

The new railway path has been upgraded as a 3.4km multi-user route connecting West Auckland and Ramshaw. This and the newly built Spring Gardens nature trail gives people access to various habitats by encouraging walking, cycling and horse riding.

There is an option here to take a detour around the Environment Agency's newly created wetland habitat.

Follow this route for about 1 km, passing Evenwood Mill on your left.

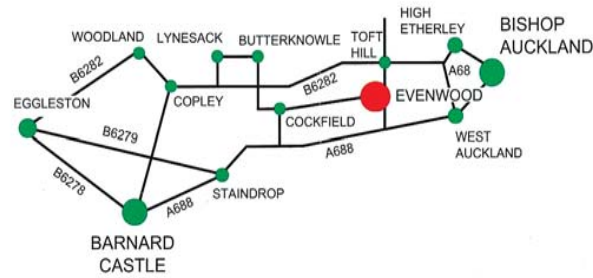
You will reach the road here, turn left and follow the road over Evenwood bridge, a Grade 2 listed building. Once over the bridge, cross the road, and follow the footpath on the right to the old pitfields.

H On the right is the former site of 'Sneekers Drift' and the Isabella tramway, which led into the Norwood Collieries.

Where the path reaches the wall bear left and walk up the field, continue on this footpath past Delaware Avenue and the allotments before crossing a stile and bearing right over another. Turn left here and follow the path towards the recreation ground.

I The recreation ground, known locally known as 'The Rec', was laid out by the Randolph Colliery Welfare about 1925 and then handed over to the Parish Council in 1974.

Turn left towards the main road. Turn right at the road and follow it back to the Community Centre.



This five and a half mile walk travels in an anti clockwise direction, commencing from Evenwood and Ramshaw Community Centre, and returning there. 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. The multi-user route from Spring Gardens to Ramshaw, and the nature trail, have been designed to be wheelchair friendly

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



Supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**



Discover **TEESDALE**



A view of the Spring Gardens nature trail

Evenwood

A 5½ Mile Circular Walk that visits Evenwood's Coal Mining Heritage



A Your walk begins at Evenwood and Ramshaw Community Centre, known as The Randolph Centre – formerly the National School that opened its doors in 1865.

From the Randolph Centre cross the road and turn right, follow the road past St. Paul's church. At Jubilee Terrace turn left onto a dirt road and walk alongside the allotment gardens.

B In the distance on your right is the former site of Randolf Colliery and Cokeworks. This pit was sunk in 1893 and worked until 1960 and the flame from the coke works was probably the most famous landmark in South West Durham until the works closed in 1984.

Go through the gate ahead and turn left following the path adjacent to the housing.

C To the right is the reclaimed land of British Coal's Thrushwood Opencast site worked between 1990 and 1994.

Follow the footpath across the field to a stile. Over the stile, turn right and continue over the next four stiles keeping the fence on your right before coming to a track.

There is an option for shortening the walk at this point by turning left and heading over the River Gaunless and following the public footpath before joining the new railway path before point H.

For the full walk; go across the track, pass over the stile into the field and head right towards the trees, cross over the stile and walk up the bank towards a second.

D This track follows the route of the Randolph Incline Tramway; worked by a stationary engine this tramway took wagons, six at a time, between the Randolph Colliery and Cokeworks and the railway.

Turn left before the stile and follow the path keeping the fence on your right.

E On the left is a pond which was designed to carry the run-off from the opencast site once it had closed.

