

# The NIDDERDALE WAY WALKING GUIDE



View online at [uppernidderdale.org.uk](http://uppernidderdale.org.uk) and print off in easy-to-use A4 sections

**STAGE 1** Pateley Bridge – Middlesmoor

**STAGE 2** Middlesmoor – Bewerley

**STAGE 3** Bewerley – Ripley

**STAGE 4** Ripley – Pateley Bridge



**4 days**  
Whole route



**53 / 85**  
Miles / KM



**Moderate**  
Varied terrain

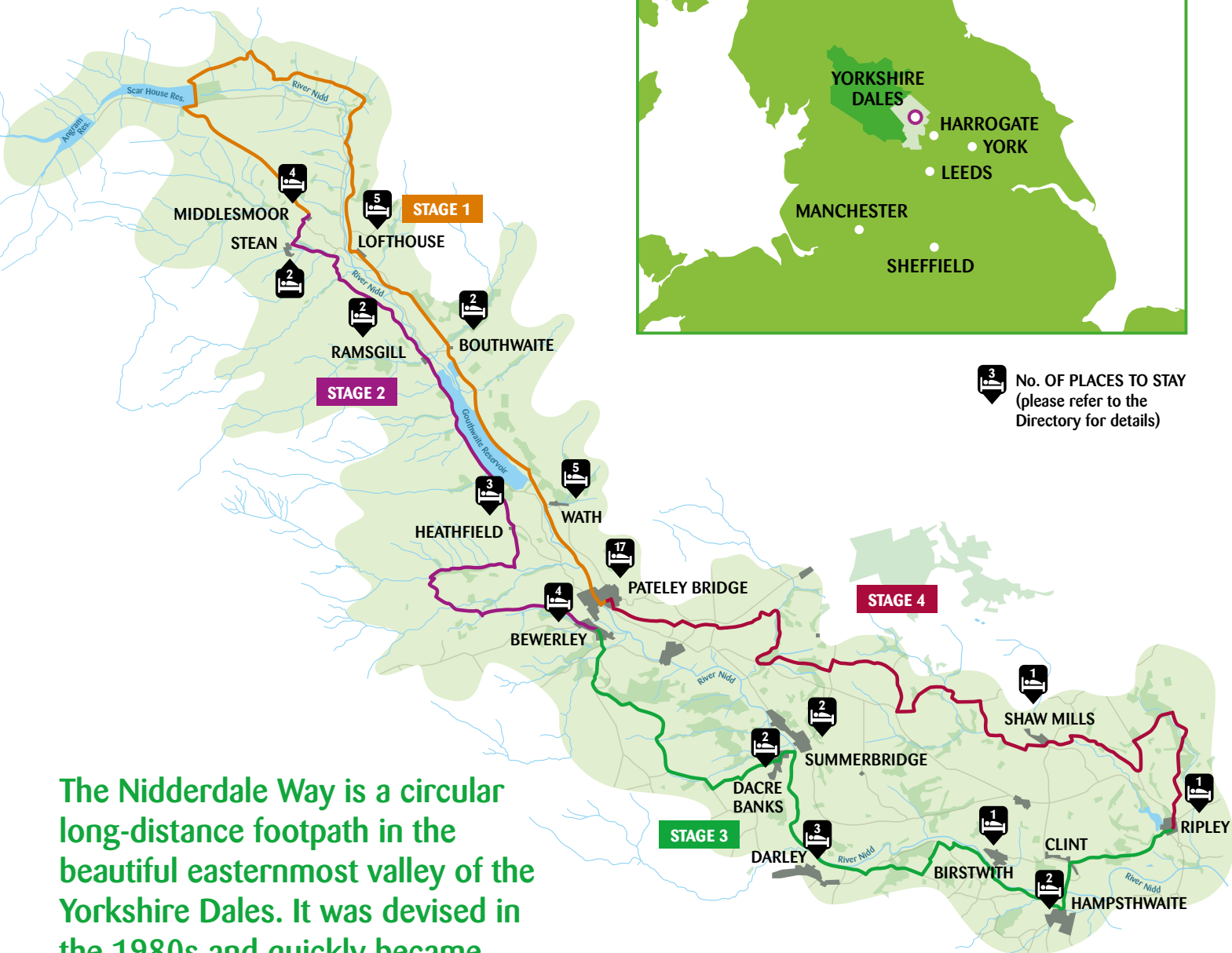


**Scenic**



Barn overlooking Gouthwaite Reservoir. Image © Janina Holubecki





The Nidderdale Way is a circular long-distance footpath in the beautiful easternmost valley of the Yorkshire Dales. It was devised in the 1980s and quickly became a favourite among walkers.



View from Yorke's Folly. © Leanne Fox

**At 53 miles (85 km) the Nidderdale Way fits neatly into a long weekend. It is traditionally walked in four stages of which none is longer than 15 miles, so there is plenty of time to take in the many interesting features along the way.**

They include some of Yorkshire's most famous sights, including Ripley Castle, with its 18th-century gardens laid out by Capability Brown; How Stean Gorge, where the beck has worn its way into the limestone to carve a magical ravine full of rockpools and fern-trimmed waterfalls; Guisecliff, a jutting crag above steep oakwoods; and most famous of all, the natural gritstone sculptures at Brimham Rocks, created by millennia of wind, water and ice.

There are quieter attractions, too: charming old villages like Ramsgill, overlooked by a former 18th-century hunting lodge which is now a celebrated restaurant; the lofty hilltop setting of Middlesmoor; Gouthwaite Reservoir with its jostling birdlife; traces of former industries, since grown mellow, mossy and picturesque; woods and holloways, potholes and packhorse bridges; and the River Nidd itself, always changing, always the same, edged with alders and haunted by herons and kingfishers.





Overlooking Gouthwaite Reservoir. © Janina Holubeck



Looking out over Nidderdale, near Birstwith. © Iain Mann

## About Nidderdale

A walk on the Nidderdale Way is a journey through subtly contrasting landscapes, each with its own special atmosphere.

