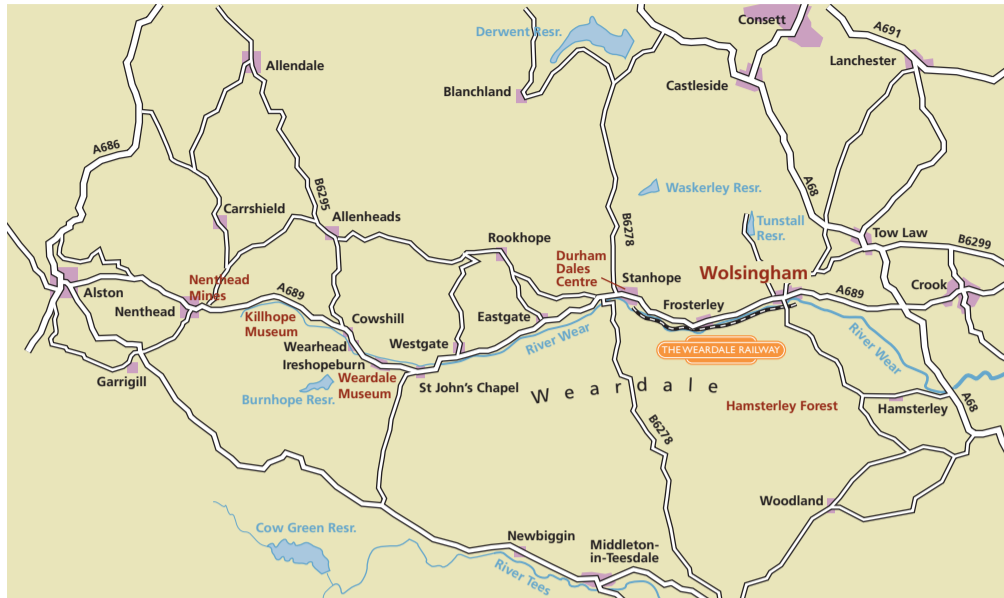


If you have enjoyed these walks, try others in the Mineral Valleys Project Walks series.

Enjoy exploring Wolsingham, Weardale and the surrounding area



Leaflets from the series are available from station offices and tourist information centres in Weardale and Durham County Council.

