



This leaflet was prepared by the Wolsingham Wayfarers, an independent voluntary group, dedicated to monitoring, looking after and promoting the 140 miles of designated footpaths in the Wolsingham Parish.

 wolsinghamwayfarers.co.uk

 WolsinghamWayfarers

 @WolsWay

Walk information

DISTANCE - 5.5 miles (9 km).

MINIMUM TIME - 3 hours.

ELEVATION GAIN - 175 m (574ft).

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY - Moderate.

PATHS - Farm tracks and fields. Open access moorland, plantation and riverside tracks.

STILES - 7 stiles and 3 ladder stiles.

PARKING - Demesne Mill Picnic Area.
Nearest postcode DL13 3DB.

PUBLIC TOILETS - At the junction of Market Place and Angate Street.



Please follow the Countryside Code

Prepared on behalf of the people of Wolsingham by the Wolsingham Wayfarers and Durham County Council.

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Wolsingham Circular Walks

Wiserley, Crowsfield and Black Banks

A circular walk with fabulous views of Wolsingham, Weardale and beyond.



Walk 2



5.5
miles

DISTANCE

●●○

DIFFICULTY

3
hours

MIN. TIME

FREE

About the walk Wiserley, Crowsfield and Black Banks

There truly is something for everyone on this circular walk, perfectly summing up why Wolsingham is such a wonderful place to roam.

The early climb uphill towards High Wiserley Farm is quickly rewarded with a beautiful view back towards the village. The traverse to Crowsfield paints a picture of the disappearing past of the area, followed by a breathtaking view at the trig point on Knitsley Fell.

The journey home takes us through the woodland of the Black Banks Plantation and along the banks of the River Wear.

Welcome to wonderful Wolsingham



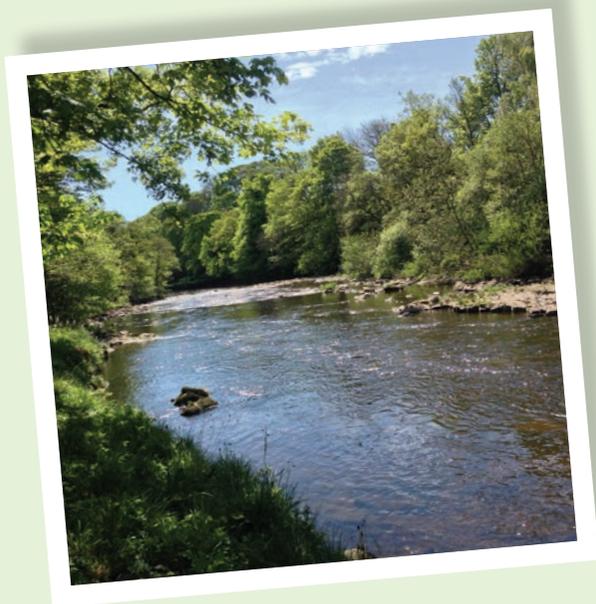
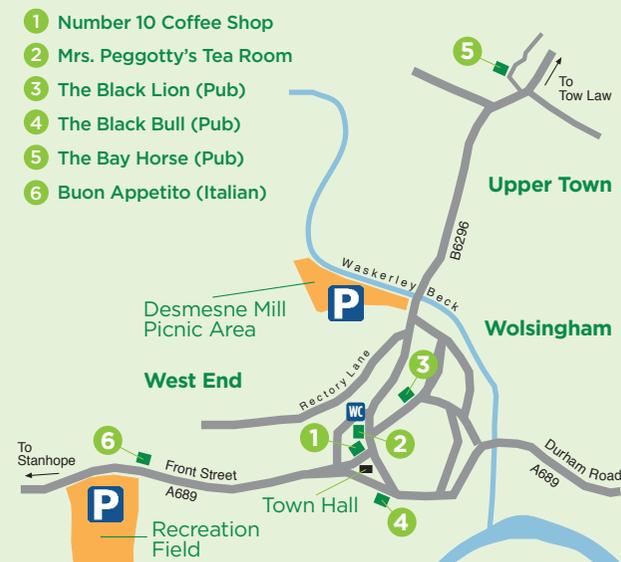
This is one of a series of walk leaflets produced by the Wolsingham Wayfarers, created to showcase Wolsingham's extensive public footpath network. With more than 140 miles of designated footpaths, most of them interlinked, there are plenty of opportunities for creating your own circular walks. A map showing all the footpaths in Wolsingham Parish can be found on the wall of the Town Hall in Wolsingham Market Place, opposite the Post Office. Walks from Wolsingham are covered by OS Explorer maps 307 and OL31.

Ample parking for walkers is provided at Demesne Mill Picnic Site (off the B6296 Tow Law road) and at the Recreation Field (off the A689 Stanhope road). Visitors are asked to keep the market place in Wolsingham clear for local shoppers and library users. The amount of time you can park in the market place is also restricted. For information on public transport ring Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

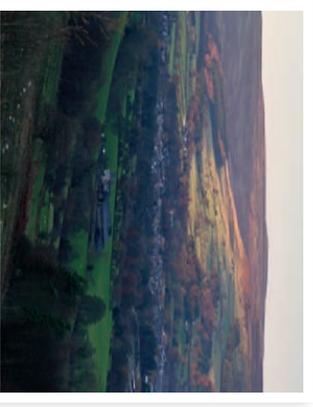
Several tea shops, cafes and pubs are shown on the map below. They offer good food and a very welcome drink at the end of a long walk. A few also offer accommodation.

