






Each card has a letter & number (for example **A3**) in the top right hand corner. It describes the **surface** and **slope** of the **most difficult** parts of the main route. With the map and text, this will help you to decide whether to do the whole route or just the easier sections. The bicycle symbol indicates all or part of the route is suitable for cycling.

Surface Quality (in dry weather)

- A** - Smooth (tarmac, paving, concrete, etc.)
- B** - Quite Smooth (short grass, compacted earth/stone, etc.)
- C** - Uneven (worn grass, loose stone, some ruts, tree roots, etc.)
- D** - Rough (long grass, soft earth, sand, gravel, severe ruts, roots, etc.)

-  **1** - Gentle (up to 1:20)
-  **2** - Quite Gentle (up to 1:16)
-  **3** - Fairly Steep (up to 1:12)
-  **4** - Steep (up to 1:8)
-  **5** - Very Steep (over 1:8)



is a partnership providing information for people who have difficulty getting out into the Countryside.

Whilst information in this pack is considered accurate as of 2023, we cannot take responsibility for any errors or omissions. This pack is free. If you would like to support Open Country in helping people to access and enjoy the countryside, please visit opencountry.org.uk



info@opencountry.org.uk • 01423 507227

Countryside for All



Countryside for All

Accessible Trails in the Harrogate District



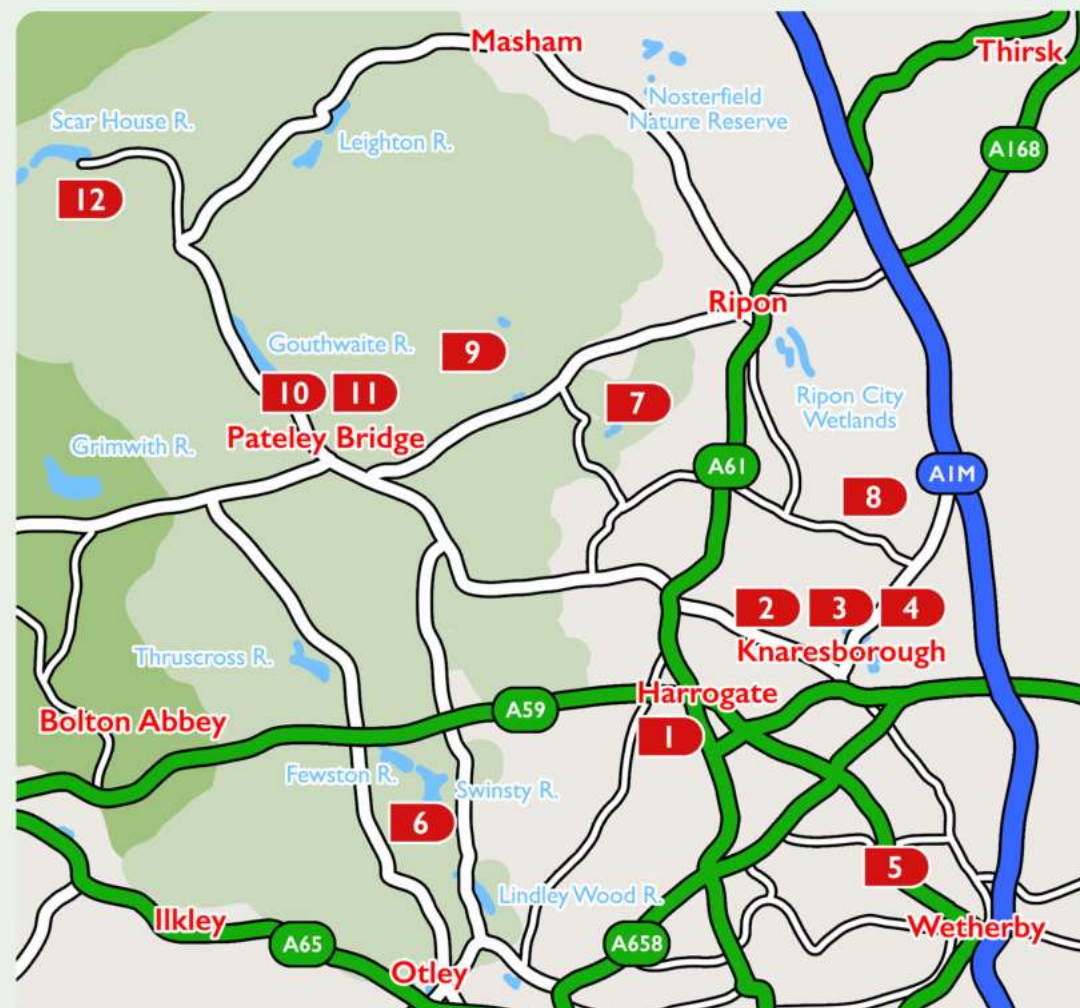
Accessible Trails in the Harrogate District



TRAIL CARD & MAP KEY

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------------|
| | Suggested Route | | Viewpoint |
| | Alternative Route | | Motorcycle Barrier |
| | Slope/Hill (Level) | | Speed Humps |
| | Linked Trail | | Steps (and how many) |
| | Suitable for Cycling | | Café |
| | Trail Start Point | | Public House |
| | Parking | | Bench/Seat |
| | Information Board | | Picnic Area |
| | Bus Stop | | Playground |
| | Accessible Toilet | | Cattle Grid |
| | Accessible Gate (Manual Wheelchairs) | | Trees/Wood |
| | Accessible Gate (Manual Wheelchairs & Scooters) | | Lake/Pond |
| | Gate not Accessible to Wheelchairs | | Landmark Building |
| | Caution | | |

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Harrogate Valley Gardens | Fountains Abbey |
| Nidderdale Greenway | Staveley Nature Reserve |
| Beryl Burton Cycleway | Brimham Rocks |
| Knaresborough Waterside | Pateley Bridge |
| The Harland Way | Millennium Green |
| Swinsty Reservoir | Scar House Reservoir |



Dedicated to the memory of Nichola Emmerson, much-loved Open Country member and access campaigner.



Brief Description: A traditional Victorian park and a pleasant trail, close to Harrogate town centre. Suitable for the majority of wheelchair users and those who find rougher country footpaths difficult. The trail is just over 1.5 miles (2.4km) out and back through formal gardens, semi-natural plantation and natural woodland.



Access and Facilities: Accessible Toilets. 4 Blue Badge Parking Bays on Cornwall Road & 1 on Valley Drive.



Features of Interest: Art Features, Bandstand, Benches, Boating Pool, Bowling Club, Café, Children's Play Area and Paddling Pool, Floral Displays, Frisbee Golf Course, Giant Chess, Mineral Springs, Pitch & Putt, Skate Park, Sun Colonnade & Pavilion, Table Tennis, Tennis Courts, Water Features, Woodland, World Gardens.



