

Special Qualities

With some of Britain's finest scenery, Nidderdale AONB features 600km² of protected working landscape, with farmsteads and field barns, quarried hillsides and crags criss-crossed by drystone walls with stunning outcrops of nature's handiwork. An open air geology lesson, featuring some of the darkest skies in England for star gazers, it's also home to a number of reservoirs, attractive towns, villages and world class heritage sites. A picture-perfect combination to inspire great days out.



Nidderdale AONB features 125 ancient monuments, 574 listed buildings, 3 historic gardens, a world heritage site and 14 conservation areas, with 568 miles of public rights of way.

The names of villages hint at the industrial past – a heritage drawn from thousands of years of human activity. Its 11 reservoirs, built after the industrial revolution, managed by Yorkshire Water, are important for wildlife and loved by walkers.

A third of Nidderdale AONB features heather moorland of international importance, home to rare plants and wildlife.

Check out 2018's traditional agricultural shows! Experience farm life first-hand, from handsome heifers to sheep dog trials...

- **Otley Show:** Sat 19 May
- **Ripley Show:** Sun 12 August
- **Nidderdale Show:** Mon 24 September
- **Masham Sheep Fair:** Sat 29 and Sun 30 September

© Iain Mann



© Chris Lacey/Fountains Abbey



© Charlotte Wise



© Charlotte Wise

NiddFest
Pateley Bridge,
16 & 17 June

Bringing people who love books closer to nature, and people who love nature closer to books! This unique, family-friendly festival features world-class authors and cool outside events. niddfest.com



© NiddFest



You can find more details of events at nidderdaleaonb.org.uk

Nature's Stage

Woodlands as playgrounds, caves as amphitheatres, and vistas to beat the finest theatrical backdrops! Nidderdale AONB is nature's stage in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales.

Events 2018

- **Tour De Yorkshire** - Thur 3 to Sun 6 May; Stage 4 passes through Nidderdale AONB on 6 May
- **100k Yorkshire** - Sat 23 & Sun 24 June
- **Otley Walking Festival** - Sat 23 June to Sun 1 July
- **Masham Steam Engine & Fair Organ Rally** - Sat 21 & Sun 22 July
- **Pateley Bridge 1940's Weekend** - Sat 28 & Sun 29 July
- **NiddArt Trail** - Fri 17 to Mon 27 August
- **Nidderdale Food & Drink Festival** - Sat 27 October
- **Fountain's Abbey Events** - Year-round

AONB Events
Year-round

Nidderdale AONB host a calendar of events around the exploration, preservation, enjoyment and appreciation of the AONB. From stargazing to birdsong workshops.



© Mike Dickson



© Sarah Kettlewell

Embrace The Wild Side!

Nidderdale AONB is home to some of the most precious habitat in Yorkshire, with nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Large areas are internationally important, with a number of protected sites that boast a rich concentration of rare plants and wildlife, from curlews breeding in the meadows to amphibians and reptiles in its moorlands. The woodlands, wetlands, grassland, reservoirs and rivers nurture a great diversity of species, such as the common lizard, damselflies and water voles. Nesting sites for rare raptors feature merlin and hen harrier.

“From dragonflies to dippers, adders to otters, curlews to cuckoos - Nidderdale is currently rich in wildlife but it needs our help to stay that way.”

Martin Hughes-Games



The Wild Watch project is carrying out its biggest survey of wildlife to help safeguard important species. Across the UK, more than 50% of species are in decline.

Get involved, go outdoors. Check out activities and events at thewildwatch.org.uk



© Jon Hawkins/Surrey Hills Photography

Climbing the Walls?

Whether you're visiting alone or have little ones to entertain, you won't climb the walls in Nidderdale. From rock climbing to caving, farm attractions to ice cream parlours and adventure trails to llama trekking, the AONB offers a wealth of family adventures. Get out in the great outdoors!

Horse Riding

Saddle up at Bewerley Riding Centre, near Pateley Bridge (bewerleyridingcentre.co.uk) or Masham Riding & Trekking Centre (mashamridingcentre.com).