The Wolsingham Wayfarers run regular free guided walks, a great way to discover new paths and routes. Check out our website and social media pages for up-to-date information on walks and activities (information on back page).

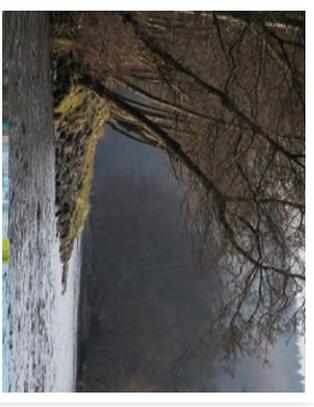
Wolsingham's parking and facilities



VIEW MAP
THIS WAY



Looking back at Wolsingham and High Wisersley.



A view of the River Wear.



The disused farm house at Crowfield.



The trig point at the highest point of our walk.



This plantation of 400 acres was purchased by the Forestry Commission in 1937 from Fred Brown, timber merchant, for £1450. It was more extensively planted in the late 1930s.

If you have parked at Demesne Mill off the B6296 (Wolsingham to Tow Law Road), start your walk by heading back out of the car park through the main entrance and turn right down Angate Street until you reach Wolsingham Town Hall in the market place.

A From the market place turn right and head down Front Street (A689) in the direction of Stanhope (right if you are facing the Black Bull pub).

You will pass Whitfield House on your left. This rather grand house was built in 1700 by Matthew Whitfield of Whitfield Hall, Northumberland. At present it is a private house with the east wing used as a holiday cottage, but in times past it has been a school, a hotel, and also used as a convalescent home during the war. The trees in front of the house are evergreen Holm Oaks, a species imported from the Mediterranean. Whitfield cottages, beside the house, are some of the finest old buildings in the village, dating back to 1677.

B Take the road down to the left of the cottages (signposted to Hamsterley) and continue down the Causeway and over the bridge across the River Wear. Continue on the road up the hill and branch off along the path into the wooded verge on your left (the verge is just further up the road from the track that turns left off the road). Continue up the bank for 100m and pass through the kissing gate into the field on your left.

C Head diagonally right across the field and up the hill towards the fence at the top (ignore the stile you can see up the hill on your right). You should pass between the two double masted pylons ahead of you and on to a stile half way along the fence, which takes you into the field above.

Take a moment to catch your breath and look back at the excellent views of Wolsingham.

D Continue heading diagonally across the field and through a double gate and then bear right heading towards a gate on the right of High Wiserley Farm. Passing through the gate, go on keeping the buildings on your left and once you have passed the entrance to High Wiserley Farmhouse take the next left.

Keep right and head down a narrow path to a stone slab footbridge crossing the beck and through the kissing gate in the direction of Friarside Farm.

E Walk the length of the farm keeping the buildings on your right. Head towards the corrugated iron cattle shed on your left and through the gate to the right of the shed. Go through the next iron gate and bear slightly diagonally left across the field towards a gate and then across the next field to the derelict buildings of Wigside Farm.

F Go through the gate into the farmyard (now used for sheep pens), turn right and through two more gates. Follow the cart track up the hill keeping the fence on your left. Go over the ladder stile and continue straight ahead (ignoring the gate on your left) along a rough track keeping the field boundary and eventually the stone wall on your left. Continue to a further waymarked gate and keep straight ahead, avoiding boggy patches.

G Go over the stile at the end of the track, follow the path uphill and then go down into the dip on your left to another stile taking you over the fence and into the old farmyard of Crowsfield (long disused, but an excellent viewing and resting point).

In the 1850s Crowsfield housed a large family and was the centre of a small 50 acre farm, but it ceased being economically viable many years ago.

H Pass to the left of the farm building, turn immediately right and head across the field to a gate. Through the gate, head up the hill following the rough track. As it bears right, leave the track and head straight on over the brow of the grassy hill and up to a stile in a wire fence. Over the stile continue straight on up the hill to a ladder stile over a stone wall.

I Follow the track up through the heather until you reach a grassy track heading left along the plantation wall (this is the point you should come back to after you have been up to the trig point). For truly breathtaking 360° views of Weardale and beyond

continue heading up the hill, following the track through the heather up to the trig point at the top of Knitsley Fell.

Once you have enjoyed the view, head back down to the grassy track running alongside the wall of the plantation. Turn right and follow the track until you find a stile in the boundary wall, go over the stile and into Black Banks Plantation.

J Follow the path downhill through the trees and, once you meet the grassy track, turn left for a short distance before turning right and downhill again at a waymarked post.

K Follow the track downhill, keeping right towards the large house of Bradley Cottage. Once above the house, ignore the gate on the left which would take you into a field and also ignore the left that would take you down the private drive to the house. Instead take the next left as it turns sharply downhill passing the front of the house and taking you down towards the river. Continue down the forest road and straight on, leaving the road as it turns sharply right.

L Follow the river path until you reach the kissing gate at the end (ignore the stile over a fence half way down the path). Once through the kissing gate, follow field paths keeping the fence on your right.

M Head over two more stiles and fields, finally going over a ladder stile to join the road of Wisereley Hall. Turn right on the road, head downhill and across the railway line. Keep to the road as it swings left and continue on past Wolsingham Railway Station.

N At the end of the road turn right and back over the bridge where we first crossed the River Wear. Turn sharp right immediately after the bridge and head down to the river.

Take the path to the left and follow the riverside path to a large kissing gate that takes you into the caravan park. Follow the path through the caravan park and eventually out to the A689 (East End). Turn left and return to the market place and the end of our walk.