route, simply turn around and retrace your steps to the start, the day has not been lost and many positive walks are out and backs.

Blue spot indicates starting point of walk.

Below are some basic features that most maps will include and will help to build your understanding of map reading.

- Roads tend to be marked in different colours depending on the type of road depicted. Roads on a map range from thick blue lines, showing motorways, Orange lines, secondary roads (B roads), yellow lines quieter minor country lanes.
- Footpaths - public rights of way are marked in green dashes
- Woods are shown in green with a coniferous or non-coniferous tree shape printed over the top.
- Buildings are marked by small brown squares outlined in black. However, some particular buildings have their own special symbols, such as churches and pubs. Any of these buildings can be useful landmarks, helping you to check your position on the map.
- Boundaries around fields such as fences, hedges, are marked with a black line, depicting the exact shape of the field.
- Rivers and streams are shown as blue lines.
- A quick way to measure distance is to count each square you cross on the map. On your Ordnance survey map each grid square measures one kilometre from side to side and from top to bottom. If you go diagonally across a square, the distance will be a bit longer – about 1.5 km.
- Contours - the height and shape of the land is shown on a map using 'contour lines'. These lines appear as thin orange or brown lines with numbers on them. The number tells you the height above sea level of that line. A contour line is drawn between points of equal height, so any single contour line will be at the same height all the way along its length. The height difference between separate contour lines is 10 metres.







**Respect other people:**

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

**Protect the natural environment:**

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

**Enjoy the outdoors:**

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs



## Egglestone Abbey Circular

**Start:** Whorlton

**Distance:** 11km

**Route:** Whorlton, Egglestone Abbey, Mortham Tower, Whorlton Bridge

This picturesque walk predominantly follows the River Tees, leading you to historical landmarks of Egglestone Abbey and Mortham Tower.

### **Mortham Tower**



### **Places of interest and route details:**

Walking down through Whorlton village will lead you to a vehicle road closure, shortly after this join the footpath signposted Egglestone Abbey.

This route is well marked and will lead to Abbey Bridge, arriving at Abbey Bridge, walk across and turn right, Egglestone Abbey will be visible in the distance.

The Abbey was founded in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, with many alterations in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The Abbey suffered due to the continuous Anglo-Scottish Wars, firstly from Scottish invaders, particularly when the Scots ravaged Yorkshire in 1315, however surprisingly it later suffered from the English army who lodged there in 1346 on route to fight the Scots at the Battle of Neville's Cross in Durham. The English soldiers caused so much damage, the abbot claimed compensation from the commanding General. Egglestone Abbey was dissolved in 1540 by King Henry VIII.

Leaving the Abbey, return to Abbey Bridge. To the right of the bridge, join the Teesdale Way, signposted Whorlton.



After 1.5km, you will arrive at a road, turn left joining a minor country lane, this will lead you to a bridge, this beauty spot is known as “Meeting of the Waters,” where the River Greta flows into the River Tees, continue along entering a field and follow the obvious track, Mortham Tower will come into view.

Mortham Tower is a Grade I listed fortified courtyard house and pele tower, which dates from the reign of King Henry VII (1485 – 1509) It is one of the best preserved medieval fortified manor houses in the North of England.

Mortham Tower in view is your trigger to leave the track, walk over the field (pictured below) to locate a stile in a wall, continue along the Teesdale Way arriving at Whorlton Bridge, cross the bridge, walk up the steps to return to Whorlton.