How Stean Gorge

Gorge walking, caving, climbing, abseiling, canoeing and via ferrata high wires. Check out the gorge-ous view from reinforced glass floors. howstean.co.uk

Birchfield Farm

A working farm with seasonal events for families including a maize maze, strawberry picking, woodland walk and ice-cream parlour. birchfieldicecream.co.uk

Studfold Walks and Trails

An adventure trail, wild flower meadow, woodland and wildlife with seasonal activities. studfoldtrails.co.uk

Fishing

Grab your rods and supersized wellies. With 11 stunning reservoirs to choose from, the Yorkshire Water website (yorkshirewater.com) has details on fishing spots, or head to the River Nidd. Find out more at nidderdaleac.co.uk

Nidderdale Llamas

Want a bit of a different walking partner? Llama Trekking. It's a thing. All year round. nidderdalellamas.org

Himalayan Garden

A botanical masterpiece and Sculpture Park in stunning woodland features natural springs, lakes, playground and tearoom. Seasonal opening. himalayangarden.com

Brymor

Situated at High Jervaulx Farm is the must-visit ice-cream parlour, with play area and farm shop. brymordairy.co.uk



© Paul Harris

About AONBs

Recognised as so outstanding that it should be protected for the nation! Once you discover the character of Nidderdale AONB - its heritage, landscape, wildlife and special qualities - you'll see why it is one of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Plan your trip
nidderdaleaonb.org.uk;
bus info harrogatebus.co.uk or dalesbus.org;
wider tourism info
visitharrogate.co.uk

The Nidderdale AONB team works on behalf of those who live and work in the AONB, visitors and the wider community, putting people at the heart of the landscape to help conserve the AONB's special qualities.

They work with land managers, volunteers, communities, government agencies, local authorities and third sector bodies to protect the environment in a sustainable way.

Be Our Friend

Thank you to the friends, partners and volunteers who support the AONB.

Friends of Nidderdale AONB is a volunteer-run charity that supports local wildlife and heritage projects.

To become a friend, visit nidderdaleaonb.org.uk



© David Tolcher

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The Village that Vanished

Step back in time to the 1920s when up to 2,000 people lived in the temporary, remote but flourishing settlement of Scar Village.

It was created to house the workers constructing Scar House Reservoir (1921-1936) - a tremendous feat of engineering.

Families lived in undreamed of luxury with indoor flushing toilets, electricity, hot and cold running water, a 600-seat cinema, library, concert hall, canteen, tennis court and golf course, hospital and school, and even its own fish and chip shop.

All that remains are tantalising glimpses of the past.

After 1929 the population started to leave as work neared completion. Buildings were sold off and dismantled in the 1930s, leaving just the remains of this special place.



© Nidderdale Museum

Now you can explore the clues. The Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership has installed interpretation panels on the site, alongside a web app, to fire imaginations, bringing this lost village to vivid life.



On Yer Bike!

Are you a lean Lycra-cycling machine? Or enjoy a pootle and a picnic? Cycling in Nidderdale guarantees stunning scenery, from World Heritage Sites to iconic Yorkshire attractions. With a range of routes, from off-road tracks to a section of Britain's Heritage Cycling Route - it's no wonder top cyclists train in the Dales.

Cycling fever continues in September 2019 as cycling on a scale never seen before heads to Yorkshire with the 2019 UCI Road World Championships. Harrogate is the main competition town.

© SWPix>Welcome to Yorkshire

Find more info on cycling and bike routes at nidderdaleaonb.org.uk

Tour de Yorkshire 3 to 6 May 2018

All Yorkshire may be great, but if you saw the 2014 Tour de France, you'll know the most breathtaking bit (literally, watch those hills!) has to be Stage 4 of the race on 6 May: The Yorkshire Terrier - from Halifax to Leeds, which passes through Nidderdale AONB.

Fancy yourself as the next Bradley Wiggins? The Maserati Tour de Yorkshire Ride offers a unique chance to ride many of the same roads as the pros, including the pro finish line, complete with support from the waiting crowds.

letour.yorkshire.com

nidderdaleaonb.org.uk

2018

Visit NIDDERDALE

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

FOLLOW US ON
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A nationally protected landscape

A pocket guide to help you explore and discover one of the UK's finest landscapes.



© David Tolcher

Map Key

- AONB Boundary
- Roads
- Railway
- Nidderdale Way
- Six Dales Trail
- Ripon Rowel
- Reservoirs
- Woodland



Viewpoints



Point of Heritage interest



Point of wildlife/bird interest

Explore Nidderdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Druids Temple

Yorkshire's own Stonehenge! An atmospheric folly set in pine woodland on the Swinton Estate near Masham. Perfect for families to explore.



Jervaulx Abbey



Beautiful and atmospheric, this ruined Cistercian monastery is set in tranquil parkland and noted for the vast number of wild flowers that grow amongst its walls.

