

Pateley Bridge - Around Gouthwaite

Scale 1:35000

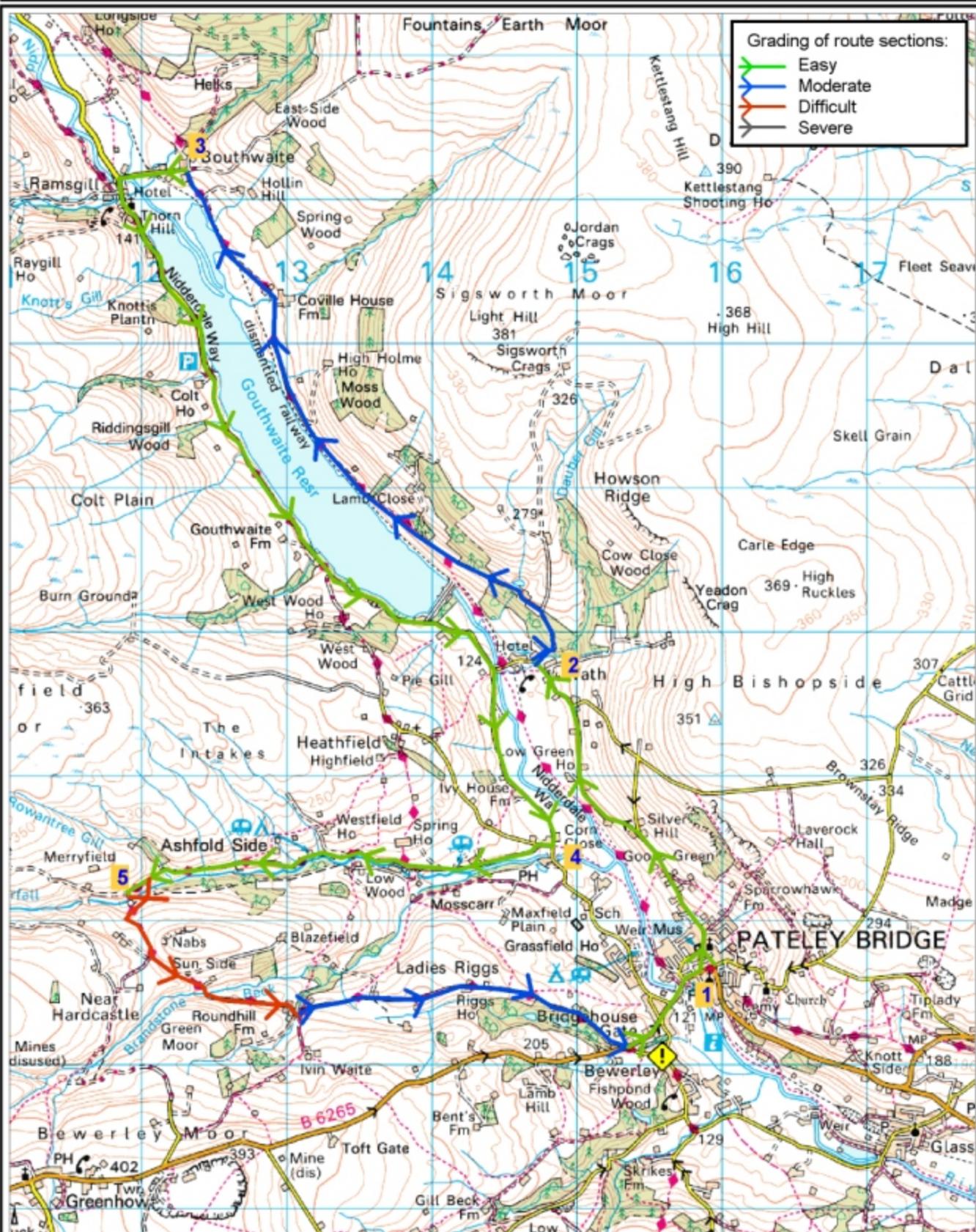


Start: Pateley Bridge, GR: SE 157 655

Distance: 21km

Ascent: 500m

Grade: Moderate



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PATELEY BRIDGE – AROUND GOUTHWAITE

Start and finish	Pateley Bridge. There are two main car parks here both well signposted. SE157655
Distance	21km (12 miles)
Toilets	Pateley Bridge town centre car park
Pubs and cafes	Pateley Bridge, Wath, Ramsgill
Nearest train station	Harrogate but it's a long way off

This is a good introductory route to Dales mountain biking using minor roads and good stone tracks. It takes you along the side of Gouthwaite reservoir, famous for its bird life, on a track and back down the other side on tarmac. A more technical section through some old mine workings then returns you to good stone tracks back to Pateley.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

1. Take the road out of Pateley Bridge signposted for Wath.
2. In Wath as the road bends left, turn right on to farm track which climbs steeply up through trees. As you exit the trees take the left hand farm road and follow this obvious track for 4km alongside Gouthwaite reservoir to reach Bouthwaite.
3. Turn left at the road, cross over the river and meet another road. Turn left on this road and head through Ramsgill and continue on this road back alongside Gouthwaite reservoir.
4. Go past the turning for Wath, and then 1km later take the right turn signed 'Heathfield' just before you reach the Bridge Inn. After 100m turn left signed 'Heathfield Caravan Park'. Follow this small road up the valley through a series of caravan parks. Eventually it turns into a good stone track.
5. Shortly after a gate there is a prominent fingerpost for the 'Nidderdale Way' on the left. You are now heading into the technical section - take care! Descend to a bridge over a stream. Opposite you are the old mine workings which the route zig zags through. At the top of the workings take the obvious track uphill. Go through a wall gap, keep on the track and then right at a track junction. Descend to swing right over a bridge, continue on and swing left over the next bridge. You are now on tarmac (sort of). Up a short climb and then a long swoop back to Pateley. When the road gets rough get ready to brake as the main road has a habit of looming up. Turn left back to town.