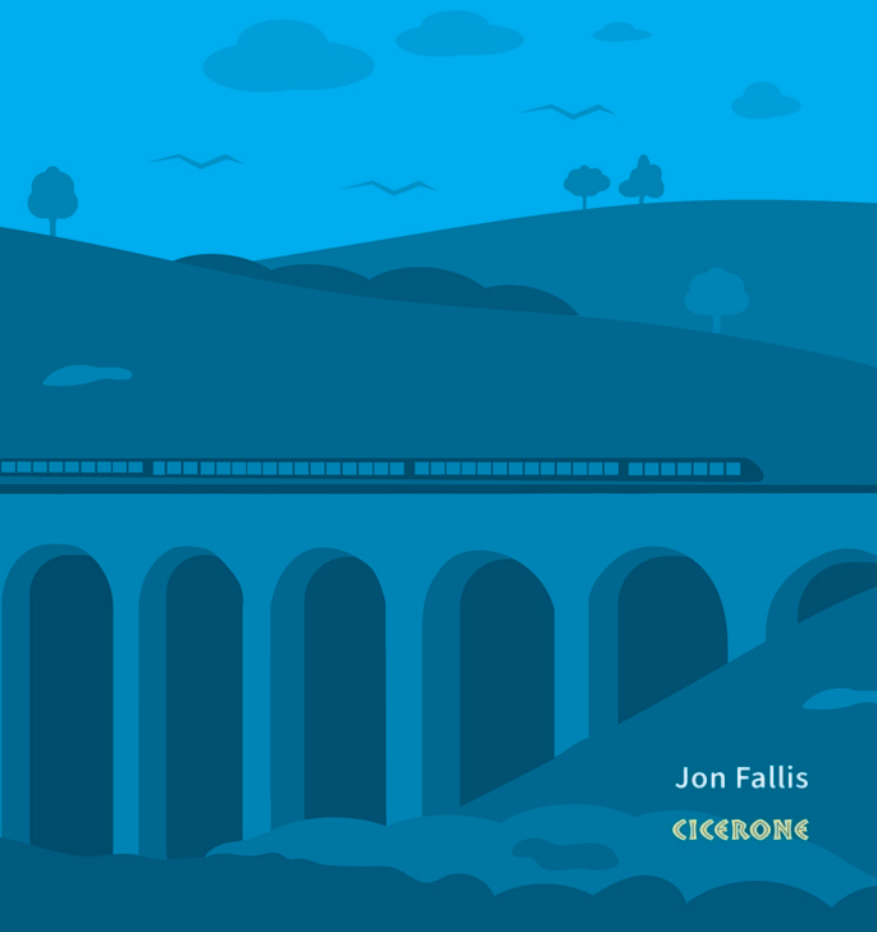


15 SHORT WALKS IN NIDDERDALE



Jon Fallis

CICERONE

SHORT WALKS IN NIDDERDALE

by Jon Fallis

CICERONE



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USING THIS GUIDE

Routes in this book

In this book you will find a selection of easy or moderate walks suitable for almost everyone, including casual walkers and families with children, or for when you only have a short time to fill. The routes have been carefully chosen to allow you to explore the area and its attractions. Although there may be some climbs there is no challenging terrain, but do bear in mind that conditions can sometimes be wet or muddy underfoot. A route summary table is included on page 6 to help you choose the right walk.

Clothing and footwear

You won't need any special equipment to enjoy these walks. The weather in Britain can be changeable, so choose clothing suitable for the season and wear or carry a waterproof jacket. For footwear, comfortable walking boots or trainers with a good grip are best. A small rucksack for drinks, snacks and spare clothing is useful. See www.adventuresmart.uk.

Walk descriptions

At the beginning of each walk you'll find all the information you need:

- start/finish location, with postcode and a what3words address to help you find it
- parking and transport information, estimated walking time, total distance and climb
- details of public toilets available along the route and where you can get refreshments
- a summary of the key highlights of the walk and what you might see

Timings given are the time to complete the walk at a reasonable walking pace. Allow extra time for extended stops or if walking with children.