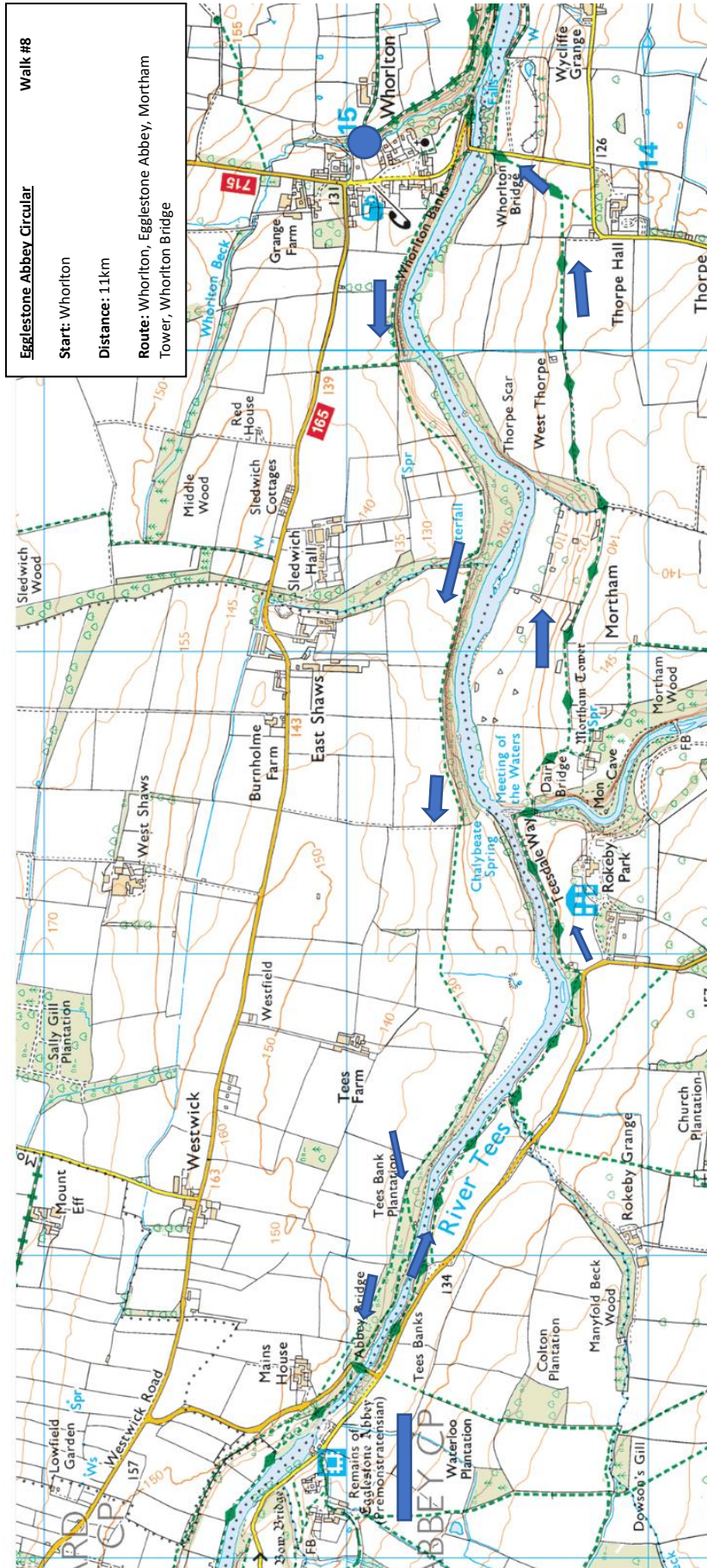
### **Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E

L – Egglestone Abbey, Whorlton Bridge

HS – Egglestone Abbey, Mortham Tower, Whorlton Bridge

SMSC - Egglestone Abbey



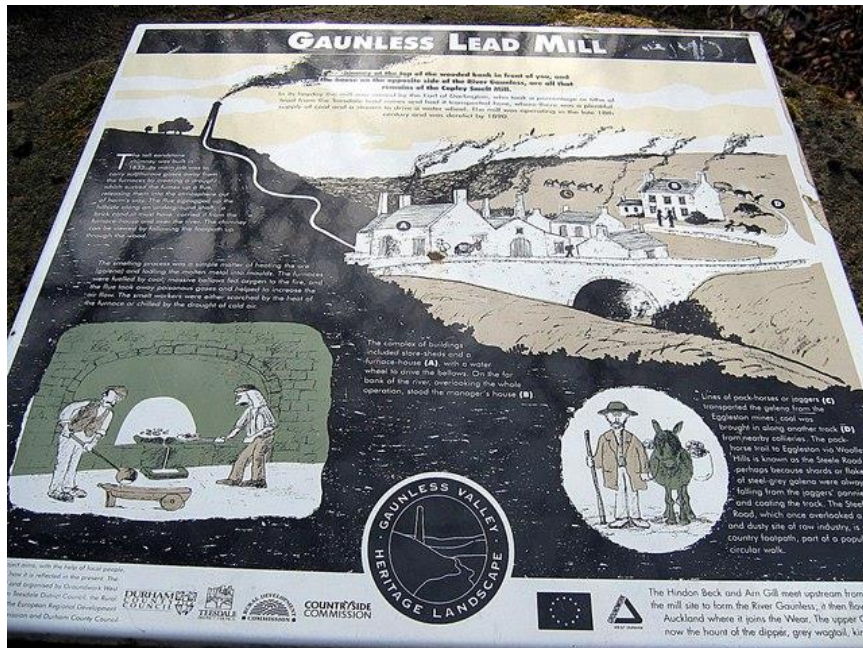
<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Whorlton, Eggleston Abbey
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Whorlton: NZ 1056 1486</p> <p>Tees Bank Plantation: NZ 0721 1479</p> <p>Mortham Tower: NZ 0869 1428</p> <p>Whorlton Bridge: NZ 1065 1453</p>	

## Woodland – Gaunless Valley Heritage Walk

**Start:** Gaunless Smelt Mill, Copley

**Distance:** 11.5 km

**Route:** Copley, Woodland, Lynesack



The upper end of the Gaunless Valley is an area with many small-scale collieries. The route will lead through the workings at Arn Gill, information points will be on route to provide further information, later you will arrive at the former mining village of Woodland with its unusual St Mary's Church, made of corrugated iron.