At the lower end of the dale you wander through rolling fields, riverside meadows and quiet wooded valleys. Pheasants are startled from their coverts and buzzards and red kites wheel overhead. There is a strong sense of the influence of the great medieval monasteries. Byland Abbey and nearby Fountains Abbey farmed great swathes of land in Nidderdale and many of the villages and farmsteads are former monastic granges.

Further towards Pateley Bridge you find yourself amidst the weirs, leets and dams of the dale's industrial heyday. Here flax and hemp were spun and woven at dozens of watermills. Hidden in wooded gills you come across the remains of the smelters where lead mined in the surrounding hills was brought to be melted down.

Beyond Pateley Bridge the landscape becomes increasingly rugged, the villages more huddled and remote-feeling. Sheep graze on the steep hillside pastures that rise to meet the windswept moors above. The shining levels of the reservoirs contrast with the dark gritstone outcrops on the horizon.

The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was created in 1994 to conserve the rich heritage and unique character of the dale and its surrounding countryside. It works to protect the tranquillity and built fabric of the area, as well as the wildlife that inhabits its moors, meadows, water and woods.

## How to walk it

For this guide we've chosen Pateley Bridge as the start and end of the Nidderdale Way. The town has the best transport links and the widest range of accommodation and shops (including a specialist walking shop), so it makes sense to adopt it as your base. You'll find the official Nidderdale Way start and end point, in the shape of the distinctive curlew motif you will be following throughout the route, on the signpost at the bottom of Pateley Bridge high street.

Having said that, there's nothing to stop you adapting the route to your own needs. Ripley is a popular alternative starting place. Because Nidderdale is long and narrow, the outward and return legs of the walk often come close to each other, which means it lends itself to being converted into a series of circular day walks.

## Level of difficulty



The Nidderdale Way is not a tough proposition. The route keeps largely to the riverbank and the dalesides, with only a handful of higher sections. Even those tend to level out after a short, sharp climb.

Paths are well maintained and clearly signposted, making routefinding straightforward. This guide is here to lend a hand in those few parts of the walk when the map doesn't seem to match what you can see on the ground.

You don't need any specialist equipment – just a decent pair of walking boots or shoes, a good map and a set of waterproofs.

## Maps and guides



The Nidderdale Way is covered in its entirety by Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer 298: Nidderdale, Fountains Abbey, Ripon and Pateley Bridge. Another option is the Nidderdale Way strip map published by Harvey's Maps, which is lightweight and waterproof.

At the time of writing, no other guidebook to the Nidderdale Way is in print. The most recent one, Paul Hannon's *Walking Country: Nidderdale Way* (Ilkley: Hillside Publications, 1988), is still mostly accurate in its route directions and full of interesting information.

## Public transport

The nearest railway station to Nidderdale is Harrogate. There are good connections to mainline stations at Leeds and York. The Harrogate Bus Company operates the roughly hourly number 24 bus service to Pateley Bridge, with a reduced service on a Sunday.

The Nidderdale Rambler service is available on some summer Sundays and Bank Holidays – check local information or online for up-to-date details.

## Mobile reception and 4g

Mobile phone reception is patchy on the Nidderdale Way. As a rule, the further up the dale from Pateley Bridge you are, the less likely you are to get a signal.

4g coverage is reasonably good between Ripley and Pateley. Accommodation providers often offer free wifi, which is handy for checking your emails and consulting the ever-important weather forecast.



# STAGE 1:

## Pateley Bridge to Middlesmoor



**1 day**  
Whole section



**14.5 / 23**  
Miles / KM



**Moderate+**  
Varied terrain.  
Some fairly  
steep inclines



**Scenic**  
Moorland, reservoirs,  
disused railway,  
potholes, sweeping  
views

### LODGE

The remote settlement of Lodge lay on one of the main drover's routes between England and Scotland. Abandoned with the advent of the reservoirs, it is now little more than a handful of ruins.



### THE DISAPPEARING NIDD

For two miles the infant Nidd vanishes underground into a labyrinth of limestone caverns, leaving behind an eerily dry riverbed. The entrance to Manchester Pot, the main sinkhole, can be seen after a short detour from the route – although entering any pothole is the preserve of experienced cavers.



### SCAR HOUSE DAM

The largest dam in Britain when it was finished in 1936, and an impressive feat of engineering: 1,800ft long, 170ft high and 135 cubic ft thick at the bottom.

### ANGRAM AND SCAR HOUSE RESERVOIRS

Built at a staggering cost for the time – Scar House alone came to £2,200,000 – these reservoirs were designed to service the booming population and thirsty mills of Bradford.

### GOYDON POT

Just off-route, this natural feature is worth a look. It's the entrance to Nidderdale's largest cave system, dry for most of the time, but when in spate a formidable sequence of underground waterfalls.

### NIDD HEADS

After a sojourn underground, the Nidd gushes back into the light of day beside the road into Lofthouse and embarks in earnest on its 50-mile quest to join the Ouse in the Vale of York.



### LOFTHOUSE

One of several villages in Nidderdale to have evolved from a medieval monastic grange, Lofthouse is a charming medley of stonebuilt cottages clinging to a steep winding hill.



### NIDD VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY

A ghostly presence throughout our walk, this former railway was 13 miles long and ran between Pateley Bridge and Angram. It was built by the Bradford Water Corporation to serve the reservoirs at the head of the dale, and operated from 1907 to 1936.



### PATELEY BRIDGE

Undisputed 'capital' of the dale, this bustling old market town is an ideal base for walkers with its numerous shops, pubs and cafes and is a fascinating place in its own right. The museum is a good introduction to life in Nidderdale through the ages and the famous High Street boasts several renowned butcher's shops and an outdoor shop, as well as the oldest sweet shop in England.

### WATH

Deriving its name from a crossing on the Nidd – a *Wath* is a ford in Old Norse – the village of Wath has been home to a bridge since the 16th century.

### WATH MILL

This handsome old mill dates from 1880, but sits on the site of a cornmill first established in 1527. The machinery inside is astonishingly well preserved. Open to the public on occasional days during the summer months.



The perfect opening to the walk, with the Upper Nidderdale landscape unfurling dramatically before you. The River Nidd plays hide and seek as the scenery grows wilder and you reach the highest points of the whole Nidderdale Way.

