

H Look to your left and you will see part of the spoil heap and the engine house that belonged to the Diamond Colliery. William Lake Prattman, the entrepreneur mentioned previously, opened this colliery in 1835, however; it was closed just six years later when he became bankrupt. The Diamond Pit was re-opened by the Butterknowle Colliery Company and worked until the early 1900's.

I On your right set into the wall, is a marker in memory of Police Sergeant Smith, who was murdered by three miners named Lawson, Hodgson and Siddle, on the 22nd February 1884. Lawson was accused of the murder and subsequently hanged, whilst Hodgson was acquitted (although later admitted to the crime) and Siddle was pardoned.

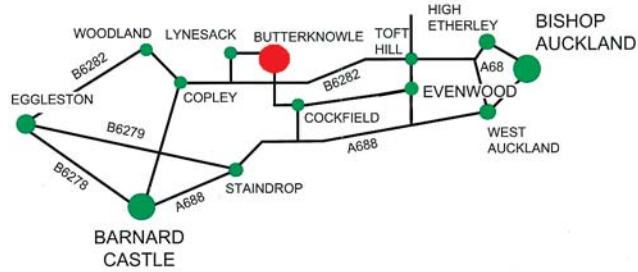
Continue alongside the main road through the village.

J To your left you will see a warehouse which began life as the miner's welfare hall, with space to hold 4450 people; making it the largest public hall in the district in it's time. This building later became the Kino cinema.

When you arrive at the end of the village, where the road bears right, cross and follow a path flanked by a wall and fence.

K To your left you can see the former Quarry Lane School built by public subscription and opened in 1832. Pupils attended this school from Langleydale, Marley and Cockfield and were charged six pence a week for the privilege.

When you meet the Quarry Lane road, turn left and return to the car park.



This three and a half mile walk travels in an clockwise direction, commencing from and returning to the Quarry Lane picnic site, Butterknowle. To enjoy this walk in comfort, boots are recommended and the route is way marked throughout with yellow 'Circular Walk' arrows.

Please observe the
Countryside Code:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

We very much regret this walk is unsuitable for wheelchair users and the less ambulant.

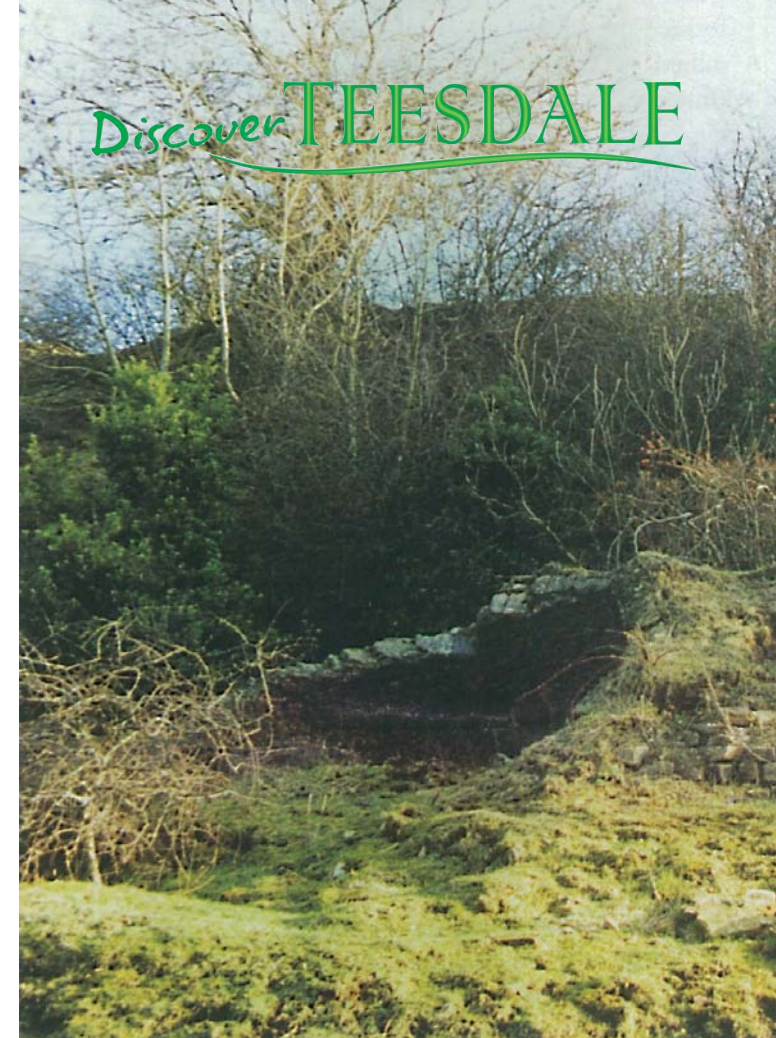
For more information/advice regarding Public Rights of Way please contact Durham County Councils Access and Rights of Way Team on 0191 383 3452



