



Pateley Bridge Heritage Trails, Pateley Bridge



Nidderdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Introduction

The picturesque town of Pateley Bridge has witnessed great change over many centuries; development of new industries and the introduction of a railway line saw the town grow. Over the years there have been Breweries and Police Courts to Cocoa Houses and Meeting Halls. Although some buildings have disappeared many remain largely unchanged.

To discover more about the town's fascinating history, follow the inner trail as it winds its way through the historic streets. At each of the 18 plaques there is information to help you uncover the past uses of the building or site, along with this leaflet.

For the more adventurous walker, why not follow the outer trail which takes you into beautiful countryside above Pateley Bridge. The route passes a number of historically interesting sites and takes in fantastic views of Nidderdale.

Map

OS Explorer 298:
Nidderdale

Distance/Time

Inner Trail: 1 mile / 1 hr approx
Outer Trail: 2.5 miles / 1.5 hrs approx

Starting Point

Start from the centre of Pateley Bridge.

Terrain

Inner Trail: based around the town centre this trail is on tarmac footpaths.

Outer trail: this is a more strenuous walk with some climbs and uses tarmac footpaths, tracks and fields.

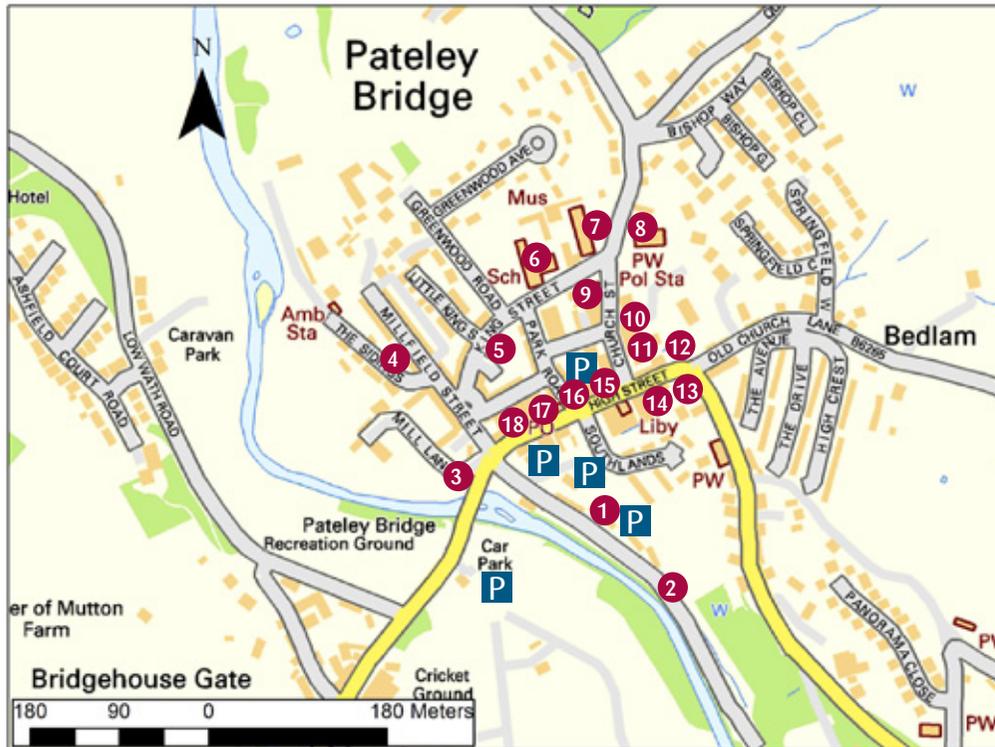
Useful Information

There are several pay and display car parks in Pateley Bridge, and public toilets.

There are many outlets serving refreshments.

Pateley Bridge is served by the regular no. 24 Transdev & Harrogate bus service.

INNER TRAIL



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Points of interest - Inner trail

1. Railway Station

After strenuous efforts by George Metcalfe of Glasshouses Mill, Scot Gate Ash Stone Quarry and the Nidderdale Brewery, the North Eastern Railway line to Harrogate was opened on May 1st 1862. The main station building is now converted into flats and the goods sidings were on the opposite side of the High Street. The railway closed for passenger traffic in 1956 and for goods in 1964.

2. Turntable

The turntable site can be seen at the far end of Nidd Walk at the termination of the long stay car park. Being a single track railway, this was a vital piece in the system to enable the engine to be turned around for the return journey to Harrogate. Go down the steps and follow the path to the bridge.

3. The Bridge

There has been a ford on this site since the earliest times with the earliest mention of a bridge in 1320. The low narrow wooden bridge was replaced by a stone version in the 18th century and widened early in the 19th.

