

## SHORT WALKS IN NIDDERDALE



# Woodale Heritage Trail



3-4  
hours



6.5 / 10  
Miles / KM



Moderate/  
Hard



Scenic/  
Habitats



© Feet in the Clouds Guided Walking

Upper Nidderdale is renowned for its stunning natural beauty. This scenic walk around Woodale and Dale Edge is one of a series of trails which offer the chance to enjoy the contrasting landscapes and fascinating heritage that make Upper Nidderdale such a special place. This route enables you to enjoy spectacular panoramic views of Scar House Reservoir, Great Whernside and the Upper Nidderdale moorlands, and walk along the Nidd's unique dry river bed as the watercourse disappears into limestone caverns deep underground before re-surfacing downstream.

**PARK:** Old railway tunnel, Scar Road

**EAT & DRINK:** Studfold, How Stean, Lofthouse, Middlesmoor

**SHOP:** Studfold, How Stean

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Please follow the countryside code. Keep your dogs on a lead and close gates behind you.

- 1 Start the walk from the old Railway Tunnel on the road from Lofthouse to Scar House Reservoir. Turn left and follow the road as it heads up the valley. After rounding a sweeping left-hand bend take the track leading down towards the river to your right which is signposted Summerstone.
- 2 Go over the bridge across the river and then take the track that almost immediately leads off to your left. Continue along the track as it passes a farm on your right and begins to head towards the hillside on the northern side of the valley.
- 3 Stay on the track passing through two metal gates before starting to climb the hillside. Just after passing a building on the left go through two wooden gates either side of a small stream and follow the track uphill as it runs alongside the stream. After about 100 yards (90 metres) the track heads away from the stream shortly before reaching a turning to the left. Take the turning and continue along the hillside for around 400 yards (360 metres), going through the gate and passing a small plantation down the hill to your left.
- 4 Shortly before reaching another stream, take the track that leads off up the bank to your right and go through a gate. Follow the track up the hillside and after a short distance cross the stream before heading to the left towards the edge of the moor.
- 5 Stay on the track as it takes a sharp turn to the right just before heading diagonally uphill and going through a gate onto the moor. Once through the gate head straight uphill until you reach a T junction with another track. Turn right and briefly head down the valley. When you reach a gate with a shooting hut at the other side, don't go through the gate, take the track to the left and head up onto the moor. After about 160 yards (150 metres) you reach a crossroads with another track. This is the track known as Dale Edge.
- 6 Turn right and follow Dale Edge down the valley. After a short distance, look onto the moor to your left and you will see spoil heaps of the former **Woogill Colliery**. Stay on the Dale Edge track as it follows the sweeping right hand bend in the valley.

### LOOK OUT FOR DALE EDGE

Dale Edge offers striking views across Nidderdale. Looking up the valley towards Scar House and Angram Reservoirs, the high ridge of Great Whernside beyond dominates the top of the Dale.

- 7 After walking along Dale Edge for around three miles (4.5km) you reach a stone built shooting hut. Head down the hill in front of the hut and look for a path which briefly heads back up the valley before turning back on itself. Stay on the path and head down the valley passing beneath the shooting hut. When you reach a small banking follow it straight down the hillside to a fairly dilapidated wall with **High Thrope Wood** just below. Look for a large wooden gate a short distance to your left and go through it. Follow the path leading diagonally down the hillside towards a large coniferous plantation before turning sharp right and heading straight down the hillside. Shortly before reaching the bottom of the hill you come to a fence. Follow the fence down to the left and go through a gate.
- 8 Go straight across the left edge of the field in front of you and through a gate into a sheep fold. Carry on through the sheep fold and turn right onto the track that takes you past Thrope Farm. Follow the track back up the valley and as you pass the farm yard, ignore the track to your left that heads down across the river. Instead, carry on ahead and go through the gate in front of you. Follow the track as it runs down across the next field to the river bank. This stretch of the Nidd is renowned for its **Dry River Bed**. Carry on along the river bank and cross the river at Dry Wath Ford.
- 9 Stay on the path as it follows the river bank towards **Limley Farm**. Shortly before reaching the farm the path runs up from the river bank and goes through a metal gate. Once through the gate, carry on across the right edge of the field, past a gate to your right and go through a second gate on the right which leads to a storage yard for the farm. Carry on across the yard, then turn left and follow the farm track onto the tarmac road up to Scar House Reservoir. Turn right onto the road and head back to the railway tunnel where you parked.







### THE ROCK CUTTING AND RAILWAY TUNNEL

This 180 yard (160 metre) tunnel on the Nidd Valley Light Railway was cut in 1921 to ease the bend in the line as the valley turns westward. It was used for up trains only.

© Nidderdale Museum



### LIMLEY

Limley was one of eight granges established by Byland Abbey in the upper part of Nidderdale. Between the 16th and 19th centuries it was home of the Bayne family. Until the mid 19th century local tradition held that the family came to Nidderdale when Donald Bane, the deposed king of Scotland, fled to England and settled at Middlesmoor. The story has since been disproved!

© Nidderdale Museum



### DRY RIVER BED

The Nidd runs underground here through passages in the Nidderdale cave system around 30 metres under the river bed. After disappearing underground at various points including Manchester Hole and Goyden Pot the river resurfaces around two miles (3 km) downstream at Nidd Head. Uniquely, while underground the watercourse passes from one limestone outcrop to another under a layer of sandstone.

© Robert Light



### WOOGILL COLLIERY

The Collieries here and across the valley at Foggyshaw were the most productive in Nidderdale. The earliest known recording of the mine at Woogill is in 1791. In the 1861 census there were 22 coal miners living in the area. Coal mining had died out by the time the Nidd Valley Light Railway reached the upper dale in 1907.

© Robert Light



### HIGH THROPE WOOD

High Thrope Wood is a large steep-sided acid grassland site with areas of marsh and acid flushes close to small streams. Sedges are the star of the show: carnation sedge, flea sedge, remote sedge and common yellow sedge are all found here.

© Robert Light

## Seasonal Features

**Spring:** The distinctive call of red grouse can be heard on the heather moorlands around Dale Edge.

**Summer:** An array of lichens and mosses cling to rocks and trees along the dry river bed near Limley.

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