

Leg 8 – Roof of England Walk

Leg 8: Wolsingham to Stanhope – Directions

Length	Ascent	Time	Version	Updated
17km (10.6 miles)*	466m (1,528ft)*	05:11*	1.1	12/04/25

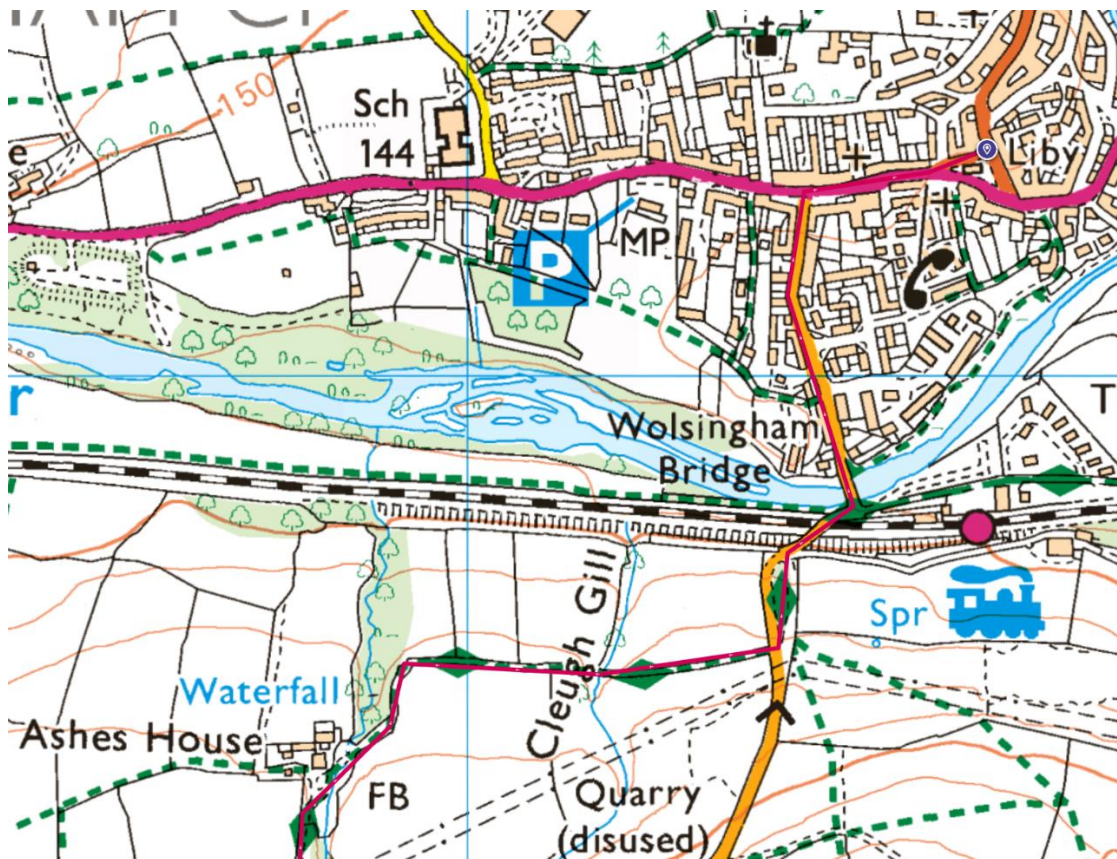
*Using OS Maps (online)

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OS maps for Leg 8: Explorer – OL31 (E); Landranger – 92.

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

A:



Leg 8 of the **Roof of England Walk** shares the route of the **Weardale Way** between Wolsingham (NZ 07628 37271 and [///mild.cello.panics.com/](https://mild.cello.panics.com/)) and Stanhope (NY 99349 39159 and [///plugged.defeated.corrosive.com/](https://plugged.defeated.corrosive.com/)).

Start in Wolsingham Market Place. From the Market Place, walk past the library/town hall and war memorial, on your left. Continue along the main road (A689) in the direction of Stanhope. Fifty metres after passing the Methodist Chapel turn left and walk down the road to Wolsingham (Causeway) Bridge – signed Hamsterley.

