

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.

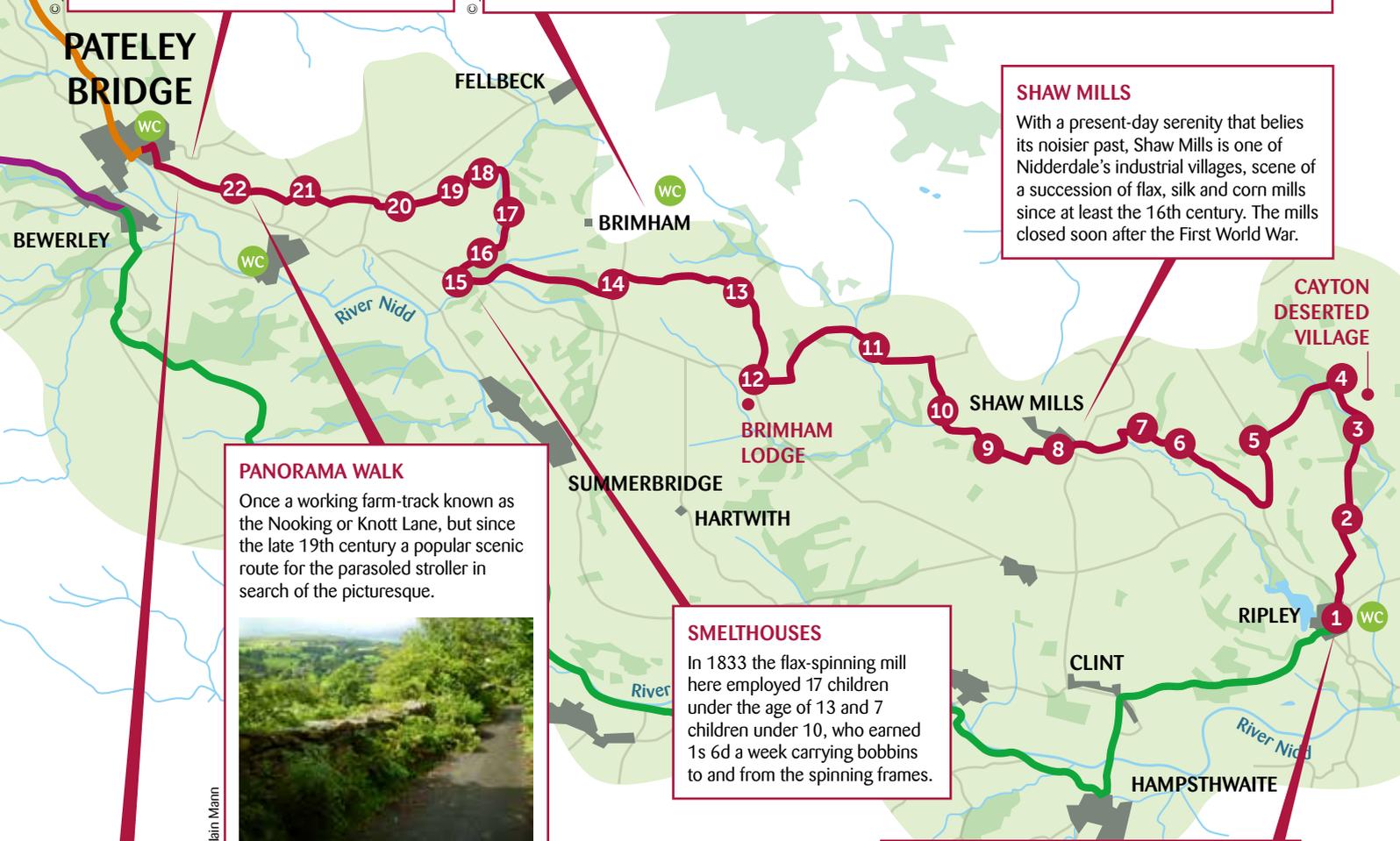


BRIMHAM ROCKS

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.



RIPLLEY 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 **Scarah 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