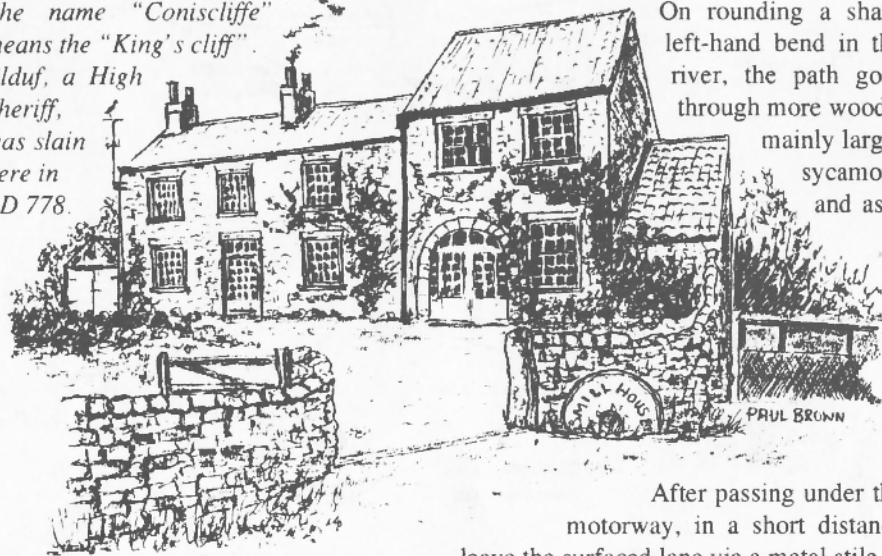


The other pub in the village is the Duke of Wellington, though from 1975 to 1988 its sign showed a portrait of Napoleon! A large collection of foreign banknotes decorates the bar. The name "Coniscliffe" means the "King's cliff". Elduf, a High Sheriff, was slain here in AD 778.

Keep a lookout for dippers, mallards, widgeon, goosanders and kingfishers, all of which have been seen along this stretch of the river.



On rounding a sharp left-hand bend in the river, the path goes through more woods, mainly larger sycamore and ash.

After passing under the motorway, in a short distance leave the surfaced lane via a metal stile to continue along the river, entering Low Coniscliffe by the short Wellburn Lane.

Low Coniscliffe used to have a Manor House which belonged to the Greystoke family, but that, together with the gaol and gallows is long since gone. The School House, built by Arthur Pease and opened in 1893, is now a private house, one of the few old village buildings still remaining.



Turn right along the street to a left-hand bend. Look for a Teesdale Way sign marking a narrow path between detached houses, which brings you via a field path back to the Baydale Beck Inn.

Take the footpath through the kissing gate down to the river, indicated by a Teesdale Way sign. A clear riverside path can now be followed all the way to Low Coniscliffe. For the next kilometre the path follows an earth embankment built to prevent flooding. Pass through a small plantation of larch and pine and as you leave the plantation, Ulnaby Beck is crossed by way of a small footbridge. Away to your left are the houses of Merrybent bordering the A67. The path soon meanders through scrubby woodland, mainly of alder, hazel, willow and sycamore, lining the riverbank.

Enquiries about this leaflet can be made to: Information Darlington, 13 Horsemarket, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 5PW. Tel: 01325-388666.

Walks around THE BOROUGH OF DARLINGTON

No.5: Coniscliffe Moor & Teesdale Way



The walk starts at the Baydale Beck Inn on the westbound A67 leaving Darlington. Cars may be left in the lay-by.

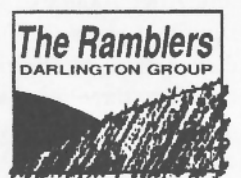
He even kept a cow for the tenants! Dick Turpin is reputed to have slept here.

There has been an inn here for over 200 years. In 1770 it was the haunt of Catton's Gang of thieves and another notorious regular, Sir William Browne, last of the Mosstroopers, was sentenced to death at Newcastle in 1743 for returning from transportation. The inn had such a bad name that the landlord let it with 20 acres of land for £8 per annum.

From the lay-by, follow the signed bridleway northwards along a pleasant farm track with hedges either side. The track bears left then immediately right, continuing with a fence on the right as far as Coniscliffe Grange Farm. Do not enter the farmyard but turn left along the top edge of the field with the hedge on your right, pass through a gate, and cross the bridge over the busy A1(M) motorway.

INFORMATION

Distance : 10 km (6 ¼ miles)
Time : allow 3 hours
Standard : level, very easy going
Transport : bus to Baydale Beck
Refreshments : pub at start/half-way



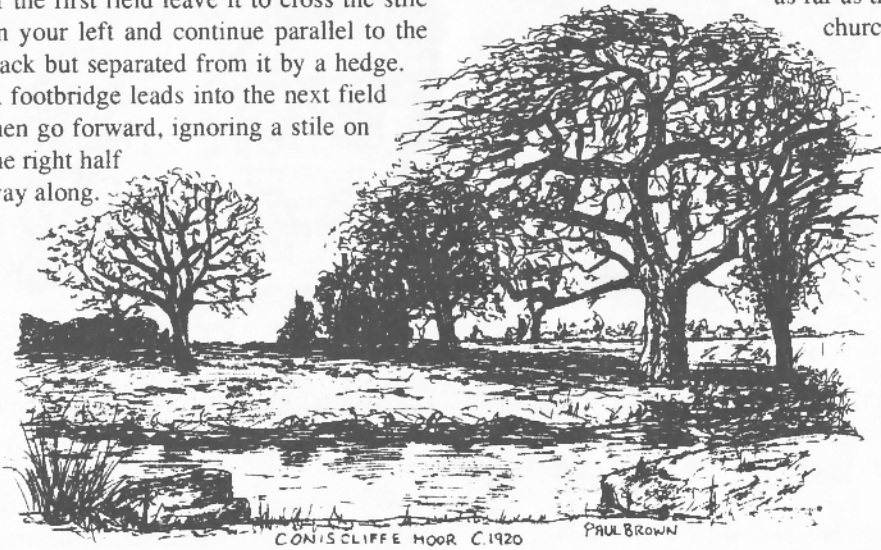
This is the highest point on the walk and the views are superb. To the south can be seen Jockey Cap (a landmark group of trees above Richmond), Gayles Moor and the Swaledale hills. Barningham and Bowes Moor lie to the southwest. East are the Cleveland Hills, and the Pennines can be seen to the west. All this yet you are only 63m above sea-level.

Walk along the farm track and at the end of the first field leave it to cross the stile on your left and continue parallel to the track but separated from it by a hedge. A footbridge leads into the next field then go forward, ignoring a stile on the right half way along.

Turn half-left to walk towards the nearest building with its red-tiled roof, to a gate.

This is old Mill House, now converted to an attractive residence with fine gardens and a heron-shaped weather vane.

Continue along the short Mill Lane past the local tennis club until you reach the A67 road. Turn right, past the Spotted Dog Inn and walk up through the village as far as the church.



At the end of the field, turn left. Before a patch of waterlogged ground, take a stile on your right, cross a footbridge between ponds, go over a stile and turn left. Pass a superb old oak, continuing to a water trough by another oak. Turn right and follow tracks across the field to a metal gate leading into a lane, which swings left. After 100m exit via the stile on your right and cross the field, aiming for the distant spire of High Coniscliffe church. Go along three more small fields to reach a stile by a finger-post. Keep in the same direction to a stile at the end of a wall, to emerge in an ancient furrowed meadow.

The Spotted Dog takes its name from a Cheshire Blue Cap hunting dog, probably of the Raby pack. St. Edwin's church, approached via a lych-gate, dates from 1170 and is the only English church dedicated to Saxon King Edwin of Northumbria. It was re-modelled in the 13th century, restored in Victorian times, and the recent stainless steel roof should last into the 22nd century! The north doorway is Norman and the elegant spire dates from the 13th century. Next to the church is the old vicarage, re-built 150 years ago and reputed to contain secret passages.