Hackfall

A beautiful Grade I listed woodland garden with follies, grottoes, and waterfalls landscaped by John Aislabie, famed for his work at Fountain's Abbey.



Nidderdale Museum



A community-run museum filled to the brim with artefacts telling the story of life in Nidderdale in the historic Old Workhouse.

Coldstones Cut



Yorkshire's biggest and highest public artwork on an awesome monumental scale, with viewpoints and a platform overlooking the working quarry.

Toft Gate Lime Kiln

A largely intact piece of industrial heritage, the remains of a Lime Kiln sit on the edge of Greenhow village.



Pillars Past

A stone sculpture celebrating the heriage of Nidderdale. Carved by local stone mason Joseph Hayton, each pillar represents a key part of the area's history including a monk, a minor and a farmer.



Main Towns

Pateley Bridge



Blessed with enviable good looks in the heart of the AONB, it was crowned Britain's Best Village High Street and one of The Sunday Times' Best Places to Live. Don't miss the hive of artisan workshops at The Old Workhouse, King Street.

Masham

Boasting Yorkshire's largest market square, Masham is on the north eastern edge of the AONB famed for its family-run breweries, steam engines and annual sheep fair.



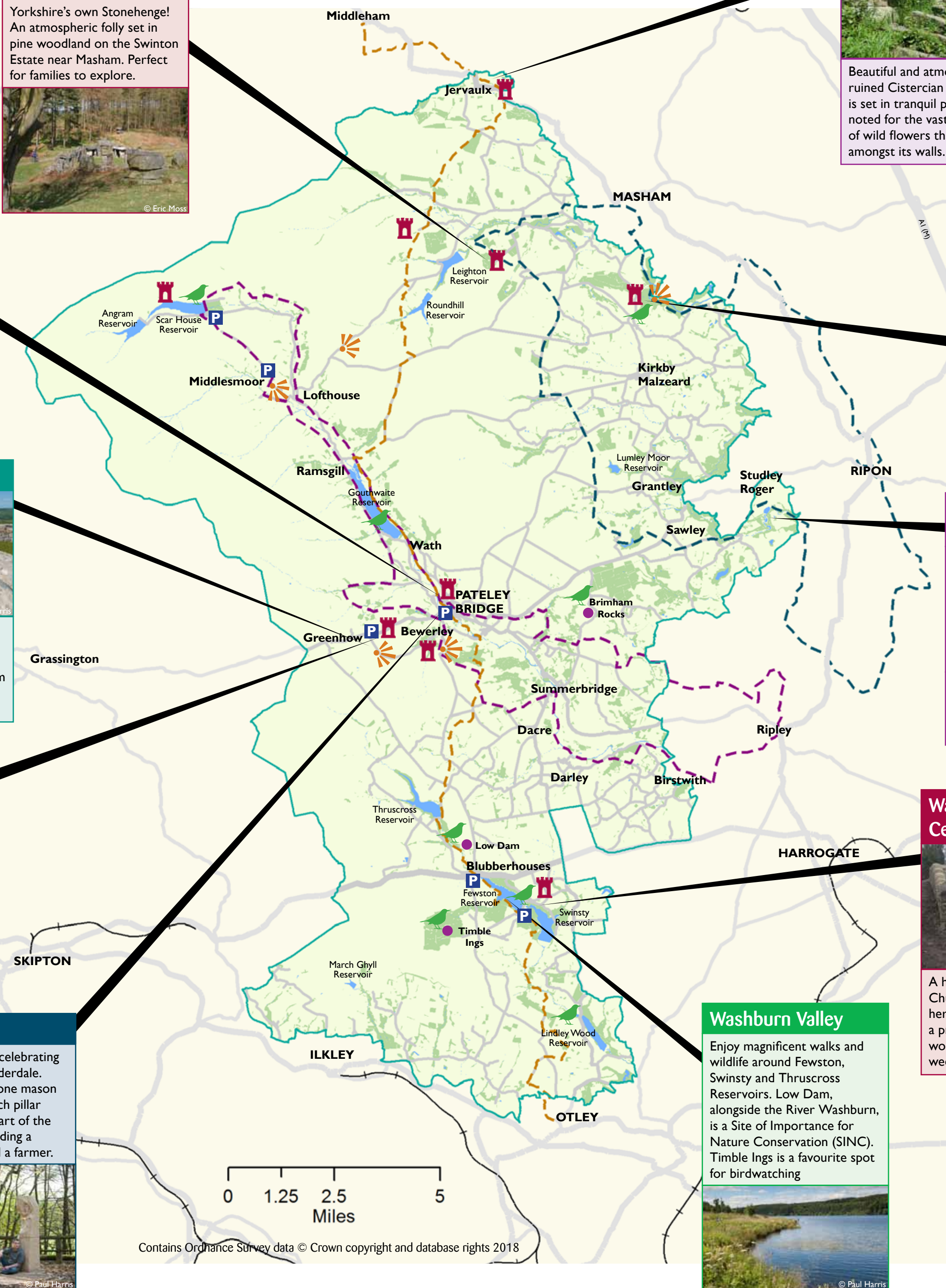
Ilkley



A pretty Victorian spa town on the southern edge of the AONB, with the famous Cow and Calf Rocks sitting proudly on the moor. A rock climbers' paradise, with fine tearooms to refuel at.

Otley

A historic market town on the southern edge of the AONB with Indy shops and cobbled streets. Grab an award-winning pork pie and hike to the top of The Chevin.



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

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The Nidderdale Way

A 53-mile circuit traditionally walked in four stages that takes in some of Yorkshire's iconic sights.

More walk information and downloadable walk routes at nidderdaleaonb.org.uk

"The manifold delights of the Nidderdale Way... past hamlets and farms, across becks and bridges and along lonely tracks that were once trodden in ancient times ... It's pure William Blake,"

The Financial Times

