

Sockburn Loop

Walking down to Girsby Bridge

Stretch

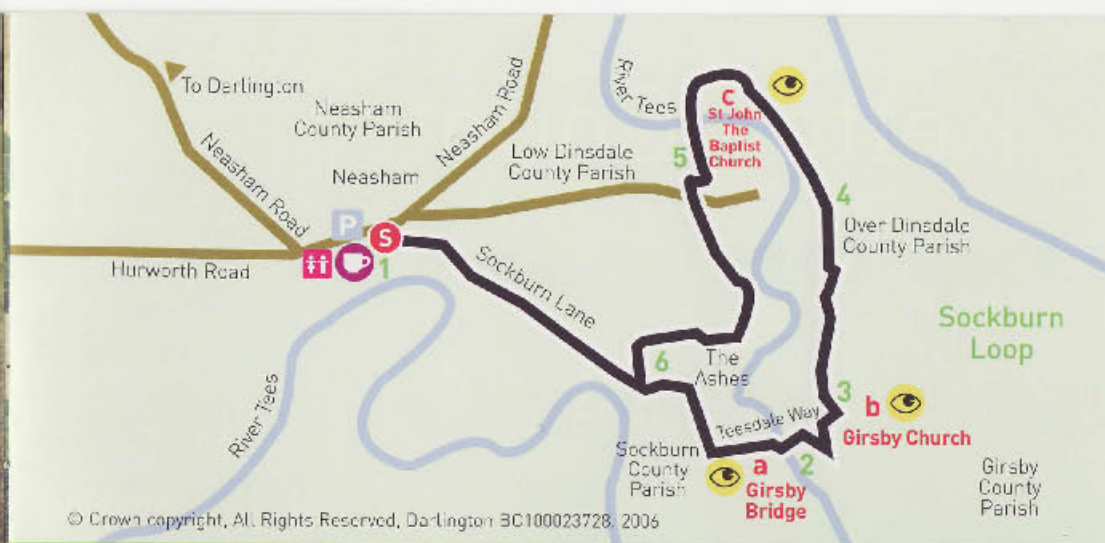
Rural/Distance: 8.4 miles [13.5km] **Grade:** moderate with steep sections **Time:** allow 5.5 hours



Stretch out on our scenic walk with literary links. Start from pretty Neasham Village looping through Sockburn parish, with its 'Sockburn Worm' legend, the alleged inspiration for Lewis Carroll's 'Jabberwocky' poem. Enjoy rural lanes, gently rolling countryside and sweeping views across to the Cleveland Hills.

Recommended route:

- 1 Cross the village green and climb steps to admire the River Tees. Turn left, follow a paved footpath, cross a stile and follow a grassed footpath. At the tarmac road, (Sockburn Lane), turn right and follow it for approx 1.9 miles (3km) ignoring the first Teesdale Way sign you come to. At the end of the lane, turn left onto the Teesdale Way footpath and continue down the field track to cross Girsby Bridge (designed but never used as a railway bridge) and enter North Yorkshire.
- 2 Follow the track as it curves steeply up right, then left, there are stunning views of the bridge and surrounding countryside behind. At the top of the track exit the field via a gate onto a track. There is an optional detour here to see Girsby Church: go through a gate on the right onto a grassed lane and through a gate into Girsby Church. Follow a track to the left of the buildings and cross a stile on the left, waymarked, into a field. Cross the middle of the next 3 fields on clear footpaths to exit over a small stream in a dip and over a stile.
- 3 Bear diagonally, slightly left, to cross the middle of the field and over a stile. Cross the next field diagonally to the right and exit through a hedge gap. Cross the next field by following the field edge around (you are ultimately aiming for the house which you see almost straight ahead). Cross the next small field then pass to the right of the house, cross a track and go through a gap in the hedge. Follow the field edge straight on, curving round a corner past 4 large oak trees and go through a gate. Continue on the field edge straight ahead, but before reaching a wood, cut diagonally right across the field and go through a gate. Follow the path through fields in front of a house, go through a gate, cross the middle of a small enclosure. Exit via a gate and go straight through the middle of the next 3 fields.
- 4 Cross a stile and follow the footpath through the wood. Exit over a stile. Take the right of way across the middle of the field ahead, towards the left of the house ahead. Go through the gate and take the



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Start & finish: The western end of Neasham Village Green

Map Key

How to get there: Leave Darlington on the B6280. Proceed to a mini roundabout, turn right into Neasham Road and proceed to the junction of the A66. Go straight over the roundabout. Continue to the T-junction and turn left into Neasham Village

- S Start & finish:** The western end of Neasham Village Green, opposite the entrance to the Teesdale Way signpost
- P Parking:** Limited on-street parking or Fox & Hounds Pub, for patrons
- Public Transport:** Public transport information **0871 200 2233** (calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras) **www.traveline.info Text 84268**
- Places of interest:**
 - a Girsby Bridge
 - b Girsby Church
 - c St John the Baptist Church, Low Dinsdale
- Refreshments:** Fox & Hounds Pub Neasham, **tel 01325 720350**
- Toilets:** Fox & Hounds Pub for patrons

footpath in front of the house, through a field to a track, exit via a gate and follow a lane which curves right to join a road. Go left, cross over a bridge and pass St John the Baptist Church, dating back to AD 638. A bench at the church makes a good refreshment stop.

a field, along the wood edge. Cross a stile, take the short footpath ahead, then turn left along the tree line and continue along the track to come back to the tarmac road, (Sockburn Lane).

- 5 Continue on the road, round the bend to reach a private road, on the left, marked the Teesdale Way. Follow it through farmland past a sign on the left for Fishlocks to come to the gateway to 'The Ashes'. Turn right along a track cross a stile and follow the footpath ahead, through
- 6 Turn right and follow the lane for approx 1 mile (1.7km), back to the entrance to the Teesdale Way footpath, on the left. Follow it back to Neasham Village.