#### SET OFF FROM PATELEY BRIDGE

- 1 Start at the town end of the bridge. Go down **Mill Lane**. At the end, an alleyway runs along the backs of houses onto a riverside path. At a footbridge, stay on the same bank and keep on through a footgate. The path stays close to the river for a couple of fields, then falls into step with the former trackbed of the Nidd Valley Light Railway.
  - 2 As the houses of **Wath** come into sight, look for a yellow footpath arrow on a gatepost and a faint footpath branching off to the left. Pass through a stile in a wall and carry on across the next field to a footbridge onto the lane. Cross over and pick up the footpath again as it carries on along the river. Bear right to a stile and on through a marshy field before heading uphill through trees to Gouthwaite Dam.
  - 3 From the gate at the end of the dam, head right to a stile. The path climbs steeply away from the reservoir and joins a green lane. Turn left. At a fork, take the lower path. Stay on this track as it slopes down to the shoreline. Stay on the same track all the way along the reservoir until you reach **Bouthwaite**.
  - 4 Turn right and immediately left on a stony track that goes past cottages and into the farmyard at **Bouthwaite Grange**. Cross the beck and bear right up a bumpy lane beside a mossy wall. Keep to the wallside and follow the contour. At **Longside Farm** go up a steep hill to a gate, then drop down again to continue on a grassy path. After a gate take the right fork to **Longside House**.
- LOOK OUT FOR BOUTHWAITE AND MONK'S ROAD**

Part of Fountains Abbey's former estates, Bouthwaite is still set around the medieval grange farm, rebuilt in the 17th century. The monks drove their livestock onto the moor via the road that leaves the hamlet at its eastern end.
- 5 The path goes along the edge of the trees, but soon branches off downhill across fields. At the bottom follow the trackbed of the railway again, cross the road, and keep going in the same direction as before. After a couple of fields, cross the corner of another and go diagonally over to a wall corner by a disused quarry. Just beyond, emerge through a stile onto the road and go left.
  - 6 Look out for **Nidd Heads**, where the River Nidd bursts forth from underground, having disappeared into a swallowhole two miles upstream. Near it a footpath leaves the road for Lofthouse. Cross the fields in line with the backs of the houses and go over a stile by a beck into the next field. Flank the wallside to arrive in **Lofthouse** next to the village institute.

- 7 Head right uphill, past the war memorial. The road climbs steeply to a hairpin bend, where the Nidderdale Way strikes out to the left. Stay on this track for about a mile, disregarding a right fork through a gate. Pass to the rear of Thrope Farm. Soon after, drop down to the Nidd, which usually has no water in it at this point, and cross it at a place marked on the map as **Dry Wath**. Follow the absent river upstream to **Limley Farm**.
- 8 Thread your way between the farm buildings and round to the right to meet the **still-dry Nidd**. The path crosses it and starts up a bracken-clad hill. At the top, skirt round **Thwaite House** to the left to meet the driveway. Take a path alongside it through a narrow strip of trees. Emerge through a footgate onto a metalled road.
- 9 Follow this road past farms and cottages for about a mile. At **New Houses Edge Farm**, keep left. Cross a gill with a small waterfall. Just afterwards, keep to the upper path at a fork. You'll quickly join another path. Go right, past a small conifer plantation, to another fork in the path. Here, go right uphill.
- 10 Upon finding yourself confronted with a drystone wall and no means of crossing it, track right with the wall until you reach a gate. On the other side, choose the lefthand path with white-painted marker posts. It joins a gamekeeper's track. Go left. This track will take you all the way to **Scar House Dam**, with steep sections as you cross **Twizling Gill** and **Woo Gill**.
- 11 Go over the dam and at the other end turn right on a water company road. A track cuts away from the road and up the fellside. It leads up onto **In Moor Lane**, an old droving route that leads you after about two miles directly into **MIDDLESMOOR**.

#### LOOK OUT FOR SCAR VILLAGE

Little remains of it besides a row of crumbling concrete bases, but this was once the site of a 'navvy village' built during the creation of the reservoirs to house around 1,250 workers and their families. It had its own church, school, cinema, concert hall and tennis courts.

#### GREAT WHERNSIDE

A brooding eminence for much of the Nidderdale Way, Great Whernside is Yorkshire's fourth highest hill and the source of the River Nidd, which wells up from the peat on its eastern flank.

#### SCAR HOUSE AND ANGRAM EXTENSION

An optional extra on the Nidderdale Way, this excursion around Angram and Scar House reservoirs is a chance to experience the spartan, atmospheric landscape at the very head of Nidderdale. The ruins of Lodge are on the outward leg.



 **EAT AND DRINK AT:** Pateley Bridge, Wath, Lofthouse, Middlesmoor, Stean

 **SLEEP AT:** Pateley Bridge, Wath, Bouthwaite, Ramsgill, Lofthouse, Middlesmoor, Stean

 **SHOP AT:** Pateley Bridge, Stean

See Directory for accommodation details

# STAGE 2: Middlesmoor to Bewerley



**1 day**  
Whole section



**10.5 / 17**  
Miles / KM



**Easy**  
Varied terrain



**Scenic**  
Limestone gorges,  
old mine workings,  
quiet villages



## HOW STEAN GORGE £

One of Nidderdale's natural wonders. In a cleft in the hills, How Stean Beck has worn its way into a seam of limestone to create a ravine up to 30ft (9m) deep, its sun-dappled depths fringed with ferns.

## STUDFOLD FARM £

Much more than just a campsite, Studfold offers a shop and café, picnic spots, events throughout the holiday season and the popular Studfold Adventure Trail – something for all the family.



## PROSPEROUS MINE

Nestled in a pretty fold in the hills is the scene of a busy 19th-century lead-mining and smelting operation, with remnants of machinery and a well-preserved flue. Of national importance, and recently consolidated by the AONB.

## BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL

A plain but delightful old chapel built in 1495 on the orders of Marmaduke Huby, abbot of Fountains Abbey. It was sold into private hands after the Dissolution of the Monasteries and had a colourful subsequent history as schoolroom, house and workshop. Restored to become a chapel once more in 1965.



## MIDDLESMOOR

The last village in Nidderdale, a jumble of Georgian cottages with a picturesque hilltop position and one of the most photographed churches in Britain.