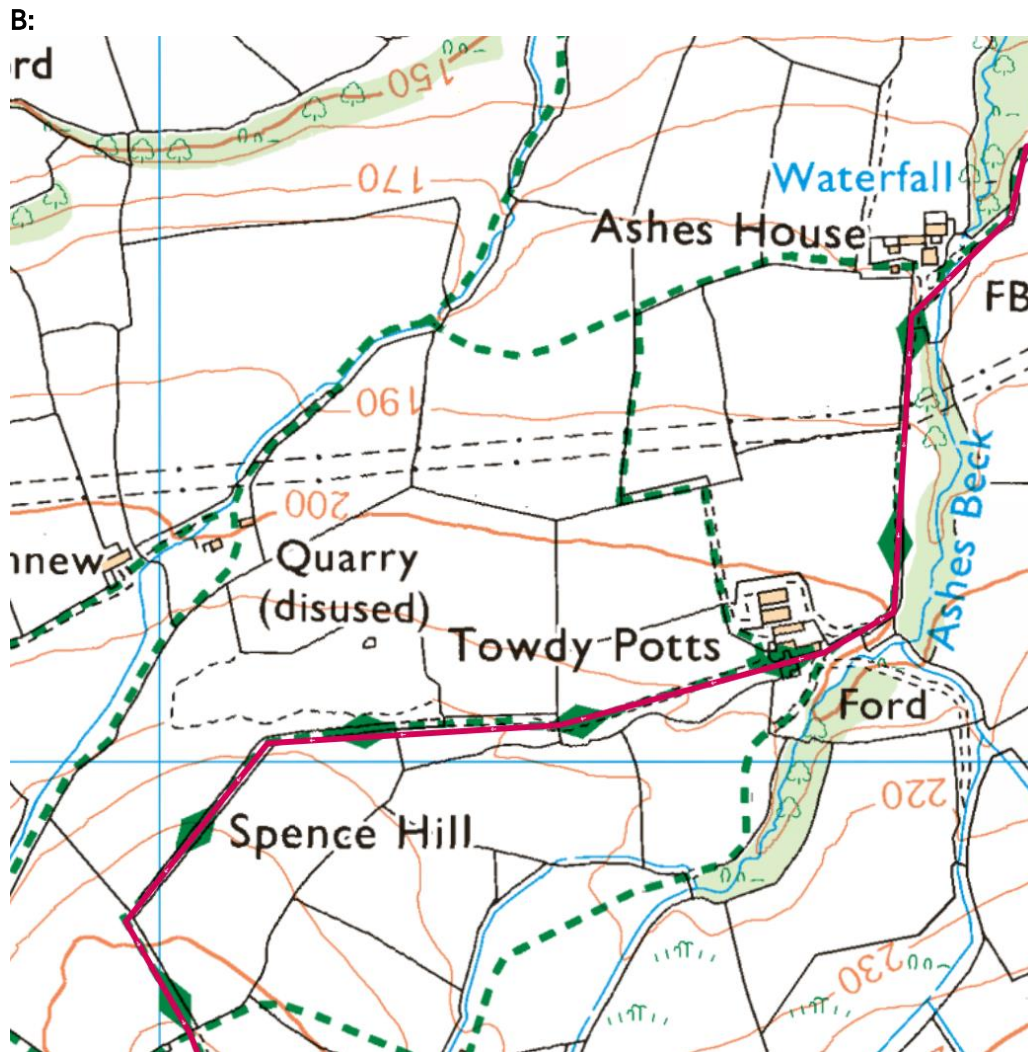
At the bridge cross the River Wear and turn right, uphill, on the road – care, it can be busy. From here until the end of the leg at Stanhope the **Roof of England Walk** shares the route of the **Weardale Way**.

Cross over the railway and shortly after (adjacent to the Wolsingham sign) pick up a path on the left, up through the trees. After 150m cross the road and follow the farm track (Ashes Farm, Towdy Potts) ahead, on the Weardale Way. Follow Weardale Way signs all the way to Stanhope.

Keep following the track down and cross the stream below Ashes Farm/House.



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At the sharp right hand bend (leading to Ashes House Farm) continue ahead, following a **Weardale Way** waymark, up and through a metal gate on the track.

As you approach Towdy Potts, bear left off the track and go through a metal gate into the field. Continue ahead, keeping the farmhouse on your right. Go through the farmyard, via two more metal gates. Then go through another gate and follow the track uphill, across the field. At the top of the field go through the gate and continue ahead. Cross the narrow field and go through a further gate (metal), keeping the fence on your left, and the line of trees on your right.

