



The Yorke's of Beverley, near Pateley Bridge



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Introduction

This walk takes you around what were once the extensive gardens and grounds surrounding Beverley Hall which, until it was demolished in the 1920s, was the home of the influential Yorke family. The designed landscape, developed in the 18th to 20th centuries, included parkland, pleasure gardens, woodlands, ponds, walled kitchen gardens - and a folly. In walking through the woods, fields and along country lanes, much of the Yorke's old domain can be seen. Further information about the gardens as they once were and as they are now can be found in a recent publication 'From Folly to Flower Garden', available from www.hpg-nidderdale.co.uk

Map

OS Explorer 298:
Nidderdale

Distance/Time

5 miles (8.5km). Allow about 3-3.5 hours..

Starting Point

The car park at the Showground, Pateley Bridge (pay and display).

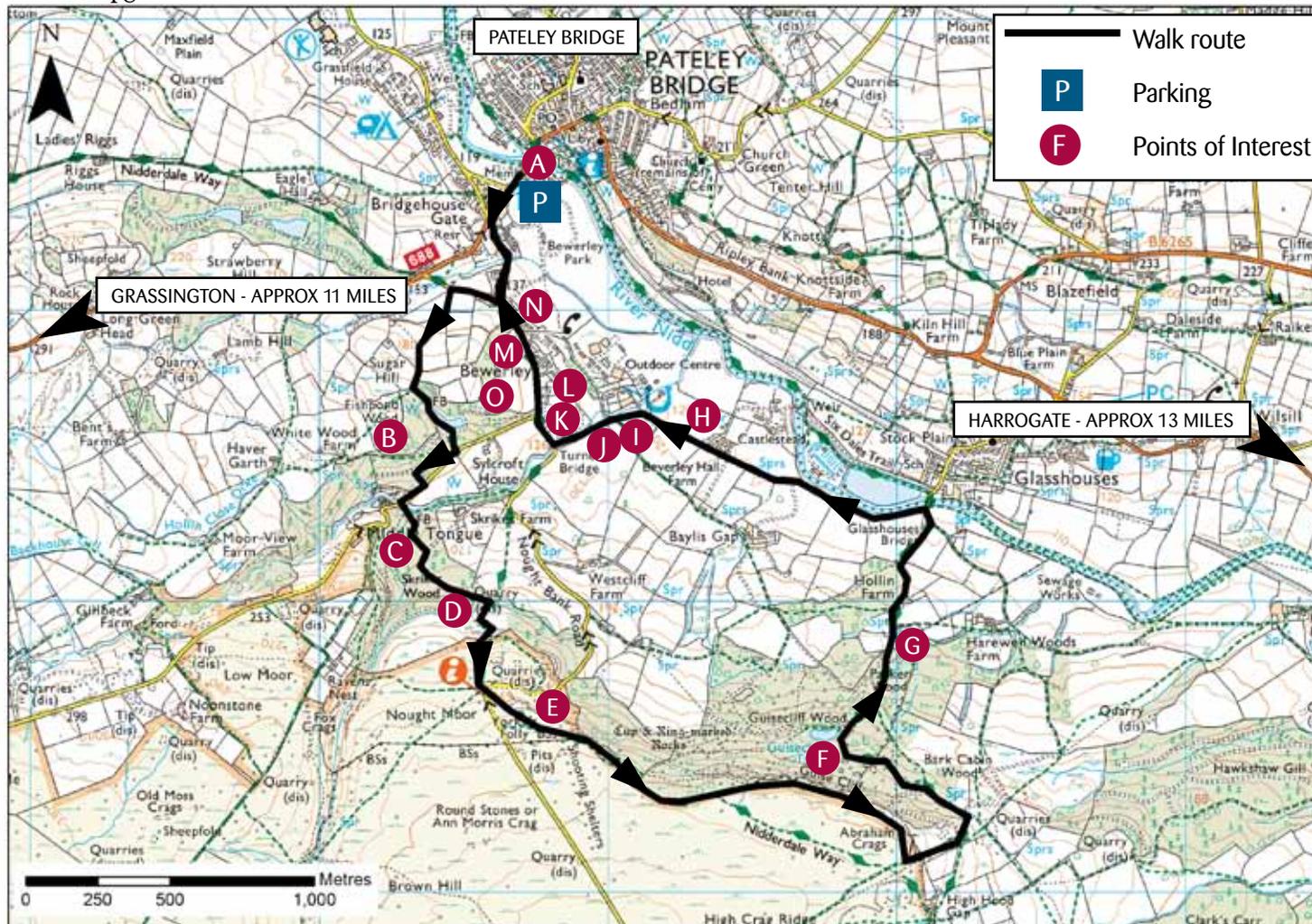
Terrain

Footpaths in fields, on moorland and through woods. Two steep sections, uphill and downhill. Muddy in places, particularly in Guisecliff Wood. All paths used are public rights of way, permissive paths and pavements in Beverley village and in Pateley Bridge.

Useful Information

Using public transport, take the no. 24 bus service from Harrogate to Pateley Bridge. For the timetable go to www.harrogatebus.co.uk/times

There are public toilets in the recreation ground opposite the Showground car park.



The Route

Park at the Showground Car Park in Pateley Bridge.

From the car park [A] turn left on B6265 towards Grassington. Take the left fork opposite the Royal Oak. At the 20mph sign take the sharp right uphill. When the road levels out look for a RoW sign to Toft Gate on the left. Go through the gate, cross a stream on a board walk and a broken wall. Go diagonally right up the field through a small gate to drop back downhill via stone steps (the "Monks Path"). At the end of the stone wall go left through a kissing gate. Go straight ahead on stone flags to walk round the right hand side of the Lake, (this is Fishpond Wood) [B].

Follow the waymark sign to the right on a wide path through a wide gate and cross the concrete drive. Continue on a narrow path above a wall, through the wood until the path drops down to stone steps and a metal gate; go through this onto the road (Peat Lane). Turn right and as the road crosses the river look left (False Tooth Bridge - spot the reason for its name). Turn left through a gate (footpath sign) and cross Ravensgill on a metal bridge (look up the gill) [C]. Turn left and then swing right up through the wood on a wide stony track. After about 10 mins the area levels out into a small plateau, and the path swings left and goes uphill to meet a stone wall; continue uphill with the wall on your left to reach a

