

## 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