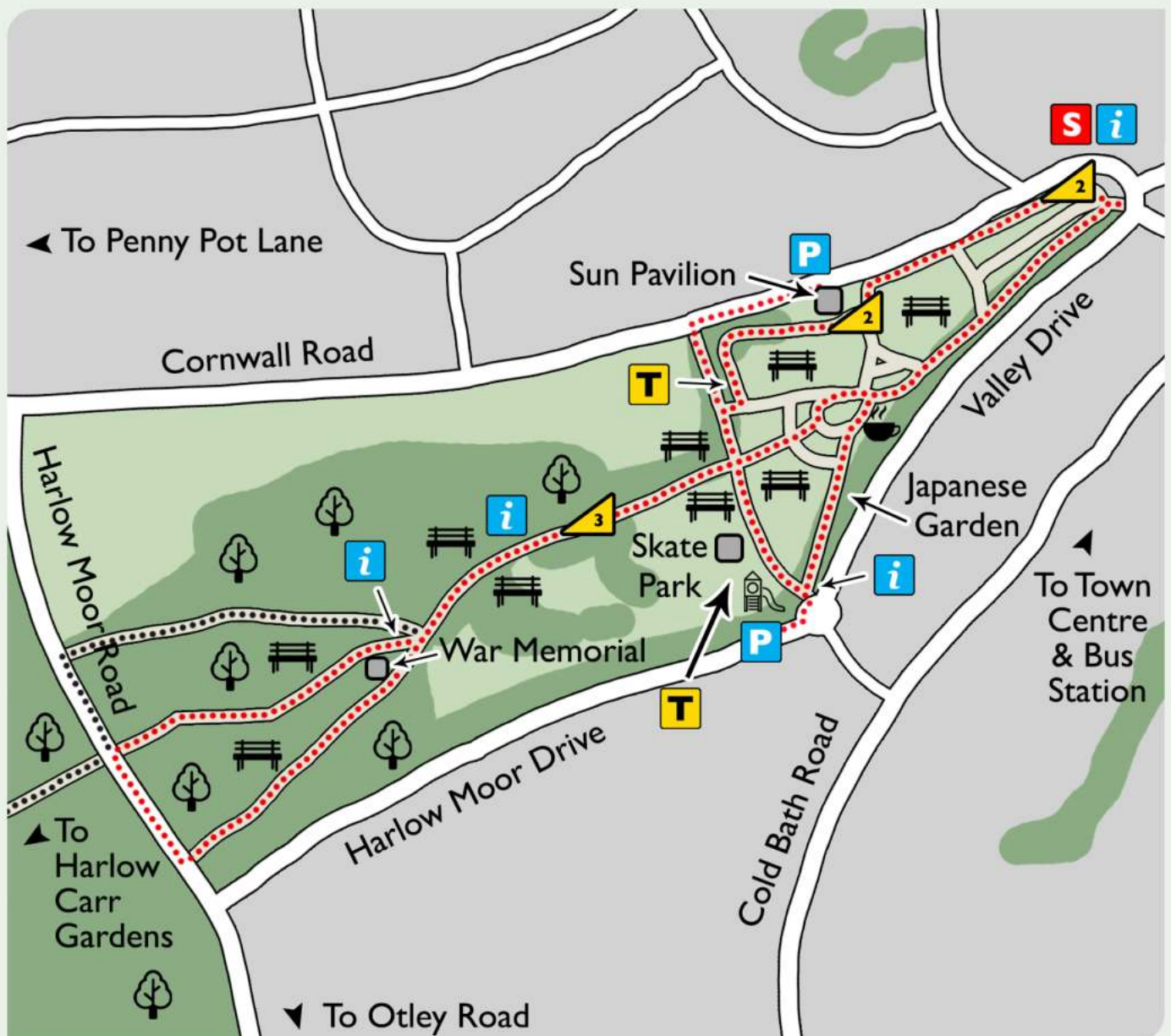
Public Transport: Harrogate Bus and Railway Station 0.5 Miles. The 36 bus stops outside the entrance to the Royal Hall on A61, Ripon Road.



Location: The main entrance to the park is at the junction of Valley Drive and Cornwall Road, opposite the Pump Room Museum, HG1 2RY. **What3Words:** stress.friday.inspector
The surrounding streets are subject to disc parking.



Route Details: Most of the trail is on tarmac paths (A), with a short section through the woods from the war memorial, on compacted stone (B). The walk is generally flat (1) apart from a steeper ascent adjacent to the golf course (3) from the café to the war memorial.



📍 Location: The Nidderdale Greenway can be started from the car park next door to Asda on Dragon Road in Harrogate, HG1 5BD. **What3Words:** slower.rank.trees

It can also be started from the large village car park in Ripley, HG3 3AX. **What3Words:** soaps.various.piper.

📌 Route Details: The whole route is surfaced in tarmac (A) and is mainly flat. There are some hilly sections on the outskirts of Ripley (4). The path continues from Ripley Castle towards Clint Bank. This section of the path is steep in sections (5).



2

Nidderdale Greenway

A4

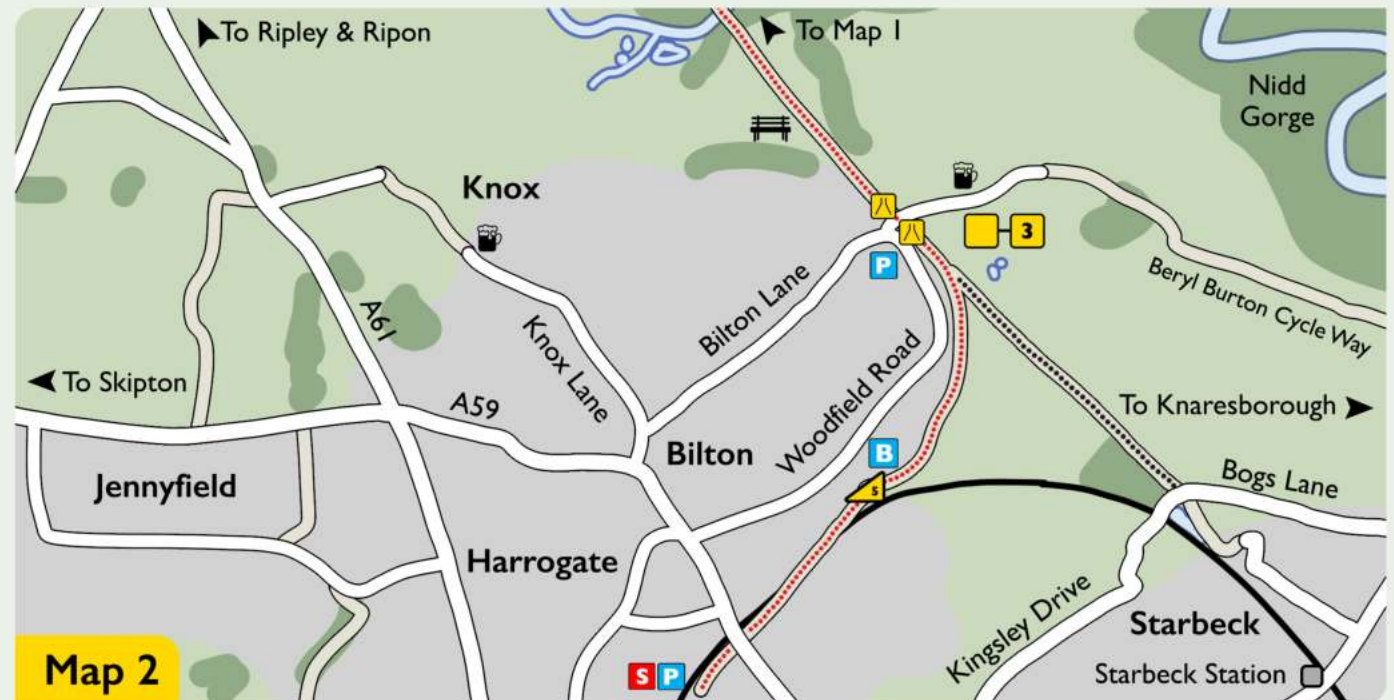
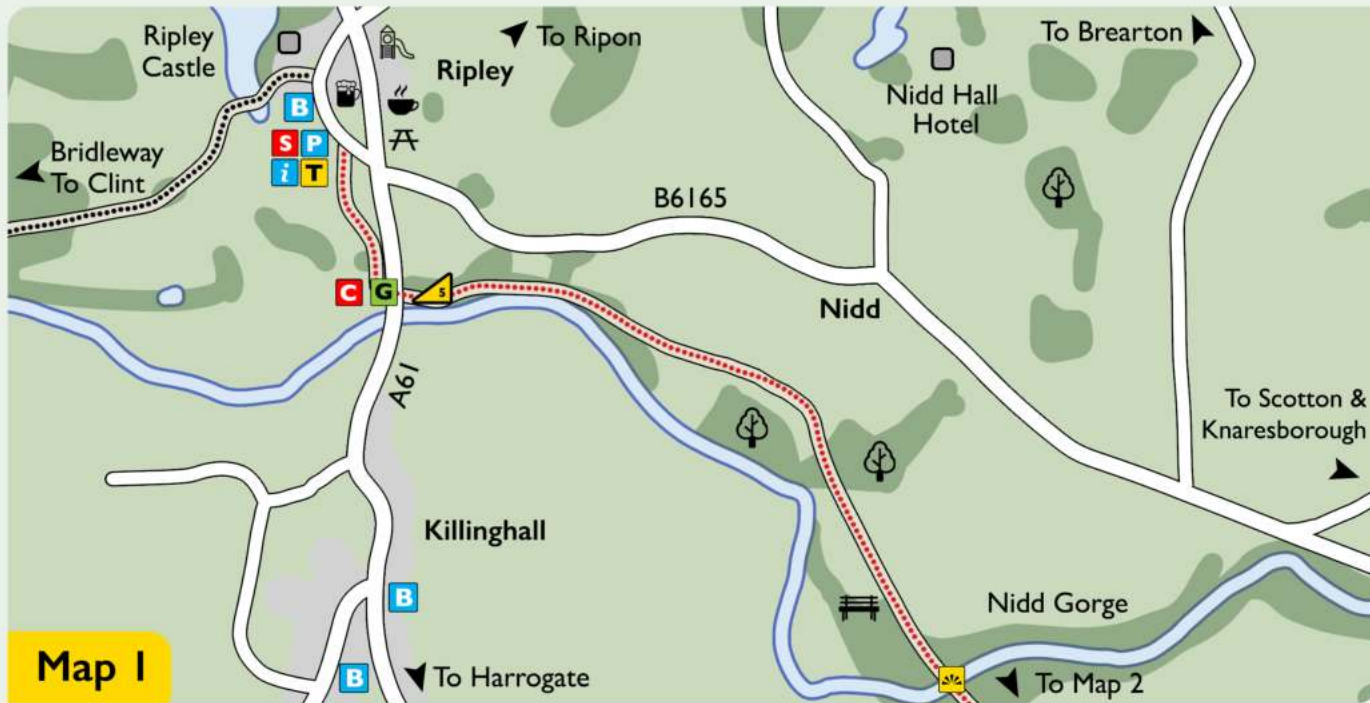