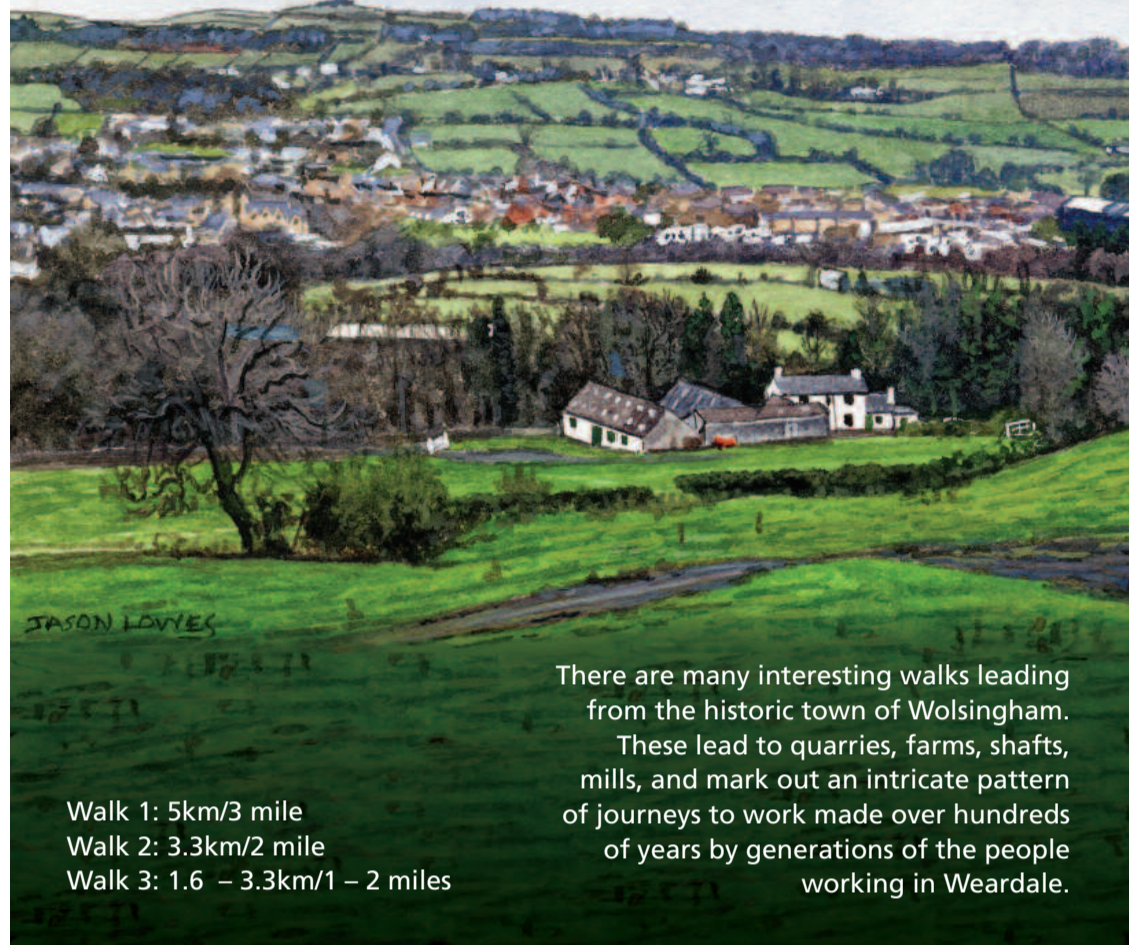
Leaflets on Frosterley Marble and the Stanhope Fossil Tree are available from the North Pennines AONB Partnership. Tel: 01388 528801, or go to www.northpennines.org.uk

Credits:
North Pennines AONB Partnership
Durham County Council

This leaflet is funded by HLF with a partnership of funders through the Mineral Valleys Project designed to bring communities together to enhance and celebrate their natural and social history.



Walking around Wolsingham



There are many interesting walks leading from the historic town of Wolsingham. These lead to quarries, farms, shafts, mills, and mark out an intricate pattern of journeys to work made over hundreds of years by generations of the people working in Weardale.

- Walk 1: 5km/3 mile
- Walk 2: 3.3km/2 mile
- Walk 3: 1.6 – 3.3km/1 – 2 miles

WALKS FROM WOLSINGHAM RAILWAY STATION

Before you start, you need to know:

Walk 1 is a linear route along the River Wear of 5km (3 miles) following the public footpath along the valley floor to Frosterley and takes approximately two hours one way. It is well signed and easy going and provides a fun way to get back to a car if you have journeyed by train one way. The fields en route are prone to flooding after long spells of wet weather so wear wellies after heavy rain.

Walk 2 is a circular route of 3.3km (2 miles) which takes about an hour. The walk heads sharply upwards but the reward for the effort is an excellent view out across the town of Wolsingham. This attractive circular route goes through high pastures and along old tracks.

Walk 3 is a walk into Wolsingham designed to get you to the play area, Church and town centre. It is 1.6 - 3.3km (1 - 2 miles) depending on whether you complete the full circuit or take advantage of one of the short-cuts. Allow about 45 minutes walking time.

