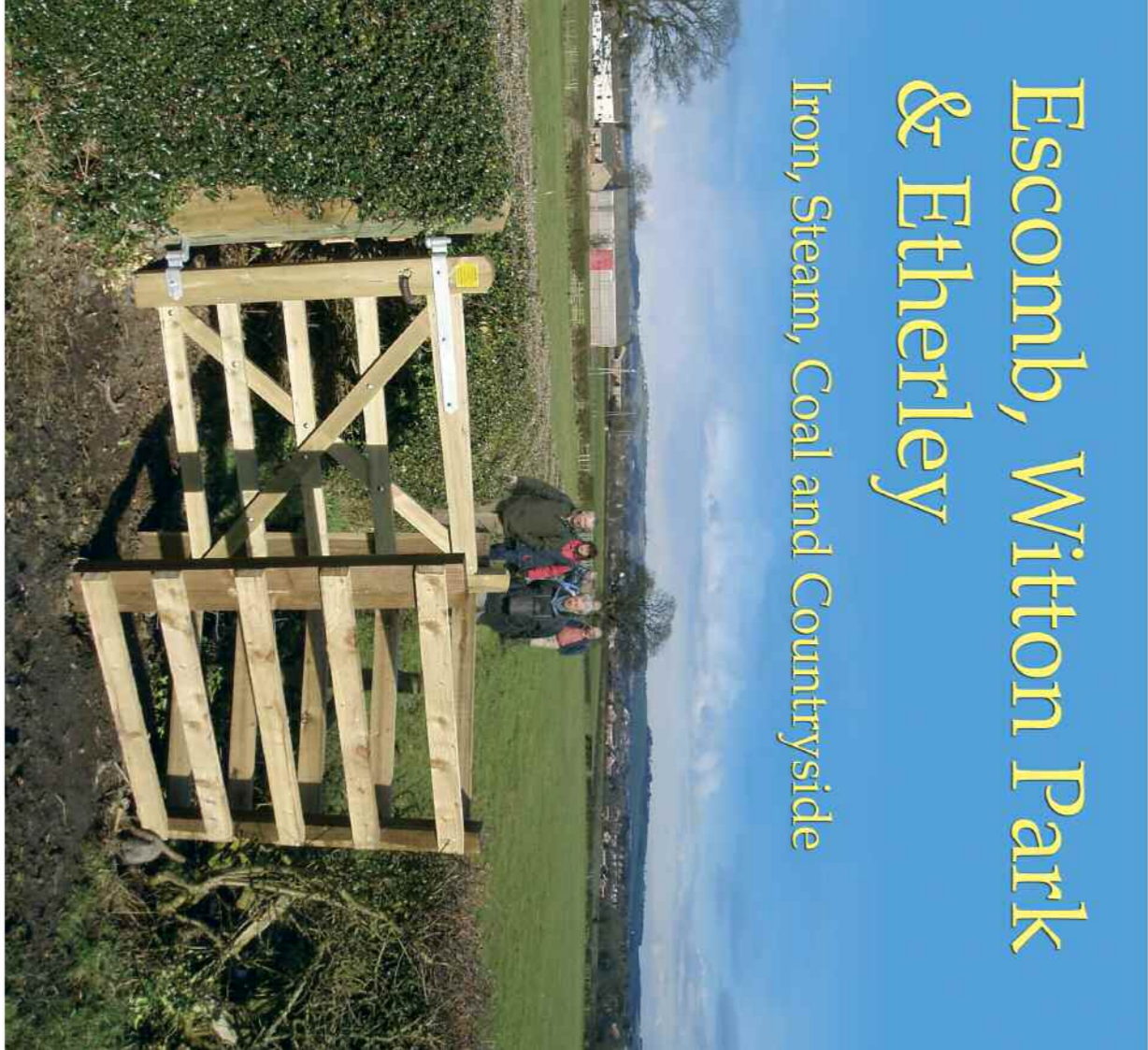


Route: approximately 5 miles/8km moderate

## A NETWORK OF WALKS OFF THE WEARDALE WAY



# Escomb, Witton Park & Etherley Iron, Steam, Coal and Countryside

## A MINERAL VALLEYS PROJECT WALK

Traveline-txt allows you to receive up-to-date timetable information on bus services in the form of text messages to your mobile phone in an easy to read format.

You can check the times of buses at any of the stops shown overleaf by matching the **Bus Stop reference numbers** (BS...) on the map to a 'dur' code below. **Then text the 'dur' code to this number - 84268.**

- **BS1** ..... north bound..... durawmad
- **BS2** ..... southeast bound ..... durawmaj
- **BS3** ..... west bound ..... durawmap
- **BS3** ..... east bound..... durawmam
- **BS4** ..... west bound..... duradawdw
- **BS5** ..... northwest..... durawmgd
- **BS5** ..... southeast bound ..... durawmga
- **BS6** ..... east bound..... durdwgtm
- **BS6** ..... west bound ..... durdwgtp
- **BS7** ..... southwest bound..... durdwgwa
- **BS7** ..... northeast..... durdwgtw
- **BS8** ..... north bound..... durdwgwd
- **BS8** ..... south bound..... durdwgwg
- **BS9** ..... north bound..... durdwgwj
- **BS9** ..... south bound..... durdwgwm
- **BS10** ..... west bound..... durawmpj
- **BS10** ..... east bound..... durawmpg
- **BS11** ..... east bound..... durawjtw
- **BS11** ..... west bound..... durawjwa
- **BS12** ..... south bound..... durawmdp

Text messages will be charged by your service provider at your normal rate. Traveline will charge 25p per text sent to you.



