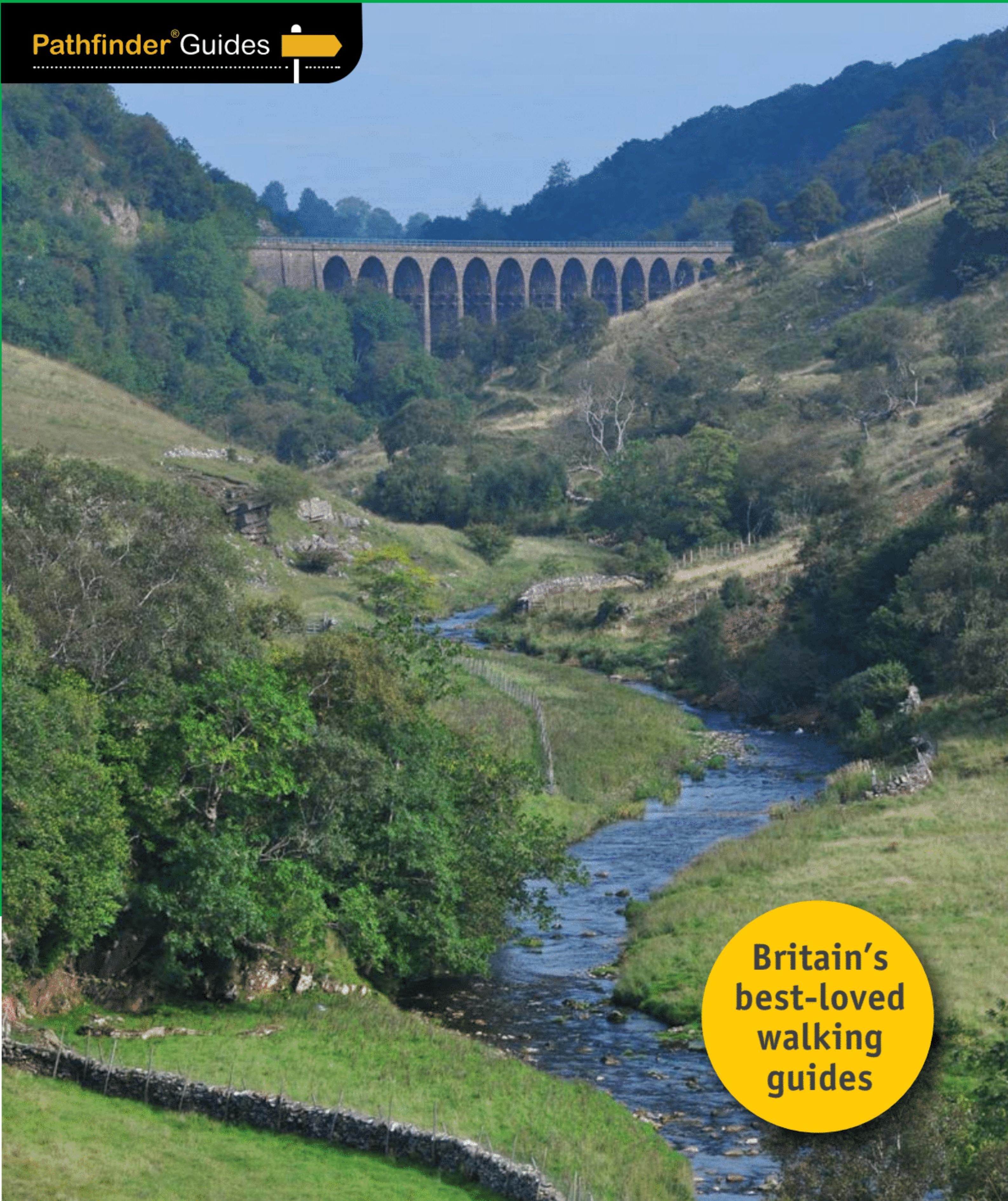


DURHAM, NORTH PENNINES AND TYNE & WEAR

Outstanding Circular Walks

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Wynyard Woodland Park and Thorpe Wood

Start Wynyard Woodland Park & Planetarium, signposted from A177 between Sedgefield and Stockton-on-Tees

Distance 3½ miles (5.6km)

Height gain 215 feet (65m)