i Brief Description: The Nidderdale Greenway is a 4 mile (6.4km) cycle and walking trail between Harrogate and Ripley. The route crosses the spectacular, Grade 2 listed seven arch Nidd Gorge Viaduct and passes through stunning countryside, avoiding the busier commuter routes.

♿ Access and Facilities: Accessible Toilet (RADAR Key) in the car park at Ripley and in Asda in Harrogate, Pay & Display Parking in Ripley (car park closes in the evening), Blue Badge Parking in Dragon Road Car Park in Harrogate, Cycle Parking in Ripley.

🔍 Features of Interest: Countryside Views, Nidd Gorge, Off-Road Cycling, Pubs, Ripley Castle, Ripley Village, Riverside, Viaduct, Wildlife, Woodland.

🚌 Public Transport: Harrogate Bus and Railway Stations are half a mile from the start point of the route. The 36 Bus runs regular services between Leeds, Harrogate and Ripon, passing through, and stopping in, Ripley village.





Public Transport: There are bus stops at either end of the route. The 2A bus runs regularly from Harrogate Bus Station and stops near the start of the route in Bilton. The number 1 stops outside Mother Shipton's Cave in Knaresborough. Starbeck Railway Station is 1.5 miles away, Knaresborough Railway Station is 0.5 miles away.



Route Details: The route is made of tarmac (A). There are two sets of kissing gates with adjacent cattle grids. The last section of the trail is on the river edge and is very steep (5), ending with a staggered cycle barrier. The route is suitable for all types of wheelchair, scooter and pushchair, however there is a steep incline if starting in Knaresborough (5).

3

The Beryl Burton Cycleway

A5



Brief Description: A 1.8 mile (2.8km) route by Sustrans, dedicated to the memory of Beryl Burton, the seven time World Championship winning cyclist who was born in Leeds and lived locally. The trail runs between Harrogate and Knaresborough through pleasant countryside, avoiding the busy A59.



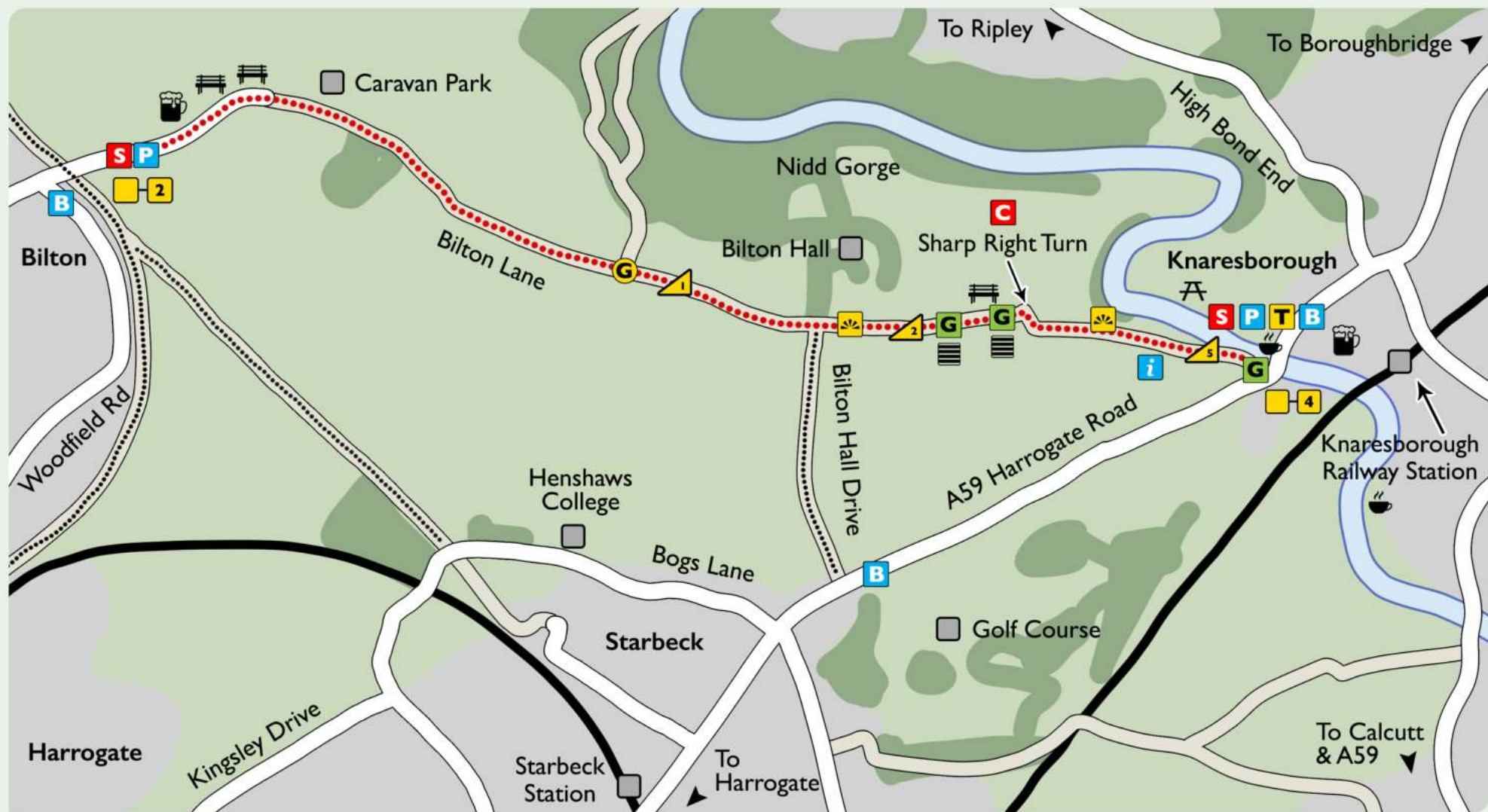
Access and Facilities: 6 Blue Badge Parking Bays and Accessible Toilet at Conyngham Hall Car Park, (RADAR Key). Open Access at all times.



Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Watching, Cafés, Caravan & Camp Site, Countryside, Pubs, Views.



Location: The trail runs between Bilton Lane in Harrogate, HG1 3JU. **What3Words:** frames.factories.sleepers and the entrance to Mother Shipton's Cave in Knaresborough, HG5 8DD. **What3Words:** screen.composed.dime.





4

Knaresborough Waterside

A4



Location: The trail runs alongside the River Nidd, between Conyngham Hall and Bland's Hill. The route can be extended to the West, taking in the Beryl Burton Cycle Way and the Nidderdale Greenway and to the East on minor roads to St. Robert's Cave and Wetherby Road. The start of the trail is at Conyngham Hall Car Park, off the A59, HG5 9AX.

What3Words: opinion.duet.scorched



Public Transport: There are regular bus services between Harrogate and Knaresborough as well as services from Wetherby and York. Knaresborough Railway Station is 0.5 miles from the river (down a steep incline).



Brief Description: This 0.5 mile (0.8km) trail passes through a spectacular section of Nidd Gorge. Amazing views of the viaduct, castle and town, alongside picturesque cottages and riverside scenery. There are also cafés along the route to stop for refreshments and to take in your surroundings. The route can be extended to St. Robert's Cave, adding an extra 1.2 miles (2km) to the overall distance.

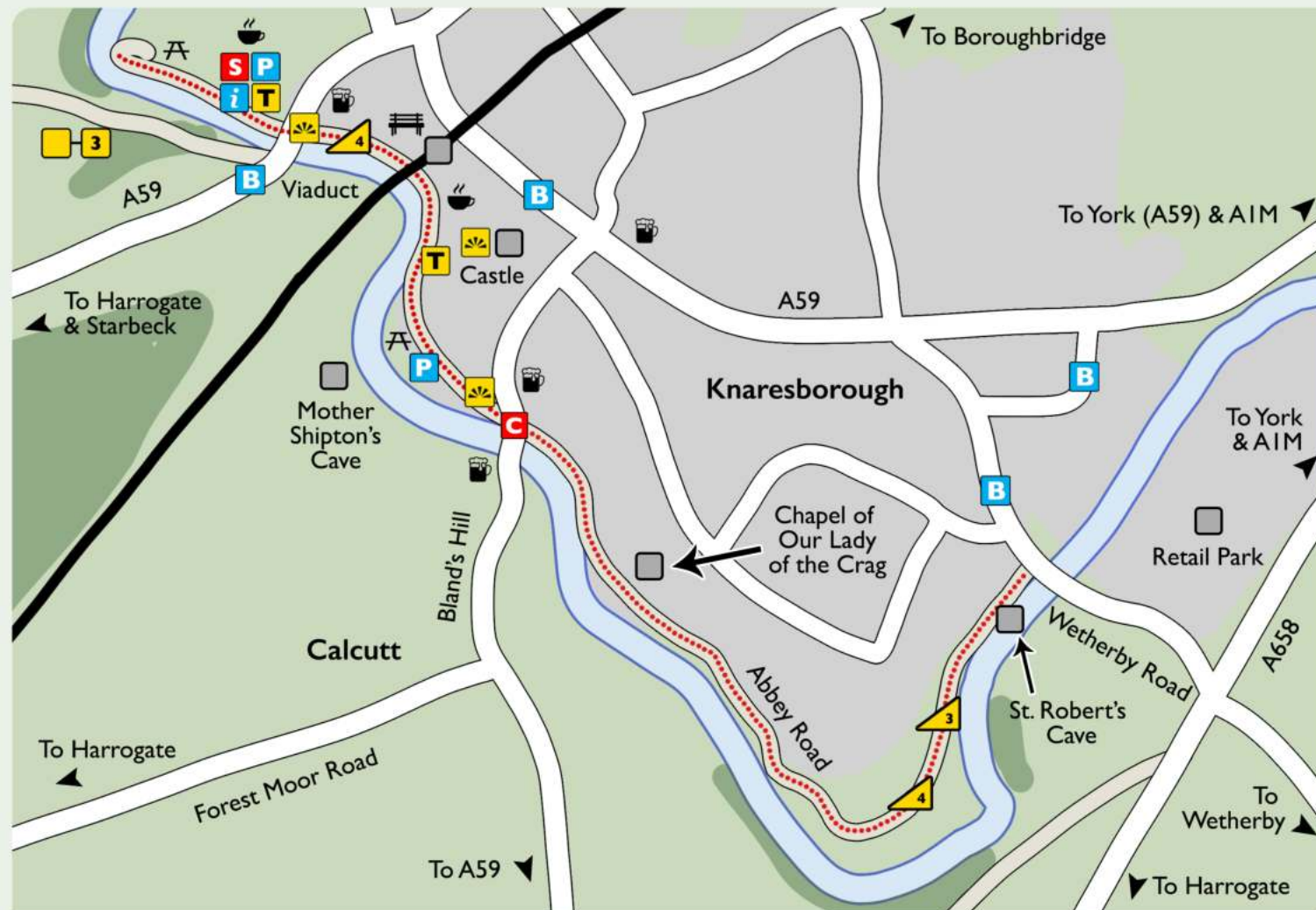


Access and Facilities: 6 Blue Badge Parking Bays and Accessible Toilet (RADAR Key) at the entrance to Conyngham Hall Car Park. Open access at all times.



Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Watching, Boat Hire, Cafés, Carvings and Sculptures, Castle, Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag, Conyngham Hall, Gardens, Knaresborough Viaduct, Mother Shipton's Cave, Pubs, Rowing, St. Robert's Cave, Wildlife Watching.





Route Details: The majority of the route is on paved roads (A). Please note that these roads do have restricted vehicle access, so please be aware at all times. The trail is relatively flat but undulates from time to time (4). As the trail runs along the bottom of the valley, access to the town is often steep, with lots of steps.





Brief Description: A flat, 3 mile (4.8km) cycle and walking route between Spofforth and Wetherby. The trail follows the route of an old railway line and passes through farmland before reaching the bustling market town of Wetherby.



Access and Facilities: Accessible Toilets (RADAR Key) in Wetherby town centre. Open Access at all times.



Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Watching, Cafés, Countryside Views, Pubs.