After 200m keep following the track as it bears left uphill – with the fence still on your left and trees on your right.



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C:



After 250m go through the gate, turn left, and follow the track keeping the wall first on your left and then on your right (after another metal gate). Continue on the track, heading towards the block of trees.

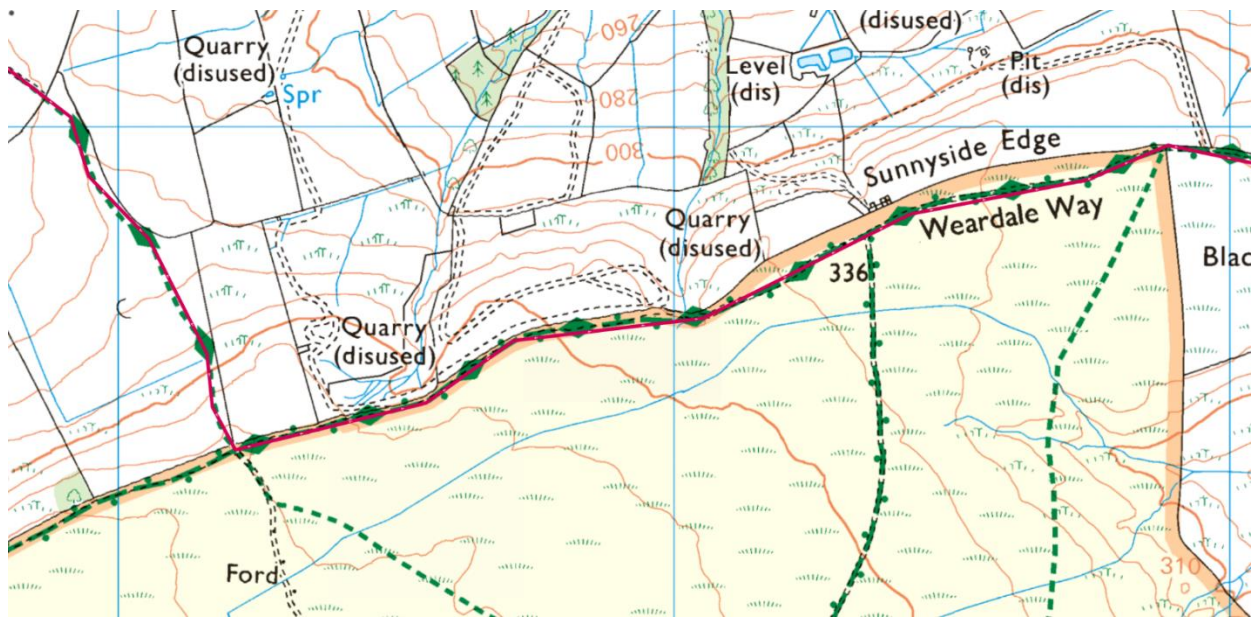
When you reach the trees turn left, leaving the track. Head, across the field, towards the stone wall. At the wall, turn back on yourself and cross the field diagonally to the top corner.

At the top of the field go through a metal field gate. Almost immediately, at the bend in the road, turn right onto the sandy track and go through a second metal gate. Follow the sandy track (signed Restricted Byway), keeping the stone wall on your right.



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D:



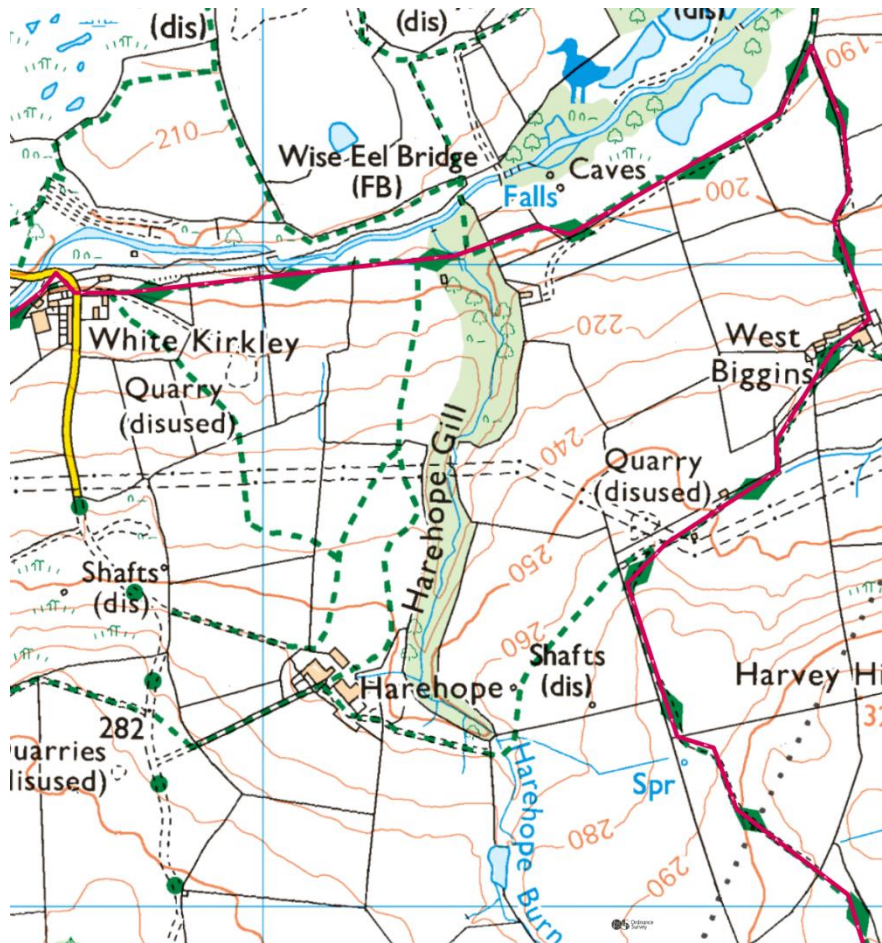
After 450m go through the gate and continue following the track, heading towards the clump of trees (known as the Elephant Trees) in the distance. Continue keeping the drystone wall on your right.

After about 1.8km (just before you reach the Elephant Trees), turn right off the track (opposite another track), go through a field gate, and make your way down the field, keeping the wall on your right. The settlement you can see straight ahead is the small village of Frosterley.



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E:



At the bottom of the large field go through a metal field gate and continue ahead, picking up the track and following to the far, bottom, corner of the field.