The Woodland Tramway brought coal from workings in Arn Gill and ran northwards up the valley side, before disappearing into a tunnel running underneath Woodland, leading to Woodland Colliery, which closed in 1928.

The walk starts from the car park at the Gaunless Smelt Mill, immediately you will see the huge chimney, built in 1832, designed to carry away the noxious fumes from lead smelting.

From the car park cross over the bridge and take the public bridleway to the left (look for the bridleway sign) which runs above the site of the Gaunless Smelt Mill and through Cowclose Plantation. Continue along this bridleway for 2.5km, this will lead to a road, follow the road, turn right, walk up hill entering Woodland. Continue through, arriving at The Edge Hotel, turn right downhill and after 30 metres turn left joining the footpath. The footpath will lead to pass Lunton Hill Plantation, continue straight, when approaching the next plantation (Softly Covert) turn right, leading to a minor road onto Lynesack, turn right then left and return to Car Park.

## Pear Tree School Curriculum:

P.E

L – Information Points

HS – Mining



<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Copley, Woodland
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Copley: NZ 0863 2498</p> <p>Miller's Hill: NZ 0713 2534</p> <p>Woodland: NZ 0701 2638</p> <p>Lynesack NZ 0917 2597</p>	



### Cockfield Fell Heritage Walk

**Start:** Hollymoor Car Park, Cockfield

**Distance:** The circular route is 5.5km, I have kept the mileage low in order for you to be able to fully explore the fell at your leisure, go off route in search of settlements, disused quarries and shafts.

#### Cockfield Fell



Cockfield Fell is England's largest scheduled ancient monument, almost 350 hectares in size. The fell has a rich historic past, which includes Pre-Roman settlements.

The whole area is strewn with earth workings, evidence of the fell's coal mining history. Mining first started on the fell in the fourteenth century, this was possible due to coal seams being very near to the surface in this part of west Durham.

A knight from Suffolk, Robert de Cockfield, a judge and sheriff representing the King in various parts of the north, decided to reclaim and settle in an ancient manor house and its estate. He decided to call it Bearepayr – beautiful spot – but it soon became known by his own name, Cockfield.

In 1869 the fell became a regulated pasture, managed by the Fell Reeves. This gives local stockholders the right to graze their animals on the land after paying a yearly rent.

**Route details:**

The walk starts from Hollymoor car park, from here turn left and proceed to the road junction, turn right and head into Cockfield. Head straight through Cockfield and turn left opposite St. Mary's Church towards Cockfield Fell.

Continue forward along the fell passing Fell House, continue on this route until you meet the river, turn left follow the river up stream for the entire length of the fell then turn left and join minor road, returning to Cockfield.

**Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E

L – Information boards

HS – Mining history



Walk #10

**Cockfield Fell Heritage Walk**

Start: Hollymoor Car Park, Cockfield

Distance: 5km

<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Copley, Woodland
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Hollymoor Car Park, Cockfield: NZ 1148 2418</p> <p>Fell Houses: NZ 1296 2484</p> <p>Quarry (Dis): NZ 1154 2530</p>	

### Auckland Castle Wander

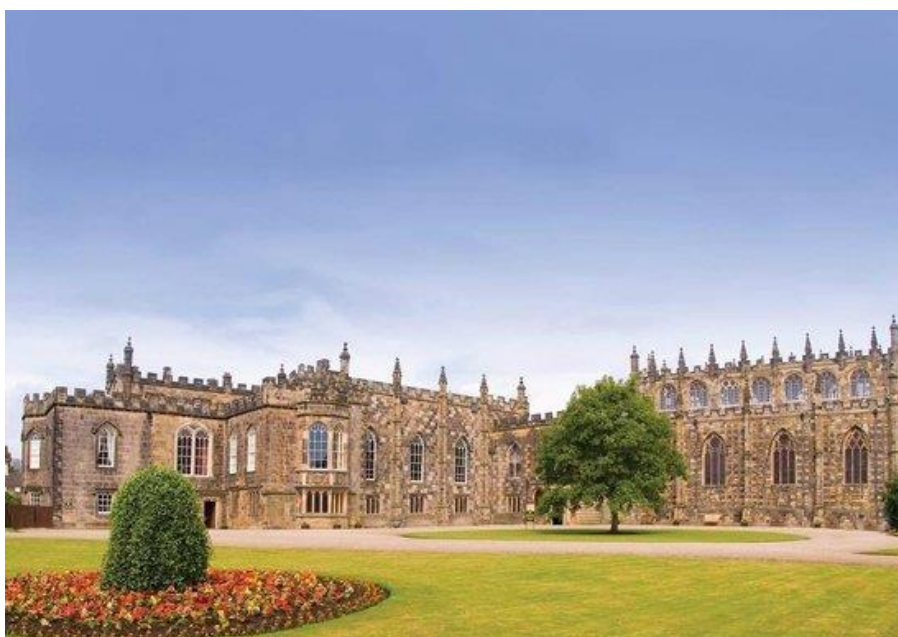
**Start:** Batts Terrace Car Park , Dial Stobb Hill Road, Bishop Auckland (Road below Merry Monk Pub)

**Distance:** 9 km

**Route:** Binchester, Belburn Wood, Auckland Castle

**Places of interest and route details:**

#### Auckland Castle



The history of Auckland Castle dates back to the 12th century. The Prince Bishops of Durham were powerful men, second only to the English monarch. Their authority and political influence was vital and tied to their location, between the warring lands of England and Scotland, further south than the more dangerous borderland of Northumberland.

