

Nought Moor Trail



2-3
hours



4.75 / 7.5
Miles / KM



Moderate



Scenic/Habitats/
Heritage



© Robert Light

Upper Nidderdale is renowned for its stunning natural beauty. This scenic walk around Nought Moor is one of a series of trails offering the chance to enjoy the contrasting landscapes and fascinating heritage that make Upper Nidderdale such a special place. Along this route you can enjoy a range of different settings, from the quiet serenity of the woods at Middle Tongue Bank to the heather moorland and blanket bog of Nought Moor, and take in spectacular views across Guisecliffe and Yorke's Folly.

PARK: Pateley Bridge/Bridgehouse Gate

EAT & DRINK: Pateley Bridge/Bridgehouse Gate

SHOP: Pateley Bridge/Bridgehouse Gate

View online at uppernidderdale.org.uk and print off at A4. Please follow the countryside code. Keep your dogs on a lead and close gates behind you.

- 1 Begin the walk at the bottom of the High Street in Pateley Bridge. Walk over the bridge and continue through Bridgehouse Gate before turning left to Bewerley at the bottom of Greenhow Hill, opposite The Royal Oak pub. Follow the footpath along the roadside through Bewerley. As you leave the village, passing the junction with Peat Lane to your right, carry on down the hill. At the bottom of the hill go over Turner Bridge and follow the road as it swings to the right up Nought Bank Road.

LOOK OUT FOR BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL

Shortly after passing the village green on your left you reach Bewerley Grange Chapel. The Chapel was built in the late 15th century by Marmaduke Huby, the last Abbot of Fountains Abbey. It stands on the site of a much older chapel. Between 1678 and 1831 it housed the endowed school in Bewerley.

- 2 As you begin to climb up the hill take the footpath to your right by the entrance to Skrikes Farm. Follow the path as it runs along the side of Fosse Gill and enter **Skrikes Wood**.
- 3 After entering the wood you approach a bridge over the beck. Shortly before reaching the bridge, take the footpath to your left which winds its way steeply uphill through the wood. As you climb the hill the footpath swings to the left and, after a while, runs alongside a dry stone wall, with excellent views across the valley towards Pateley Bridge.
- 4 When you reach a stile in the wall to your left turn sharply to your right and carry on up the hill along a brief section of cobbled pathway. As you near the top of the hill the footpath turns to the left and emerges from the wood. Stay on the path until you reach a gate at the top of the hill. Go through the gate and follow the path along the edge of **Nought Moor** towards a small car park by the side of Nought Moor Road. Up on the hillside to your left is **Yorke's Folly**.

LOOK OUT FOR GUISECLIFFE

This magnificent gritstone escarpment dominates the south western slopes of Nidderdale above Glasshouses, offering spectacular views across the valley and beyond. The eastern edge of the cliff bears the scars of 19th century quarrying and the slopes below are covered by ancient semi-natural woodland.

- 5 Just before you reach the car park, take the path to your right that briefly follows the fence and then heads diagonally across the moor. After about 400 yards (430 metres) you reach a dry stone wall. Go over the stile and follow the path as it begins to head downhill towards Fosse Beck. As you approach the beck you see a sheep fold to your right and stone flags line the pathway as it approaches a footbridge. Next to the bridge is a small but spectacular waterfall.
- 6 Go over the bridge and follow the path as it heads straight up the side of the gill for around half a mile (800 metres) before reaching a track. Turn right along the track and head back towards Bewerley for around 200 yards (180 metres) until you reach a path off to your left.
- 7 Take the path and head across Low Moor towards Noonstone Farm and the abandoned Noonstone Quarry. The quarry is one of a number of abandoned **quarries and slate mines** in this small valley. Shortly after passing the quarry on your right you reach a narrow road. This is Peat lane which runs from Bewerley all the way up to Toft Gate Lime Kiln where it joins the main Pateley Bridge to Greenhow road.
- 8 When you reach Peat Lane turn right and after about 200 yards (180 metres) take the track off to your left which leads down the valley side to Gillbeck Farm. Follow the track down the hillside, across the beck and up the other side of the valley. The woodland here is part of **Middle Tongue Bank** which is owned by the Woodland Trust.
- 9 Carry on along the track as it passes Gillbeck Farm and continues down the valley back towards Bewerley. The track passes Moor View, Haver Garth and White Wood Farms, before entering **Fishpond Wood** as it begins to wind back down the hillside. Carry on through the wood to the bottom of the hill.
- 10 When you reach the bottom of the hill go straight out onto Peat Lane and turn left. After around 400 yards (350 metres) you reach a T-junction. Turn left here and follow the route through Bewerley back to where you started the walk in Pateley Bridge.



MIDDLE TONGUE BANK

This regionally significant Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is owned by the Woodland Trust. Scattered amongst the ancient birch and oak are flowers such as wood anemone, common dog-violet, and enchanter's nightshade.

© Robert Light



QUARRIES AND SLATE MINES

The ground here bears many scars from the stone extraction industries. Stone slates, pulping stones and building stone were produced in quarries at Moorhouses, Middle Tongue and Noonstone. Middle Tongue Quarry was the last to close. It ceased operations in the 1930s.

© Robert Light



NOUGHT MOOR

This stretch of heath and heather moorland is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest that stretches across the moors to the west and north. It contains areas of blanket bog with active accumulating peat and other wetland habitats.

© Louise Brown



FISHPOND WOOD

Influenced by the picturesque movement, Sir John Yorke began fashioning this ancient semi-natural woodland in the 1780s. Opened up to the public in the 19th century, the Yorke Estate pleasure gardens and landscaped woodlands became a popular tourist attraction. In 1885 they were visited by 3,000 people who came by special train.

© Louise Brown



SKRIKES WOOD

Another of the Yorke family's managed landscapes, this ancient semi-natural woodland either side of the dramatic Ravensgill was also opened to the public in the 19th century. Look out for leafy carpets of moschatel – also known as 'town hall clock' because of the way its pale green flowers are arranged around the central stem.

© Robert Light



YORKE'S FOLLY

Known locally as 'Two Stoops' these stone columns were commissioned in the 18th century by John Yorke to provide employment for out of work local men. There were originally three columns, however one blew down during a storm in 1893.

© E Moss



Seasonal Features

Spring: Nesting curlews, lapwings, snipe and redshank can be seen and heard around Middle Tongue Bank. **Summer:** In late summer blooming heather turns Nought Moor a glorious purple and its seductive scent drifts across the moorland. **All Year:** Wren and dunnoek can be seen in Middle Tongue Bank wood.