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Making a difference where you live



Butterknowle Coke Ovens

Butterknowle

A 3½ Mile
Circular Walk that
visits Butterknowle's
Coal Mining Heritage



Your walk begins at Quarry Lane Car Park

A This is the site of Quarry Pit, one of several small collieries that formed the Butterknowle Colliery complex. Coal mined at Quarry Pit was sent by tramway to Butterknowle Screens and Cokeworks. This colliery closed in 1910, although a drift mine was later opened on the site, producing coal from 1919 to 1942.

From Quarry Lane car park turn left and walk up the hill. Go straight over at the crossroads and follow the track ahead to Raines House. Take the first turning to your right which leads to the farming community of Potters Cross.

Pass farm buildings on your left and cross the farm yard towards the main part of this hamlet.

B Potters Cross is a hamlet that is thought to have originated in medieval times and it can be seen in maps dating back to the 17th & 18th Century, where it is reported as being a thriving agricultural community. Butterknowle and Copley do not yet appear on maps of this time.

From Potters Cross turn left, passing in front of the last house by going through a farm yard and entering a field via a side gate

Follow the fence line to your left through two fields, enter the third field and follow the faint path which will take you across a footbridge. Once over the bridge bear slightly right up the bank and cross the stile. Again follow the line of fencing on your left, until the fencing meets a wall. Bear right and head towards Loop Farm for fifty metres, and then bear left, and cross the beck. Cross the stile and head uphill towards a gate and Marsfield Farm.

C This path crosses the site of Marsfield Drift Mine from where coal was transported to Butterknowle screens and coke works by tramway.

Go through the gate and bear left for Marsfield Farm. From the farm yard turn right and follow the farm track until you meet a road. Cross the road to a stile, cross this and keep the hedge to your left until the next stile. The hedge will now be on your right. Continue along the hedge line until you reach a road.

D Viewpoint: Look to your right for views of Butterknowle and Copley.

Turn right onto the road towards Southside, walk a short distance until you reach a stile on your left. Cross the stile, walk down the well defined path which follows Crow Howle Beck.

E You will reach Butterknowle Colliery. Only the pit heap and the blacksmith's shop (the small brick building up to the right of the spoil heap) remain.

After the third stile bear left, don't cross the footbridge, but turn left and cross a smaller footbridge with the Beck to your right.

F The track that you are walking along is the bed of the branch line that served Butterknowle and Marsfield Collieries, the remains of which can still be traced.

By 1893 the Butterknowle Colliery Co. owned 120 coke ovens, the remains of which can be seen to the left amongst the undergrowth. These ovens used coal from the surrounding pits. The whole complex closed in 1910, when the company went into liquidation. One story says that before World War 2 a local man made his home inside one of the ovens.

Continue to follow the path until you arrive at the houses of The Slack.

G This is the site of Butterknowle's former brick works. The bricks produced here are easily identifiable as they were marked with a thumb print on the brick face; they were used to build the local 'Bee Hive' coke ovens as well as many houses in the area.

The terminus for the Haggerleases railway was also situated here, which linked the Gaunless Valley collieries to West Auckland and therefore the wider market for coke and coal via the Stockton and Darlington Railway. This railway link was developed in 1830 by local entrepreneur, William Lake Prattman and brought prosperity to the Gaunless Valley. This section of line was eventually closed in 1963, by this time most of the coal mines in the area had also ceased activity.

Turn right and follow the road up the hill, known as Diamond Bank, into the village of Butterknowle.