Or  
For detailed information on bus times ring  
**Traveline on 0871 200 22 33**  
Or  
Check out the **Journey Planner** website [www.travelinenortheast.info](http://www.travelinenortheast.info)



(01911) 383 3239

If you need this information summarised in another language or format such as Braille or talking tape, please call the number below.



This walk is brought to you by The Mineral Valleys Project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Funded by Natural England and implemented by local communities in conjunction with Durham County Council, tel: 0191 383 3239.

- Walking Information**
- Tell someone where you are going and your expected time of return
  - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear
  - This area is covered by OS Explorer Map 305.
  - Please respect the wildlife and farmland
  - Please keep dogs under close control

**Get Hooked on Fishing**  
The Get Hooked Centre provides fishing for everybody. Get expert help if you need it or just fish and enjoy the wildlife on the 3 lakes. The visitor centre provides food and drinks for anglers, walkers and natural history lovers.

**Escomb Saxon Church**

Escomb Church is one of the oldest Anglo-Saxon churches in England and is one of only three that remain complete. The Church was built sometime around 670 to 675AD and largely utilised stone from the nearby Roman Fort at Binchester. On its southern wall there is a 7th or early 8th Century sundial. On the northern wall is a re-used Roman stone with the markings "LEG VI" (Sixth Legion) set upside down. [www.escombsaxonchurch.com](http://www.escombsaxonchurch.com)



## LOCATION MAP

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping, Durham County Council (License No. 100019791 2007).

## Railways.. 'The World's First Passenger Railway'

**The origin of the railway stemmed from the need to improve the transportation of coal from the Bishop Auckland and Shildon area to Darlington.**

At the time there was no straight forward or cost effective route or viable alternative method to transport coal to Darlington. Prior to the construction of the railway, coal was transported in panniers on packhorses and asses. Using packhorses to transport the coal over this distance resulted in a trebling of the price of coal in Darlington compared to the pithead.

Early ideas to improve the transport situation centred on canal and rail options, both had their advocates. Following several years of debate, on the 13th November 1818 the rail route was selected, however it wasn't until 19th April 1821 that it had been authorised by an act of Parliament. A retired wool merchant, Edward Pease, was the driving force behind the development of the railway. Edward together with a group of local business men went on to form the Stockton to Darlington Railway Company.

The first rails were laid in 1822. The railway opened officially on the 27th September 1825:- between 7am & 8am, 12 wagons of coal left the Phoenix Pit, near the end of the line at Witton Park Colliery. The wagons were hauled up Etherley North Incline by a stationary engine and then descended to St Helens. A further wagon loaded with sacks of flour was added to the train, which was hauled up the Brussleton Incline and then lowered to Shildon. At Shildon, the wagons were attached to Stephenson's Locomotion and tender along with 1 wagon carrying surveyors and engineers, a coach with directors of the Stockton & Darlington railway (with invited guests), 6 wagons of strangers, 14 wagons carrying workmen and 6 more wagons of coal.



Edward Pease  
(Railway pioneer)  
1767 - 1858

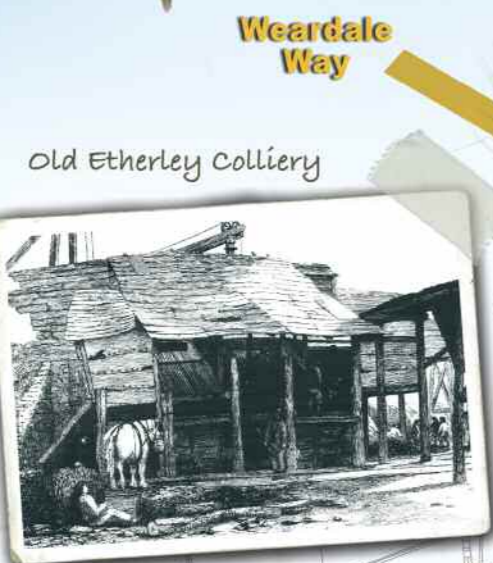
Etherley Incline ceased to be used from 1843 onwards following the construction of a new rail route that linked Witton Park through to Shildon via Bishop Auckland.

# Escomb, Witton Park & Etherley

## Iron, Steam, Coal & Countryside



kingfisher



Old Etherley Colliery



**The world's first passenger railway...**  
 On the morning of the 27th September 1825, 12 wagons of coal left Phoenix Pit. For the first short section of this historic journey, the wagons were horse-drawn before being hauled by stationary steam-engines and finally by George Stephenson's 'Locomotion'.

Phoenix Row



**Escomb Saxon Church**  
 Built around 670AD is the oldest complete 'Saxon' Church in England.



**George Pit**  
 Sunk by W C Stobart & Co in 1837, finally closing in 1924. 500 men and boys extracted up to 700 tons of coal per day



yellowhammer



meadow brown butterfly



short-eared owl



otter



**KEY:**

- Circular walk
- Link path
- Alternative route
- Weardale Way
- Other public footpaths
- Permissive path

**SCALE:** 0 250m 500m 1/4 mile



Follow the Mineral Valleys Walk signs.

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