The route is described in clear, easy-to-follow directions, with each waypoint marked on an accompanying map extract. It's a good idea to read the whole of the route instructions before setting out, so that you know what to expect.

Maps, GPX files and what3words

Extracts from the OS 1:25,000 map accompany each route. GPX files for all the walks in this book are available to download at www.cicerone.co.uk/1154/gpx.

What3words is a free smartphone app which identifies every 3m square of the globe with a unique three-word address, e.g. [///destiny.cafe.sonic](http://destiny.cafe.sonic). For more information see <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app>.

Walking with children

Even young children can be surprisingly strong walkers, but every family is different and you may need to adapt the timings given in this book to take that into account. Make sure you go at the pace of the slowest member and choose a walk with an exciting objective in mind, such as a cave, waterfall or picnic spot. Many of the walks can be shortened to suit – suggestions are included at the end of the route description.

Dogs

Sheep or cattle may be found grazing on a number of these walks. Keep dogs under control at all times so that they don't scare or disturb livestock or wildlife. Cattle, particularly cows with calves, may very occasionally pose a risk to walkers with dogs. If you ever feel threatened by cattle, you should let go of your dog's lead and let it run free.

Enjoying the countryside responsibly

Enjoy the countryside and treat it with respect to protect our natural environments. Stick to footpaths and take your litter home with you. When driving, slow down on rural roads and park considerately, or better still use public transport. For more details check out www.gov.uk/countryside-code.

The Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
 - leave gates and property as you find them
 - do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
 - be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
 - always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

WALK NAME	START POINT	TIME	DISTANCE
1. Jervaulx Abbey	Jervaulx Abbey	3hr 20min	11.5km (7¼ miles)
2. Colsterdale heritage walk	Gollinglith Foot	1hr 45min	5.5km (3½ miles)
3. Masham river walk	Masham	1hr 30min	5.5km (3½ miles)
4. Hackfall and Grewelthorpe	Hackfall near Grewelthorpe	1hr 30min	4.5km (2¾ miles)
5. Dallowgill	Tom Corner near Dallowgill	1hr 30 min	4.5km (2¾ miles)
6. How Stean Gorge	Middlesmoor	1hr	3km (1¾ miles)
7. Pateley Bridge river walk	Pateley Bridge	1hr 30min	5km (3 miles)
8. Coldstones Cut	Greenhow	30min	1.5km (1 mile)
9. Brimham Rocks	Brimham Rocks	1hr 20min	4km (2½ miles)
10. Studley Royal	Studley Royal	2hr	6.5km (4 miles)
11. Dacre Banks riverside walk	Dacre Banks	1hr 45min	6.5km (4 miles)
12. Ripley circular	Ripley	1hr 15min	4.5km (2¾ miles)
13. Nidd Gorge	Knaresborough	2hr 30min	9km (5½ miles)
14. Swinsty Reservoir	Swinsty and Fewston Reservoir	1hr 30min	5km (3 miles)
15. Washburn valley circular	Lindley Reservoir	3hr	9.5km (6 miles)

HIGHLIGHTS

Abbey ruins, river and peaceful scenery

Remote dale with industrial and military history

Historic town, two rivers and artwork

Woodland garden with follies and grottos

Moorland and woods, great views and mosaics

Steep gorge and spectacular upland scenery

Pretty town, art, architecture and history

Contemporary artwork, industry and far-ranging views

Spectacular rock formations, moors, woods and farmland

Beautiful gardens, parkland and secluded valley

Farmland, river and two pretty villages

Picturesque village, castle and views

Ancient woodland, lovely market town and river

Woodland, water and valley views

Woods, river and farmland with great views

SYMBOLS USED ON ROUTE MAPS



Start point



Finish point



Start and finish at the same place

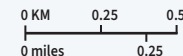


Waypoint



Route line

MAPPING IS SHOWN AT A SCALE OF 1:25,000



DOWNLOADED THE GPX FILES FOR FREE AT
www.cicerone.co.uk/1154/GPX



Dales barn and meadow

INTRODUCTION



Typical lower Nidderdale scenery

This guidebook is a collection of walks in and around the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in North Yorkshire. Covering approximately 600 sq km, Nidderdale AONB covers the eastern portion of the Yorkshire Dales and stretches towards the Vale of York. Within its boundaries is a rich and varied landscape, from open heather moorlands and steep river valleys to woodlands and rolling pastures, and from drystone walls and traditional field barns to lovely towns and pretty villages.