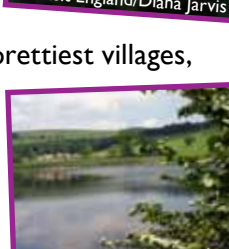
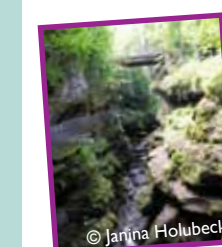
Stage 1: Pateley Bridge to Middlesmoor

Set off from pretty Pateley Bridge to the handsome old Wath Mill and former Nidd Valley Light Railway. Look out for Nidd Heads, where the river bursts forth from underground, walk through the village of Lofthouse, evolved from a medieval monastic grange. Spot the entrance to Nidderdale's largest cave at Goydon Pot. From the remote settlement of Lodge, visit Britain's largest dam, Scar House, and end with breathtaking views in Middlesmoor.



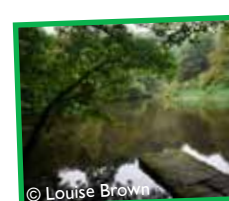
Stage 2: Middlesmoor to Beverley

From Middlesmoor pass 'Little Switzerland', How Stean Gorge, to Studfold Farm (with café and picnic spots), and press on to Ramsgill, one of Yorkshire's prettiest villages, and Gouthwaite Reservoir. Gouthwaite Viewing Platform offers a birdwatcher's heaven. Step into the industrial past at Prosperous Mine, with its preserved flue, and take a moment at Beverley Grange Chapel, built in 1495.



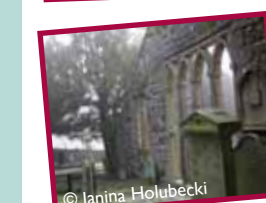
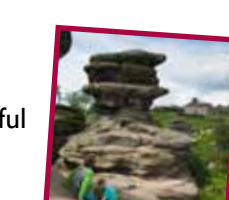
Stage 3: Beverley to Ripley

Drink in picturesque Fishpond Wood before heading to the romantic Yorke's Folly. At the towering crag at Guisecliffe, take in dizzying views over the dale. Walk through the villages Dacre Banks, Summerbridge and Darley; don't miss Packhorse Bridge near Birstwith, a reminder of centuries past, it dates from 1822. Walk on to Hampsthwaite village, a designated Conservation Area, before finally ending up in the quaint and historic Ripley village with its own Castle.



Stage 4: Ripley to Pateley Bridge

The final stage features a highlight - Brimham Rocks - weird and wonderful formations. The walk meanders to Smelthouses, which in 1833 housed the flax-spinning mill, and leads to a glorious slow descent into Pateley Bridge on the Panorama Walk, a popular scenic route. Don't miss the Church of St Mary, dating from the 13th century, and The Rock, a natural outcrop railed to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee, with sweeping views of Nidderdale.



Go to uppernidderdale.co.uk for a downloadable, easy-to-use walking guide.