© Eric Moss



## GOUTHWAITE RESERVOIR

Completed in 1901, Gouthwaite soon blended into the landscape to become the most lake-like of Nidderdale's three reservoirs. It is a birdwatcher's haven, over 200 species having been recorded around its shores.

## GOUTHWAITE VIEWING PLATFORM

A purpose-built vantage point over Gouthwaite's glimmering waters, with abundant waterfowl and other wildlife to watch.

© Janina Holubecki

MIDDLESMOOR

1 WC

STEAN

2

LOFTHOUSE

3

River Nidd

RAMSGILL

4

BOUTHWAITE

5

Gouthwaite Reservoir

6

HEATHFIELD

7

8

9

10

WATH

PATELEY BRIDGE

BEWERLEY

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The shortest stage of the route but with much to savour, including a chance to explore How Stean Gorge, some charming old villages and farmsteads, and a brush with Nidderdale's industrial past at Prosperous Mine.

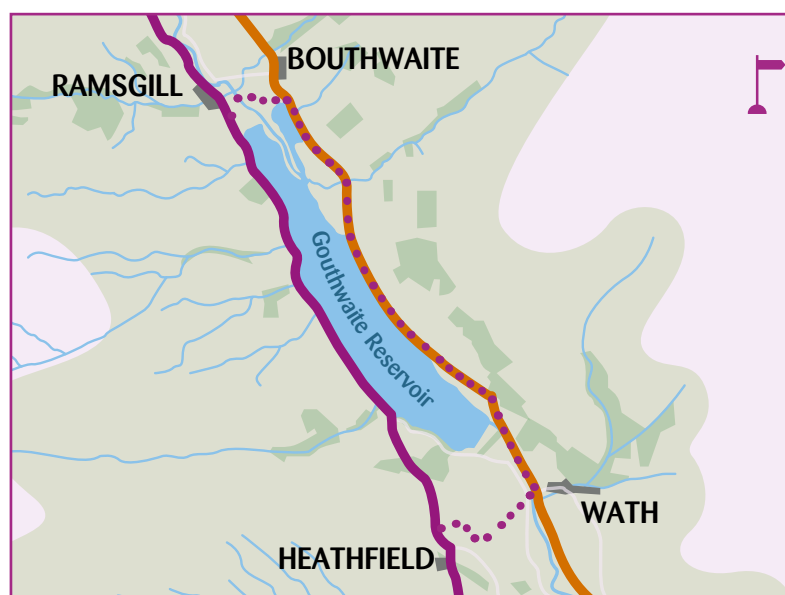
#### SET OFF FROM MIDDLESMOOR

- 1 Start down Middlesmoor's main street. As the road swings left, the Nidderdale Way leaves on the right opposite a barn. After three fields, go through a gate to a footbridge over **How Stean Gorge**.
- 2 Go past a holiday chalet to emerge on the road just outside Stean. Turn left to **Studfold Farm**. Follow the main drive between the farm buildings and climb a cobbled road up Studfold Bank. Branch left on a bridleway. This track will take you all the way to **Ramsgill**.
- 3 At the farm buildings after **Blayshaw Gill** go straight ahead across the pasture. Keep going over a series of fields. At **West House Farm**, stay to the left of the farmhouse and dip down the field. The path takes a wandering but clear course over more fields before merging with a farm access track. Press on to **Ramsgill**, emerging onto the village green.
- 4 If you're using the alternative route to avoid the long road-walking section, follow the instructions in the box below. Otherwise, take the road south out of Ramsgill past the **Yorke Arms** and the church. The reservoir will appear at your side. Follow it for two miles. As you draw near the dam and the road curves to the left, look out for a turning on your right with a cattle grid.
- 5 A steep climb up the lane takes you between two houses and into a conifer plantation. After the trees, follow the road until it levels out. A little further on, arrive in **Heathfield**. Take the bridleway on the right to **Foster Beck**.

- 6 Leave the track at the top and go straight on past a bench, through the lefthand gate into fields. As you near a farm, take a slanting line over to the righthand side of the buildings. Go through a gate between the farmhouse and a couple of stone barns. Continue downhill to reach a tarmac drive through a caravan park. Stay this side of the beck and turn right.
- 7 Keep left at a fork. After the last of the caravans the tarmac gives way to an unsurfaced track and continues along the hillside above **Ashfold Beck**. Having crossed a small gill, watch out for a **Nidderdale Way sign** on your left, pointing the way down to a footbridge. On the other side are the spoil heaps of the former **Providence Mine**.
- 8 Bear left past a protruding gear shaft and find a narrow track uphill through the heather. It meets a wider path at the top. Go right. Cross a shingly slope and bear left around the sides of the spoil heaps, making towards the far wall. Turn left past a last ruin. As you approach a footpath sign, swing right on a track. Continue roughly parallel with a wall visible to your right.
- 9 The track you're now on will see you most of the way to **Bewerley**. Ignore a left fork in about 100m. Drop down past a house and cross a small valley. At a junction follow the track to the left. It becomes a tarmac lane.
- 10 After passing occasional farms and cottages, you'll eventually begin a long descent through woodland past **Eagle Hall**. Shortly afterwards, reach the main Pateley Bridge–Greenhow road. Cross over and go straight on into **BEWERLEY**.

#### BEWERLEY

Mentioned in Domesday Book as *Burelei*, Bewerley has a history that goes back beyond the Norman Conquest. The sumptuous home of the influential Yorke family, Bewerley Hall, lay to the north of the village, but was demolished after the First World War. Its parklands are now the Nidderdale showground.



#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AVOIDING ROAD

To avoid the long stretch of road-walking on the narrow road between Ramsgill and Heathfield you can retrace your steps in Stage 1.3 back to Wath.

1. Instead of heading south out of Ramsgill past the church, go the other way up the road and take the lane on the right to **Bouthwaite**. Follow the bridleway alongside **Gouthwaite Reservoir**, then take the footpath down to the dam and back to **Wath Bridge**.
2. Cross the **Nidd**. On the other side of the main road, a public footpath climbs steeply past a barn and then across fields to the buildings at **Spring Hill**. Turn right on the lane into **Heathfield** and take the bridleway on your left to **Foster Beck**.

