



Leg 11 – Roof of England Walk

Leg 11: Saur Hill Bridge to Middleton – Directions

Length	Ascent	Time	Version	Updated
12.5km (7.8 miles)*	104m (341ft)*	03:19*	1.1	27/04/25

*Using OS Maps (online)

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OS maps for Leg 11: Explorer – OL31; Landranger – 92.

The route is shown on the maps as a thin **red line**.

A:



This whole of Leg 11 of the **Roof of England Walk** shares the route of the **Pennine Way National Trail**. It starts at Saur Hill Bridge (NY 85476 30211 and ///regard.receiving.hangs) and finishes at Middleton-in-Teesdale (NY 94610 25144 and ///stood.gent.lucky).

After crossing the Saur Hill Bridge turn right, signed 'Pennine Way, High Force 3¾ miles'. Follow the path alongside the Harwood Beck for just over a kilometre to the next bridge. When you reach the bridge turn right onto a track, cross the river, and follow the track as it bears left, towards Cronkley Farm. Just as you reach the farm turn right through a wooden bridle gate and walk round the edge of the wooden barn.

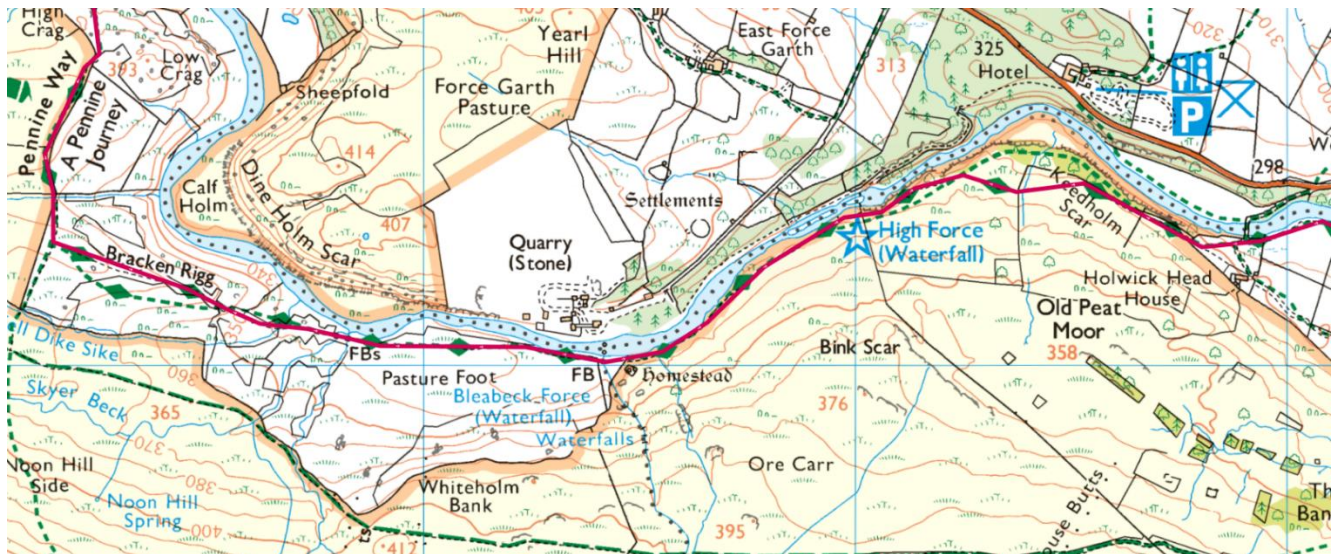
Turn right, through a wooden bridle gate, and follow the path between a drystone wall and a fence. At the bottom of the slope turn left over a stile/gate and immediately right through a bridle gate. Climb up the steep, rocky path ahead. At the top of the rise go through a stone stile in the wall and turn left to follow the flagged path – keeping the stone wall on your left.

After 350m cross a small stream and turn left, over a stile, and follow the flagged path, uphill. At the top of the rise bear left and follow the grassy path along Bracken Rigg with the River Tees down on your left.



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B:



Continue following the grassy path, along Bracken Rigg, as it weaves in and out of juniper bushes. The route gradually descends to the River Tees – with a flagged/boardwalk section towards the bottom.

At the bottom of Bracken Rigg cross two footbridges (over tributaries to the Tees) in quick succession. Follow the riverside path along the Tees (downstream) all the way to the top of High Force – passing the active Forcegarth Quarry (whin stone) on the other side of the river.

