



19 NORTH YORKSHIRE UPPER NIDDERDALE

▶ Distance: 9¾ miles/15.7km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 50

A rest in Middlesmoor churchyard.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...
NICK HALLISSEY

The upper reaches of Nidderdale have a wonderfully secret and remote feel. This route starts in the picturesque village of Lofthouse, which is as far up the dale as the main public road goes, and heads north along the River Nidd, passing through a long wooded gorge before finally reaching the vast wild basin which holds the Scar House and Angram reservoirs. You'll pass the remains of the shanty town which sprang up to house the workers who built the reservoirs, then return over the moorland via the stunningly perched hamlet of Middlesmoor. The view

from Middlesmoor churchyard is unforgettable.

1 Start
Emerging from car park, turn R (north) on lane, passing war memorial L. Lane veers R and climbs slightly, leaving village. As lane turns sharp R, take first footpath L. Pass through gate (signed Nidderdale Way) and follow grassy track (Thrope Lane on OS Explorer map), passing small plantation L. Pass through series of gates, and pass Thrope Farm, eventually reaching New Goyden Pot where path descends to riverside (river may be dry in summer).

2 1½ miles/2.3km
Cross with care at obvious

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Main car park in Lofthouse (free), grid ref SE101734, postcode HG3 5RZ

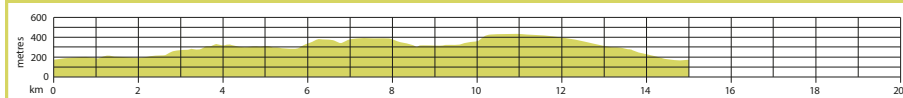
Is it for me? Mostly clear footpaths; outbound section through woodland by river, including two river crossings. Return stretch on clear track over open moorland

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Pateley Bridge
Refreshments Pubs in Lofthouse & Middlesmoor. Café at Scar House Reservoir (seasonal)
Public toilets Scar House and Middlesmoor
Public transport Bus 821 (summer Sundays and bank holidays only) links Lofthouse with Keighley & Pateley Bridge, dalesbus.org
Maps OS Explorer 298 & OL30, Landranger 98 & 99; Harvey Superwalker Yorkshire Dales SE and NE

GRADIENT PROFILE



19 NORTH YORKSHIRE UPPER NIDDERDALE

► OS Explorer maps 298 & OL30 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

crossing point and continue on far bank, still with Nidderdale Way, passing through a narrow gorge. Pass through kissing gate and emerge onto access track for Linley Farm. Turn R and pass through farmyard. Where track continues to rear of farm, take path R (Nidderdale Way) and descend to river. Re-cross river and climb on far side, passing through gate. Climb steep bank, emerging at Thwaite House. Follow driveway then branch L through gate onto path round Beggar Moat Scar, now high above river.

3 2 miles/3.4km
Continue on track, passing through gate, as valley turns sharply L (west), revealing the head of the dale and the Scar House and Angram reservoirs. Where track splits at Bracken Ridge Farm, take lower path L, passing through farmyard. Go through gate and continue ahead on Nidderdale Way. Ignore branching paths and keep to contour line, passing Turnacar Farm and through several gates. Above Thornet Barn, keep following Nidderdale Way markers (route of the Way deviates slightly from that shown on OS maps). Continue round Woo Gill and resume contour line heading west (gates), before descending steadily to the dam of Scar House Reservoir. Cross top of dam. Detour L to visit site of shanty town from



reservoir construction (with info boards). Seasonal café and toilets here.

4 6 miles/9.8km
Retrace steps to dam and continue on access track. Just before reaching vehicle gate, turn L uphill on footpath (still Nidderdale Way) raking steadily onto moorland. Continue over moorland on track (In Moor Lane) enclosed by walls. After $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, descend into Middlesmoor, where track becomes street. Pass Crown Hotel R (and public toilets), take narrow street L and descend to St Chad's churchyard and bench with beautiful view over Nidderdale.

5 9 miles/14.5km
Go through squeeze stile

(signed for Lofthouse) then gate, and descend hillside into valley. Pass through gate and pass through Halfway House Farm. Descend hillside passing through a series of gates to emerge on road bend at bottom. Turn L, passing cricket pitch. Pass top of United Utilities access road, then take next lane L (signed Masham), climbing slightly to enter Lofthouse. Pass Crown pub R and continue to car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cw/routes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