You're back on the Nidderdale Way – go to Stage 2.6.



EAT AND DRINK AT: Middlesmoor, Stean, Pateley Bridge



SLEEP AT: Middlesmoor, Stean, Ramsgill, Bewerley, Pateley Bridge



SHOP AT: Stean, Pateley Bridge

See Directory for accommodation details



# STAGE 3:

## Bewerley to Ripley



**1 day**  
Whole section



**14 / 22.5**  
Miles / KM



**Moderate**  
Varied terrain



**Scenic**  
Woods, crags,  
riverside paths,  
ancient bridges



### FISHPOND WOOD

Once a popular tourist attraction – in 1885 alone, 3,000 people came by special trains – this ancient wood was landscaped in the 18th century by John Yorke (1733–1813) to suit fashionable ideas of the picturesque.

© Louise Brown

### BIRSTWITH

Not an ancient settlement, unlike its neighbour Hampsthwaite, but the creation of Victorian patronage. Birstwith was built by the Greenwood family of Swarcliffe Hall, above the village. Its immediate *raison d'être* was a cornmill on the river, bought by John Greenwood in 1805, and now a slightly incongruous food-ingredients factory.



### RIPLEY VILLAGE AND CASTLE

Until the early 19th century a hotchpotch of crude thatched cottages, Ripley was rebuilt in grand style by Sir William Amcotts-Ingilby, who took as his model a village in Alsace-Lorraine – hence the *hôtel de ville*.

© Iain Mann

### RIVER NIDD

Our constant companion on the Nidderdale Way, the Nidd flows for 53 miles from Nidd Head Spring to its confluence with the Ouse at Nun Monkton, near York. It is enjoyed to best advantage on today's walk, which stays close to the riverbank for miles at a time.

### PATELEY BRIDGE

BEWERLEY

### GUISECLIFF

A towering gritstone crag, stunning in swirling morning mist, scarcely less impressive when it clears, Guisecliff rivals even Brimham Rocks for views.



### YORKE'S FOLLY

As the mining industry went into recession in the late 18th century, philanthropic local landowners the Yorke family paid stricken workers to build a romantic folly on the hill overlooking their home, Bewerley Hall, far in the valley below.

© Louise Brown

### PACKHORSE BRIDGE NEAR BIRSTWITH

A reminder of centuries past when Nidderdale was very much on the beaten track. This lovely old packhorse bridge dates from 1822 but probably reuses materials from one much older. It was part of a network of trade routes that linked the Yorkshire Dales to Scotland, the West Riding and beyond.



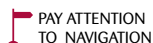
© Iain Mann

### HAMPSTHWAITE BRIDGE

A very old crossing place on the Nidd. The Roman road from Ilkley to Aldborough came this way, as in later centuries did the main route from York to Lancaster.

### HAMPSTHWAITE

Hampsthwaite gained its fair and market charter in 1304. The village's speciality was the manufacture of spurs. Members of the family of Victorian novelist William Makepeace Thackeray lie in the churchyard.



PAY ATTENTION  
TO NAVIGATION



TOILET LESS THAN  
0.5 MILES FROM ROUTE



PAYING ATTRACTION

0 (km) 1 2 3 4 5



There's plenty of gentle lowland walking on today's outing, as we keep close to the maturing Nidd. First, though, there is an airy traverse of the heights of Guisecliff with dizzying views over the dale.

#### SET OFF FROM BEWERLEY

- 1 Go along the village street past the green. Cross **Peat Lane** and follow the road as it bends to the right.
- 2 After **Skrikes Farm**, take the Nidderdale Way up the hillside and through a wood. Skirt left round an old quarry and through a gate onto **Nought Moor**. A path through the heather meets the road on a bend.
- 3 Go straight over and head for **Guisecliff**. After **Yorke's Folly** look for a gateway in the wall. Carry on past stacks of gritstone boulders.
- 4 The path wanders through birches along the clifftop. As you near the telecoms mast it leaves the trees. Take care as you pass through an area of deep crevasses.
- 5 Keep right of a drystone wall and follow the mast's perimeter fence round to the right. Pick up a metalled track and go past old quarry workings. At **Hilltop House**, go through a gate and stay on the same track to reach **Heyshaw**.
- 6 Go left past a farmyard. A Nidderdale Way signpost points the way over a stile and down the field to the righthand of two gates.
- 7 Follow a line of hollies and make for the corner of the plantation. At **Lane Foot**, pass between the houses and take a gravel driveway uphill. Meet a lane at a crossroads and go left.
- 8 At a bend in the track, cross a stile and pick out a path through the rushes. Head for the metal footgate at the bottom corner of the pasture.
- 9 Follow the next field's top edge to the right, then the left. Keep to the wallside in the next field. After another gate, bear right downhill towards a farm. Go through the farmyard at the righthand side of the barns.
- 10 Go down a grassy slope and turn right on the track at the bottom. Take a footpath on your left. After a couple more fields look for a gate into a concrete yard. Press on between the farm buildings to meet a lane end.

#### LOOK OUT FOR DACRE BANKS AND SUMMERBRIDGE

The mills on either side of the river are long gone, but these twin villages still have a faintly industrial flavour, a reminder of Nidderdale's footing in the West Riding cloth trade.

- 11 On a corner, take the narrow alleyway in front of you and continue along a residential street to meet the main road in **Dacre Banks**. Turn left and walk for a further 300 metres down to the bridge over the Nidd.
- 12 A gap in the wall gives onto a path leading downstream. Soon you'll pass across the foot of riverside gardens on the edge of **Darley**. Keep going until you reach an arched bridge over the Nidd. Take a track on the right going up the bank to a gate and stile.
- 13 Follow the fieldside to a wooden gate and walk along the brow of the bank to a wide grassy field. The path slants uphill to the road. Go left and past the roadside houses at **The Holme**. Immediately after the last house take a footpath diagonally across the fields to a footgate in a stone wall. Enter the corner of the wood and meet a flagstone trod heading directly uphill.
- 14 Leave the trees near **Reynard Crag Park**. Follow the lane, then go left opposite a farmhouse. At the gateway to **Bell House**, go round to the right and down the edge of the trees to meet the road.
- 15 Turn right and take the next left at **Stansfield Cottage**. At the bottom of the lane, near an old packhorse bridge, follow the river downstream to **Birstwith**.
- 16 Emerge on the village street in front of a large modern factory. Just inside the entrance, take a metal footbridge over the old millrace and go left along the perimeter fence. Swing right along the riverbank, then right again in line with the factory's back fence to meet the millrace again. Keep going round to the right until you get to a gate and a Nidderdale Way signpost. Now go left.
- 17 At a metal footgate the path branches right over to a barn and joins the road at the far righthand corner. Walk down the road into **Hampsthwaite**.