From High Force continue following the path alongside the River Tees – beware of drops at the top of High Force. Do not miss the fenced viewing area of the falls – about 300m downstream from the top of the waterfall.

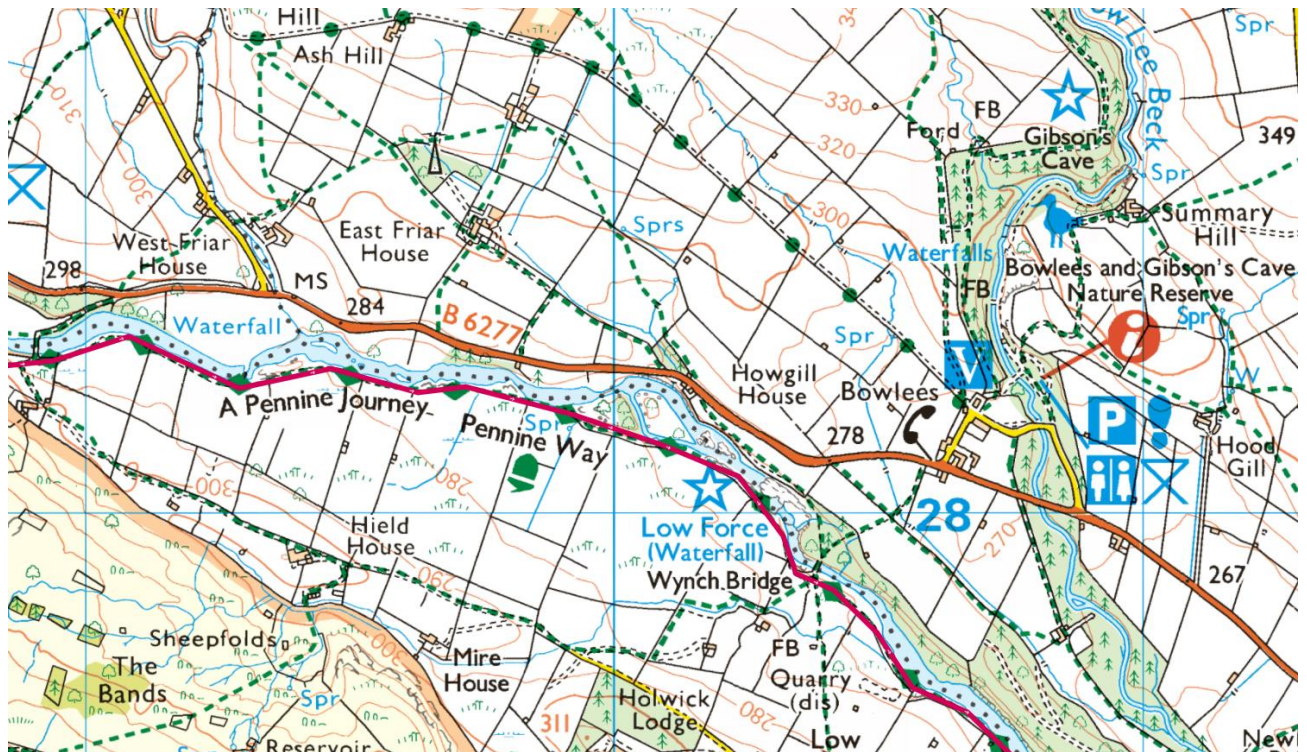
Just after the Welcome to Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve panel go through the kissing gate and descend the rocky steps, bearing left, down to the Holwick Head Bridge over the Tees.

If you want to visit the bottom of the falls or High Force Hotel – cross the bridge, turn left, and follow the riverside path to some stone steps up to the road (B6277).



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C:



To continue following the route do not cross the Holwick Head Bridge, instead follow the crushed stone/rocky, riverside path (downstream) – with the river on your left. After 1.6km you will reach Low Force and the Wynch Bridge (historic suspension bridge across the Tees).

When you reach Wynch Bridge continue ahead up a short rocky step and continue to follow the riverside path, with the River Tees still on your left – signed 'Pennine Way'.