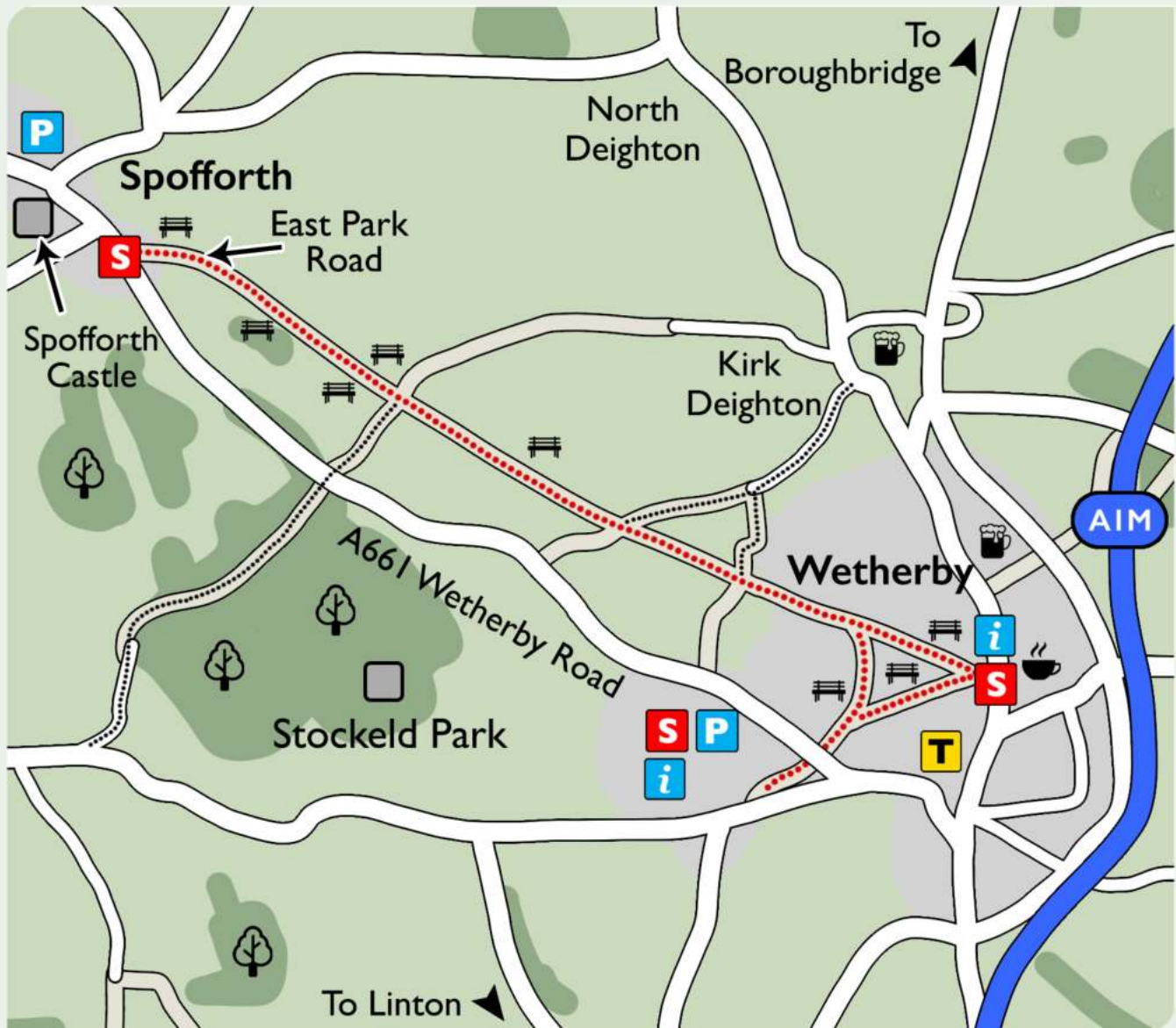
Location: The trail can be started in Spofforth off East Park Road. There is on street parking near the castle, HG3 1ND. **What3Words:** debit.boss.intestine. In Wetherby there is a free car park off Linton Road, LS22 6YR. **What3Words:** snips.major.registers



Public Transport: There are regular bus services to Wetherby from Harrogate, Leeds and York. The 7 bus from Harrogate to Leeds runs through Spofforth.



Route Details: The route is a mixture of tarmac and crushed stone (B). It follows the old railway line and is flat throughout. Path widths are at least 1.4m. Some sections can be prone to flooding after heavy rain.





Brief Description: A 3 mile (5km) circular walk around a picturesque reservoir in the beautiful Washburn Valley.



Access and Facilities: 5 Blue Badge Parking Bays, Accessible Toilet (RADAR Key).



Features of Interest: Accessible Angling, Accessible Picnic Tables, Benches, Boot Washing Facilities, Car and Cycle Parking, Information Boards, Waterfowl, Woodland.



Location: Swinsty Moor Car Park, Fewston, Harrogate, LS21 2NP. **What3Words:** quietest.surging.mascot



Public Transport: The 821 bus operates a seasonal service between Keighley and Scar House Reservoir, which stops at the entrance to Swinsty Moor Car Park.



Route Details: The majority of paths are made of compacted stone (B), with a few steeper slopes (3). The mud track adjacent to the reservoir's south/west bank should be avoided by wheelchair users in favour of the slightly higher, less rutted path from the car park, indicated on the map below.



Location: The Visitor Centre is situated 3 miles (5km) west of Ripon off the B6265 on Abbey Road, HG4 3DY.

What3Words: fries.coach.acoustics

Additional Blue Badge parking and level access to the Abbey grounds can be found at West Gate Car Park on Fountains Lane, HG4 3EA. **What3Words:** lifelong.fashion.spurtd

Blue Badge parking is also available at Studley Royal Deer Park, accessed via Studley Roger on Studley Lane, HG4 3DY. (Charges still apply) **What3Words:** lecturing.mandolin.tight

There is an admission charge to access the Abbey grounds. There is no charge for National Trust Members.



7

Fountains Abbey

A5



Brief Description: Founded in 1132, Fountains Abbey is set in 650 acres of formal garden and deer park. This World Heritage Site offers an estate circuit of up to 3.5 miles (6.5km). The tarmac roads in Studley Royal Deer Park are suitable for cycling but they are also used by motorists.

Access and Facilities: Accessible Toilets, Ample Blue Badge Parking, Braille Guides, Changing Places Toilet (at Visitor Centre), Wheelchair and Mobility Scooters available for hire, booking is essential; call 01765 608888 for reservations.

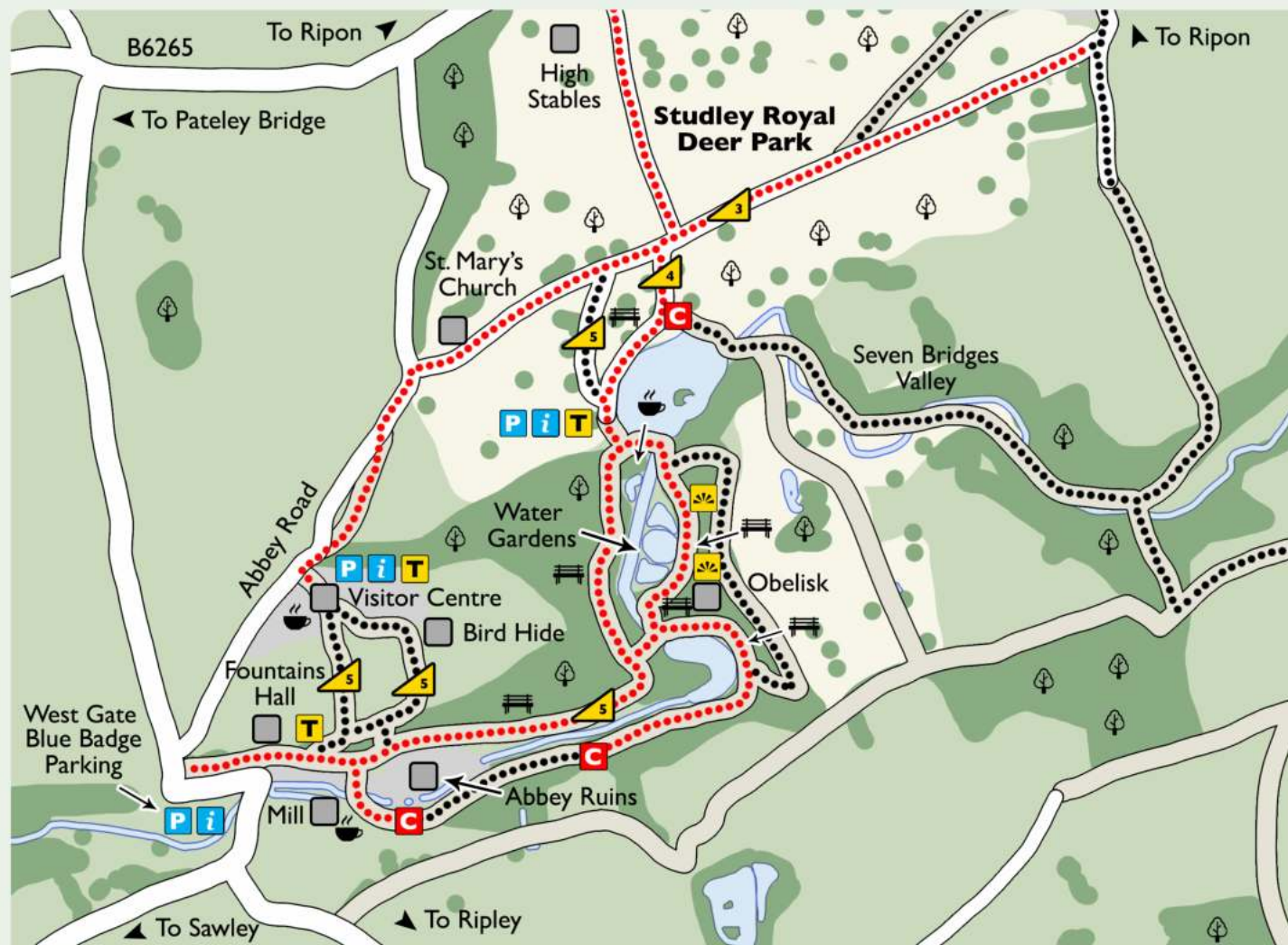
Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Hide, Cafés, Church, Deer Park, Events, Follies, Fountains Abbey, Hall, Ornamental Gardens, Picnic Areas, Refreshments, Shop, Viewpoints, Visitor Centre, Water Gardens, Water Mill, Wildlife.