When you reach the bottom corner of the field go through the metal gate and follow the path/track along the wall (immediately on your left). Continue following through two more gates to the farm at West Biggins.

Head through the farmyard at West Biggins, going between the wooden barn and the stone buildings (on your left). At the end of the buildings turn left, over a cattle grid, and join the tarmac road. Follow the road down to Harehope Quarry (disused).

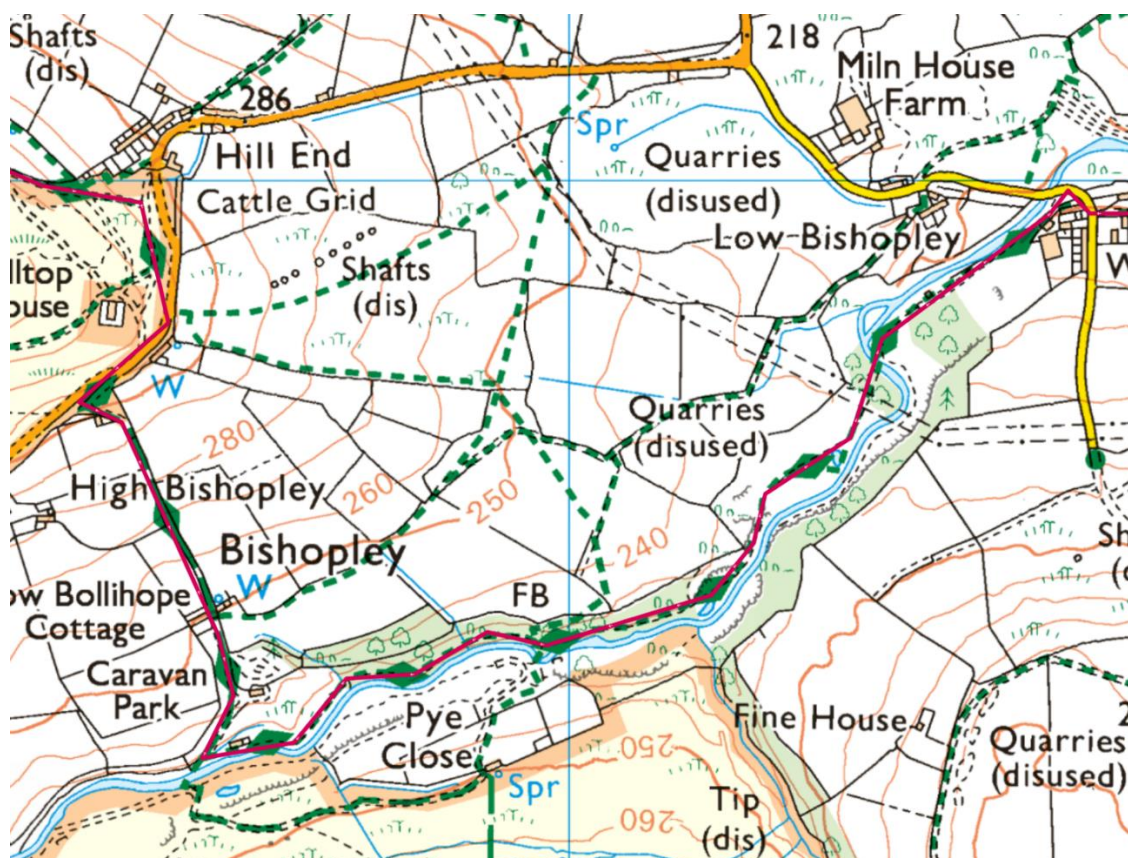
Just as the road bears right (after about 0.5km) turn left, through a metal kissing gate and follow the stony track round the edge of the disused, wooded, quarry below you. Pass through two more gates/kissing gates.