Auckland Castle was one of their primary homes. It was where they came to hunt and entertain, among the landscape of the surrounding parklands.

The bishops had the power to raise an army and administer their own laws, and they could mint their own coins.

These men were often innovators. They were able to influence the law of the land, and the Bishop of Durham still sits in the House of Lords. Auckland Castle is one of the best-preserved bishops' palaces in the whole of Europe

### Places of interest and route details:

To your left is Newton Cap Viaduct, built in 1857 to carry the Bishop Auckland, Durham Railway across the River Wear, the viaduct fell into disuse in 1968 and was later converted for road use in 1995.

Leaving the car park turn right, following the road upriver, continue along until you reach Binchester Plantation, turn right, joining the footpath, the picture right highlights to look out for the layby as an indicator to locate the footpath.



Walking up hill through this woodland leads to a large field, the footpath follows the fence line up and then turning left continuing along the fence line until half way, turn right through the stile and head to the woods in front. Arriving at the woodland turn right entering Bellburn wood, continue through and then join the "old Lines" route leading to pass Auckland Golf Course, once the golf course ends, turn right along farmland, returning to Bishop Auckland. Arriving in Bishop explore the grounds of Auckland Castle and Deer Shelter.

### Pear Tree School Curriculum:

P.E

L - Auckland Castle

HS – Auckland Castle

SMSC - Auckland Castle, The Prince Bishops

**Walk #11**

**Auckland Castle Wander**

**Start:** Batts Terrace Car Park

**Distance:** 9 km

**Route:** Binchester, Belburn Wood, Auckland Castle



Outdoor Activity Information	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Bishop Auckland
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:  Batts Terrace Car Park: NZ 2111 3036  Binchester Plantation: NZ 2134 3118  Bellburn Wood: NZ 2185 3173  Auckland Castle: NZ 2156 3015	

## Walk #12

### Cleasby Circular

**Start:** Cleasby

**Distance:** 12 km

**Route:** Cleasby, Manfield

The start of the walk will follow the River Tees, leading to Manfield village, and then heading through local farm land and returning to Cleasby.



Cleasby Church

#### **Route details:**

Arriving at Cleasby the route begins by walking past St Peters Church, following this road will lead to the river bank, turn left joining the footpath, continue on this route for 3km, arriving at a farm road, turn left and walk to Manfield.

At the crossroad, continue straight over, walking past Manor Farm, walk for a further 90 metres, a woodland will then be in view on your left (Manfield Fox Covert), in line with the woodland, take the footpath left.

Following the footpath, will lead you to a bridge crossing the A1, after going over the bridge turn left and then follow the footpath right, leading to Cleasby Lane. Turn left and return to Cleasby.