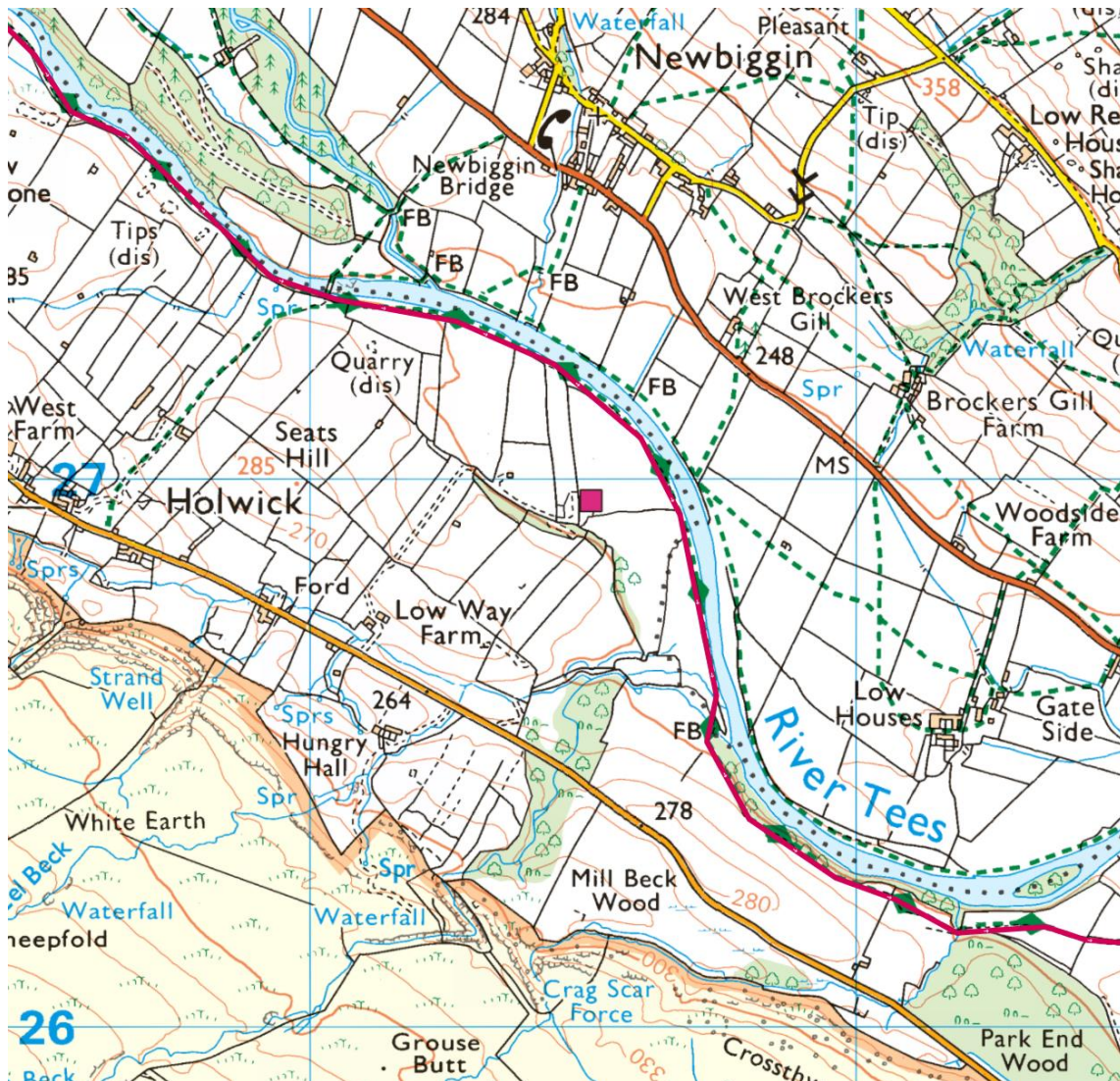
(If you want to go to Bowles Visitor Centre (cafe, toilets, information, and interpretation) turn left, cross the Wynch Bridge, and follow the obvious path ahead, across two fields and cross over the B6277 road (care). The Centre is 500m off route. The centre is open seasonally – see <https://northpennines.org.uk/bowles-visitor-centre/>)

Just Beyond the footbridge – cross the low stone stile and follow the stone-paved path right by the river.



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D:



Continue following the narrow path straight ahead – river on left, fence on right.

After 250m you will reach Scoberry Bridge (which spans the river). Do not cross the river – continue ahead on the riverside path. Go through a kissing gate and follow the edge of the field – keeping the river on your left.