Where the track bears left, heading towards some buildings, bear right and cross the stile. Head down slope and after 50m turn left on the path to contour round the hillside. (There is an optional out and back here to see an exposure of Frosterley Marble in the stream bed. Continue downhill for 100m (on a permissive path) through a gate and down some stone steps to a wooden footbridge and return the same way. If the stream bed is dry, you can (with care) clamber down and examine the exposure closely.)

Go through the metal kissing gate, just beyond the bench, and continue ahead down a short slope to the site of the Harehope Gill Lead Mine, cross the stream and through the bridle gate ahead. Cross five fields and when you reach the road at White Kirkley (opposite White Kirkley Farm), turn right.

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F:



Walk over the road bridge and immediately turn left (over a stile) and continue ahead (signed 'Weardale Way – Public Footpath') on the muddy track, keeping the Bollihope Burn on your right.

After 350m cross the bridge over the Bollihope Burn and continue following the path ahead (this section can be muddy after rain), with the burn on your left now. Keep following the streamside path, through the trees.

Where the path forks, bear right, continuing to keep the Bollihope Burn on your left. Do not cross the footbridge.

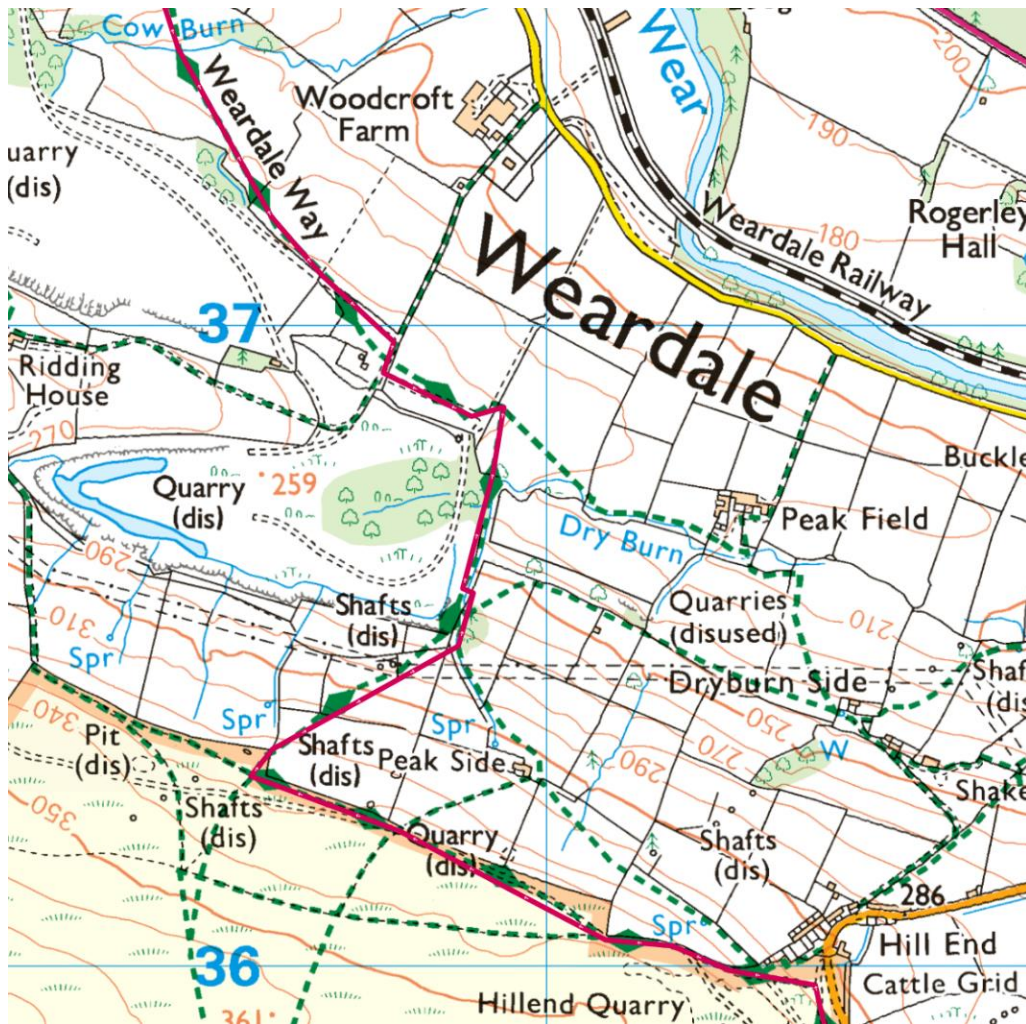
After 300m go through the metal kissing gate and continue ahead on the path. Go past the house and shortly after turn right, following the track, uphill, through Fineburn Caravan Park. When you reach the access road (tarmac), continue ahead, uphill. At the T-junction at top turn right onto the road – care, can be quite busy.

Just as you reach the small settlement of Hill End turn left (signed 'Weardale Way – Public Footpath') to join the uphill track – immediately before the cattle grid.



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G:



Follow the track on your right (signed 'Weardale Way'). Keep following the track, with the drystone wall on your right, for about a kilometre.

At the corner of the wall bear right and go through the wooden field gate/kissing gate into the field. Walk diagonally down across the field, heading towards the opposite corner.

In the bottom corner cross the ladder stile and go over the small wooden bridge. Turn left (downhill) keeping the wooded gill on your left. Partway down (after about 50m) turn left, cross a small stream, and go through the wooden bridle gate. Turn right and follow the path downhill, keeping the wall on your right and the disused quarry on your left. Cross the stile at the bottom of the hill and turn left, over the culverted stream, and cross the corner of the field to a wooden stile.

Cross the stile and follow the stone track ahead. Cross another stile (in front of the ruined building) and turn right on the downhill track. After a short distance turn left onto another track (just before the metal gate), keeping the double fence and newly planted (April 2025) hedge on your right.