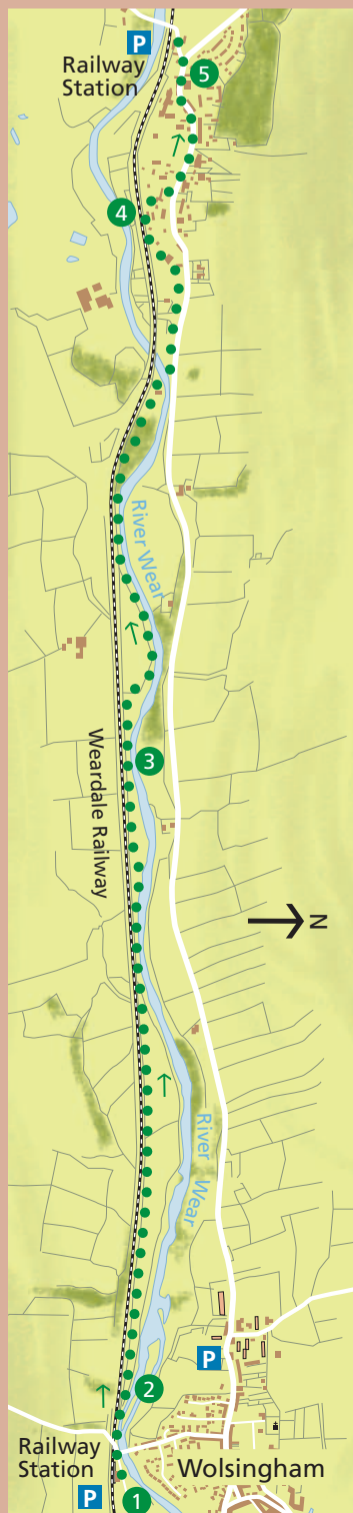
- P** Wolsingham Railway Station and in Wolsingham
- Bus** Weardale Motor Services bus 101 provides a regular service between Wolsingham, Frosterley and Stanhope
- Cup** There are several cafes and pubs in Wolsingham
- i** Tourist Information Centre at The Durham Dales Centre
- Person** Wolsingham Station, Wolsingham Library and Wolsingham Play Park

THE WEARDALE RAILWAY www.weardale-railway.org.uk or 01388 526203

Cautionary note about cows and calves...

- Cattle may be inquisitive and approach you, especially if you have a dog. Please:
- avoid walking through a herd of cattle and never come between a cow and her calf
 - keep your dog under close control, preferably on a short lead
 - if you have a dog with you and feel threatened by cattle, let the dog go and retreat.

All information correct at time of printing.



Walk 1: Following the River Wear

- 1** Start from Wolsingham Railway Station car park. Walk along the station platform, leaving it by the steps or ramp at the west end (towards the road bridge). Turn left and cross the road. Take the footpath which is signed Weardale Way and which leads down some steps between the railway line and the river. The path is shady and cool in spring and summer and the dense riverbank vegetation of alder, ash and willow with plenty of ivy offers birds and small mammals lots of cover.
- 2** The path eventually leads into a lovely open field. In the middle distance, the hedges marking the field boundaries lead uphill to the higher ground of Upper Weardale.
An attractive stand of mature birch trees along the riverbank make this stretch of the walk very picturesque.
- 3** The route hugs the valley floor via a series of gates, goes in and out of a caravan park and eventually brings you to a road.
- 4** Turn right, then left at the junction with the A689. Keep left away from the main road and this path will take you through the village houses to The Batts and Mill Lane. Turn right up Mill Lane to the Main Road.
- 5** There are several places to get some refreshment in Frosterley before walking back (or catching the train) to Wolsingham.



Footbridge over Ashes Beck



Wolsingham Station, in about 1910.

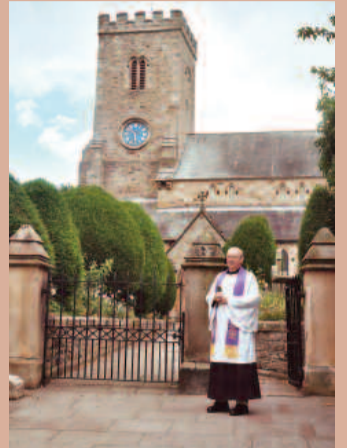
Walking around Wolsingham: three walks from Wolsingham Railway Station

