

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Leaving the Visitor Centre, cross the stile visible over the field.

- 1 Turn right and taking care along road follow Flatts Lane for 30 metres to steps opposite. Follow path until you reach a gravel clearing.

- 2 Ignoring "Footpath to Eston Nab" sign take left hand path. At end of this path turn left down a steep hill and at the bottom turn right across a wasteland (formerly Ski Slope.)

- 3 Follow wide path to your left, noticing the brick walls of the old reservoir on your left. Continue along path until reaching a wooden barrier and gorse area. At this point you are close to the *Powder House* which is well hidden by vegetation.

- 4 Turn left and follow path between fields to A174 subway and right onto path behind houses which lead you to the *miner's cottages* in Eston. The tarmac path leads you under a second subway back towards the hills and California Bank, a steep incline used to transport iron ore to the blast furnaces along the river.

- 5 The restored drift mine entrance at New Bank Top is where Lazenby Bank begins. Follow the old tramway on the left, eventually passing under the *1871 Bridge* (look up at the keystone) to the *Guibal Fan House*.

- 6 Return to 1871 bridge and take the steps on left side to Sandy Lane. Turn left and follow path until you see a stile and metal railings on the right. Over the stile the path leads steeply through conifer trees and out into the open up to *Eston Nab*. Take time to look at the contrasting views of town and countryside across Teesside and the Cleveland Hills.

- 7 Facing Roseberry Topping, leave the Nab and take the right fork of path. Follow path across moor and past Carr Pond to edge of field.

- 8 At the junction bear right to field gate then descend Ten Acre Bank to stile. Return to gravel clearing and descend steps to Flatts Lane and Visitor Centre.

Please come equipped for changeable weather and muddy paths with waterproofs and strong walking boots.

The walk can be traced on the following Ordnance Survey Map :

1:25000 Outdoor Leisure map 26

Throughout the walk you will pass through the habitats of farmland, scrub, woodland and moorland, all of which have been and continue to be influenced by humans.

There is evidence of over 4000 years of human activity. Originally the hills were tree covered, with the growth of the first settlements and farming they were felled giving us today's moorland.

Thousands of years later, the ironstone mines stripped the Eston escarpment of all vegetation. 50 years on from the closure of Eston Mine, nature is reclaiming the area with the growth of hawthorn scrub and Silver Birch trees.

The mosaic of habitats provide a home for a mix of wildlife from Emperor Moths to Curlew, as well as providing local people with an opportunity to enjoy the local countryside and the Tees Forest.

It is important we look after this area so that it can continue to support wildlife and be enjoyed by future generations of Teessiders!

The circular walk links the sites of Flatts Lane, Lazenby Bank and Eston Moor which are owned and managed by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Countryside section. They are both important sites within the Tees Forest.

The Tees Forest team is working towards a long term vision of the countryside around Teesside's towns and villages, in partnership with local authorities, private landowners and community groups. The end result will be well wooded landscape for wildlife, work, recreation and education that benefits the local economy. The result of this action is already apparent and will further develop in years to come.



Text: Jo Fearey
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FLATTS LANE & LAZENBY BANK

A CIRCULAR WALK AROUND ESTON HILLS



FACT FILE : LENGTH 9 KM / 5 MILES (ALLOW 4 HOURS)
 TAKE CARE ALONG ROAD SECTION, ALWAYS FACE ONCOMING TRAFFIC



THE POWDER HOUSE
 HELD GUNPOWDER FOR THE MINERS, PAID OUT OF THEIR WAGES. IN THE EVENT OF AN EXPLOSION THE BUILDING WOULD COLLAPSE AND SMOTHER THE FLAMES.

NORMANBY BRICK WORKS
 NOW SITE OF FLATTS LANE VISITOR CENTRE.

ESTON NAB
 AN IRON AGE HILLFORT WITH DISTINCTIVE BANK AND DITCH. DURING NAPOLEONIC TIMES A LOOKOUT TOWER WAS CONSTRUCTED. REMAINING UNTIL THE 1960'S A SMALLER BEACON WAS BUILT TO MARK THE SITE.

GUIBAL FAN HOUSE
 BUILT IN 1870 WITH A HUGE FAN TO DRAW AIR THROUGH THE MINES. AS ONE OF THE FIRST CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN THE COUNTRY, IT HAS LISTED BUILDING STATUS.

LEGEND

- START POINT
- ROUTE
- ROUTE DESCRIPTION
- STILE
- GATE OR BARRIER
- PARKING
- TOILETS
- SUBWAY UNDER A171(T)
- TREES / WOODLAND
- BUILDINGS / STRUCTURE

