

Bolam Lake to Shaftoe Crags

DISTANCE: 10 KM (6 MILES)

GRADE OF WALK: MODERATE

TIME: 2-3 HOURS

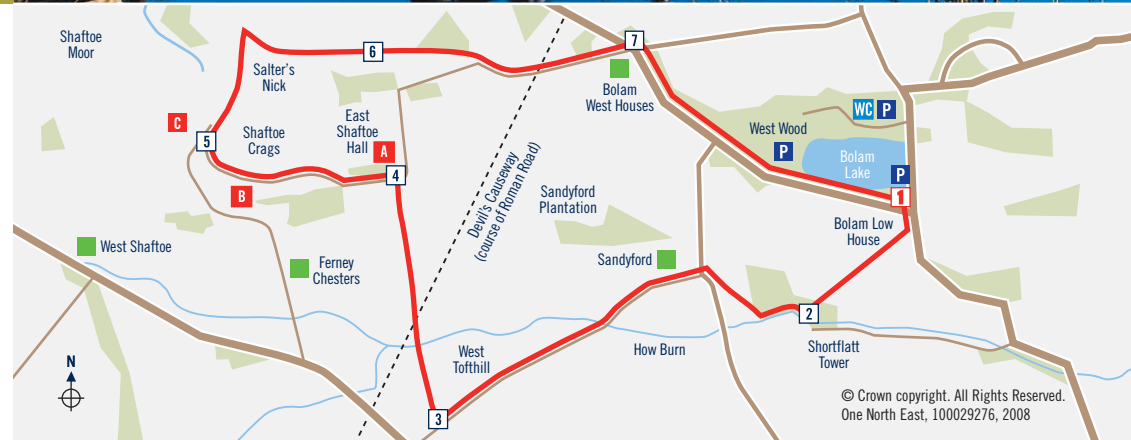
STILES: ON ROUTE



There's something different everywhere you turn on this one! Peaceful farmland, border defences, weird and wonderful rock formations, woodland and lake views. If you're up to further exploring afterwards, Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens is just a short drive away, with its amazing neo-classical architecture, romantic ruins and a rather good tearoom. Alternatively, you can soak up some of the area's musical heritage at Morpeth's Bagpipe Museum.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE:

- 1 From the car park turn right onto the road and at the road junction turn left, then right through 'White Gate', next to Bolam Low House. Cross the field diagonally to the stile in the field corner, cross and walk straight ahead towards a wooden bridge. Cross and carry on along the edge of the field. Cross the ladder stile and walk through the plantation. At the end of the plantation take the right fork to cross a small footbridge, then cross a stile on the left, onto the track.
- 2 Bear right along the track, through the gates and over the footbridge. Head diagonally across the field towards the farm buildings ahead (Sandyford). At the road bear left, passing Sandyford on your right, continue on along the road until you come to West Tofthill on your right (house).
- 3 After passing West Tofthill, just before the main road, turn right at the signpost to East Shaftoe Hall. Follow the track ahead through the fields to the Hall, a Grade 1 listed building described as a Pele tower, a defensive building commonly built during the border raids. **Please note this is a private residence.**
- 4 Just in front of East Shaftoe Hall, turn left along the track, through the gate on to Shaftoe Crags. Follow the path round and you will come to a strange rock formation on the left - this is the Devil's Punchbowl. Access to the basin is by way of footholds and **climbing onto the rock should be done with great care as there is a sheer drop to the south.**
- 5 Continue along the track passing Shaftoe Grange to the left. Keep the boundary wall to your left and follow the track around to the right at Salter's Nick.
- 6 Continue along the track, pass through a gate, keep the boundary wall to your left and continue through the field. Go through another gate and follow the track straight ahead until you come to Bolam West Houses.
- 7 Turn right at the crossroads and walk along the road to the barrier opposite the turn to Harnham. Enter the woods, bear right along to West Wood car park and continue along the lakeside (to the left) to Low House Wood car park.



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TRAVEL & TRANSPORT:

HOW TO GET THERE

Follow the A696 past Newcastle International Airport towards Jedburgh. Just through the village of Belsay turn right to Bolam Lake and turn left into Low House Wood car park (signed).

START/PARKING

Low House Wood car park.
OS Map Grid Reference NZ083816

EXPLORER MAP OL 42

MAP KEY:

- 1 ROUTE START
- P PARKING
- TOWN/VILLAGE
- WC WC

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A East Shaftoe Hall
- B Devil's Punchbowl
- C Shaftoe Grange