

Witton Gilbert Walks No. 5

Fulforth Wood 3.24 Km / 2 Miles

Grade: moderate

Time: 1hrs.

Start location: NZ 234 457

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Directions

1. Starting from the entrance to Cooper Hall/School drive bear left to go up the path at the side of Cooper Hall, 2. go through the kissing gateway going straight ahead you pass the Bowling Green on your right and come to another kissing gate, go through and continue straight ahead, 3. at the gap go on uphill and looking to the left there are wide views of the open countryside looking out to Fulforth Farm and beyond. 4. Continue on to the gap in the next hedge and bear diagonal right heading for the main road from Witton Gilbert to Sacriston, 5. through the kissing gate turn left and follow the road for about 100 metres 6. then turn left into the field heading for the woods, go down the track keeping to your right until exiting at the bottom footpath. 7. Turn left and follow the track for about 600 metres, at the junction turn left follow the track for about 150 metres to the stile on your left, 8. cross the stile and turn right to go across the field below the farm and head diagonal left for the far corner about 500 metres. 9. Cross the stile/open the gate and head diagonal left uphill to the hedge and follow the track along to the gate and turn left through the gap then turn right to follow the path round the field and back to the kissing gate on your right, go through this and return to the starting point.



S = stile
G = gate
P = parking

Points of interest

As you pass the houses of Norburn Park on your right, this part of the walk is locally called The "Five Fields Walk".

Fulforth Wood is a registered Ancient woodland and is also included in the Econet scheme (www.ukeconet.org)

Passing through Fulforth Dene you may be able to see the evidence of Fulforth Dene Park recreation Ground. It once had tennis courts, bowling green and a pavilion, used by the residents of Witton and Sacriston. It was first shown on the 1951-59 maps of the area and fell into disrepair.

Old maps show that Fulforth (meaning foul or dirty ford) has been an important locality since early times. It is mentioned in 1183 in the Boldon Book - the NE equivalent of the Domesday Book - and many prehistoric finds in the area point to the long occupation of the site. The farm is the sole reminder of the earlier community in the valley which is likely to have consisted of scattered dwellings rather than a village and probably existing alongside a similar population by the river.

As you pass Fulforth Farm on your right you will see a stone surround to an ancient spring.



Note the rigg and furrow marks in the field - evidence of ancient patterns of cultivation.

The Nor Burn follows the line of a Subglacial channel system which channelled glacial melt water under the ice at the end of the Devensian period (last ice age) it is one of the protected geological sites in Durham.