#### **Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E

HS – Cleasby Church

SMSC - Cleasby Church

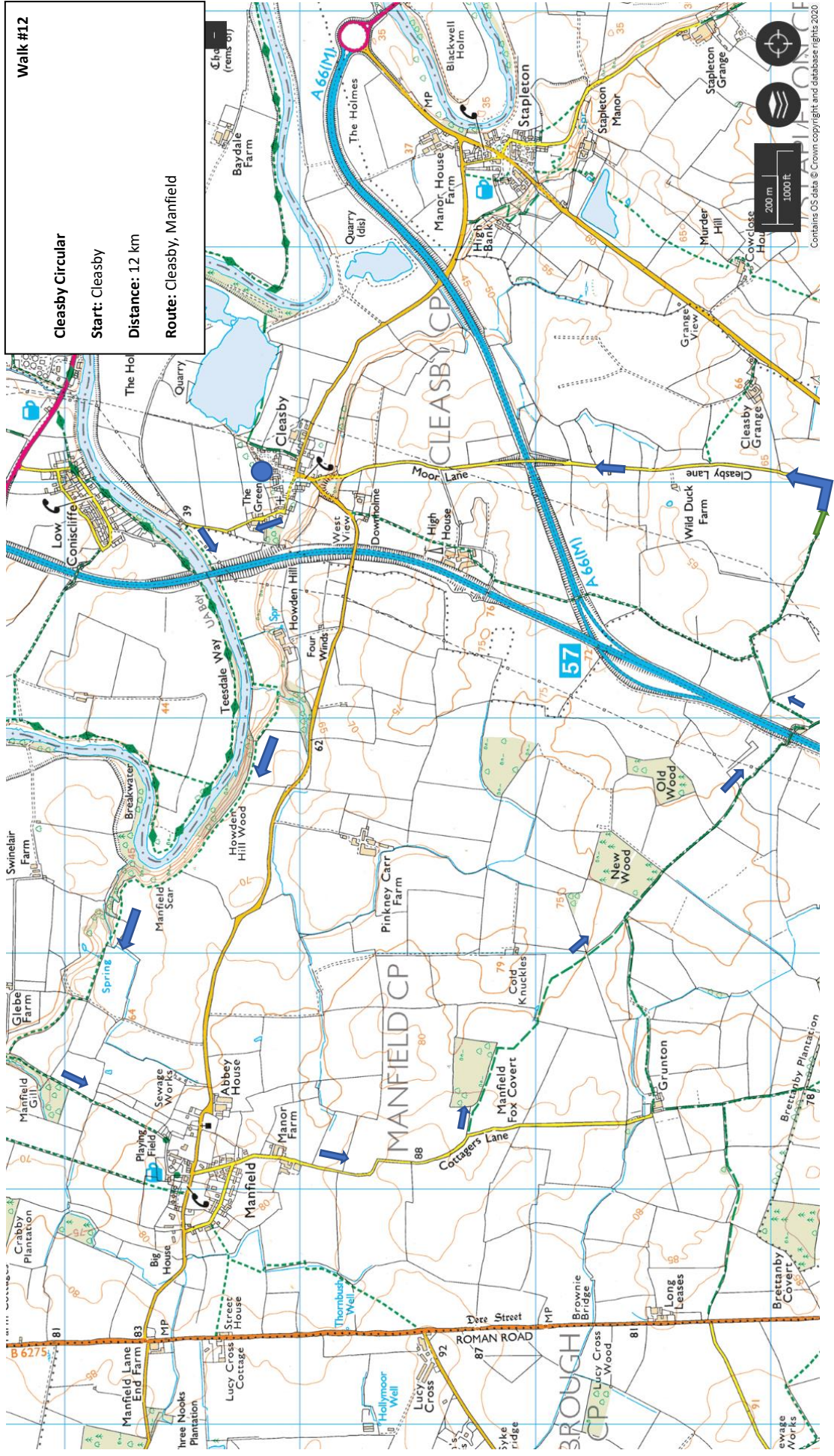
Walk #12

Cleasby Circular

Start: Cleasby

Distance: 12 km

Route: Cleasby, Manfield



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<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Cleasby
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Cleasby: NZ 2498 1304</p> <p>Manfield: NZ 2207 1344</p> <p>Manfield Fox Covert: NZ 2251 1218</p> <p>Cleasby Lane: NZ 2509 1125</p>	



### Sockburn Loop

**Start:** Low Dinsdale

**Distance:** 10km

**Route:** Low Dinsdale, Sockburn

#### Manor House, Low Dinsdale



#### Places of interest:

The Sockburn Loop of the River Tees is rich in history. Almost 2,000 years ago the Roman road, known as Rikenild Street, came this way on route from York to the forts of Newcastle. The end of this walk heads along a tree-lined road that follows the course of this old Roman road. This route remained one of the main roads across the Tees until medieval times when the road moved further west to cross the river at Croft.

Following the Norman Conquest, The Manor (pictured), centred on Dinsdale, was given to the Siward family, who subsequently built a fortified manor house at Low Dinsdale as well as a 'motte' castle on the north bank of the Tees at present-day Middleton One Row; earthworks from these long-lost medieval buildings can still be clearly seen in the fields around Low Dinsdale. Over the centuries the Siward family changed their name to Surtees, which is Norman French for 'on Tees', Low Dinsdale was the main settlement in medieval times as it boasts a fine church, which dates back to at least the Norman era.

#### Route details:

Starting point is St John the Baptist Church at Low Dinsdale (somewhere to explore on return from your walk). From the turning circle in front of the Church, head left along the road, passing the Old Rectory on your left and then the large barns of Manor Farm, where you follow the road bending sharply round to



the right, at this point join The Teesdale Way to your left.

Follow The Teesdale Way throughout, passing Spa Wells house, Fish Locks house and you will arrive at the entrance to The Ashes, turn right, plantation in view (Black Wood), the paths leads alongside this woodland, follow the path to lead to Sockburn Lane.

Turn left along this road and follow as it bends round to the right at Liberty Lodge and then continue along the road until you reach the farm buildings at High Sockburn. Turn left, following signs for Teesdale Way, leading to Church House Farm.

Follow the track up, passing around the church and continue straight along the Teesdale Way for 3.4km, then you will arrive at a country road, "Roman Road" alongside Dinsdale Hall, turn left, walk over the bridge and return to Low Dinsdale.

**Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E ,

HS – Local history on route

SMSC – St Johns Church

Sockburn Loop

Start: Low Dinsdale

Distance: 10km

Route: Low Dinsdale, Sockburn



<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Low Dinsdale, Sockburn
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:  Low Dinsdale: NZ 3465 118  The Ashes: NZ 3485 0943  Church House Farm: NZ 3545 0839  Hill House: NZ 3541 1010	

### Caldwell Country Lanes

**Start:** Fewster Gill

**Distance:** 13.5 km

**Route:** Fewster Gill – Ovington – Caldwell – Eppleby

This route will lead you to local villages of Caldwell and Eppleby.