At the heart of the AONB is the River Nidd, but it also incorporates other dales (Wensleydale and Colsterdale) and related rivers. The River Ure carves

a route around the north and east of the area and is fed by the rivers Burn, Laver and Skell. The Washburn valley, which makes up the southern portion of the Nidderdale AONB, feeds into Wharfedale and is now dominated by four reservoirs. The AONB is a rich area for wildlife, as the diverse habitats, from moorlands to rare hay meadows in the valley bottoms, support a great variety of wildlife and plants. This diversity of landscape and wildlife means it is home to nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), many of which feature on walks in this book. This fascinating landscape of contrasts has been shaped by its geology, with gritstone overlaying limestone. Over the centuries humans

have found different ways to exploit the area's resources, whether through farming, mining, quarrying, reservoirs or, increasingly, tourism. Historically this created wealth, which in turn has left a rich heritage, with significant buildings and designed landscapes of varying degrees of grandeur, like Fountains Abbey. These historic parks and gardens, along with some of the more spectacular landforms, such as Brimham Rocks, distinguish Nidderdale AONB from its more famous neighbour the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Walking in Nidderdale

The 15 walks in this guide are designed to showcase the beauty of this wonderful part of the world. The walks

are broadly divided into three areas: Lower Swaledale, Nidderdale and the Washburn valley that feeds the River Wharf.

The routes have been chosen to reflect the varied nature of the area. There are routes which explore historic buildings, parks and gardens such as Studley Royal (Walk 10), Jervaulx Abbey (Walk 1) and Hackfall (Walk 4). Others focus on the landscape, including Brimham Rocks (Walk 9), Nidd Gorge (Walk 13) and How Stean Gorge (Walk 6), or on the man-made reservoirs that form an important haven for wildlife (Walks 14 and 15). Routes are in general well-signposted and on good paths, though some can be muddy.



Pateley Bridge high street



AONB boundary sign

Bases

The only town within the AONB boundary is Pateley Bridge, which is the physical and spiritual heart of Nidderdale and marks the boundary between the upper and lower Nidd. Further afield Masham, Ripon, Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ilkely and Otley are well served by public transport, with accommodation, cafes, restaurants and pubs, and all make good bases for exploring the area covered by the book.

Travel

The Nidderdale AONB is entirely rural and this means the easiest way to access the walks is by car. Many of the roads are minor roads, so allow plenty

of time to get around. The only A-roads are the A59, which bisects the area in the southern quarter, and the A61, which runs near the eastern boundary between Harrogate and Ripon. The area is served by some bus links (Dales Bus) which are regular, if not frequent. Only one walk (Walk 13 Nidd Gorge) can be accessed by train. Where possible the walks are located so they offer some form of public transport and/or free parking (at time of writing).

The entire western edge of Nidderdale AONB borders the Yorkshire Dales National Park so access is from the east and south. The key access points are Masham, Ripon, Harrogate/Knaresborough and Ilkley/Otley. The nearest train stations are Harrogate or Knaresborough, both with regular services from London, Leeds and York.