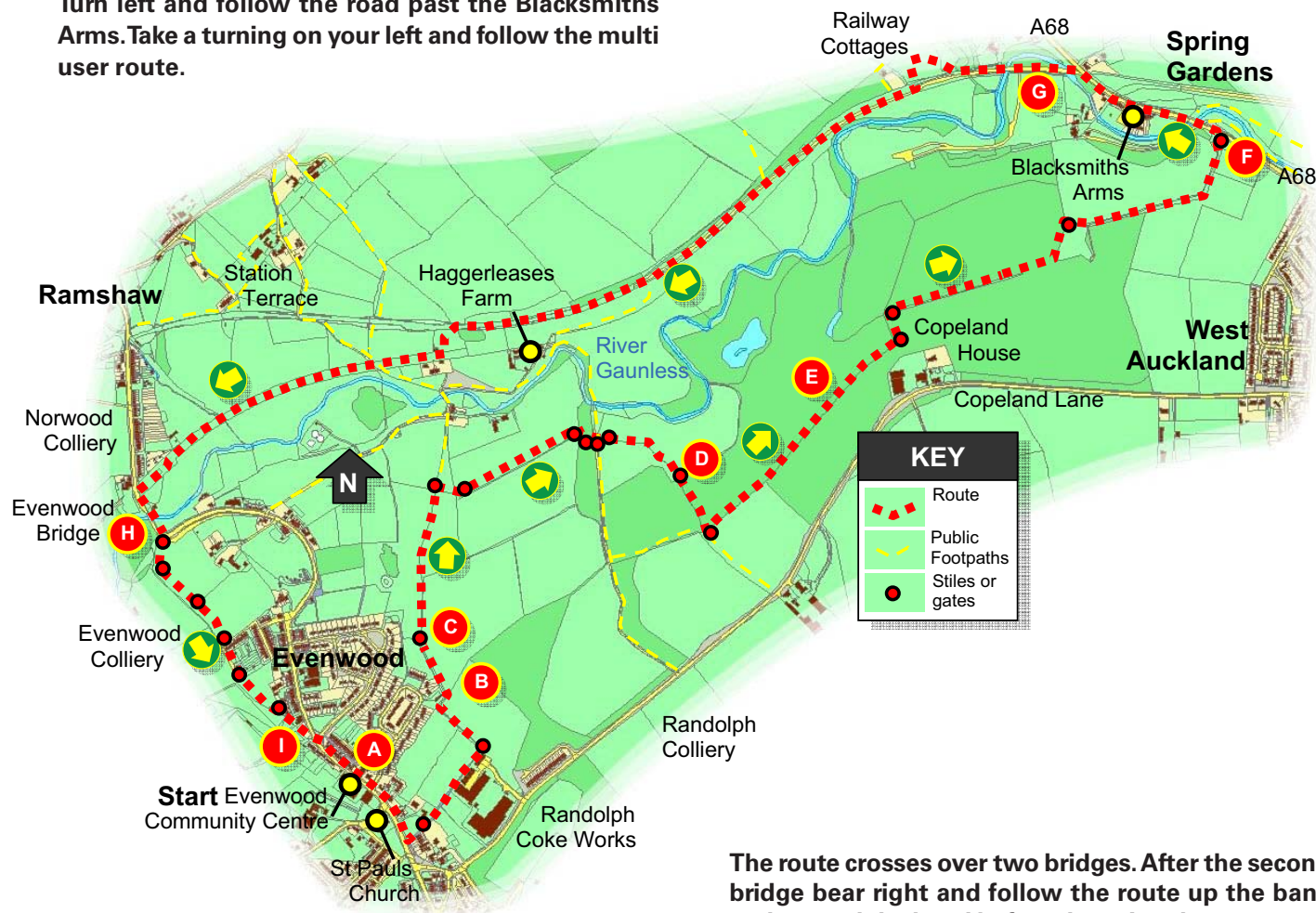
Turn left over the stile, pass through the gate and turn right, follow the path to a stile, which leads down a track to another stile before coming out on the A68 at Spring Gardens.

F This was known as 'The Old Coal Road' running from Etherley to Darlington.

Turn left and follow the road past the Blacksmiths Arms. Take a turning on your left and follow the multi user route.

G This was formerly the track for the Haggerleases Branch Railway, 1860 – 1963, and the Bishop Auckland to Barnard Castle Branch Railway, 1863 – 1962.

The latter, known as the 'high line', was constructed by the South Durham and Lancashire Union Railway Company to carry coal and coke from South Durham over to Cumberland to fuel the iron and steel industries.



The route crosses over two bridges. After the second bridge bear right and follow the route up the bank and around the bend before dropping down to once again join the new railway path.