4. Cocoa House

The Royal Cocoa House was built in 1879 next to the gas works. Cocoa houses were established to combat the heavy drinking which took place in pubs, the refuge for working men from their overcrowded cottages. The Royal Cocoa House was a temperance hotel and cultural centre housing the Mechanics' Institute for some years. In 1893 it became

the Liberal Club which changed its name to the Social Club in 1966. Since 2005 known as the Billiards & Snooker Club.

5. Feast Field

The Health Centre was erected on the Feast Field, the site where circuses, galas and the annual fair were held. Feast Saturday and Show Monday attracted hundreds of local people and visitors. Just around the corner, where the buses now park, there was a busy blacksmith's.

6. St Cuthbert's School

Designed by Corsons of Manchester and built in 1875 as the Board School, it became the Secondary Modern in 1948 then the comprehensive. After the new school was built across the river, the primary school came here in 1981.

7. The Old Workhouse

Opened as a workhouse from 1863 to 1914. During the First World War, it housed German prisoners of war, then navvies until Scar Reservoir village was finished. The building now houses the Nidderdale Museum, the Nidderdale AONB office, the Town Council Chamber and commercial firms.

8. St Cuthbert's Church

Opened in 1828 to replace St Mary's, the old church high above the town. It contains a bell believed to have hung originally in Fountains Abbey. The cross of Archbishop Benson, whose family lived in the parish for many generations, is preserved inside.

9. Court House

Built in 1897 and closed in 1995, the Court House was a branch of Ripon

Liberty Court. Adjoining is the Police Station erected in the same year when the reservoirs were under construction. At this time, there was an inspector, sergeant and seven constables. After a Saturday evening drinking spree, navvies were put in cells and had to walk the 11 miles back to Scar the following day.

10. Oddfellows Hall

Erected in 1859 for the independent Order of Oddfellows, which was a Friendly Society; very popular amongst miners and quarrymen for providing insurance in case of accident or illness. The building was popular for concerts until the cinema was opened in 1929.

11. Primitive Methodist Chapel

Built in 1859 as a Primitive Methodist chapel but closed in 1933. Three years later it became the Salvation Army Citadel until 1961. Pateley Bridge Dramatic Society bought it the following year and following conversion works, it opened as a delightful theatre in 1968.

12. Fox's Head Well

Originally known as Souter Well it once stood on Ripon Road and served a small group of houses. The attractive canopy was erected in 1859 and moved to its present site in the 1970's. The original foxes head is in the Nidderdale Museum.

13. Brewery Site

The garden on the corner marks the site of the brewery which was started in 1773 by Elizabeth Smith, later Metcalfe – the outlines of the walls can still be seen in the ground. Her sons expanded the premises to this site in 1855 and ale was

exported to France and Germany. It remained in Metcalfes' hands until the early 20th century when it was closed. The buildings were demolished in 1963.

14. The Pateley Club

Originally the George and Dragon Inn, built in 1664, later known as The George, where Elizabeth Metcalfe started her brewery. In 1889 it closed as an Inn and became the brewery manager's house. During most of the 20th Century it was the Conservative Club.

15. The Old Shops

The oldest buildings in Pateley Bridge dating back from the early 17th century. Notice the window under the steps indicating that the street level was much lower. Look through the gate at the lower end to see a five light mullioned window (but please do not enter).

16. The Talbot

Originally the Star Inn from the late 18th century, with stabling for 15 horses. A fire gutted the top storey in 1878, but was stopped from spreading further by a chain of quarrymen with buckets of water.