gate in the wall (look through this for a view of the Bewerley gardens with conifers). Take the Nidderdale Way to the right, up through the wood to a Y fork by a large coppiced tree [D]. Go left here up a stony track. 50m on your right is a brick faced building (Reservoir). The path skirts the quarry and climbs to a wall. Go straight ahead through the gate and cross the moor through heather, bracken and bilberry to a road. Cross the road and walk along the path signed Guisecliffe to Yorke's Folly (2 large stone columns) [E]. A bench provides a nice break with fabulous views down over Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale.

After the folly, turn right (signpost) through a gate and go left along the wall. Follow the well trodden path, along the top of the cliffs (approx 1.8km) mostly with the wall on your left. The wall stays on your left sometimes veering away and returning for about 0.75km until a ladder stile over a wire fence is crossed. Take the right fork through a more wooded area. Keep to the top of the crags now with a wire fence to your right for approx 0.75km. When the wall reappears go right, wall on your left, to reach a ladder stile. Cross it and continue along the wall a short way and then go right to walk round the three sides of the buildings by the wireless mast.

Leave the Nidderdale way and go left through a large metal gate with a pedestrian gate inset. With the stone wall on your right go down the field until you see a stile in that wall, look for the path bearing left diagonally downhill until it joins a broad green track and go left on this into the wood. Follow this path, which becomes a stony track, for approx 15 minutes. After a short uphill section the path starts to go down, look for Guiscliffe Tarn [F] on your left well hidden in the trees with huge rocks on its right side. Return to the main path going downhill bending left and becoming wide. After it makes a zigzag bend, keep right on this stony path ignoring the green track to the left. The foot path wanders downhill through woodland following an old boundary (a broken wire fence) for about 5 mins. The path swings right to an old stone wall, go left over a stile in this wall to leave the wood. Follow the flagged path downhill onto a track way (Bobbin Mill Lane) [G] to meet a tarmac road. Bear left towards Glasshouses Bridge.

Just before the bridge turn left along the road signed Bewerley Hall Farm then take the footpath along the river (picnic bench) which emerges back on to the road, taking care as there is no pavement. Continue past Bewerley Hall Farm [H] the gateway to Bewerley Park Centre and another [I] stone gateway to the riding school. Just past here is an old, now private,

property Tudor House [J].

