

Shorter Walking Group

Bowlees Circular - Monday 19 May



The Group approaching Dirt Pit

A group of 12 walkers met at Bowlees on a beautiful Spring Day. We crossed Bowlees Beck, went past the Visitor Centre then turned right onto the old Teesdale road which was used for traffic before the London Lead Company built the bottom road around 1840. Following the farm track uphill towards Ettersgill we gained magnificent views of Teesdale then came down to the tiny hamlet of Dirt Pit. We went along a minor road until we reached a stile to go across a large field then bearing right, we went to the top of the hill and advanced down to the picnic area next to the High Force Hotel.



Group on the riverbank near Holwick Head

We then crossed the main road to take a steep path through trees using stone steps which lead to the River Tees. We tracked the riverbank to Holwick Head Bridge in order to pass to the other side of the Tees to access a 1.6 km walk which is a spectacular haven for both wildlife and plant species, 12 of which belong to the Teesdale Assemblage, a unique collection of plants for which Upper Teesdale is famous. Finally, we transversed the Tees at Wynch Bridge, which dates from 1830, to walk back to Bowlees.

Report by Carol Oliver