



## The Upper Dale Car Discovery Trail

Want to discover the Yorkshire Dales at their best but have young children that are bored easily in the car? Then your problems are solved. Use this fantastic car discovery trail to take a wonderful journey starting at Pateley Bridge up to the head of Nidderdale and find its treasures.

### Instructions

- Starting at Pateley Bridge. A fantastic place for a pit stop!
- Find the petrol station and children's play ground and take the turning signposted to Upper Nidderdale. **This is the start of your trail.**

### Discover.....

- To the left - Before the 'Bridge' a 34ft Waterwheel attached
  - to an old rope flax mill. Closed mid- 1960's.
- To the right - stop at the small car park which houses the
  - 'Wath' bus shelter. Look across the main road up the hill.
  - Can you see some old steps in the grass? – this was where
  - a very tiny 'Tin Tabernacle' stood at the top of the hill. This iron Mission Church was built in 1888. Although one of the smallest in the country, it could house 100 people! Demolished in the 1960s.
  - Carry on up the dale on the main road signposted Ramsgill.
- To the right – Gouthwaite Dam. Built in 1899. A compensation reservoir. (Controls the flow of water down dale).
- To the left – Gouthwaite Hall (by the road) and Gouthwaite Hall Farm set up on the hillside. These houses were rebuilt from materials of the original Gouthwaite Hall which was flooded under the reservoir.
- Quickly again to the Left. One of the oldest Oak trees in the Dale! How many years old do you think it is? As a rough guide - if you could measure round its trunk – each centimetre is one year old! We think about 800 years old!
- To the right – Gouthwaite Reservoir – It is a nature reserve and an important site for breeding wildfowl, and provides sheltered feeding grounds for passage and wintering birds. The shallow mud flats are particularly attractive to ducks and waders. Over 200 bird species have been recorded.





# Studfold

Walks and Trails

Here - Look out for the great crested grebe, shoveler, ringed plover, redshank, yellow wagtail, reed bunting and meadow pipit, teal, mallard, canada geese, red kite and even the odd cormorant!

There are 3 viewing areas and 1 car park up the reservoir side.

- To the right – Ramsgill Village clock – is it showing the right time?
- Stop in Ramsgill – Look at the grass side of the Village Hall – Is it a sad or happy face? This is thought to be Eugene Aram (1704 – 1758), a scholar and a murderer who lived in Ramsgill!

Find the old telephone box.

What is the name of the Hotel in Ramsgill? Along time ago, the Yorke family owned the Nidderdale Chase (which then was a forested hunting area).

Continue up the dale.

- To the left – the River Nidd. Its source is at Great Whernside – the very top of this dale. The far side of the river used to be owned by Byland Abbey the near side owned by Fountains Abbey. The sheep, bred in Nidderdale were walked over the moorland tracks back to the Abbeys.
- At Lofthouse – to the left - Look out for the Primary School and toilet (!) and next to this the old Station House. When Scar and Angram reservoirs were being built further up the dale - a narrow gauge, single track steam railway ran from Pateley Bridge up the dale. What a sight this must have been! Lofthouse was the last stop for fee paying customers.



## NOW MAKE A CHOICE!!

- 1 **DRIVE TO STUDFOLD EXPLORE DISCOVER AND LEARN TRAIL.**
- 2 **DRIVE UP TO SCAR AND ANGRAM RESERVOIRS**
- 3 **DRIVE UP TO MIDDLESMOOR**



**Explore. Discover. Learn.**



## **1. DRIVE TO STUDFOLD EXPLORE DISCOVER AND LEARN TRAIL**

Go straight through Lofthouse, pass the cricket pitch to the right and take your first turning to the left. Park on the Studfold car park, take your picnic to reception (it will take it to the play and picnic area) and have a fantastic day, with your family, exploring and experiencing Nidderdale at its best!!!



## **2. DRIVE UP TO SCAR AND ANGRAM RESERVOIRS**

- Go straight through Lofthouse over the bridge ( built for the railway) and take the first turning to the right.
- The road is the old railway line – 3 miles to Scar.
- To the right – on the skyline – a small building with the letter 'R'. This is a shooting box on Lofthouse Moor owned by the Ramsden family. Known locally as 'Nidd Castle'! Where the grouse shooters and beaters have dinner!
- To the left – an old disused railway tunnel. No entry!
- To the Left – the foundation remains of Scar village. A wooden village built specifically to house the workers (over 1250 people) that built the 2 reservoirs – Scar and Angram. It was self contained even having a hospital and Cinema. The cinema projection room is the sole remaining stone building left on site. Find the information boards in the car park.
- To the right Scar Dam – took 15 years to build. Completed by 1936. Water from Scar and Angram is piped to supply the Bradford area. Angram dam, which is found behind Scar reservoir, was completed in 1919 and is only reached on foot.
- Great Whernside Hill on the skyline behind the reservoir is the source of the River Nidd.
- This is the end of the journey. Car park, information points and toilets available. A good place for a walk.

## **3. DRIVE UP TO MIDDLESMOOR**

Go straight through Lofthouse and continue on this road up the 1in 4 hill to Middlesmoor! Park in the car park at the top of the village. Public toilets near the 'Crown' public house.

- In Middlesmoor you must go and discover the church. The views down dale from here are some of the best in Nidderdale!
- This is the end of the journey. A good place for a walk.