Public Transport: The 139 bus operates a daily service from Ripon Bus Station to Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre.

T **Route Details:** Nearly all paths are tarmac, with a few gradients. Roads through the Deer Park are also used by vehicles.

There is easy access from the West Gate to areas from which the abbey can be viewed.

The abbey is approached via 180m (200 yards), of level grass and may be toured using a wheelchair.



Safety Notes: Due to the steep gradient down from the visitor centre, the National Trust (NT) advises wheelchair users to enter the estate from the West Gate. Alternatively, a free accessible minibus service runs from the visitor centre to the valley floor. (See timetable at admissions desk). The **C** symbols on the map represent pathways the NT advise wheelchair users not to use.

The path from the visitor centre is unsuitable for any self drive vehicle. 3 wheeled vehicles are not allowed on the estate.





Brief Description: A large, accessible wetland nature reserve managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, with great opportunities for bird watching and 2.5 miles (4km) of accessible paths.



Access and Facilities: Blue Badge Parking via RADAR key gate and track adjacent to the church. Nearest Accessible Toilets, 3 miles away on Back Lane in Boroughbridge (RADAR key). **What3Words:** freezers.reactions.peachy



Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Hides, Bird Watching, Brass Rubbing Nature Trail, Cycle Parking, Free Car Parking, Information Boards, Wetlands, Wildflowers.



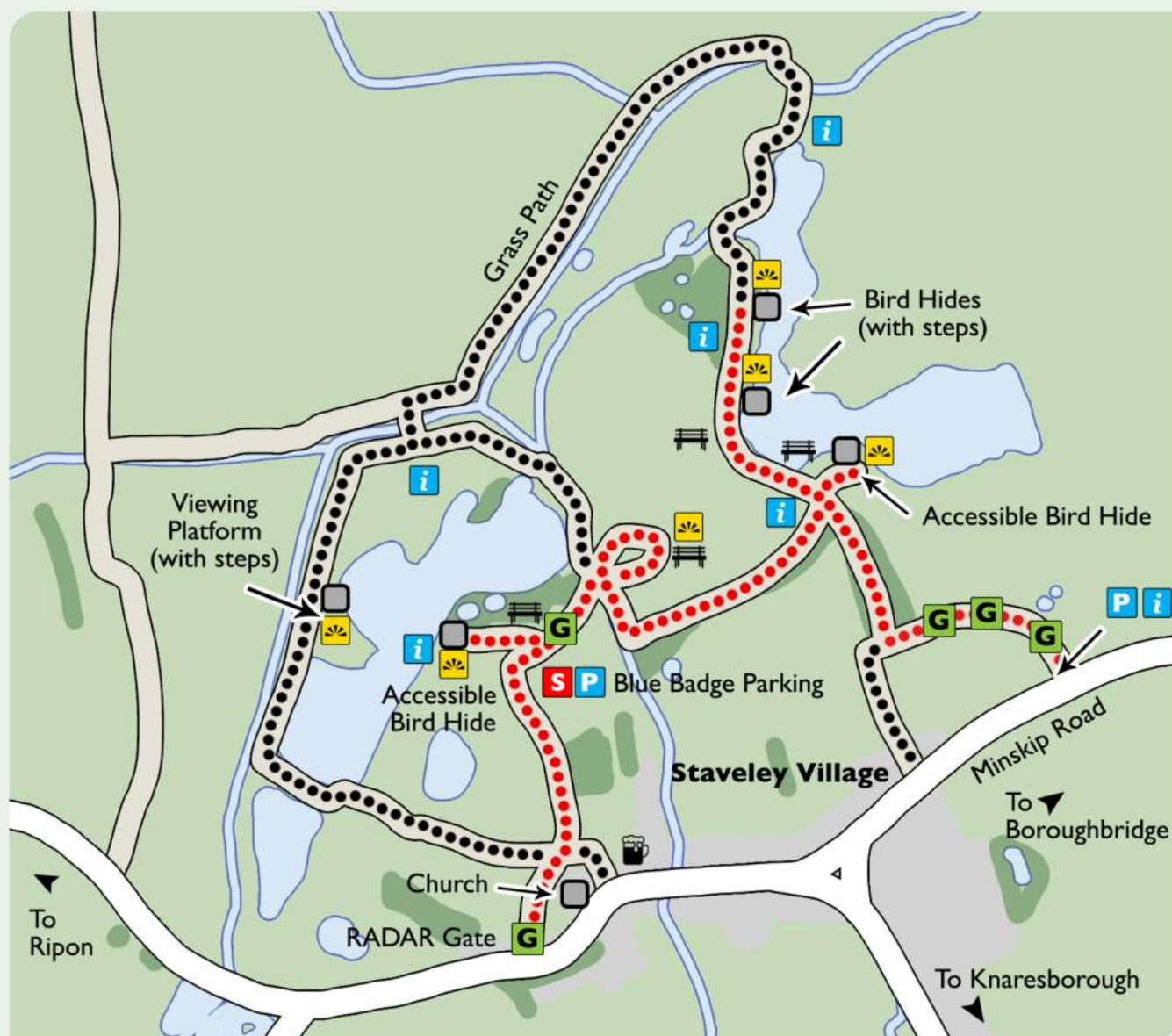
Location: Minskip Road, near Boroughbridge, HG5 9LQ. **What3Words:** completed.encourage.hindered



Public Transport: Bus number 21 between Knaresborough and Boroughbridge and 22 between Knaresborough and York stop in Staveley village.



Route Details: Suitable for all types of wheelchairs and pushchairs. The gradient is level throughout with a crushed stone surface, though slightly rutted in some places (B). There are four gates on the reserve which need opening but accommodate most sizes of wheelchair and scooter.





Brief Description: A 0.8 mile (1.4km) route around dramatic rock formations and open moorland, with spectacular views over Nidderdale and beyond.



Access and Facilities: 8 Blue Badge Parking Bays, Accessible Toilet (RADAR Key), Braille and Large Print Guides, Changing Places Toilet, Induction Loops. A Mobility Scooter is available to hire; call 01423 780688 to book. National Trust Members can park for free.



