Riding Mill to Corbridge

1. Leaving the station, turn left to cross the main road onto Millfield Road. Continue over the Ridingmill Burn until, after a bend, the road rises to a fork. Turn right onto Church Lane and continue uphill. At the first junction, turn left onto a track.

2. After the track bears right, cross a stile on the left and follow the field edge uphill until you come to a stile on your right which leads onto a farm track. Turn right and follow the track as it bears left to pass in front of High Plains farm. The track then bears slightly left to go between the trees. Before entering the field ahead, cross a stile on the right into Helsiter's Wood and follow the wall then fence round to the left. Cross an old stone wall to join a wide forest path.

3. Continue along this path, going straight on at the first junction until, as the main track turns up to the left, the route continues straight ahead. Then bear left before an old wall to cross a stone stile onto Eastwoodhouse Fell. Continue straight on to cross the fell, dropping down towards the fence line before turning towards the left to join the road.

4. Cross the road, and follow the bridleway opposite as it drops downhill with the fence on your right. Entering the plantation follow the path as it winds steeply down to cross the March Burn and up into Todburn Wood to the road.

5. Turn left and then take the first right. Continue to a junction with two footpaths and turn right into a field to follow the fence on the left. As the fence bends slightly left, bear diagonally right across the field to a gate near the corner. Following the fence on the right, pass behind Todburn Steel farm to a stile on the right. Bear diagonally left over a ladder stile which leads into a walled lane and the wood.

6. Follow the path on the right which eventually drops downhill to cross the Dipton Burn. Keeping to the right, the path climbs and, with a wall on the left, widens to lead to the road.

7. Turn left and continue uphill to a footpath on the right at the end of the wood, before Dipton Cottage. Follow the field edge over two fields to the road at Temperley Grange and turn right. Take the first left towards Corbridge.

8. Follow the road until it drops downhill and turn left down a narrow footpath just after Mount Pleasant. Cross a stile into the field and continue down through the trees, over two stiles to cross Ladycutters Lane onto a headland path straight ahead. The route then continues over the AG95 to follow the fence on your right, passing into The Scrags by a gate. The short woodland path leads down to the main road. Turn left and a set of steps on the left leads to Corbridge station.

“Tyne Valley from Prospect Hill”
- by Liz Nimmo
Woodlands and Wildlife

Large mixed woodlands like Dilton Wood provide a wide variety of conditions suitable for many plants and animals. There has been woodland here for a very long time but more recently different tree species have been introduced.

In spring the woodland echoes to the song of pied flycatchers, redstarts and woodwarblers. These are accompanied by the more usual chaffinch, robin and blue tit. Both great spotted and green woodpeckers can be seen from the woodland paths as can the occasional roe deer, with the white rump giving away their presence.

Delicate oak ferns litter the woodland floor during spring and summer, complemented by other woodland plants like wood anemone and bluebells.

Airs and Graces

The eighteenth century saw big changes in land management. Many commons where villagers had the right to graze their animals were enclosed and divided. When Corbridge Common was enclosed many poorer inhabitants lost out but one Mabel Cutter was given 1 1/4 acres of land. In 1800 this land was held by her descendant Elizabeth Cutter. Being a landowner gave her airs and graces above her station and the villagers of Corbridge renamed Dilton High Lane on the edge of the old common Ladycutter’s Lane.