Continue along the road, turn right towards Bewerley over Turner Bridge [K] and follow the pavement to cross Peat Lane. To visit the ice house look for a metal gate on the left, go up the steps, into the wood, follow the path for about 350m and look for a right turn up hill to reach the ice house [O]. Return along the same path to the road. Turn left along the pavement. Cross the road to the Chapel [L] (this can be visited). Continue along the pavement and look for the millenium stone plaque on the left [M]. Pass through Bewerley village, [N] keeping right to pass the Auction Mart. Turn right towards Pateley Bridge High Street to the car park.

Historical information

A: Bewerley Hall and Park

As you leave the car park note the Lodge and stone wall with iron gates. These were the Lodge gates opening onto the carriage drive of Bewerley Hall, former home of the Yorke family. The present showground occupies the site of the former park and contains several large specimen Chestnut trees.

B: Fishpond Wood

It is thought by some that the lake was a monastic fishpond. The woodland was landscaped by the Yorkes with paths and a promenade round the lake. They also built a boathouse and a stone jetty. There are plans to recreate these.

C: Ravensgill

An enhanced natural landscape created by the Yorkes. By the late 19th century there was a path along the bank up to the top, where there was an area where a brass band played on days when the estate was opened to the public.

D: Water supply

Note the remains of a mill race which fed water to the mills in High Fold. Near the top of the hill is a reservoir which supplied water to Bewerley Hall, its gardens and the village and still supplies one of the farms.

E: Yorke's Folly/Two Stoops

Originally known as Three Stoops, it was built in the 1760s as a landscape feature and to provide work for local unemployed men. One pillar blew down in a storm 100 years later hence

its present name. From here you can also see the extent of the Yorke estate and the site of Bewerley Hall amongst the conifers; the Yorkes owned a substantial amount of land in Nidderdale.

F: Guisecliffe Tarn

This is a natural tarn and woodland area once part of the Yorke estate now privately owned.

G: Bobbin Mill

Hollin Hill House Mill was once owned by the Metcalfes of Castlestead and used for flax and corn as well as bobbins.

H: The Home Farm

This is a lovely example of a 'model' farm built by the Yorkes, now holiday accommodation. Local gossip has it that they moved their farm to this position to annoy George Metcalfe who had built Castlestead (the large house by the river) on land they wished to own.

I: Gate posts to riding school

These are not the original entrance gates to Bewerley Hall as sometimes thought. Note the large stone wall behind which enclosed the kitchen garden.

J: Tudor House (private)

Thought to have been built in the 17th century and occupied during the 19th century and early 20th century by the Yorke's gardeners. At that time it had a very attractive knot garden, sundial and

arbours, not present today; a gate led from this to the walled kitchen garden.

K: Turner Bridge

The stream and woodland on the right are all part of the old garden of the hall, and if you peep over the stone wall part of the original rock garden can be glimpsed.

L: Chapel and Abbey Lodge (Private)

The chapel was built by Abbot Huby of Fountains Abbey in the 15th century, bought by the Yorkes in 1674 and once used as a school. Whilst Abbey Lodge is a modern private house, part of its garden belonged to the formal gardens of Bewerley Hall. It still contains the summerhouse and the only remaining tower from the Hall.

M: Bewerley Allotments

The allotments were on your left, now the site of modern bungalows. Pause and look at the Millenium carving showing local industries and Bewerley Hall, carved by the grandson of the estate's stone mason.

N: Bewerley Village

Many of the older houses in the village were occupied by workers of the Bewerley Hall Estate. After the small triangular green, note the terrace, end on to the road, with a plaque inscribed T.E.Y. (Thomas Edward Yorke) on the gable end. This house was occupied by the stone mason, the next by the joiner and the last by maids.

O: Ice House

Ice was collected from the pond in winter and packed into the ice house. The ice was used year round to chill food and to prepare jellies, ice cream and other summer luxuries.

It has recently been conserved and is open to view. During renovations it was found to be home to rare cave spiders.

This walk was prepared by the Nidderdale Historic Parks & Gardens Study Group. To obtain a copy of their book "From Folly to Flower Garden" please go to the 'Publications' page of the 'Historic Parks & Gardens Study Group' website at www.hpg-nidderdale.co.uk



HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS in Nidderdale