YORKE'S FOLLY WALK

Nidderdale Moorland, Tarn and Riverside Loop

Visit my website for full details: https://www.paulbeal.com/yorkes-folly-walk

Introduction to the Walk

This varied circular walk from Pateley Bridge combines village lanes, woodland paths, open moorland and a gentle riverside return. The route climbs through Skrikes Wood onto Nought Moor, visits the striking twin pillars of Yorke's Folly, then continues across moorland before descending through woodland to Glasshouses and following the River Nidd back into town.

Highlights of the Walk

The climb from Bewerley soon opens up wide views across Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale before the path reaches the heather-covered slopes of Nought Moor. Yorke's Folly, known locally as the Two Stoops, provides a memorable landmark, while the surrounding gritstone outcrops and far-reaching moorland views add plenty of interest to this higher section.

Beyond the telecommunications mast, the route drops through Guisecliff Wood and Parker Wood towards Glasshouses. The return along the Six Dales Trail beside the River Nidd provides a gentler finish, passing Glasshouses Mill, a riverside weir and old sluice gear before reaching the Pillars Past sculpture and returning to Pateley Bridge.

Additional Information

Distance: 4¾ miles (7¾ kilometres)

Duration: Approximately 2½ hours (excluding stops and breaks)

Difficulty: Fairly easy. A varied walk with one steep grassy climb from Nought Bank Road, followed by woodland paths and open moorland before an easier riverside return.

Trail Conditions: The route includes roads and lanes, grassy paths, woodland tracks, heather moorland and well-defined riverside paths, with some steeper sections during the climb.

Recommended Map: OS Explorer 298 Nidderdale

Parking: Nidderdale Agricultural Society car park, Pateley Bridge.

- **Google Maps Link:** https://maps.app.goo.gl/FpbVKiLDTcghExMr9
- **What3Words:** ///eruptions.strange.crumble

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STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

Start your Yorke's Folly walk in Pateley Bridge and park in the **Nidderdale Agricultural Society car park (1)**. Leave the car park and turn left onto the main road, the B6265, heading in the direction of Grassington. Follow the road as far as the **Royal Oak public house (2)**, then turn left onto the road signposted to Bewerley Park Centre and continue along it into the village of Bewerley.

Walk all the way through the village, passing **Bewerley Grange Chapel (3)** on your left as you go. As you leave the village, ignore the first turning on the right to Peat Lane and simply carry straight on. Follow the road as it bends to the right, where you join **Nought Bank Road (4)**, signposted to Otley.

Just after you pass the entrance to Skrikes Farm, and as the road bends round to the left and begins to climb, take the public footpath on your right. Follow this path up the steep grassy bank and, at the top, go through the gate into **Skrikes Wood (5)**. The curlew symbol on the yellow waymarkers confirms that you are on the Nidderdale Way. Head uphill through Skrikes Wood, taking care where the path divides part way up, and be sure to keep to the left-hand fork. Leave the wood through a gate and continue ahead across the heather moorland of Nought Moor.

When you reach the **small parking area and the minor road (6)**, cross the road and take the public footpath directly opposite, signposted to Guisecliff and still on the Nidderdale Way. You are now about a quarter of the way round your Yorke's Folly walk. The path leads you to **Yorke's Folly (7)**.

Continue past Yorke's Folly and go through the gate on your right, staying on the Nidderdale Way with a high dry stone wall on your left. As you go, you will start to catch sight of the EE telecommunications mast in the distance, which is the direction you are heading. About a third of a mile beyond Yorke's Folly the path splits, so **take the right-hand turn (8)** signposted public footpath and Nidderdale Way, out onto the open moorland. The route towards the mast is well signposted, with yellow waymarkers fixed to wooden posts.

As you draw close to the mast you reach a **T-junction (9)**. Turn left, keeping to the Nidderdale Way, and follow the path down to the mast. You are now at the halfway point of your Yorke's Folly walk. Walk past the mast and carry straight on through a gate in the dry stone wall, ignoring the turning on the right.