Walk 2: Wiserley and Friarside

- 1 Start from Wolsingham Railway Station car park. Walk along the station platform, leaving it by the steps or ramp at the west end (towards the road bridge). You will find yourself at a road junction facing the river bridge. Turn left and walk up the road taking great care to mind the traffic. At the left hand bend, pick up a path on the left hand side of the road through a shady arch of bushes and trees. This runs parallel with the road. Follow this for about 100 metres to a kissing gate on your left.
- 2 Go through the kissing gate. Ignore the steep path to your right that runs along the field edge, instead head half-right, between the first double pair of electricity poles ahead and climb up towards a fence, where you should see a wooden step stile. At the stile pause for a breather and to enjoy a great view of Wolsingham with its factories, churches, houses, fields and patchwork of fields beyond.
- 3 Cross the stile and continue to climb half-left. You come to a double fence with twin wicket-gates. Go through these into another field.
- 4 You will see High Wiserley Farm to your right. Head to the right of the buildings and you will see a wicket-gate. Go through the gate and down the track straight ahead of you. Keep right to take the track signed 'Friarside'. Only 30 metres or so beyond the sign for Friarside, look out for a waymarked path to your left through trees. Then at the fence (farmyard) turn right, down some steps and over a footbridge. Go through another wicket-gate and then straight ahead along a rough track. Pass a barn on your right, and then the farmhouse. Keep to the track as it turns left, then right to a field gate and stile next to a large barn. Cross the stile and then keep straight on, through the next field gate.
- 5 Head to the left towards an electricity pole. You'll see a gate ahead in the fenceline. Go through this gate into another field.
- 6 Walk straight across this field, heading to an old, gnarled hawthorn tree, where you meet a rutted track.
- 7 Turn left and follow the track downhill. Keep to the track as it bears left and down to a field gate. Head uphill past a large, old beech tree on your right. Check out the views as you regain height.
- 8 Keep straight ahead, with the fence on your right. Go through a wicket-gate and over a small stream and turn right following a grassy track towards a field gate. Do not go through this gate, but turn sharp left to go through the wicket-gate. Keep straight on, with the hedge on your right. Head down this field to go through a field gate and then follow an old sunken track half-right down the hillside to where there are two adjacent field gates.
- 9 Go through the right-hand gate and onto a hard track. Turn left. Soon you will see glimpses of the River Wear and the railway through the trees. Cross the railway at the level-crossing (please, do take care) and turn left at the track junction, to return to Wolsingham Station.

Walk 3: Exploring Wolsingham

- 1 Start from Wolsingham Railway Station car park. Walk along the station platform, leaving it by the steps or ramp at the west end (towards the road bridge). Go straight ahead across the bridge over the River Wear. Just past the 30mph sign, turn right on a public footpath which leads to the riverbank.
- 2 At the river, turn right to follow the river upstream and go under the road bridge you just crossed, along a good riverbank path. Keep to the path, past some allotments on your right and then out onto a playing field. The path follows the field edge. Leave the playing field between the play park and the bowling green (available for non-members in the summer months).
- 3 At the road either turn right back to the village of Wolsingham for a shorter walk, or turn left along West End (A689) for 200 metres. Cross the A689 and turn right up Leazes Lane signed for the Swimming Pool. Wolsingham School and Community College is on your left as you walk up the lane.
- 4 Take the second right and just before entrance to upper school site, turn right along a path with a public footpath sign. At the end of this path, turn right through a gap in the wall into the churchyard, then right, to walk beside the church tower. Continue past neat, shaped yew bushes and leave the churchyard by the main entrance. Pass the Rectory on your left to reach the junction with Rectory Lane.
- 5 Here you have a choice. For the shortest return route go straight on, then turn left at the main road (A689). Turn first right along Causeway, and walk along here for about 300 metres to the Railway Station.



The Rector Reverend Malcolm Goodhall outside the Church of St Mary's and St Stephen's.



The boulders of limestone and sandstone under the bridge are full of fossils.

The boulders of limestone and sandstone under the bridge are full of fossils.



Hawthorn (top) and blackthorn (above) hedges line many of the fields and lanes on Walk 2.



War memorial, Wolsingham market place.



Good views of Wolsingham are to be had as you gain height on Walk 2.

