

SHORT WALKS

MADE EASY

# NIDDERALE AND WHARFEDALE

10 leisurely walks  
across the outstandingly beautiful national landscape




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# SCAR HOUSE RESERVOIR

Scar House Reservoir and its neighbour Angram are the highest of a chain of reservoirs occupying Nidderdale. They sit tucked in at the base of high, peaty hills that divide Nidderdale from Wharfedale. As a result, this walk gives a teasing taste of the wild moorland straddling this local watershed – and for relatively little effort. It also visits the abandoned hamlet of Lodge, a tranquil spot high above the reservoir shaded by grand old sycamore trees.

## OS information

 SE 069 766  
Explorer OL30

## Distance

4.4 miles/7.1 km

## Time

2½ hours

## Start/Finish


Scar House Reservoir

**Parking** HG3 5SW  
Yorkshire Water's Scar House Reservoir car park, 4 miles north-west of Lofthouse

## Public toilets

None (car park toilet block run-down/padlocked at the time of writing)






## Cafés/pubs

Picnic benches at ; nearest pub is The Crown Hotel, Middlesmoor

## Terrain

Asphalt tracks as far as north corner of Angram Reservoir dam; grassy and rough, uneven tracks

## Hilliness


Barely noticeable ascent to ; undulating  to , after which level, with a short, steep descent  to 

## Footwear

Summer   
Autumn/Winter/  
Spring 



### Public transport

Very limited services  
825 Eastern  
DalesBus, between  
York and Richmond  
(Sun and bank  
holidays) to the  
stop at , and 138,  
Masham to Ripon, to  
the Grewelthorpe  
stop: [transdevbus.co.uk/coastliner](http://transdevbus.co.uk/coastliner);  
[procterscoaches.com](http://procterscoaches.com)



### Accessibility

None



### Dogs

Welcome,  
but keep on leads  
through fields  
(livestock). Four  
stiles, only two with  
dog gates

**Did you know?** Several scenes from Hackfall were featured on a dinner service belonging to Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia. The 'Green Frog' service was made by the Wedgewood pottery company and was hand painted with British scenes. It comprised 944 individual pieces which formed 50 place settings, and each piece was marked with an image of a green frog and a shield.

**Local legend** In 1850, peat cutters unearthed a well-preserved body in a bog near Grewelthorpe. Clothed in a green toga and scarlet robes, the remains were believed to have dated from the Roman era. Unfortunately, once exposed to the air, the body rapidly decomposed leaving only the soles of the footwear and a fragment of stocking which were salvaged by the local policeman.



Scan Me

# STORIES BEHIND THE WALK

★ **Pillars Past** Designed by local sculptor Joseph Hayton, *Pillars Past* consists of three figures representing the area's farming, mining and monastic heritage. These 6-foot-tall figures of a shepherd, a lead miner and a monk form part of the Way of the Roses art trail – public art works along the 170-mile Walk Wheel Cycle Trust route from Morecambe in Lancashire to Bridlington in the East Riding of Yorkshire.



✚ **St Mary's Church** Possibly dating back to the early 14th century, St Mary's Church was extensively reconstructed in the 17th century when the tower was added. It started to fall into disrepair in the 19th century as it became too small for the local population and parishioners were increasingly reluctant to climb the steep hill after St Cuthbert's was built closer to the town in 1827. The church is now a scheduled monument, giving it legal protection.



## Nidderdale Way

## ★ Pillars Past

1 Path beside the River Nidd

1/2 mile



Showground  
car park

- Leave the car park by crossing the road (B6265) and turning **right** to go over the River Nidd – using the pedestrian bridge to the **left** of the road bridge.



1

- On the far side, cross the road diagonally **right** to join the riverside path to the right of a River Nidd sign.
- Follow the riverside path for 1¼ miles to a T-junction opposite Glasshouses Mill.

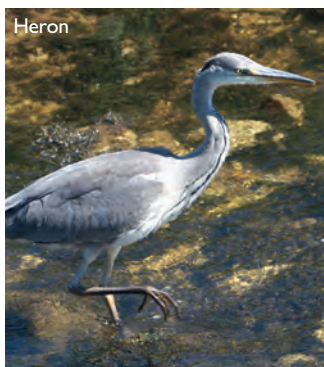


# NATURE NOTES

Much of the wildlife likely to be encountered on this walk will be seen on or close to the River Wharfe. While brown trout and grayling are among the fish beneath its surface, walkers are more likely to see the birds that swim on the river or feed along its banks. These include heron, mallard, sandpiper, dipper, greylag goose, kingfisher, black-headed gull and goosander. The goosander, a diving duck that belongs to the sawbill family, has only been breeding in the UK since the 1870s. Other birds that might be spotted include wood pigeon, wren and red kite.

Dog rose is a direct translation of the Latin name, *Rosa canina*, which

was given to the rose, according to the Roman naturalist Pliny, because its roots could cure the bite of a rabid dog.



- 4** ➔ Go through the gate and turn **left**. Proceed along the path, river over to the right.
- ➔ Keep close to the River Wharfe as you pass through parking areas to reach the Cavendish Pavilion café.



- 5** ➔ At the café, turn **right** and cross the footbridge.
- ➔ On the far side, turn **right** again and continue beside the River Wharfe for 1/4 mile to a gate.



- 6** ➔ Pass through the gate and turn **left** along a track.
- ➔ Go **straight over** at a lane, crossing a footbridge, and then rejoin the lane.
  - ➔ Follow it uphill for just 30 yards and bear **right** to a gate.



# Short walks in Nidderdale and Wharfedale

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