**Places of interest and route details:**

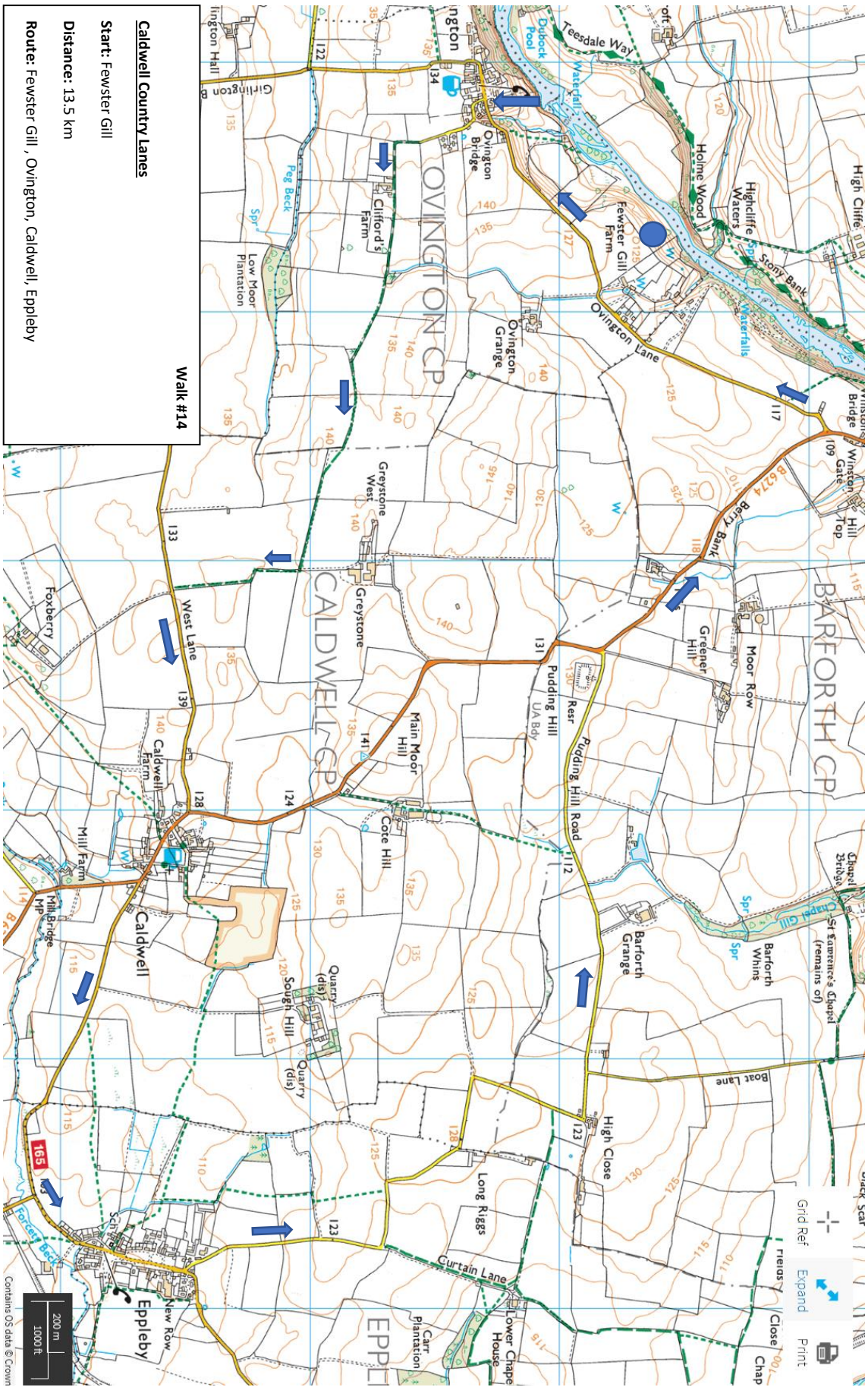
Turning right out of Fewster Gill leads to Ovington Village, entering the village take your first left, this road will lead to Clifford's Farm, at this point, continue straight following the public footpath. This footpath will be easy to follow and after several fields will lead to a track, to your left is Greystone Farm, turn right down the track, arriving at West Lane, turn left to Caldwell.

Walking through Caldwell, passing The Brownlow Arms to your left, the road will eventually bear right, at this point leave the road and join the road signposted Eppleby.

Arriving at Eppleby walk through the village, passing the local School and village greens, after the last green take note of the signpost for Winston, take the Winston road and follow this minor lane for 4km, arriving at a junction, turn right to join Berry Bank, continue along Berry Bank until the option to turn left signposted Ovington, and return to Fewster Gill.

**Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E



<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Caldwell, Eppleby Map number: 304
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Fewster Gill: NZ 1388 1521</p> <p>Ovington: NZ 1315 1471</p> <p>Caldwell: NZ 1621 1337</p> <p>Eppleby: NZ 1783 1323</p>	



### Toy Top, Redworth Loop

**Start:** Toy Top Farm

**Distance:** 9.5 km

**Route:** Toy Top Farm, Houghton-Le-Side, Redworth

#### Redworth



Redworth is a small village with only 190 residents, the name Redworth originates from the words Reed Worth, as the area was once a large marsh. Redworth is also home to Redworth Hall Hotel, which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century

#### **Places of interest and route details:**

Turning left out of Toy Top, walk along the grass verge and take your first right. Follow the country lane until it begins to bear right, at this point locate the footpath in the corner, next to a farm gate. Entering the field, 100m ahead there will be a further stile in the hedge line to your right.

Over the stile, follow the footpath leading diagonally across the field, leading to a derelict building, walk down the next field with the hedge line to your left and climb the stile located in the corner.

Entering the field bear left, walking diagonally across the field, this will lead to a steep downhill section following a sheep trail, you will notice in the corner of the field a farm gate, to the left is the footpath to Houghton-Le-Side.

Walk through Houghton-Le-Side, and follow the road left, sign posted Heighington. Walk straight over at the junction, joining White House Lane, continue along following sign posts for Heighington.

On route you will pass the gates (pictured) these once allowed access to and from Redworth Hall via a western driveway through an avenue of trees, they were constructed between the two world wars.



Continuing following this road for 1.2km, Heighington Village sign will come into view, 20 metres above this sign, turn left joining the footpath, follow the route through the fields arriving at the main road, turn left passing Redworth Hall, after this turn left following the road through Redworth Village.

Follow the country road through Redworth, walking up a steep hill, continuing on this road for 1km, this will lead to a steep downhill road section, at this point follow the road left, joining White House Lane. Stay on this road, following signs for Houghton-Le-Side and then return to Toy Top Farm.

**Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E

HS – Redworth Hall



**Walk #15**

**Toy Top, Redworth Loop**

**Start:** Toy Top Farm

**Distance:** 9.5 km

**Route:** Toy Top Farm, Houghton-Le-Side, Redworth

<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Toy Top Farm
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Toy Top Farm: NZ 2162 2264</p> <p>Houghton-Le-Side: NZ 2243 2181</p> <p>Redworth: NZ 2408 2336</p> <p>Houghton-Le-Side: NZ 2243 2181</p> <p>Toy Top Farm: NZ 2162 2264</p>	

## Walk #16

### Piercebridge, Gainford Village

**Start:** Piercebridge, The George overflow car park

**Distance:** 10 km

**Route:** Piercebridge, Gainford Village Green out and back

#### Gainford Village Green

The walk begins at Piercebridge and will lead you along the Teesdale Way following the River Tees to Gainford, this route is out and back and is extremely easy to follow.

#### Places of interest and route details:

In Anglo-Saxon times, Gainford was the centre of an estate, part of the Northumbrian Congregation of Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. In the Dark Ages this area was taken by the Vikings, archaeologists have found Viking sculptures at Gainford and some examples of these can be seen on display at Durham Cathedral.



Explore the grounds of the 12th Century St Mary's Church, which is said to be built on the site of an old monastery dating from the year 801, the medieval village green is a nice spot to recharge.

Leaving The George car park, walk over the bridge, immediately after the bridge, turn left joining the Teesdale Way, the route will lead to Gainford village.



Entering Gainford, ahead will be The Lord Nelson pub, follow the road to the left (pictured) the road will lead to the village green, and St Mary's Church, return the same route.