Approximate time 1½ hours

Parking Country Park Visitor Centre

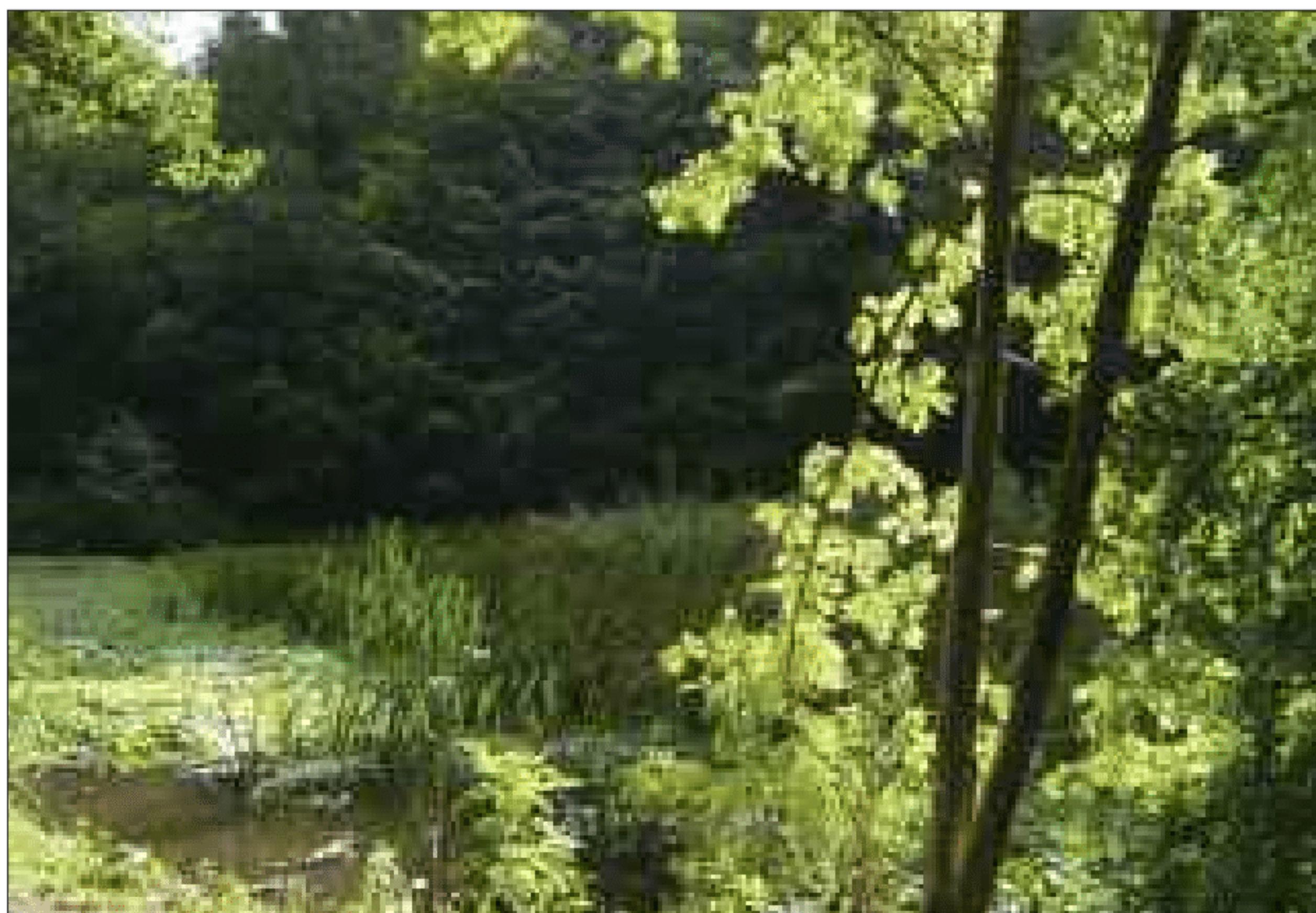
Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 93 (Middlesbrough), Explorers 305 (Bishop Auckland) and 306 (Middlesbrough & Hartlepool)

GPS waypoints

-  NZ 402 243
-  NZ 400 254
-  NZ 397 253
-  NZ 407 254
-  NZ 409 243
-  NZ 404 247

The walk begins with a pleasant and easy stroll along the track of a disused railway. It continues across fields and ends with a ramble through the beautiful Thorpe Wood, a nature reserve. In such tranquil surroundings, it is difficult to believe that industrial Teesside is so close, but on the more open middle section of the route the views extend right across Teesside to the line of the Cleveland Hills.

