



Tour of Nidderdale, Scar House Reservoir

Introduction

An all weather classic with barely any tarmac. Starting at the head of Nidderdale this classic tour takes you up onto stony tracks high above the valley, before dropping down a rubble slope to Bouthwaite. A section through farmland back up the valley, then leads to a climb to Middlesmoor, and the superb descent back to the reservoir.

The Route

1. Head out over the reservoir dam and turn left up the cobbly climb to a hut. At the hut turn right on to a grassier track, follow this for 1.5km. After two steep valley dips you will climb gradually toward a drystone wall.

2. At the wall do not go through the gate, turn 90 degrees left and climb for 200m until you reach another gate in the wall further up. Go through this gate and follow the obvious doubletrack for 4km until you reach another gate. Go through this gate and carry on the same bearing for 1.8km, the track gets rocky as it descends to a stone building. Pass by the building and stick to the track as it bends 90 degrees left and joins the road after 500m.

3. Turn left at the road, after 100m turn right on to farm road. After

800m of this track turn right down (initially grassy) double track. Follow this obvious track for 3km until you reach a gate.

4. Go through this gate and carry on the same bearing joining another farm road. After 1km turn right and head downhill to Bouthwaite (on a wide and increasingly rubbly track).

5. Continue straight on along the tarmac road, cross over the river and meet another road in Ramsgill. Turn left on the road then after 50m turn right on to a gravel road until you reach a white gate on your right (signposted Nidderdale Way). Go through this gate and follow the bridleway signs for 3km through grassy farmland until you join a metalled farm road, follow this for 500m until you reach to a large concrete farmyard.

6. Pass through this farmyard and continue along the Nidderdale Way. After 100m turn right over the river, then when you meet another (bigger) road turn left and then climb up to Middlesmoor. Pass through the village and keep straight on as the tarmac stops and becomes farm road (which in turn becomes rocky track). Stick to this obvious track for 4km to Scar House reservoir with an excellent rocky descent to finish.



Distance

24 km
(15 miles)

Ascent

691 metres

Grade

Difficult

Map

OS Explorer 298: Nidderdale

Starting Point

Scar House Reservoir (Grid Ref: SE 068 766). Car parking is available.

Useful Information

- Toilets: Scar House Reservoir and Lofthouse.
- Pubs and cafes: Lofthouse, How Stean Gorge and Middlesmoor.
- Train station: Harrogate (approx 25 miles).