#### LOOK OUT FOR CLINT

The mostly modern houses of Clint stand on the site of a deserted medieval and Elizabethan village whose inhabitants were spinners, weavers and spur-makers. The old village cross and stocks are relics of those earlier times.

- 18 At the village street turn left to the bridge. As the road bends right at the railway embankment, take the footpath up the field in front of you. At the top emerge on the road in **Clint**. Go right and then almost immediately left. At the bottom of the road a bridleway continues into the woods. This old thoroughfare will take you all the way into **RIPLEY**.

#### LOOK OUT FOR RIPLEY CHURCH

Royalist prisoners faced the firing squad against the church walls after the Battle of Marston Moor – look for bullet holes in the stone. The church itself is very old, dating from the 14th century. The 'weeping cross' in the churchyard may be even older – it is the only one of its kind left in England.



**EAT AND DRINK AT:** Dacre Banks, Summerbridge, Darley, Birstwith, Hampsthwaite, Ripley



**SLEEP AT:** Dacre Banks, Summerbridge, Darley, Birstwith, Hampsthwaite, Ripley



**SHOP AT:** Dacre Banks, Summerbridge, Darley, Birstwith, Hampsthwaite, Ripley

See Directory for accommodation details

# STAGE 4:

## Ripley to Pateley Bridge



**1 day**  
Whole section



**14 / 22.5**  
Miles / KM



**Easy**  
Varied terrain



**Scenic**  
Rolling farmland,  
medieval granges,  
woodland trails,  
rock formations



### CHURCH OF ST MARY

Dating from the 13th century, St Mary's church is nowadays a roofless ruin, but it occupies a spectacular spot overlooking pastoral Nidderdale.

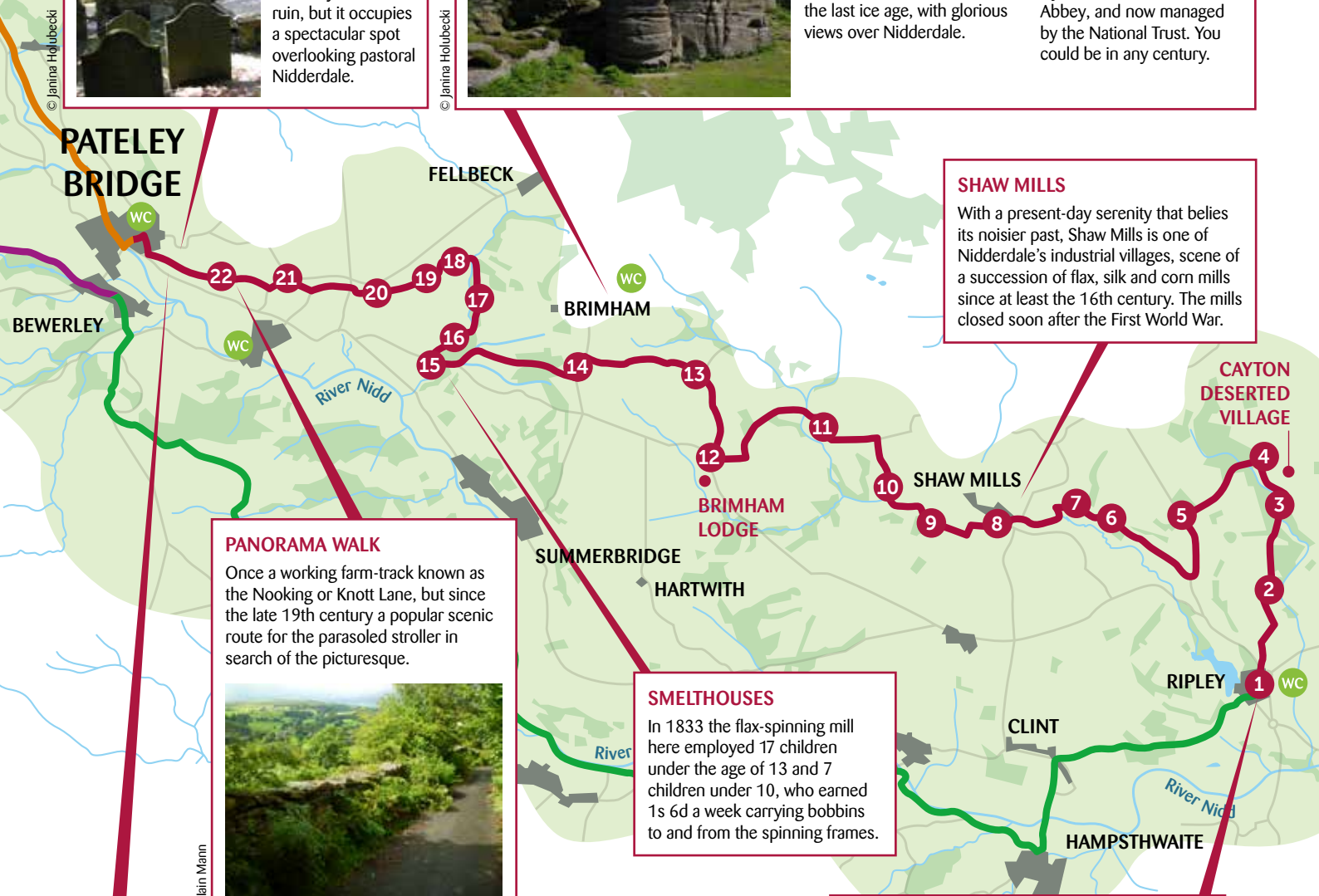


### BRIMHAM ROCKS

Weird, wonderful rock formations and teetering gritstone boulder-stacks, formed by the scouring action of water, ice and wind during the last ice age, with glorious views over Nidderdale.