Thorpe Pond





descending again to cross a bridge over a side-beck. The route climbs again, leaving the riverside before again rejoining it, eventually reaching a lane **D** beneath a railway viaduct.

Turn right, cross the bridge and turn

0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS $\frac{1}{2}$ MILES

left on the lane for Greenwell. In 150 yards take the path on the left, signed for Greenwell. Climb a stile and pick up

of superb beech-woods which, in spring, have wonderful displays of ramsons, stitchwort and bluebells. Simply follow this path, in time passing beside wooden-palisade fencing. At the fork marked by a bench keep left, passing above an area of marshy pasture rich with birds. A board here notes that these woodlands of Great High and Hollinside have been in public ownership for over 170 years. The path presently reaches a T-junction at the top of an embankment **C**, the course of a colliery railway which closed in the 1880s.

Turn right and walk up intermittent steps to reach redundant gateposts on the course of a hard-surfaced track, Hollingside Lane. Turn right to rise gently up the ridge of Pinnock Hill, passing below a long series of robust stags-head oaks before reaching a

Durham Cathedral and old fulling mill



gateway into the university campus at old estate buildings. Walk ahead here on the now-tarred lane, passing by the entrance to the University Botanic Garden **D**. This attractive mix of theme gardens, research plots and sculptures is open most days (for a fee) to visitors. Stay with the roadway to reach a left-bend at the Victor Watts Library building (left). Here; turn right against the 'no entry' sign down the tarred lane beside Grey College hall of residence. At the next fork keep right, downhill to reach a bungalow. Take the tarred path right of this and beside a tennis court; soon descend steps and then turn left to the main road. Cross at the lights and turn downhill to the major junction **E** in 250 yards.

Turn left along Quarry Heads Lane. Cross it immediately and look for the fingerposted footpath beside a bus shelter in 50 yards. Slip to the left beside the sports-field here and enter the strip of woodland. Keep downhill, shortly gaining a wide footpath which runs its course above the bank of the Wear. It's now a matter of continuing downstream, soon passing the end of Prebends Bridge. It's a memorable finalé to the walk, with Durham's Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site looming high over the far bank above the sturdy old fulling mill, sited at the far end of the long weir.

At the next bridge - Framwellgate, Durham's oldest - climb the steps on your left, cross the bridge and ascend Silver Street to reach the nearby Market Place.

Egglestone Abbey, Paradise and the Meeting of the Waters

Start Egglestone Abbey, 1½ miles (2.4km) south-east of Barnard Castle

Distance 7 miles (11.3km)

Height gain 215 feet (65m)

Approximate time 3 hours

Parking Egglestone Abbey

GPS waypoints

-  NZ 062 150
-  A NZ 065 149
-  B NZ 079 142
-  C NZ 084 144
-  D NZ 086 142
-  E NZ 106 146
-  F NZ 084 146

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 92 (Barnard Castle), Explorer OL31 (North Pennines – Teesdale & Weardale)

This is a straightforward walk beside the River Tees as it flows majestically by crags and rocks through woodland and farmland. There are monastic ruins, an ancient tower and a grand country-house along the route, and on every inch of the path you are treading in the footsteps of great painters and writers from the Romantic age.

 Leave the car park at Egglestone Abbey and head back down the access road beside the ruins. The abbey was built in a charming position over-

looking the Tees, where it is joined by the waters of the Thorsgill Beck. It was a Premonstratensian foundation of the late 12th century, colonised by the monks





