



THE WILD WATCH



THE CURLEW TRAIL

Route length: 3 miles/4.8km. Time: 1hr 30 minutes.

Difficulty rating: medium.

WWW.THEWILDWATCH.ORG.UK

We encourage the use of OS maps with this guide.

Starting in Pateley Bridge, in the heart of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this family-friendly trail follows a mix of footpaths and quiet lanes. Starting along the River Nidd it heads up through woodland to heather moorland, taking in the magnificent views and abundant wildlife.

Parking options: Car parks in Pateley Bridge.

Local facilities: Various pubs, cafés and shops in Pateley Bridge.

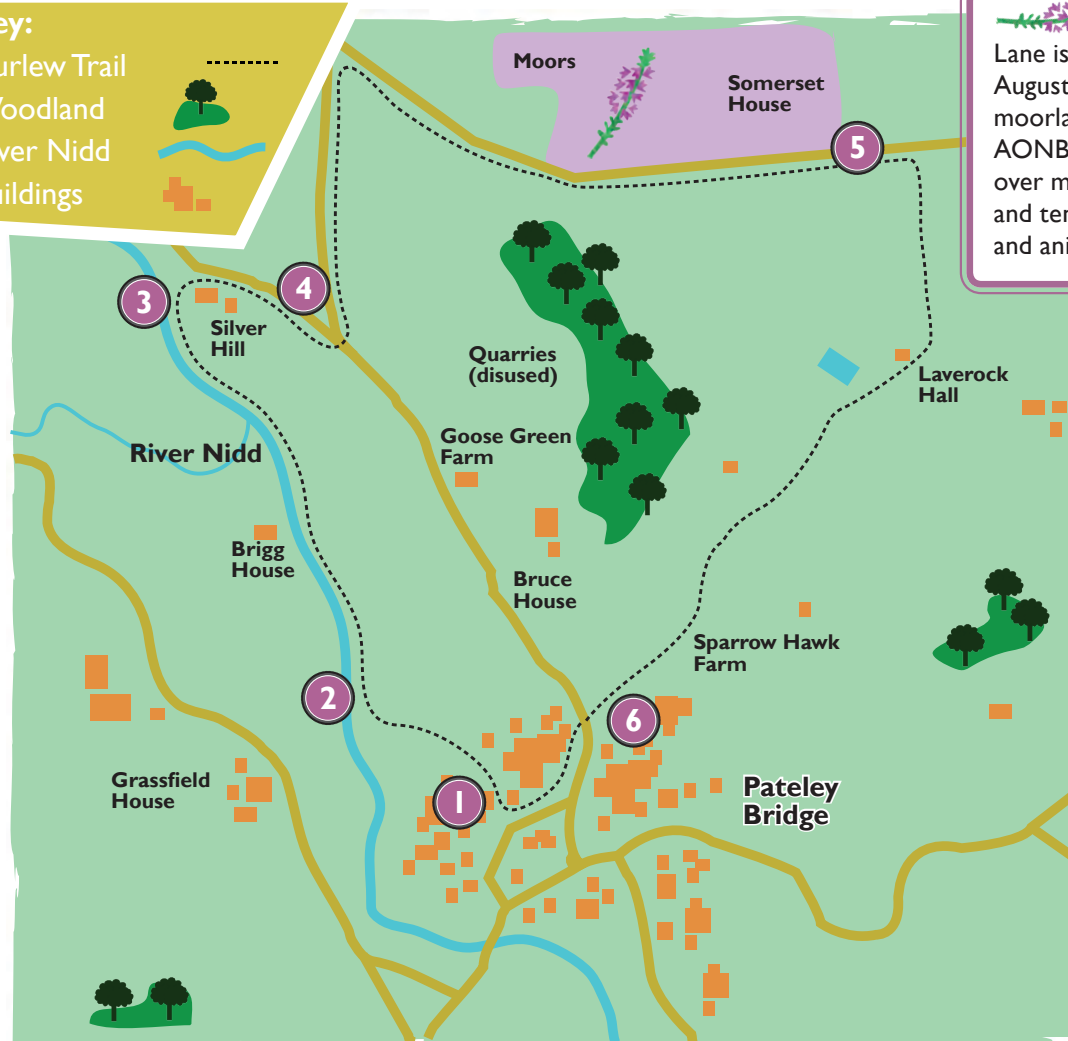
Public transport options: Bus service available.