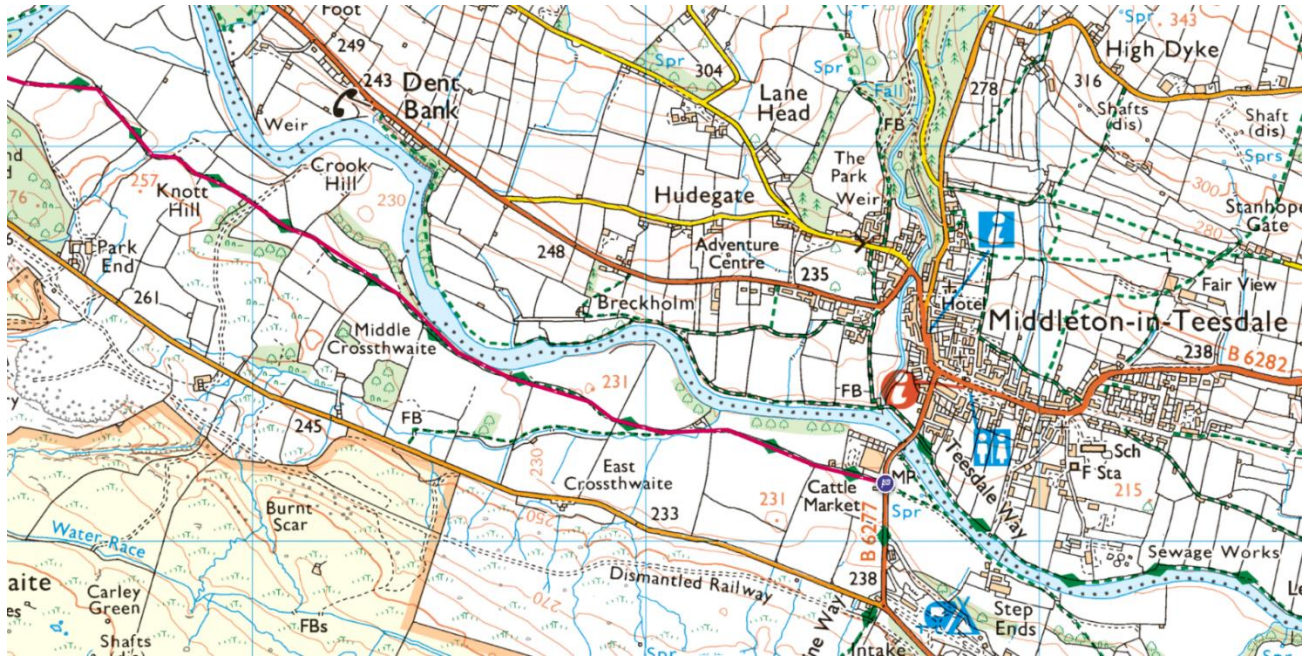
Continue following the riverside path. After three stiles (two stone step and one wooden) you will pass a wooden stile on the right into a long, narrow field, leading to Low Way Farm campsite/bunkhouse. Continue following the riverside path for a further 700m until you reach a wooden stile over the fence.

Cross the wooden stile, some stepping stones across a stream, another stile, and a footbridge across a larger tributary – all in quick succession. After the footbridge follow the stony, uphill path. At the top of the climb continue following the path, now high above the Tees. Shortly you will reach a wooden stile – cross it and two fields to a gate/stone step stile and a bridge over a stream. Cross the next field to a gate through a stone wall.



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E:



Go through the gate and continue across the corner of the next field, bearing left on the grassy path. When you reach the other side of the field turn right and follow the path ahead – keeping the tumbled down stonewall on your right.

Cross the stone stile in the top corner of the field and shortly after cross a stone bridge over a stream. Continue ahead on the path with a stonewall on your right.

Cross the ladder stile (made of old steel railway tracks) and cross the top of the next field – with a stone wall still on your right. At the other side of the field cross a stone step stile and follow the stony path ahead – between two stone walls. After a while – cross a wooden stile and continue ahead with a wall on your right. After another stile and stretch of path go through a wooden kissing gate and follow the path down, through trees, to a large stone step stile.

Cross the stone step stile and follow the path ahead – keeping the fence/drystone wall on your left. Cross four fields, through gates/over stiles, and pass an old barn on your left (by a stream), until you reach the B6277 road after about a kilometre – keeping the drystone wall on your left all the way.

Leg 11 finishes at the roadside (B6277) – with the Middleton livestock market on your right.

To visit Middleton-in-Teesdale: turn left on the pavement beside the by the road and cross the road bridge over the river.

Roof of England Walk – a journey around the North Pennines. This is Leg 11 (of 14) of this multi-day 301km (188 mile) route. The whole trail takes you on a fantastic journey exploring the North Pennines National Landscape and UNESCO Global Geopark. Find out more at www.roofofenglandwalk.org.uk