

<p>Distance: Approx 3.75 miles</p> <p>Time Taken: 1.5-2hrs</p> <p>Terrain: Clear farmland footpaths</p> <p>Total ascent / descent: Negligible</p> <p>Dog Friendliness: Very dog friendly. Leads required on road and near farm.</p> <p>Toilets / Refreshments: Pubs in Greatham</p> <p>Parking: Road parking in Greatham</p> <p>OS Maps: Explorer 306</p>	<p>020 - Greatham to Cowpen Bewley Circular</p> <p>Background: Greatham is a village in the borough of Hartlepool. Greatham is home to the hospital of God, founded in 1273 by the then Bishop of Durham Robert de Stichell. The hospital was originally formed to aid poor people. There is a long history of salt works nearby which declined in the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p>Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park is a new area of woodland located on the edge of Billingham. The site was reclaimed from former brickworks, landfill and ex-agricultural land. There is an extensive network of footpaths throughout the site including routes up onto two mounds, one of which offers a spectacular panorama with views of the coast and Cleveland Hills.</p> <p>Route Description: The route starts in Greatham Village on Front Street, opposite the junction of The Drive. There is a public footpath sign here. Follow the sign and head towards the allotments following the path left around the allotments and across the footbridge.</p> <p>Cross the footbridge and take the path left along Greatham Beck until you reach a gate, go through the gate and directly across to another gate following the path ahead along the beck. The path turns right along the wooded area of the hospital of God and turns left again keeping the wooded area on your left.</p> <p>Follow this to the end of the wooded area and then turn left again keeping the woodland on your left. After several meters you'll reach the beck again. Turn right, keeping the beck on your left and follow this path all the way to the railway line.</p> <p>Once you reach the railway line the path bend right and follows the tracks until you reach Greatham Beck again. Follow the path along the beck once more, you'll have to go through a gate on the fields. The path can be slightly hidden in the summer due to large crops but it follows the beck at the edge of the fields. You will reach another gate onto a road and you have reach Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. You can at this point turn left at the gate and wander through the Park to increase your walk or turn right out of the gate and follow the road until you reach the farm on your right.</p> <p>You need to turn right through the metal gate (public footpath signposted here) before you reach the farm. If you reach the farm entrance you've gone too far. There is usually livestock in this field, normally sheep or cows so keep dogs on lead through this section. Follow this field keeping left along the hedgerow and following it at is turns left and then straight ahead through another metal gate.</p> <p>Through the gate the path is very clear diagonally across fields and joins another path along the edge of another field. This land is normally all agricultural land so dogs can be safely off lead. The paths here are very clear as they follow the edge of various fields winding its way back to the Hospital of God woodland. Once you reach the woodland, follow your route back to Greatham Village.</p> <p>Points of Interest: Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park</p>
---	---

Map:

