

26 Steps (2016)



The project identified 26 short walks in the UK going from a place beginning with each letter of the Alphabet to a place starting with the next letter in sequence (e.g. Boarhills to Crail). The walks take in a range of landscapes: rivers, woods, farmland, coastal fringes, urban areas and mountains.

The Brief: Each writer will take a walk along their allocated route and are asked to:

- 1. Take a black and white photograph that sums up the essence of their journey*
- 2. Create a hand-drawn black ink sketch map that represents their journey*
- 3. Write a sestude (62 word exactly) inspired by their walk*

I was given M-N Morebattle to Nisbet, part of St Cuthbert's Way, in the Scottish Borders.

Visit the full **26 Steps** at <https://26project.org.uk/26steps/>

St Cuthbert's Ways

he clung to his sea solitude
his nest of stone

the seabirds'
unerring arrowing
their wet resurrections

he stuffed his ears with their cold cries
drowning out the peoples' pleas
until he had to

no escape from
their hot breath
their calling
his calling splintered

had to walk west
over giddy moorland
branching through forests
paths' tangling
to be trodden into roads