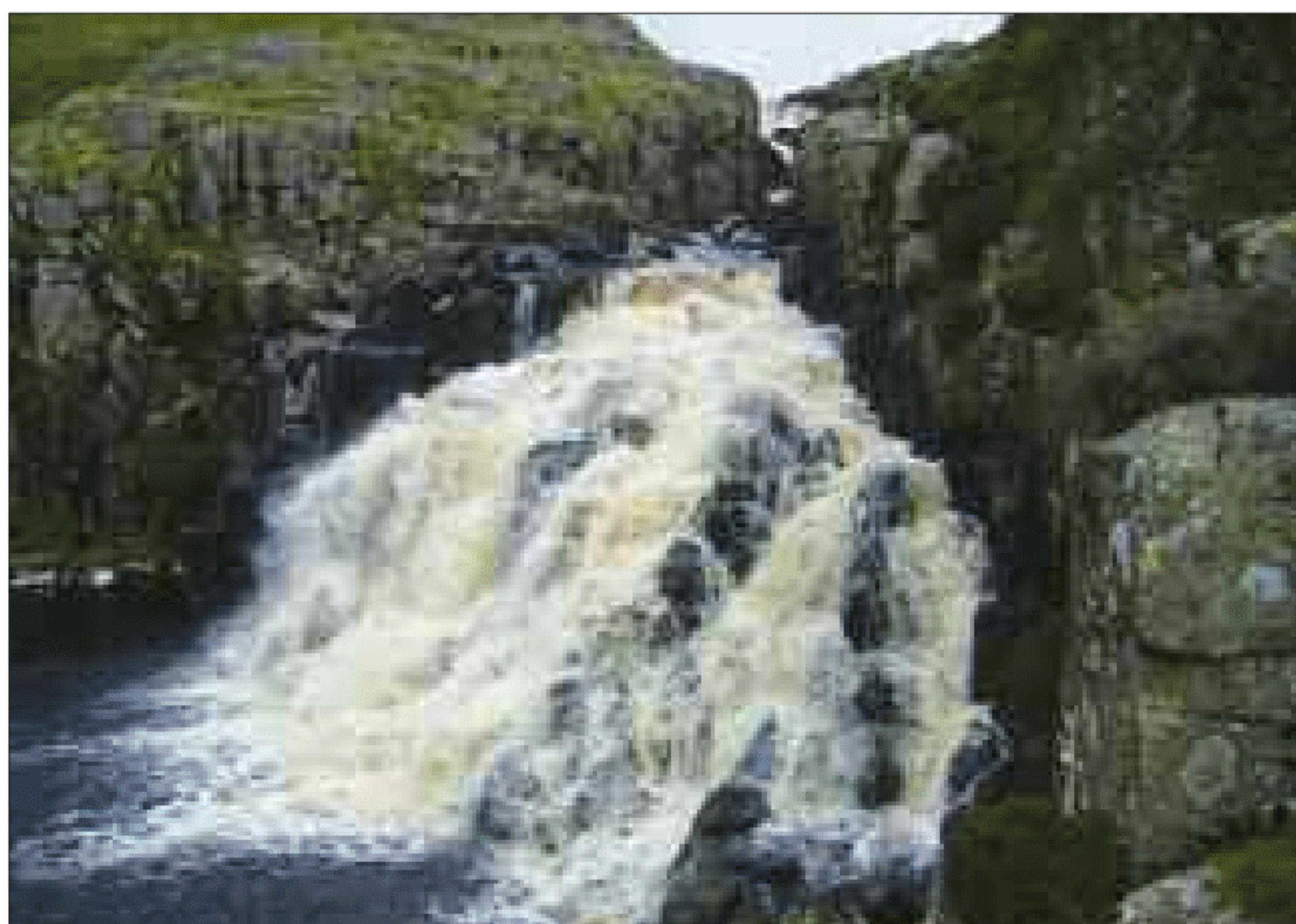
solid stone byre. Turn right and the thundering sound of tumbling water bounces off the gorge sides.

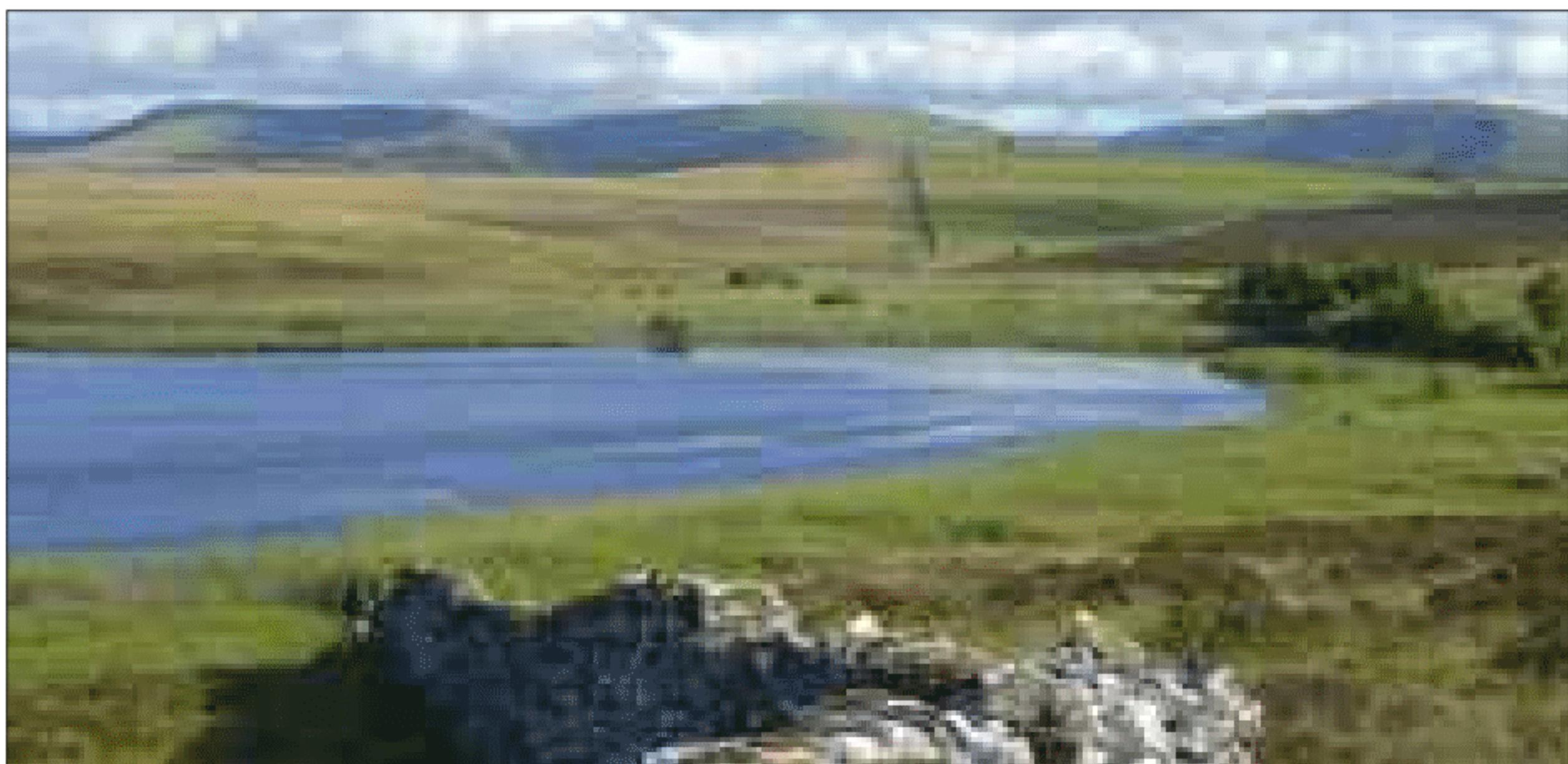
Cauldron Snout **D** has formed where the Tees has chiselled a way down through the Whin Sill over a spectacular

cataract. The distinctive columnar joints of the dolerite rock are particularly noticeable in this area (the famous Giant's Causeway is the best-known example). Here, the path is a sliver up these, immediately beside the falls – *proceed with patience and care when tackling this four-limb scramble*. Beyond the top of the falls, turn right along the service road. Follow it past the dam and across the moorland above the eastern bank of Cow Green Reservoir. Along the way, just before the weather station, there is an outcrop of unusual sugar limestone, a kind of marble created by the heat of those volcanic intrusions of aeons ago. Rare plants occur here, including Spring Gentian, unique to this site in mainland Britain. Farther on, distinctive rakes scar the surface and capped shafts mark the site of Rodd's Vein, an old barytes mine.

Go through the gate **E** marking the boundary of the Nature Reserve and turn left on the rough track. In 150 yards fork right on a path that ends up on the road near the car park. ●

Cauldron Snout





Sunbiggin Tarn

Cottage **E**. Turn left and walk the tarred lane to its end just above Stony Head Farm. Here fork right along the walled bridleway for Sunbiggin Tarn. Beyond a gate, keep ahead on the rough

road to a crossing of tracks and an Access Land board **F**. Turn right here, keep left at a fork and follow the grassy track to another Access Land board. Go straight over the cross-ways here and walk the track through to the cattle-grid above the Tarn.



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