### BRIMHAM MOOR

The bit of Brimham Moor without rocks is nonetheless a special place to be. Once a grazing ground for the lay brothers of Fountain's Abbey, and now managed by the National Trust. You could be in any century.



### SHAW MILLS

With a present-day serenity that belies its noisier past, Shaw Mills is one of Nidderdale's industrial villages, scene of a succession of flax, silk and corn mills since at least the 16th century. The mills closed soon after the First World War.

### PANORAMA WALK

Once a working farm-track known as the Nooking or Knott Lane, but since the late 19th century a popular scenic route for the parasoled stroller in search of the picturesque.



### SMELTHOUSES

In 1833 the flax-spinning mill here employed 17 children under the age of 13 and 7 children under 10, who earned 1s 6d a week carrying bobbins to and from the spinning frames.



### THE ROCK, PATELEY BRIDGE

A natural outcrop of rock, railed and surfaced in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. It boasts sweeping views over the dale.



### RIPLEY CASTLE £

Ancestral seat of the Ingilby family for 28 generations. The 14th-century fortified house and its lakeside park are both open to the public.



The Nidderdale Way saves some of its highlights for last, including perhaps the best of them all – **Brimham Rocks**. The glorious slow descent into **Pateley Bridge** on the **Panorama Walk** makes a fitting finale.

#### SET OFF FROM RIPLEY

**1** Set off from the market cross past the **Boar's Head**. Before the A61–B6165 roundabout, branch left on a gated road. Go across the B6165 and up **Birthwaite Lane**.

**2** On a bend turn right onto a bridleway. Keep left at a fork. Bear right through trees down into **Cayton Gill**.

#### LOOK OUT FOR CAYTON

Site of a deserted medieval village. Worth a look in low light, when the sun picks out the old walls and earthworks.

**3** Follow the edge of the wood. Turn sharp right over a beck and uphill through an oak plantation. Follow the fence to a gate. Go down through trees to a gap in a wall.

**4** Carry on along the marshy fringe of the gill. At the trees, a left turn on a bridleway brings you to a cobbled ford. Go uphill on a gamekeeper's track to emerge on the **Ripley–Sawley road**.

**5** Turn left down **Scarrah Bank**. A farm drive on your right leads to **Kettlespring**. Go through the farmyard and into the trees.

**6** At **High Kettlespring**, take the green lane along the brow of the bank, then downhill into fields. Follow a wall uphill towards the lefthand gate.

**7** Keep with the fieldside to another gate. Halfway along the top of the next field, strike left downhill. Go right at the bottom along the field edge and follow it to a stile which leads you into **Shaw Mills**.

**8** Follow the road downhill to the bridge. On the other side take a bridleway signposted to **Brimham Rocks**.

**9** Follow the path around to the right of **Cowgate Manor Farm**. Continue through two fields. In the corner of the next, drop diagonally downhill to the bottom righthand corner. Follow the beck to a footbridge.

**10** Strike leftwards up the field edge. Pass **Beck House** and exit onto a tarmac drive. At the t-junction go left to **Woodfield Mill**. Carry on past **Woodfield House Farm**. After a cattle grid, leave the track and follow a grassy path towards the trees.

#### LOOK OUT FOR BRIMHAM LODGE

A handsome 17th-century farmhouse on the site of a former grange of Fountains Abbey, with an interesting sundial.

**11** Carry on down to a stone footbridge and follow the wallside in the field beyond to meet the drive to **Park House**. Bear left into the woods and up between farm buildings to **Brimham Lodge**.

**12** Following the driveway to emerge on a bend in a road, turn sharp right on the bridleway to **Riva Hill**.

**13** By the entrance to **Riva Hill Farm** go through a footgate. Follow a straight path through the heather, ending at a minor road. Turn left.

**14** After about 50 metres take a bridleway on the right. The path winds downhill and at length meets a gateway to **Low Wood House**. Follow the concrete drive to reach the road and turn right towards **Smelthouses**.

**15** Cross the bridge and take a footpath on your right beneath an enormous retaining wall. Head up through the woods past old mill ponds.

**16** Cross a footbridge and zigzag up the bank, first right, then left. The path doubles back by an old redbrick building in line with the fence. When it forks near a tumbled wall, take the right branch. At a clearing, carry on between fences and back into the trees.

**17** The path meanders through the woods. Drop down to a footbridge and head right. At a further junction take the middle track. Cross a cattle grid and leave the track on a path uphill. Rise to a footgate in a corner.

**18** Go straight up the next field, bearing leftwards. Pass through a gate, then to the side of the houses along a walled path. Turn left.

**19** At the junction in **Whitehouses**, go straight on through the righthand gate. Follow the path along the wallside. Join a driveway and keep going until you reach the road.




**20** Turn right up a hairpin bend and take the next path on your left. At another backroad go downhill, looking for a bridleway on the right. Pass the houses of **Blazefield** to arrive at the main road.

**21** Walk down the road a stretch, then take a bridleway on your right. At a fork, go left. After **Knott Farm** go straight on to a junction and then right. At a further junction, follow the Nidderdale Way down the left fork.

**22** This tarmac path is the **Panorama Walk** and it leads all the way to **PATELEY BRIDGE**. When you reach the road, turn right and head into town, your final destination on the Nidderdale Way.

Once you've completed the walk, don't forget to call in at one of the shops or the Tourist Information Centre to claim your free Nidderdale Way badge.



