

Fishburn & Bishop Middleham

Distance: 11.7 Km / 7.3 miles
 Postcode: TS21 4AD (nearest)
 Front Street, Fishburn
 Grid Ref: NZ 36417 32149

What to expect from the walk:
 Along grassy paths, with muddy slopes in bad weather conditions, along road and river sides. Barriers include kissing gates, stiles, steps and bridges.

- Important information**
- P** No formal parking but some available on Front Street.
 - Local shops at Fishburn and Bishop Middleham.
 - Allow up to 4 hours for this walk.
 - This route follows public rights of way. Please keep dogs under close control at all times.



This is one in a series of walks to help you Discover Brightwater.



If you enjoyed this walk, visit our website to see all the other walks, find out where you can pick up a printed copy, or download a copy to print at home.

Be Social

Tell us all about your walk on our social media channels. Share your photos so everyone can see what a wonderful area it is and they can Discover Brightwater just like you.



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 Visit our website
www.discoverbrightwater.com

DISCOVER BRIGHTWATER



FISHBURN & BISHOP MIDDLEHAM

YOUR FREE ADVENTURE GUIDE & MAP

Experience this rare landscape and ancient species, and journey through the first stronghold of the Prince Bishop's.



Discover Brightwater is the new name for the area around the River Skerne in canny county Durham. It stretches from the Trimdons in the north to South Park in Darlington; and from Sedgfield in the east to the Locomotion, National Railway Museum, in Shildon in the west.

Brightwater isn't a new name, but a rediscovery of an old Viking word. 'Skirr' is the Norse word meaning 'bright' so translating our Viking ancestors' name for the river gives us Brightwater.

Discover Brightwater is a landscape partnership project which has been funded by all those lovely people who play the lottery.



Keep an eye out for...

- 1** Durham Argus Butterfly - The disused Bishop Middleham Quarry is a breeding site for the Durham argus butterfly, a local race of the brown argus found only in northeast England.
- 2** Bishop Middleham quarry also holds one of the largest British populations of the dark red helleborine, *Epipactis atrorubens*; a survey in 2010 found nearly 1700 flowering spikes of this nationally rare species.
- 3** Fishburn Airfield was named as "Airfield of the year" by aviation magazine *Flyer* in 2004 for its welcoming atmosphere and bacon butties.

Goldcrest photo: John Bridges



Trecreeper photo: Bob Coyle



Common Blue Butterfly photo: Amy Lewis



Can you tick these off your list?

Wow, what will you discover?

Tick the boxes along the way to keep a record of all of the wonderful things you have seen around Fishburn and Bishop Middleham.

Birds

- Chiffchaff
- Sparrow
- Chaffinch
- Buzzard

Animals

- Shrew
- Fox
- Stoat
- Deer

Insects

- Butterfly
- Moth
- Ladybird
- Honeybee

Flowers

- Poppy
- Trefoil
- Daisy
- Knapweed

Did you spot anything hiding in the hills and holes of Bishop Middleham Quarry?

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So, how many did you spot? Tell us on social media.





DISCOVER BRIGHTWATER

RESTORE, REVEAL & CELEBRATE LIFE AROUND THE RIVER SKERNE



1 START

Walk along Front Street away from the cross roads, continue downhill

passing Fishburn Woods on your left. Pass the houses and briefly walking along a grass verge. Follow the footpath sign to your right. Walk along the path for 200m, turning left towards the field and the large trees 250m.

2 Follow path to the right along the field edge near the end of the aerodrome runway for 250m.

3 Turn right into the neighbouring field. Continue ahead along the edge of the field between a farm and the airfield buildings, crossing two stiles and a field holding cattle and a bull, joining a surfaced track in 900m, leading to a main road.

4 Turn right along the verge and cross in 100m, following the track along the field edge for 600m, briefly bearing left before turning right between the fence line and hedgerow, heading towards the woodland.

5 Walk along the path and take the right fork towards Bishop Middle Quarry, a nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest managed by Durham Wildlife Trust. Take the time to enjoy this site which sports a long list of species including various orchids, sand martins and butterflies.

6 Return to the path, exit via the kissing gate to the roadside. Turn left and walk along the road towards a cross roads with High Road. Take the road ahead and follow the public footpath sign on your right in 170m.

7 Reach Front Street at Bishop Middleham, turn right and walk along the path for 600m then turn sharply left.

8 Cross onto Broadloaks then follow the footpath sign to the right along Fournarts Lane. Walk along the well surfaced track for 1.5km, alongside a section of Mainsforth Stile before crossing a bridge over the river Skerne.

9 Walk along the path on the disused railway for 1.2km, passing through a gate continuing along the bridleway for 750m, crossing Holdforth Bridge, restored with funds from National Lottery Heritage Fund, over the Skerne and beneath the Holdforth Road Bridge.

10 Follow the bridleway and way markers upriver for 1.2km to a large grassed area.

11 Turn left along the left hand boundary to a stile in 175m. Carry on uphill towards Fishburn Woods, a mixed woodland of oak, silver birch and pine, along the defined path to a wider cleared corridor in 230m. Take some time to explore Fishburn Woods on your own and discover the different species of bird, mammal and fungi in this habitat.

12 Walk along the open corridor and turn left into the woods before the metal stile then descend towards Front Street through a kissing gate. Walk uphill along reaching the crossroads in 400m and the end of the walk.

Fishburn & Bishop Middleham

KEY

Walking Route

Other footpaths to explore

Road

Holdforth Bridge was restored with money from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Magnesium Limestone was quarried at Bishop Middleham quarry until the 1930s. It's now a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Snacks and drinks for the adventure can be bought from Fishburn and Bishop Middleham.

How many different types of aircraft can you see at Fishburn Airfield?



Please always follow the Countryside Code