Features of Interest: Benches, Guided Tours, Information Boards, Information Kiosk (in Car Park), Picnic Area, Refreshment Kiosk, Rock Formations, Shop, Spectacular Views, Visitor Centre.



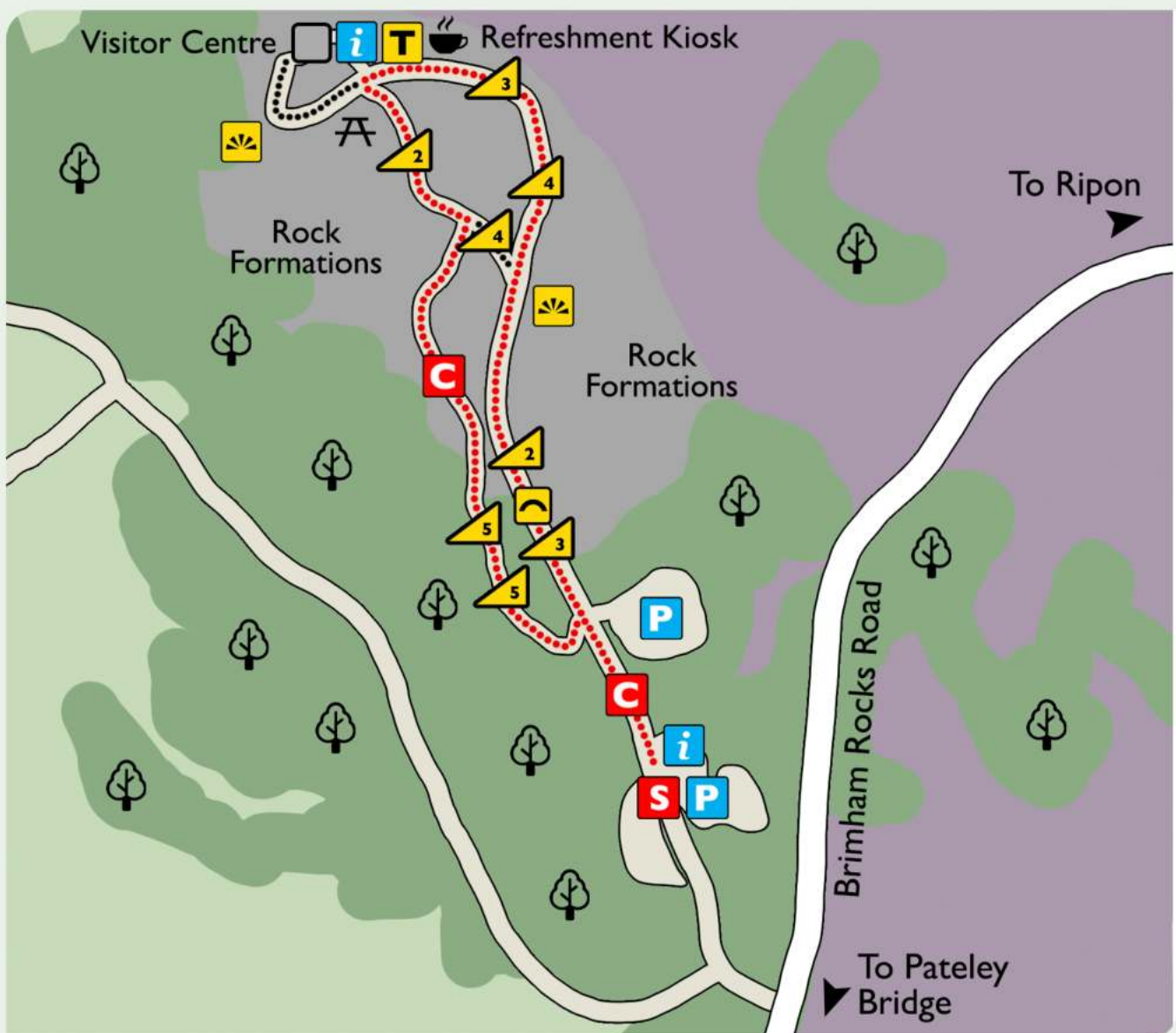
Public Transport: Dales Bus 825 operates a limited seasonal service between York and Richmond, via Harrogate, which stops at the entrance to Brimham Rocks.



Location: Brimham Rocks Road, Summerbridge, Harrogate, HG3 4DW. **What3Words:** buying.rarely.apron



Route Details: The majority of the route is on well-made paths. The main track is slightly rutted (C) and there are some undulating sections (4). The path through the rocks is well surfaced (B) but is steep in parts (5). The steeper sections can be avoided by following the path to the left, back to the main track. Caution must be taken, as site vehicles use the main access track. There are also sections where trees and rocks overhang the path.





Brief Description: A flat, firm 1.7 mile (2km) riverside path, enabling everyone to enjoy the history and natural beauty of this picturesque part of Nidderdale.



Access and Facilities: Accessible Toilet opposite the Car Park entrance, (RADAR Key), Blue Badge Parking.



Features of Interest: Benches, Bird Watching, Cafés, Lake, Nidderdale Museum, Pubs, River, Views, Woodland.



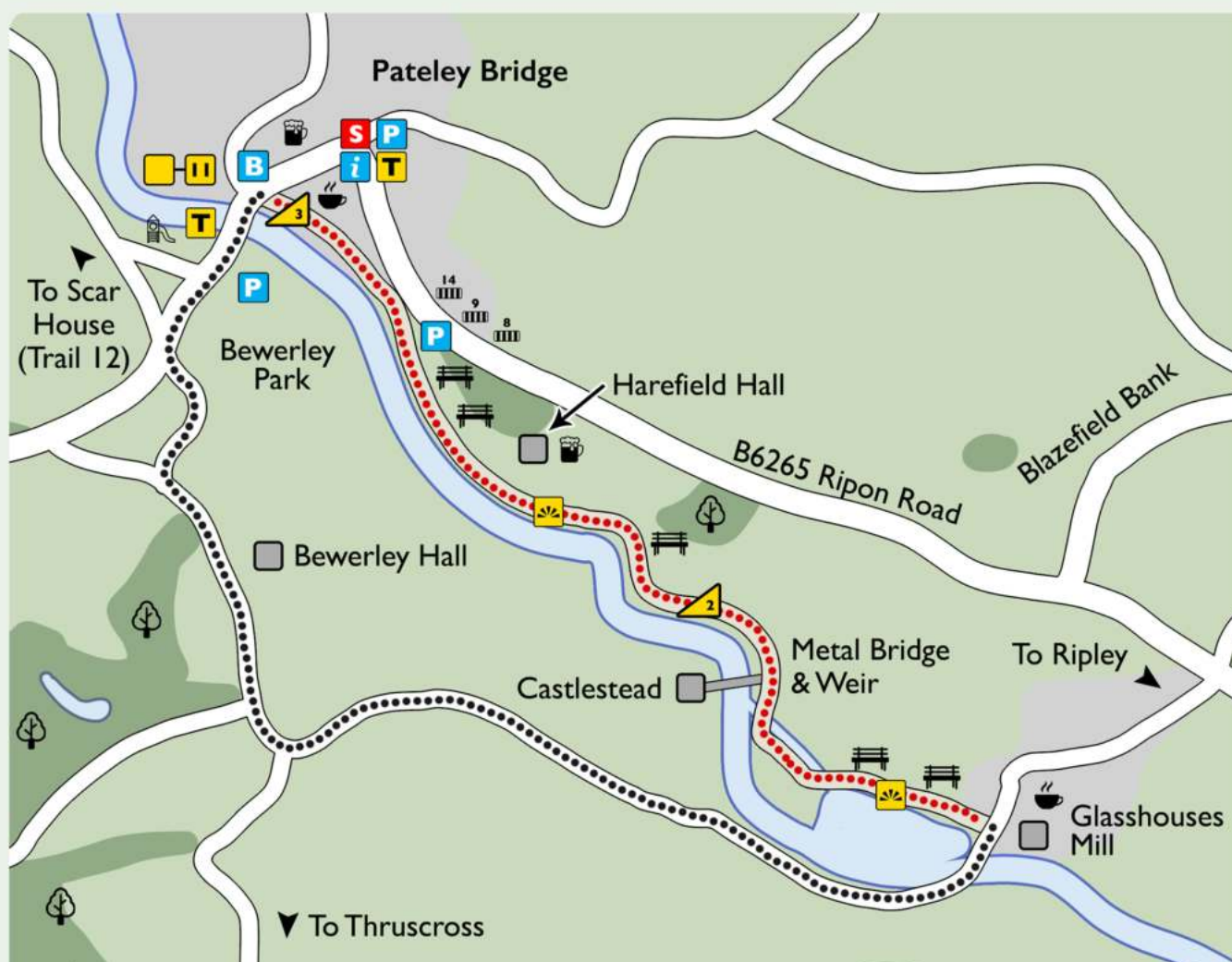
Location: The trail starts from Pateley Bridge South Car Park, off the B6265, adjacent to the bridge over the river, HG3 5BD. **What3Words:** sleepless.piglet.pupils



