

STAGE 2: Middlesmoor to Beverley



1 day
Whole section



10.5 / 17
Miles / KM



Easy
Varied terrain



Scenic
Limestone gorges,
old mine workings,
quiet villages



HOW STEAN GORGE £

One of Nidderdale's natural wonders. In a cleft in the hills, How Stean Beck has worn its way into a seam of limestone to create a ravine up to 30ft (9m) deep, its sun-dappled depths fringed with ferns.

STUDFOLD FARM £

Much more than just a campsite, Studfold offers a shop and café, picnic spots, events throughout the holiday season and the popular Studfold Adventure Trail – something for all the family.



MIDDLESMOOR

The last village in Nidderdale, a jumble of Georgian cottages with a picturesque hilltop position and one of the most photographed churches in Britain.

© Eric Moss



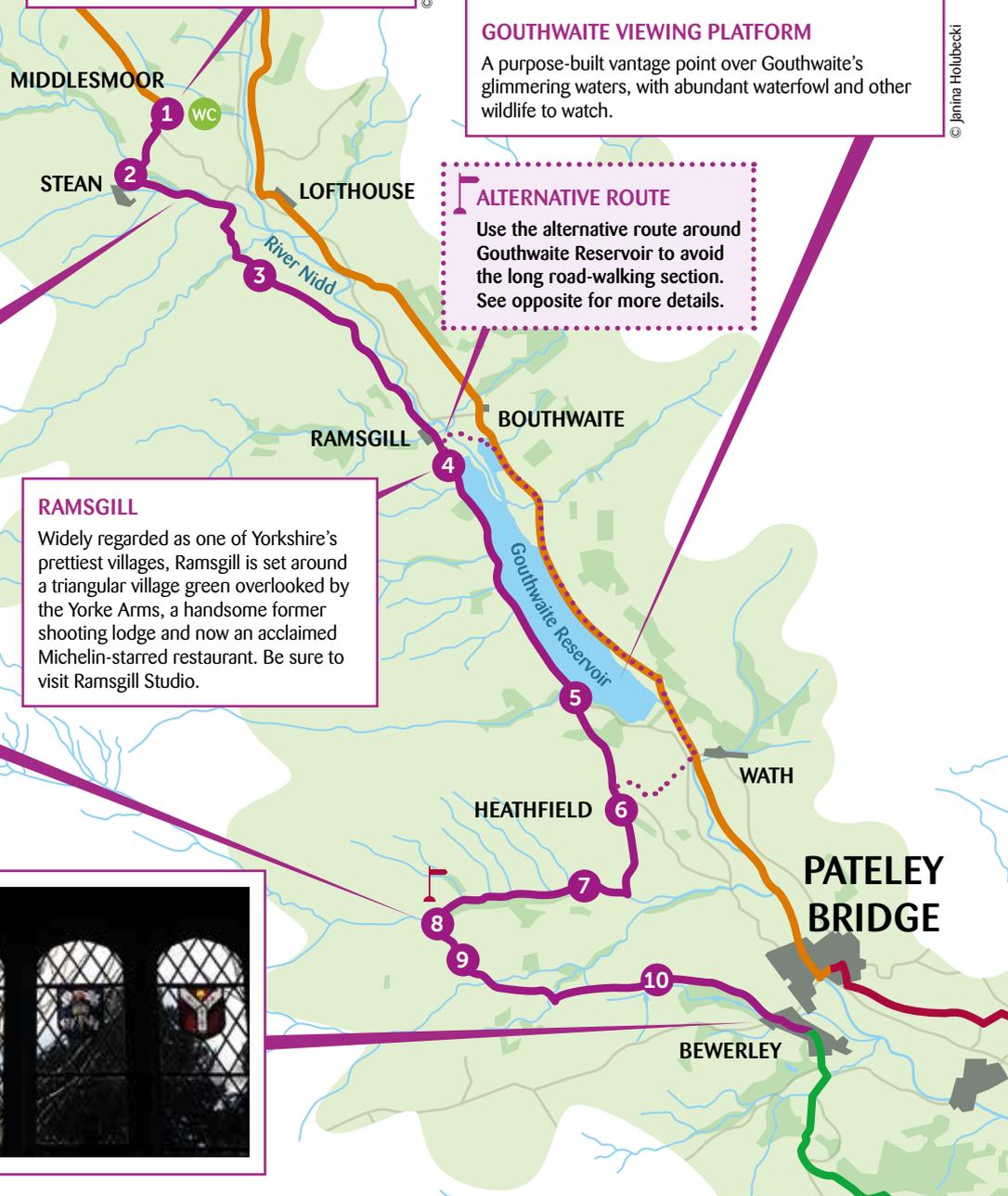
GOUTHWAITE RESERVOIR

Completed in 1901, Gouthwaite soon blended into the landscape to become the most lake-like of Nidderdale's three reservoirs. It is a birdwatcher's haven, over 200 species having been recorded around its shores.

GOUTHWAITE VIEWING PLATFORM

A purpose-built vantage point over Gouthwaite's glimmering waters, with abundant waterfowl and other wildlife to watch.

© Janina Holubecki



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Use the alternative route around Gouthwaite Reservoir to avoid the long road-walking section. See opposite for more details.

RAMSGILL

Widely regarded as one of Yorkshire's prettiest villages, Ramsgill is set around a triangular village green overlooked by the Yorke Arms, a handsome former shooting lodge and now an acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurant. Be sure to visit Ramsgill Studio.



PROSPEROUS MINE

Nestled in a pretty fold in the hills is the scene of a busy 19th-century lead-mining and smelting operation, with remnants of machinery and a well-preserved flue. Of national importance, and recently consolidated by the AONB.

BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL

A plain but delightful old chapel built in 1495 on the orders of Marmaduke Huby, abbot of Fountains Abbey. It was sold into private hands after the Dissolution of the Monasteries and had a colourful subsequent history as schoolroom, house and workshop. Restored to become a chapel once more in 1965.



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PAY ATTENTION TO NAVIGATION

TOILET LESS THAN 0.5 MILES FROM ROUTE

PAYING ATTRACTION

0 (km) 1 2 3 4 5

The shortest stage of the route but with much to savour, including a chance to explore How Stean Gorge, some charming old villages and farmsteads, and a brush with Nidderdale's industrial past at Prosperous Mine.

