

Scotgate Ash



2-3
hours



4 Miles / 6.4 KM



Moderate



Scenic



© Louise Brown

Upper Nidderdale is renowned for its stunning natural beauty. This scenic walk through the now abandoned Scotgate Ash Quarry 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 spectacular views across Nidderdale, take a short detour to the ruins of the 14th century St Mary's Church, stroll up Pateley Bridge's historic High Street and view the atmospheric remains of Scotgate Ash Quarry.

 **PARK:** Pateley Bridge

 **EAT & DRINK:** Pateley Bridge

 **SHOP:** Pateley Bridge

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 The walk begins at the bottom of the **High Street** in Pateley Bridge. Proceed up the street and follow the road as it bends to your right. After rounding the bend, you will see the Methodist Chapel to your right. The present chapel was built in 1909 to replace an earlier chapel, built in 1777.
- 2 Just after passing the Chapel, a set of steps leads from the roadside path to your left; signposted Panorama Walk. Go up the steps and follow the path up the hill, passing the cemetery to your left.

LOOK OUT FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH

Immediately after passing the cemetery you can take a short detour down the walled pathway to your left and visit the ruined 14th century **St Mary's Church**, then return by the same route.

- 3 This is the Medieval routeway to Ripon. It was bypassed in 1859 when the present route was first established as a turnpike road. Stay on the walled pathway which carries on up the hill.

LOOK OUT FOR THE ROCK

About 200 yards (180 metres) up the hill past the cemetery you will see an iron gate to your right. Through the gate, a rocky outcrop forms a platform which looks across the valley to Guisecliffe and Yorke's Folly. Known as the 'Rock', the platform became a popular viewing point during the Victorian period when the iron safety railings were installed.

- 4 At the top of the hill you reach a collection of houses known as **the Knott**. Here you take the path that leads to your left. Walk on through the hamlet and continue uphill along the walled bridleway in front of you. After passing through a cluster of trees the bridleway rises up and emerges onto a hilltop plateau of high pastureland criss-crossed by a patchwork of dry stone walls.
- 5 Stay on the walled bridleway until you reach a T-junction with a narrow road. Turn left along the road back up the Dale towards Pateley Bridge and

enjoy the spectacular views. You soon reach another road junction, this time with Old Church Lane as it reaches the top of the hill running out of Pateley Bridge before heading over the moors towards Kirby Malzeard. Turn left and walk down Old Church Lane for approximately 200 yards (180 metres) until you see a track which runs along the hillside to your right. Take the sharp turning onto this track and carry on towards Scotgate Ash Quarry.

- 6 Continue along the track until the quarried rock faces of Scotgate Ash Quarry open out in front of you. Proceed past the quarry house with the remains of the winch platform at the head of the **Inclined Railway** to your left. Ignore the metal gate in front of you and bear right along the path through the quarry between the spoil heaps. When you reach the far edge of the quarry go through the gate and along a short path across the corner of a field to another gate.
- 7 Go through the second gate and turn left onto Wath Lane, the tarmac road that heads down the hillside, passing a small cluster of scots pine trees immediately on your right. This is **Silver Hill** with its stunning views up the valley. Continue down the hill on the road. After approximately 400 yards (360 metres) take the sharp left-hand turn back towards Pateley Bridge rather than following the road straight ahead towards Gouthwaite Reservoir.
- 8 At the bottom of Silver Hill you reach a T-junction with Wath Road. Turn right and go down the hill. Shortly after passing a row of houses at the bottom of the hill you will see a stile in the wall to your left. Go over the stile and head down the steps along the woodland path to the river bank. When you reach the river bank turn left and take the path back into Pateley Bridge.
- 9 As you reach the town you pass the through Millennium Green area. This was the site of the station and sidings for the **Nidd Valley Light Railway**. Stay on the path by the river until you reach a small housing estate called The Sidings. Take the path behind the houses into Mill Lane which leads you back to Pateley Bridge High Street.



SILVER HILL

This popular local beauty spot offers spectacular views taking in Guisecliffe and Greenhow Hill to the west and Gouthwaite Reservoir and the Nidderdale moorlands to the north.

© Janina Holubecki



SCOTGATE ASH QUARRY

A quarrying site since the 14th century, Scotgate Ash produced a hard-wearing flagstone used in many railway platforms nationwide, including Victoria Station in London. At its height in the 1880s this was the largest quarry in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

© Louise Brown



NIDD VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY

Running from Pateley Bridge to Angram at the top the Dale, the railway serviced the construction of the reservoirs in Bradford Corporation's Nidd Valley Water Works Scheme. It was opened in 1907 and closed in 1936 following the completion of Scar House Reservoir.

© Nidderdale Museum



INCLINED RAILWAY AND THE DOCK

Constructed in 1876, the inclined railway enabled blocks of stone from Scott Gate Ash Quarry to reach the North Eastern branch line at the bottom of the hill in just a few minutes. After the quarry closed, land at the bottom of the incline was developed as a sawing and dressing yard for stone from other local quarries, known as the Dock.