Medieval sundial
near Jervaulx Abbey

WALK 1

Jervaulx Abbey



Time 3hr 20min
Distance 11.5km
(7¼ miles)
Climb 110m

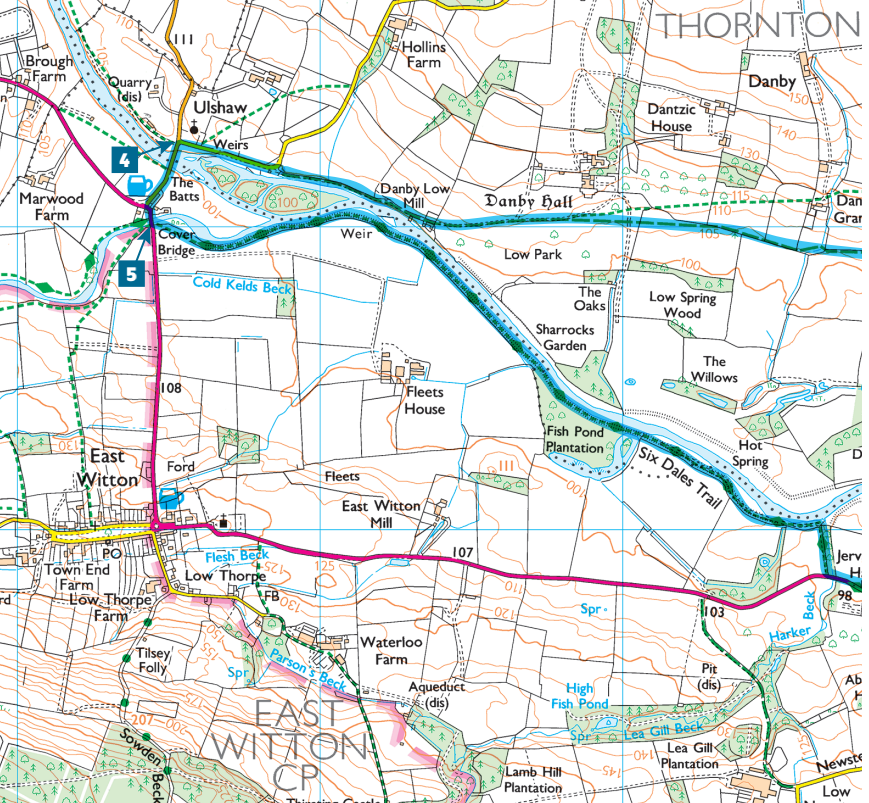
A scenic walk through farmland, offering glimpses of ancient history in a lovely landscape

Start/finish	Jervaulx Abbey
Locate	HG4 4PH ///bookings.formally.demanding
Cafes/pubs	Pub at Cover Bridge
Transport	Bus 825 to entrance to Jervaulx, from York or Richmond
Parking	Jervaulx Abbey car park (honesty box)
Toilets	No public toilets on route

This gentle walk starts and finishes at the ruins of an 11th-century abbey. It incorporates a Norman bridge built over a Roman ford, a 9th-century church and a 15th-century manor house, Danby Hall. In between is gently rolling farmland and riverside paths along the River Ure in Swaledale. The walk is well signposted and mostly paved but some of it is across farmland so can be muddy at certain times of the year. Take time to walk around the abbey ruins at the start or end of the walk.