Useful information: Some of the paths can get muddy so outdoor footwear is essential. Whilst there are uphill parts to the walk, there are plenty of places to stop and rest along the way.

1 Start the walk by going down Greenwood Road (just off King Street). Continue along the road until you see a small, green metal gate on the right-hand side. Go through the gate into Millennium Green. Walk towards the centre of the green, then turn left and follow the path to the River Nidd.

2 At the riverside footpath turn right and follow the path for about half a mile, passing through three kissing gates.

Key:
Curlew Trail
Woodland
River Nidd
Buildings



River watch: This stretch of the River Nidd is well known for dippers and grey wagtails. If you are really lucky you might even see the blue flash of a kingfisher!

3 At the third gate and just as the woodland starts, take the path immediately off to the right. Follow this over the footbridge and then uphill until it meets the road.

4 Go over the stile and turn right to walk along the road, and after about 400m take a sharp left onto Silver Hill. Walk up the hill until you reach a T-junction, where you turn right.



Bird watch: Near the reservoir keep an eye out for the black and white oystercatcher, with its bright red bill and legs; as well as the unmistakable curlew with its long, curved beak and distinctive call. What else can you see?

Moor watch: Running alongside Wath Lane is heather moorland, a swathe of purple in August. Did you know – there is probably less heather moorland in the world than tropical rainforest? The AONB's moorlands are a result of close management over many centuries by moor owners, gamekeepers and tenant farmers. Many areas support rare plants and animals and are internationally important.

5 Continue along Wath Lane for about a kilometre, eventually reaching Somerset House Farm. Just after this take the footpath across the fields to the right (the gate is signed Laverock Hall). The footpath is well marked and runs adjacent to the wall. Continue going straight on and then skirt around the back of Laverock Hall, following the path. Continue to walk by the wall and then pass through a gate at the end of the field. After passing through the gate you will see a small reservoir on your right-hand side. Keep following this path, down through the trees, until it reaches a track.

On the track turn left and then shortly you will reach a gate on the right-hand side which takes you to the steep, stone steps to Quarry Lane to return to Pateley Bridge.

6 Go left following Quarry Lane downhill towards New Church Street. Here turn left and follow the road around past the church and back onto King Street.

CAN YOU FIND ANY OF THESE ON YOUR WALK?

1. Curlew – if you are lucky you might see this distinctive wading bird. The long legs and downward curved bill are instantly recognisable.



2. Grey wagtail – a striking slate grey bird, with a long tail that is yellow underneath.

3. Kingfisher - a small but unmistakable bright blue and orange bird that flies low over water. Look out for a flash of blue darting along a river or listen for their loud, shrill, whistle-like call. They often hunt fish from riverside perches.



4. Dipper - short-tailed, plump songbirds, with a brown body and white chest. They can swim and dive under water to feed. Keep an eye over fast-flowing water and rocky patches.

5. Bell heather – a blaze of colour in July and August, bell heather is an 'evergreen shrub' that has purple flowers. It is a vital nectar source for many insects such as honey bees, mountain bumblebees, moths and butterflies.



6. Wild garlic – during springtime you might notice a garlicky aroma when walking through the woods near the River Nidd. Can you spot the bright green leaves and starlike flowers?



7. Oystercatcher – look out for the bright red legs and bill. This black-and-white bird is often seen up high on the moorland and near the reservoir.



8. Hoverfly - these are brightly coloured insects that look like wasps or bees. This 'mimicry' helps protect them from predators such as birds. But don't worry! Hoverflies are in fact flies and do not sting. They are often found hovering near or resting on flowers.



9. Scots pine – this tree has blue/green needle-like leaves and a scaly orange/brown tree trunk. You might spot a cluster at the top of Silver Hill. Although native to the whole of the UK, Scots pines are usually found in Scotland. In England they were often planted around farmsteads as windbreaks.



10. Silver Hill – whilst not a plant or animal, this spot offers spectacular views taking in Guisecliff and Greenhow Hill to the west and Gouthwaite Reservoir and the Nidderdale moorlands to the north.

COLOUR WHEEL

Nature comes in all colours. On your walk see if you can find something which matches each colour on the colour wheel. Write them on the wheel or draw a picture!