© Janina Holubecki



PATELEY BRIDGE HIGH STREET

Pateley Bridge's charismatic High Street has an assortment of historic buildings. Look out for King's Court just off the main street and the collection of 17th century buildings further up the hill, including the Pateley Club, Apothecary's House and the 'Oldest Sweet Shop in England'.

© Janina Holubecki



THE KNOTT

This charming hamlet situated on the spring line is one of the earliest settlements in the area. It's name is thought to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for a rocky point.

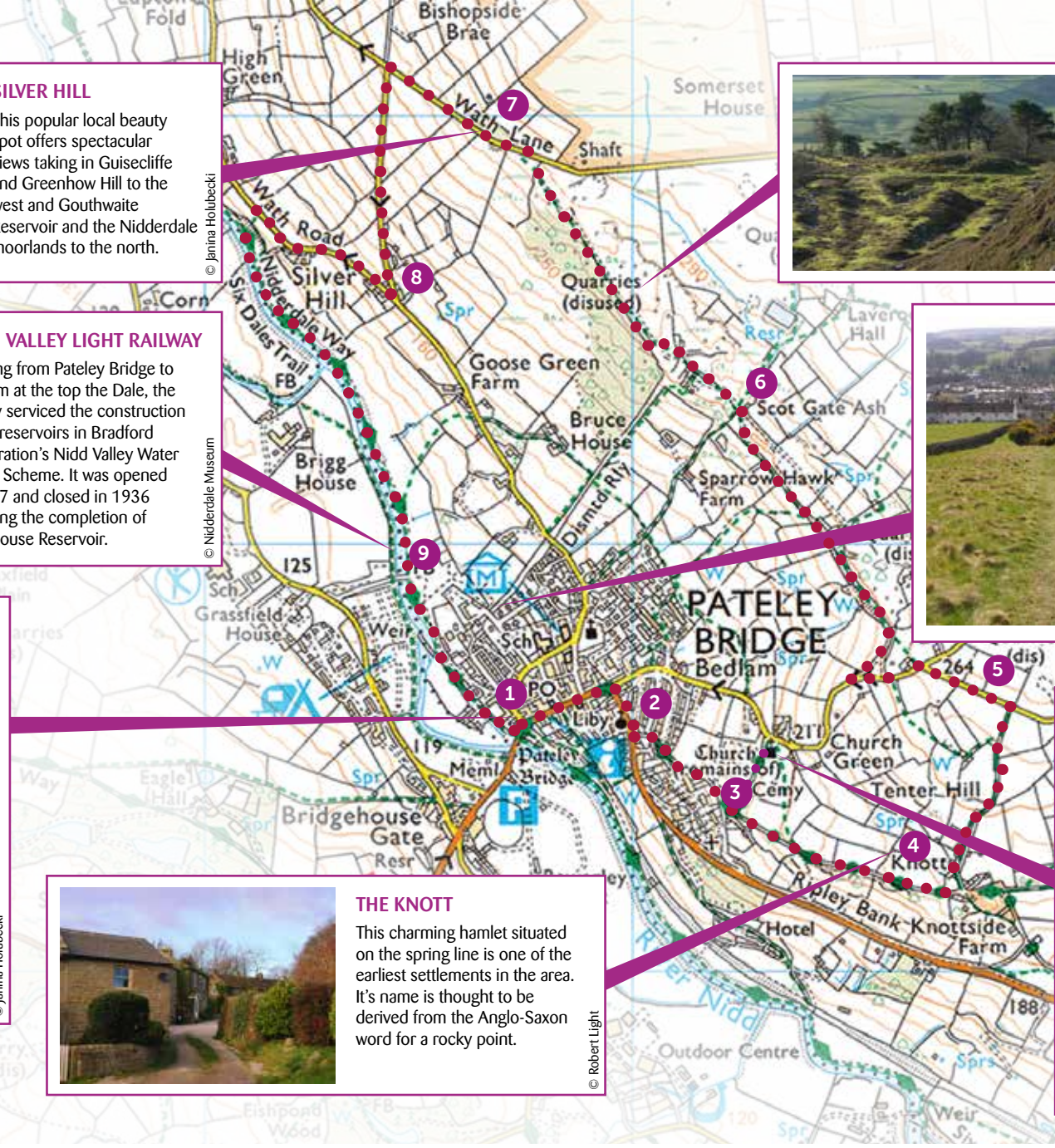
© Robert Light



ST MARY'S CHURCH

Now ruined, St Mary's Church was established in the early 14th century as a Chapel of Ease. The tower was built in the 17th century but by 1827 the church had become too small for the congregation and was replaced by the newly built St Cuthbert's Church in Pateley Bridge.

© Robert Light



Seasonal Features

Spring: Curlews and lapwings are common in fields above Scotgate Ash Quarry. **Summer:** In August the high ground on this route provides excellent views of the hill tops around Nidderdale as flowering heather turns them a vivid purple. **All Year:** Buzzards, kestrels and red kites can often be seen hunting in the fields around Silver Hill.

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