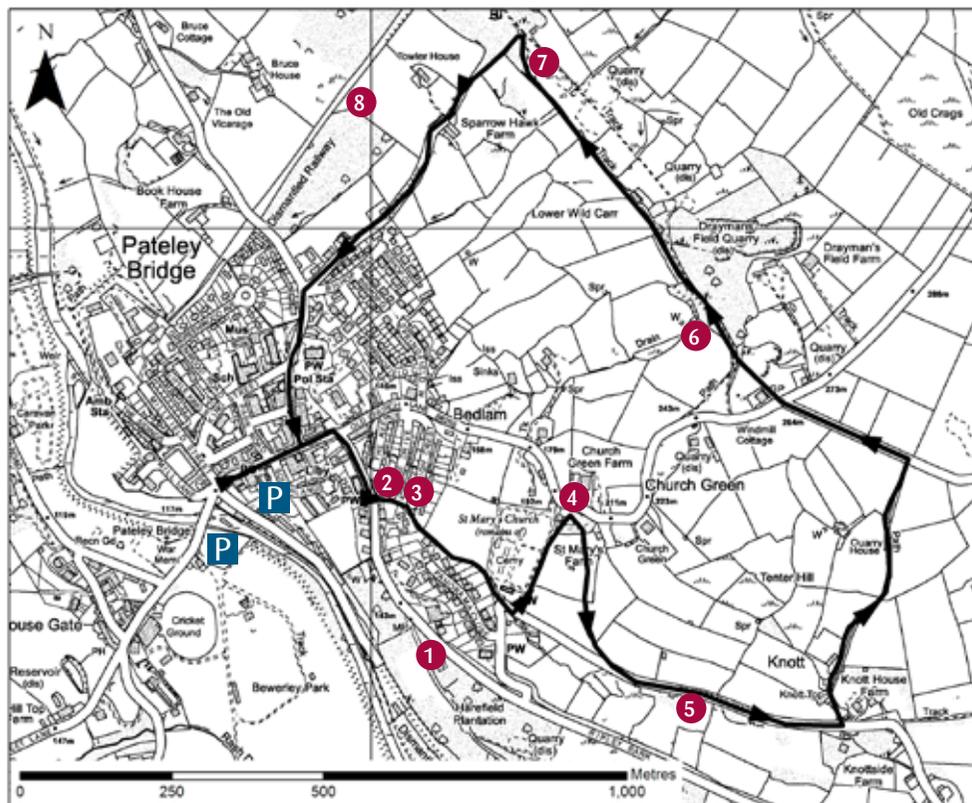
17. The Crown Hotel

Before 1765 Christopher Benson ran a large butter carrying business from the inn. It was rebuilt in 1767 and was the post inn and excise office.

18. Kings House

Originally the Kings Arms Hotel from the early 19th century until 1968 and was one of seven inns on the High Street at this time. There is a well in the cellar.

OUTER TRAIL



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The route - Outer trail

For the more able and adventurous walker

Walk up the high street following the road round to the right, past the Methodist Church.

Turn left following the Panorama Walk sign. Follow the path uphill past Bishopdale House. After the house, pick up the footpath on the left. Follow the footpath along a narrow walled track to the old Church.

Follow the path around the old Church and go through a kissing gate on the right.

Cross a field, keeping the old barn on the right. Go through the field gate and through the adjoining field to a stile at the top left corner. Walk on to another stile which brings the footpath on to a lane. Bear left and follow the lane to the top of the hill.

Turn left onto the public bridleway which takes you past some houses. Go uphill through a walled track until you reach the road. At the road turn left and continue until you reach the T-junction. Cross the road and go over the stile over the dry stone wall. Go straight on before descending quite steeply to the stile in the bottom corner.

Once over the stile, bear right onto the track. Follow the track past the house on the right and go through a gate. Continue to follow the track, and then on the left follow the Pateley Bridge footpath sign. Turn onto the footpath, go through the gate and follow the track steeply downhill. Climb over the wooden stile and continue down the track, past the house. Continue until you reach the road. Turn left and walk past the church turning left down New Church Street which will bring you back to the High Street.

Points of interest - Outer trail

1. Harefield Hall

Originally a farmhouse, it became the home of the Harker family. William was a local boy who made his fortune in the Bradford wool trade retired early, and became the first MP for the Ripon Division in 1880. It became a hotel in the 1950's.

2. Panorama Walk

This was the medieval road to Ripon, which was bypassed in 1859 when the turnpike road was constructed. It winds its way under the cliff at Blaze field and through Whitehouses and Fellbeck to the south of the present road.

3. Cistern on the Panorama Walk

This provided excellent water for the brewery as well as the houses around. The inscription reads: "Ill habits gather, By unseen degrees, As Brooks run Rivers, Rivers run to Seas, The Way to Church".

4. St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church was built as a chapel of ease before 1320, so parishioners did not

need to go to the parish church of Ripon, except for high festivals. In the churchyard is the grave of Mary Ann Myers who died "nigh on 120 years". This church was replaced by St. Cuthbert's, opened in 1828.

5. Viewing Platform

This gives a wonderful panoramic view of the dale, including Yorke's Folly, Guisecliffe and Brimham Rocks.

6. Windmill

The windmill was erected before 1859 to power machinery to dress stone extracted from Drayman's Field Quarry which lies adjacent.

7. Scot Gate Ash Quarry

Developed by George Metcalfe who also owned the Brewery and Glasshouses Mill. The Quarry operated during the 1800's producing ashlar and very large flagstones which were used for docks and platforms all over Britain including the National Gallery and Victoria Station in London. The quarry closed in 1914.

8. Inclined Railway

Constructed in 1871, from the quarry to the Pateley Bridge railway sidings, it enabled stone to be taken down safely from Scot Gate Ash in a few minutes, instead of the several hours by horse and cart.