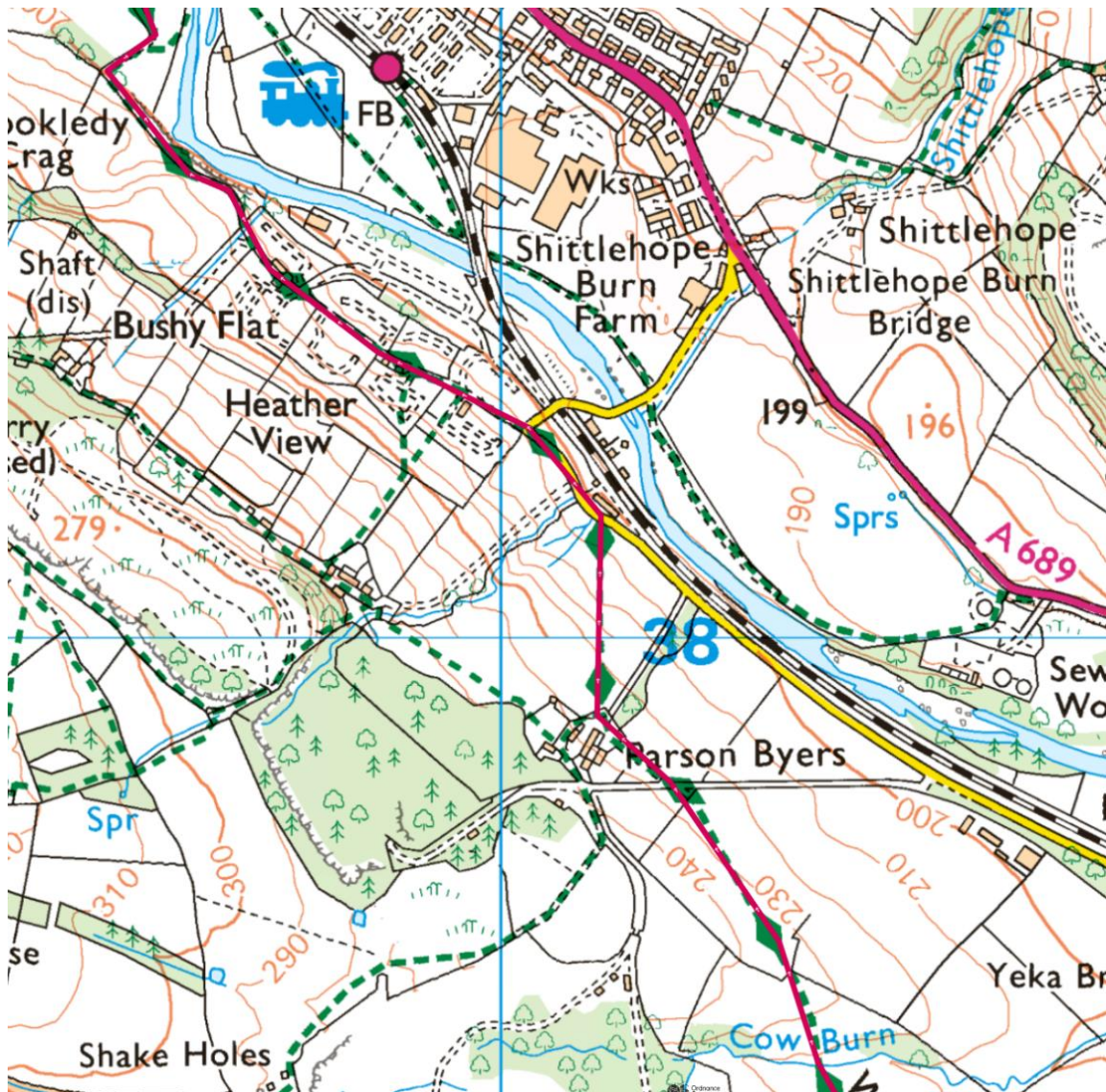
Leave the track immediately before the metal gate, crossing the stile on your right. Head across the corner of the field towards a ladder stile, just to the left of a metal gate.

Cross the ladder stile and walk diagonally across the field to cross the Cow Burn (no footbridge).



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H:



On the other side of the stream (Cow Burn) continue ahead, uphill to a stile next to a wooden gate.

Cross the stile and head straight across the field to a wooden field gate. Go through the gate and follow the track ahead, to the nearby buildings – Parson Byers.

Cross the access track and go over the stile into the field. Follow the path down, diagonally across the field - along the line of telegraph poles. At the road turn left. Where the road turns sharply right continue ahead on the tarmac through Heather View Leisure/Caravan Park – signed 'Weardale Way – Public Footpath'.

At the far end of the caravan park, cross the stream and stile/wooden gate and follow the path through the trees, with the River Wear down on your right.

After 300m cross the stile, next to a metal gate, and continue ahead, keeping the stone wall on your left.



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I:



After 80m turn sharp left, keeping the fence on your left. Go under the railway (tunnel) or over (concrete ladder stile) and continue ahead. When you reach the access road for the farm, go through the small metal gate, and follow the tarmac, with the River Wear on your right.

After 90m you will arrive at a green metal bridge over the river – this is the end of Leg 8.

If you want to visit the small town of Stanhope, cross the green footbridge, and turn right on the riverside walk.

Roof of England Walk – a journey around the North Pennines. This is Leg 8 (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