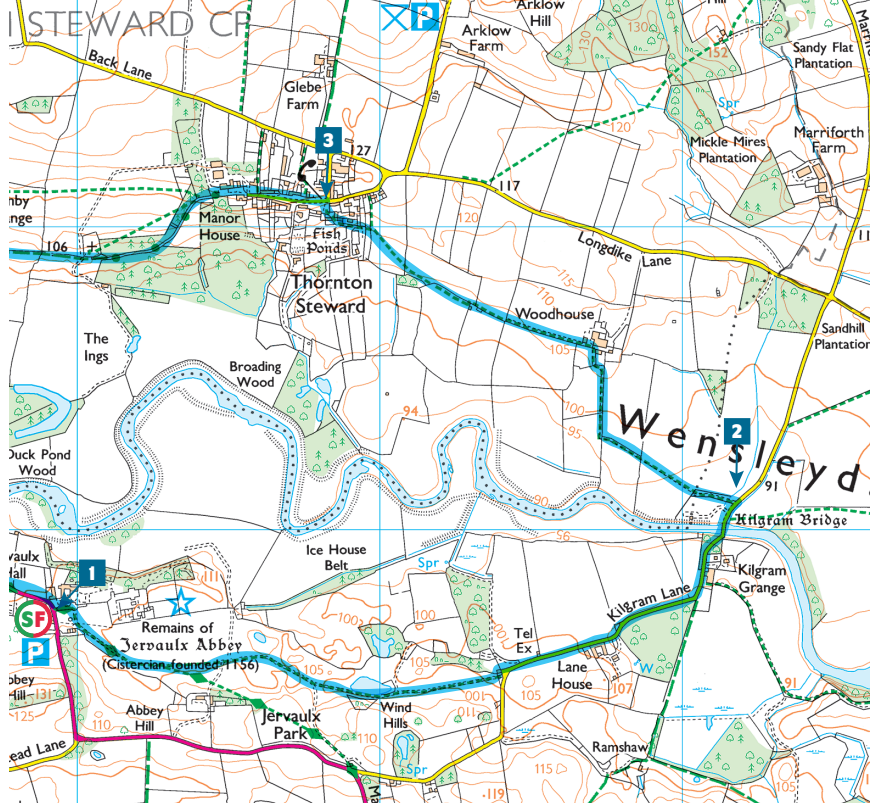
Looking towards Thornton Steward



1 Start at the road entrance to the abbey car park. Cross the road and go through the iron gate into the grounds of **Jervaulx Abbey**. Follow the gravel path towards the abbey until you meet a tarmac track, then turn right to follow the track as it passes the abbey on the left. Continue along the track, passing a track junction then a pond, to reach an entrance gate and a road (**Kilgram Lane**). Turn left and follow the road to a bridge.

According to legend the bridge got its name because the **Devil offered to keep the bridge safe from floods as long as a sacrifice was made. That sacrifice was a shepherd's dog called Grim and this has evolved into the name Kilgram Bridge.**

2 Once across the bridge stop at the second set of double gates to the left, cross a stile and follow a track that





Danby Hall seen from the path

leads into a field. Cross the field, go through a gate, then over a stile and through another gate. On the other side of the hedge turn right to walk towards **Woodhouse** farm then go through a farm gate, off to the left. Cross the field to a metal barn, go through a gate and turn left in front of the barn to go through a further gate into a field. Continue through the fields towards a village ahead (note footpath signs and white posts). Go through a gap in a fence then a gate with a horse riding arena to the left. Follow signs to Carbridge and reach a road in **Thornton Steward**.

3 Turn left to pass a water pump and reach a brown wooden gate ahead with the Manor House to the left. Go through the gate and follow the track

i *The River Nidd was given its name by the Celts, from the word for flowing or sparkling (depending on which source is believed).*

as it descends into woodland and then passes 9th-century St Oswald's Church. Follow the level path across fields and eventually in front of the impressive **Danby Hall**. The path gently descends to exit the estate onto a tarmac single-track road. When the path meets a wider road, turn left and follow it to a T-junction.

4 Turn left across the bridge then at the next T-junction turn left to cross **Cover Bridge**. **This is a narrow hump-back bridge, so care is needed if it is busy.**

5 Immediately at the far end of the bridge go left down some steps to get off the road. Follow the path along the river until it reaches some wooden fencing which points the path to the right to reach the road. Turn left to follow the road back to the start.

— To shorten

For a riverside walk of about 5km (1hr 30min), from the start walk back towards Cover Bridge (Waypoint 5) and return. It is a level walk but can be muddy.

Jervaulx Abbey



Jervaulx Abbey

Built around 1158, Jervaulx was a daughter house to nearby Byland Abbey. A Cistercian monastery, it was ruined as part of the dissolution of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII, and material from the ruins can be seen in churches in the surrounding area. As well as its beautiful location, Jervaulx is noted for the large number of wildflowers that grow amongst the abbey walls. Kilgram Bridge across the River Ure was built to supply the abbey. It was built on the site of a Roman ford, which is still visible below the bridge.

15 SHORT WALKS IN NIDDERDALE

Get outdoors and discover the best of the area with 15 short walks chosen by experts, for all abilities.

- ▶ Walks under three hours plus one challenge route
- ▶ Easy to follow with clear route descriptions
- ▶ Facilities, parking and highlights for every route
- ▶ No specialist gear needed
- ▶ Ordnance Survey mapping



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