 **EAT AND DRINK AT:** Ripley, Brimham, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge  
 **SLEEP AT:** Ripley, Hartwith, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge  
 **SHOP AT:** Ripley, Pateley Bridge

See Directory for accommodation details

## DIRECTORY: Places to stay on the Nidderdale Way



HOTEL



INN



B&B



CAMPSITE



BUNK BARN



No. OF SELF CATERING



FOOD AVAILABLE



DOG FRIENDLY



FREE WIFI



LAUNDRY SERVICE

### Pateley Bridge

#### THE CROWN INN

[www.thecrowninnpateleybridge.co.uk](http://www.thecrowninnpateleybridge.co.uk) / [catherineaudsley@yahoo.com](mailto:catherineaudsley@yahoo.com)



#### GRASSFIELD HALL

[www.grassfield-hall.co.uk](http://www.grassfield-hall.co.uk) / [info@grassfield-hall.co.uk](mailto:info@grassfield-hall.co.uk)



#### HAREFIELD HALL

[www.harefieldhall.com](http://www.harefieldhall.com) / [info@harefieldhall.com](mailto:info@harefieldhall.com)



#### LYNDALE GUESTHOUSE

[www.lyndaleguesthouse.com](http://www.lyndaleguesthouse.com)  
01423 712657 / 07796 872586



#### RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK

[www.riversidepateleybridge.co.uk](http://www.riversidepateleybridge.co.uk)  
[info@riversidepateleybridge.co.uk](mailto:info@riversidepateleybridge.co.uk)



#### ROSLYN HOUSE

[www.roslynhouse.co.uk](http://www.roslynhouse.co.uk) / [www.roslynhouse.co.uk](http://www.roslynhouse.co.uk)



#### TALBOT HOUSE

[www.talbot-house.co.uk](http://www.talbot-house.co.uk) / [info@talbot-house.co.uk](mailto:info@talbot-house.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Wath

#### HIGH GREEN FARM

[www.highgreen-nidderdale.co.uk](http://www.highgreen-nidderdale.co.uk)  
[info@highgreen-nidderdale.co.uk](mailto:info@highgreen-nidderdale.co.uk)



#### SPORTSMAN'S ARMS

[www.sportsmans-arms.co.uk](http://www.sportsmans-arms.co.uk)  
[sportsmansarms@btconnect.com](mailto:sportsmansarms@btconnect.com)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Bouthwaite

#### COVILL BARN

[www.covillbarn.co.uk](http://www.covillbarn.co.uk) / [john@covillbarn.co.uk](mailto:john@covillbarn.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Lofthouse

#### THE CROWN INN

[www.nidderdale.co.uk/business/the-crown-hotel-lofthouse](http://www.nidderdale.co.uk/business/the-crown-hotel-lofthouse)  
[crownhotel@icloud.com](mailto:crownhotel@icloud.com)



#### STUDFOLD FARM

[www.studfold.com](http://www.studfold.com) / [info@studfold.com](mailto:info@studfold.com)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Middlesmoor

#### THE CROWN HOTEL

[www.crownhotelmiddlesmoor.co.uk](http://www.crownhotelmiddlesmoor.co.uk)  
[crownmiddlesmoor@gmail.com](mailto:crownmiddlesmoor@gmail.com)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Steau

#### HOW STEAU GORGE BUNKHOUSE

[www.howsteau.co.uk](http://www.howsteau.co.uk) / [info@howsteau.co.uk](mailto:info@howsteau.co.uk)



#### SCAR HOUSE

[www.howsteau.co.uk](http://www.howsteau.co.uk) / [info@howsteau.co.uk](mailto:info@howsteau.co.uk)  
See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.



### Ramsgill

#### NIDDERDALE BUNKHOUSE

[www.howsteau.co.uk](http://www.howsteau.co.uk) / [info@howsteau.co.uk](mailto:info@howsteau.co.uk)



#### YORKE ARMS

[www.yorke-arms.co.uk](http://www.yorke-arms.co.uk) / [enquiries@yorke-arms.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@yorke-arms.co.uk)



### Heathfield

#### HEATHFIELD CARAVAN PARK

[www.heathfieldhp.co.uk](http://www.heathfieldhp.co.uk) / 01423 711652



#### LOW WOOD CARAVAN PARK

01423 711433



#### WESTFIELD FARM

01423 711880



### Bewerley

#### BEWERLEY HALL FARM

[www.bewerleyhallfarm.co.uk](http://www.bewerleyhallfarm.co.uk)  
[bewerleyhallfarm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bewerleyhallfarm@yahoo.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Dacre Banks

#### ROYAL OAK

[www.the-royaloak-dacre.co.uk](http://www.the-royaloak-dacre.co.uk)  
[steve@the-royaloak-dacre.co.uk](mailto:steve@the-royaloak-dacre.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Summerbridge

#### THE FIRS

[www.thefirssummerbridge.co.uk](http://www.thefirssummerbridge.co.uk)  
[stay@thefirssummerbridge.co.uk](mailto:stay@thefirssummerbridge.co.uk)



#### THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

[www.flyingdutchmansummerbridge.co.uk](http://www.flyingdutchmansummerbridge.co.uk)  
[info@flyingdutchmansummerbridge.co.uk](mailto:info@flyingdutchmansummerbridge.co.uk)



### Darley

#### WELLINGTON INN

[www.wellington-inn.co.uk](http://www.wellington-inn.co.uk) / [enquiries@wellington-inn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wellington-inn.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Birstwith

#### STATION HOTEL

[www.station-hotel.net](http://www.station-hotel.net) / [admin@station-hotel.net](mailto:admin@station-hotel.net)



### Hampsthwaite

#### JOINER'S ARMS

[www.joinersarmsharrogate.co.uk](http://www.joinersarmsharrogate.co.uk)  
[info@joinersarmsharrogate.co.uk](mailto:info@joinersarmsharrogate.co.uk)



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Ripley

#### BOAR'S HEAD

[www.boarsheadripley.co.uk](http://www.boarsheadripley.co.uk)  
[reservations@boarsheadripley.co.uk](mailto:reservations@boarsheadripley.co.uk)



### Shaw Mills



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Brimham



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Hartwith



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

### Fellbeck



See [www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale](http://www.uppernidderdale.org.uk/visit-nidderdale) for details of self-catering properties.

Please refer to the map on page 2 for locations.

Details of self-catering properties, which generally do not offer single night accommodation options, are listed separately on the website. You can also view accommodation options across the wider Nidderdale area at [nidderdale.co.uk](http://nidderdale.co.uk) and [visitharrogate.co.uk](http://visitharrogate.co.uk).