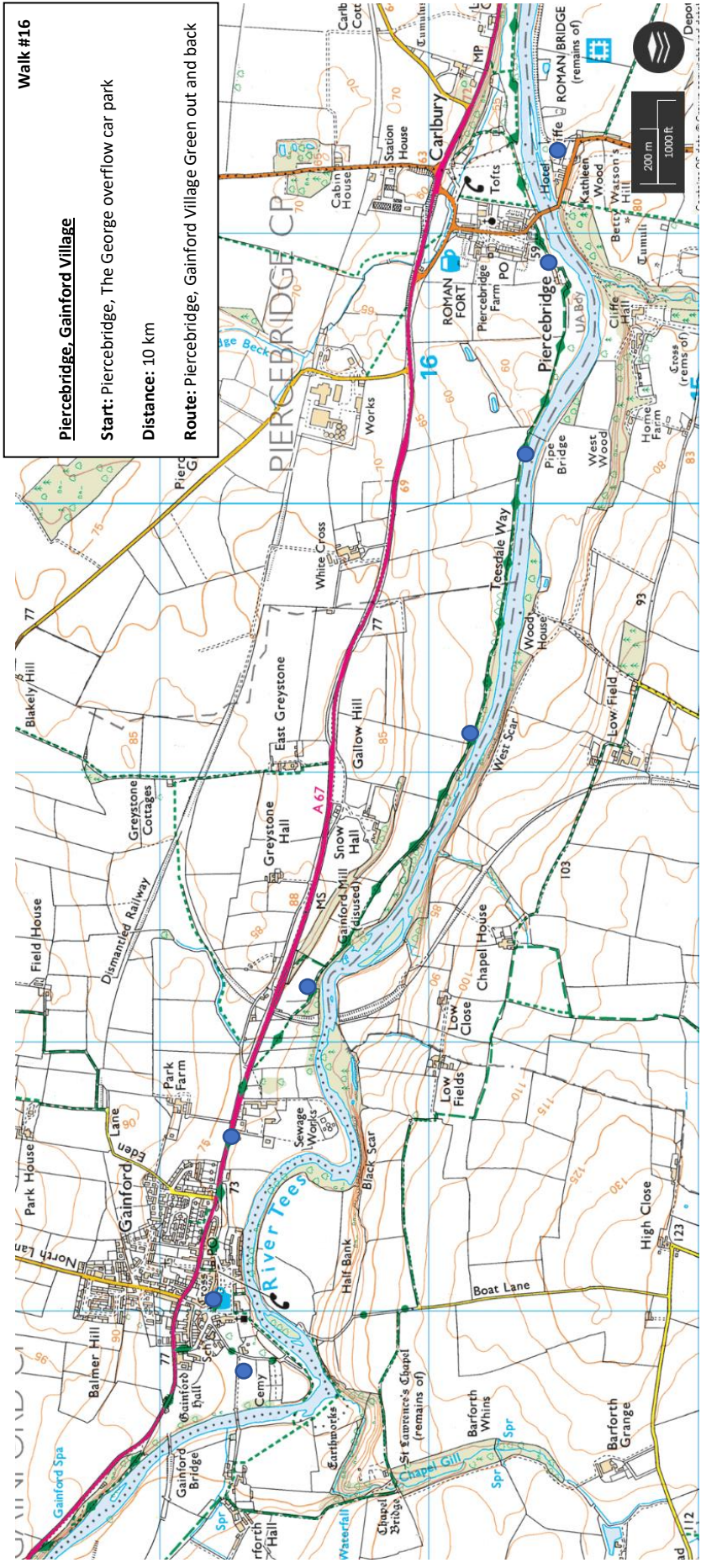
#### Pear Tree School Curriculum:

P.E

L – St Mary's Church

HS – St Mary's Church

SMSC – St Mary's Church



**Walk #16**

**Piercebridge, Gainford Village**

**Start:** Piercebridge, The George overflow car park

**Distance:** 10 km

**Route:** Piercebridge, Gainford Village Green out and back

<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Piercebridge, Gainford
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Piercebridge: NZ: 2107 1560</p> <p>Gainford: NZ 1744 1675</p> <p>ST Mary's Church: NZ 1696 1669</p> <p>Gainford: NZ 1744 1675</p> <p>Piercebridge: NZ: 2107 1560</p>	



### Witton, Escomb Saxon Church

**Start:** Witton-Le-Wear

**Distance:** 11km

**Route:** Witton-Le-Wear, Witton Park, Escomb.

**Escomb Saxon Church**



Escomb Saxon Church is one of the oldest [Anglo-Saxon](#) churches in England, the church was founded in AD 670 when the area was part of the [Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria](#). Much of the stone was taken from the nearby Roman fort at [Vinovia \(Binchester\)](#). On the gable of the south porch is a 7th or early 8th Century [sundial](#), and on the north wall is a reused [Roman](#) stone with the markings "LEG VI" (Sixth Legion) set upside down.

#### **Places of interest and route details:**

This route is an out and back and will follow the Weardale Way. Park in Witton-Le-Wear, walk down crossing Witton Bridge, turn left joining the Weardale Way, on route you will see the Witton Castle Lakes to your left and Witton Castle to your right, both staff and children have enjoyed many bank holidays helping out at the annual Witton Castle Point to Point.

Continue following the Weardale Way passing by Witton Park and arriving at Escomb Saxon Church, return the same route.

#### **Pear Tree School Curriculum:**

P.E

HS – Escomb Saxon Church

SMSC – Escomb Saxon Church

Walk #17

Witton, Escomb Saxon Church

Start: Witton-Le-Wear

Distance: 11km

Route: Witton-Le-Wear, Witton Park, Escomb.



<b>Outdoor Activity Information</b>	
Date:	House:
Office informed:	Duty Manager informed:
Young people:	Staff :
Vehicle in use:	Area of operation: Witton- Escomb
Time of departure:	Estimated time of return:
<b>Panic time:</b>	
<p>Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:</p> <p>Witton-Le-Wear: NZ 1478 3123</p> <p>Witton Park: NZ 1723 3026</p> <p>Escomb: NZ 1893 3010</p> <p>Same route return</p>	