Public Transport: The 24 bus operates regular services between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge.



Route Details: The majority of the route is flat, with some slopes down to the riverside in Pateley Bridge (A3). There is a slight camber on the path leading away from Harefield Hall, where flooding has led to path erosion. Other surfaces are good throughout (B). There are regular rest points to pause and take in the beautiful scenery. A circuit can be completed on quiet roads on the opposite side of the river.





Brief Description: The Millennium Green and Recreation Ground form a public open space on either side of the River Nidd, managed for conservation and recreation. The whole circular route is 1 mile, (1.6km).



Access and Facilities: Accessible Fishing Platforms, Accessible Toilet opposite the main car park entrance, (RADAR Key), Blue Badge Parking.



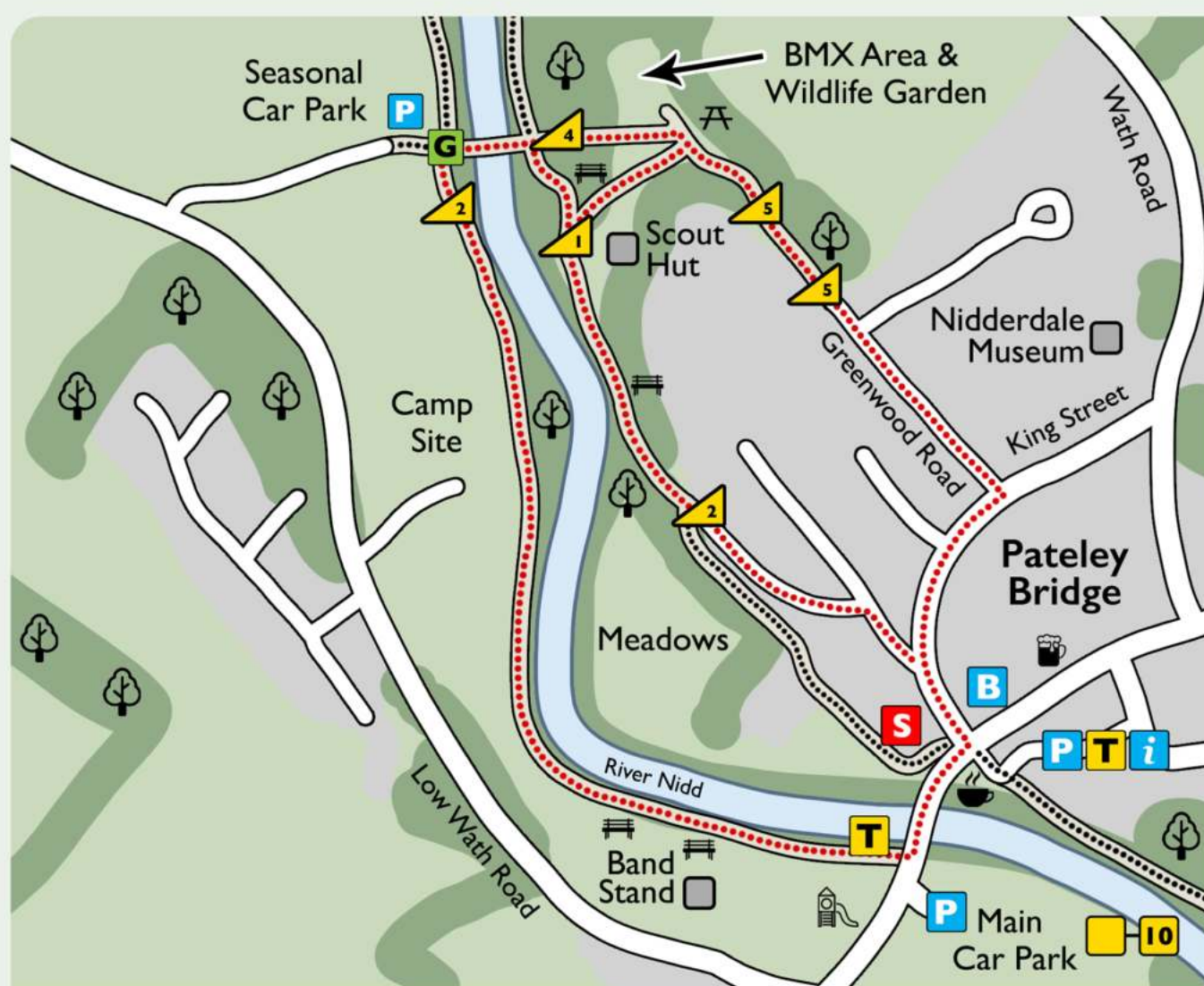
Features of Interest: Benches, BMX Area, Bowling Green, Children's Play Area, Information Boards, Meadows, Nidderdale Museum, Picnic Table, Pond, Refreshments, Riverside, Sculptures, Wildlife, Wildlife Garden.



Public Transport: The 24 bus operates regular services between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge.

Location: There is parking in Pateley Bridge South Car Park off the B6265, adjacent to the bridge over the river, HG3 5BD. **What3Words:** sleepless.piglet.pupils. To start the trail, cross over the road and follow the path along the river.

Route Details: The paths are made of crushed stone or tarmac, with regular resting points (B2). Optional paths are on short grass, on the level (C1). The short sections through Pateley Bridge are on well maintained pavements.





Brief Description: A 4 mile (6.5km) walk in beautiful Upper Nidderdale, featuring spectacular views, historical sites and lots of wildlife.



Access and Facilities: 5 Blue Badge Parking Bays, Accessible Toilet (RADAR Key).



Features of Interest: Benches, Birdwatching, Café Kiosk Selling Refreshments, Picnic Benches (2 Accessible), Remains of Construction Village and the Farming Hamlet of Lodge, Rural Landscape, Scar House & Angram Reservoirs, Shelters, Spectacular Views, Wildlife.



Public Transport: Dales Bus 821 operates a seasonal, out and back service from Keighley via Pateley Bridge to the Café at Scar House. The 24 bus runs regularly between Harrogate and Pateley Bridge.



Location: The car park is situated at the end of a private road, from Lofthouse in upper Nidderdale, HG3 5SW. Follow the brown tourist signs from the village.

What3Words: surface.refrain.trifling



Route Details: The south side of the reservoir is accessed via a worn tarmac surface (B2). Both reservoir dams are flat tarmac, although there is a short descent to Scar House Dam (A4). The north side of the reservoir is much more challenging, with an undulating, uneven path (D5), including multiple gates and steep inclines.