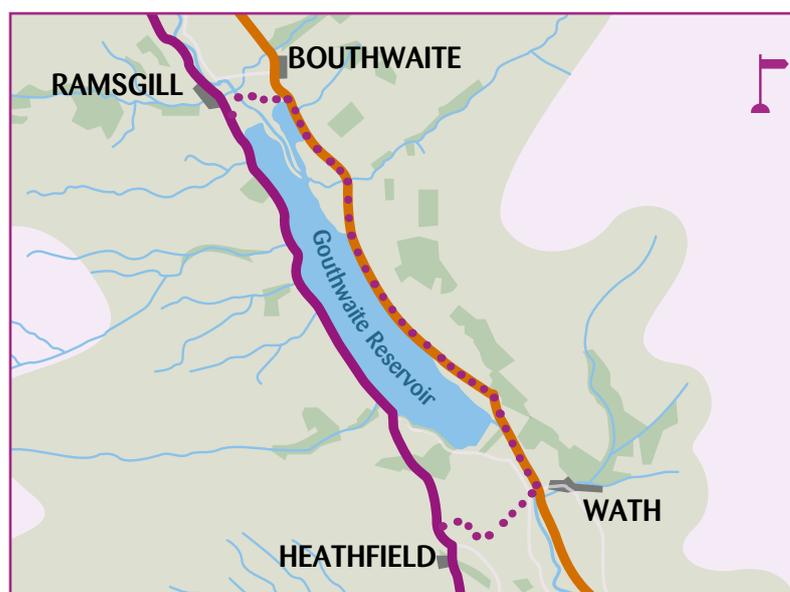
SET OFF FROM MIDDLESMOOR

- 1 Start down Middlesmoor's main street. As the road swings left, the Nidderdale Way leaves on the right opposite a barn. After three fields, go through a gate to a footbridge over **How Stean Gorge**.
- 2 Go past a holiday chalet to emerge on the road just outside Stean. Turn left to **Studfold Farm**. Follow the main drive between the farm buildings and climb a cobbled road up Studfold Bank. Branch left on a bridleway. This track will take you all the way to **Ramsgill**.
- 3 At the farm buildings after **Blayshaw Gill** go straight ahead across the pasture. Keep going over a series of fields. At **West House Farm**, stay to the left of the farmhouse and dip down the field. The path takes a wandering but clear course over more fields before merging with a farm access track. Press on to **Ramsgill**, emerging onto the village green.
- 4 If you're using the alternative route to avoid the long road-walking section, follow the instructions in the box below. Otherwise, take the road south out of Ramsgill past the **Yorke Arms** and the church. The reservoir will appear at your side. Follow it for two miles. As you draw near the dam and the road curves to the left, look out for a turning on your right with a cattle grid.
- 5 A steep climb up the lane takes you between two houses and into a conifer plantation. After the trees, follow the road until it levels out. A little further on, arrive in **Heathfield**. Take the bridleway on the right to **Foster Beck**.

- 6 Leave the track at the top and go straight on past a bench, through the lefthand gate into fields. As you near a farm, take a slanting line over to the righthand side of the buildings. Go through a gate between the farmhouse and a couple of stone barns. Continue downhill to reach a tarmac drive through a caravan park. Stay this side of the beck and turn right.
- 7 Keep left at a fork. After the last of the caravans the tarmac gives way to an unsurfaced track and continues along the hillside above **Ashfold Beck**. Having crossed a small gill, watch out for a **Nidderdale Way sign** on your left, pointing the way down to a footbridge. On the other side are the spoil heaps of the former **Providence Mine**.
- 8 Bear left past a protruding gear shaft and find a narrow track uphill through the heather. It meets a wider path at the top. Go right. Cross a shingly slope and bear left around the sides of the spoil heaps, making towards the far wall. Turn left past a last ruin. As you approach a footpath sign, swing right on a track. Continue roughly parallel with a wall visible to your right.
- 9 The track you're now on will see you most of the way to **Bewerley**. Ignore a left fork in about 100m. Drop down past a house and cross a small valley. At a junction follow the track to the left. It becomes a tarmac lane.
- 10 After passing occasional farms and cottages, you'll eventually begin a long descent through woodland past **Eagle Hall**. Shortly afterwards, reach the main Pateley Bridge–Greenhow road. Cross over and go straight on into **BEWERLEY**.

BEWERLEY

Mentioned in Domesday Book as *Burelei*, Bewerley has a history that goes back beyond the Norman Conquest. The sumptuous home of the influential Yorke family, Bewerley Hall, lay to the north of the village, but was demolished after the First World War. Its parklands are now the Nidderdale showground.



ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AVOIDING ROAD

To avoid the long stretch of road-walking on the narrow road between Ramsgill and Heathfield you can retrace your steps in Stage 1.3 back to Wath.

1. Instead of heading south out of Ramsgill past the church, go the other way up the road and take the lane on the right to **Bouthwaite**. Follow the bridleway alongside **Gouthwaite Reservoir**, then take the footpath down to the dam and back to **Wath Bridge**.
2. Cross the **Nidd**. On the other side of the main road, a public footpath climbs steeply past a barn and then across fields to the buildings at **Spring Hill**. Turn right on the lane into **Heathfield** and take the bridleway on your left to **Foster Beck**.

You're back on the Nidderdale Way – go to Stage 2.6.



EAT AND DRINK AT: Middlesmoor, Stean, Pateley Bridge



SLEEP AT: Middlesmoor, Stean, Ramsgill, Bewerley, Pateley Bridge



SHOP AT: Stean, Pateley Bridge

See Directory for accommodation details