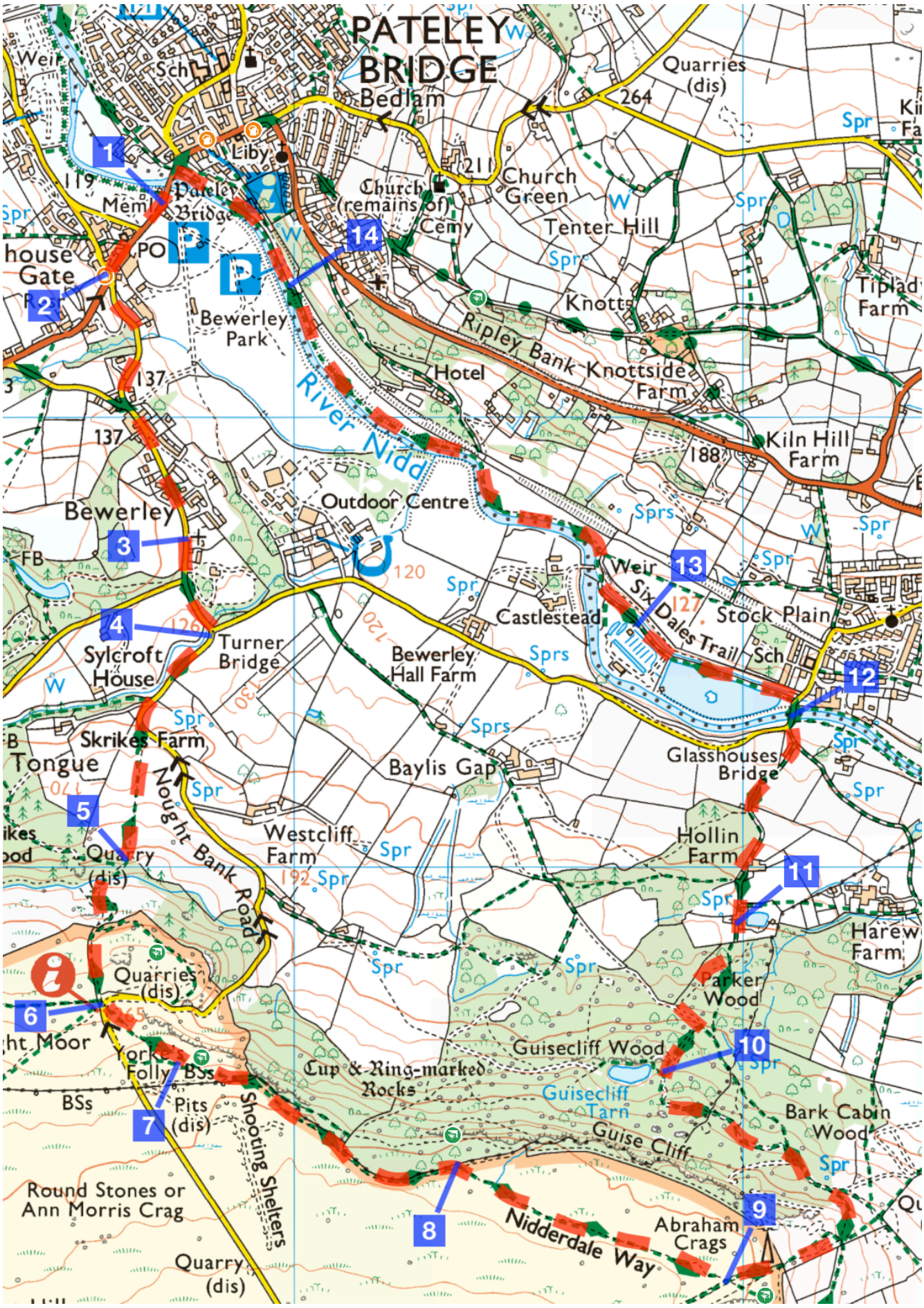
Follow the path down the hillside and into the woodland of Guisecliff Wood, passing a huge boulder on your right. Stay on the main and most obvious path as you pass more large boulders. The way is well defined and easy to follow, and it eventually brings you down the **eastern side of Guisecliff Tarn (10)**. You will not see the water itself unless you make a short detour to the left, which is well worth doing.

Carry on past Guisecliff Tarn and downhill through the wood. Keep to the clearest and most obvious path, which eventually forks off to the right and continues down through Parker Wood. Along here the path does not follow the exact line of the Nidderdale Way shown on OS maps, but it rejoins it a little further down. Leave Parker Wood through a gap in the dry stone wall and follow the path to reach **two large stone houses (11)**, High Fold and Bobbin Mill Cottage.

Keep straight ahead on the stone track past these two houses and continue past more buildings, including Curlew Cottage, Throstle's Nest and Hollin Farm Cottage. Stay on the track as it leads downhill towards Glasshouses. When you reach the concrete lane at Low Fold, turn left and go down to **Glasshouses Bridge (12)**.

Cross Glasshouses Bridge over the River Nidd, then turn left onto the stone track signposted to Pateley Bridge. You are now about three quarters of the way round your Yorke's Folly walk. This easy riverside route, known as the **Six Dales Trail (13)**, runs alongside the River Nidd for about one and a quarter miles. As you approach Pateley Bridge, look out for the sculpture **Pillars Past (14)**, set behind a high wall on your right. The path brings you out onto the main road, the B6265, in Pateley Bridge. Turn left and cross the bridge over the river to return to the car park and finish your Yorke's Folly walk.

MAP OF THE WALK



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