

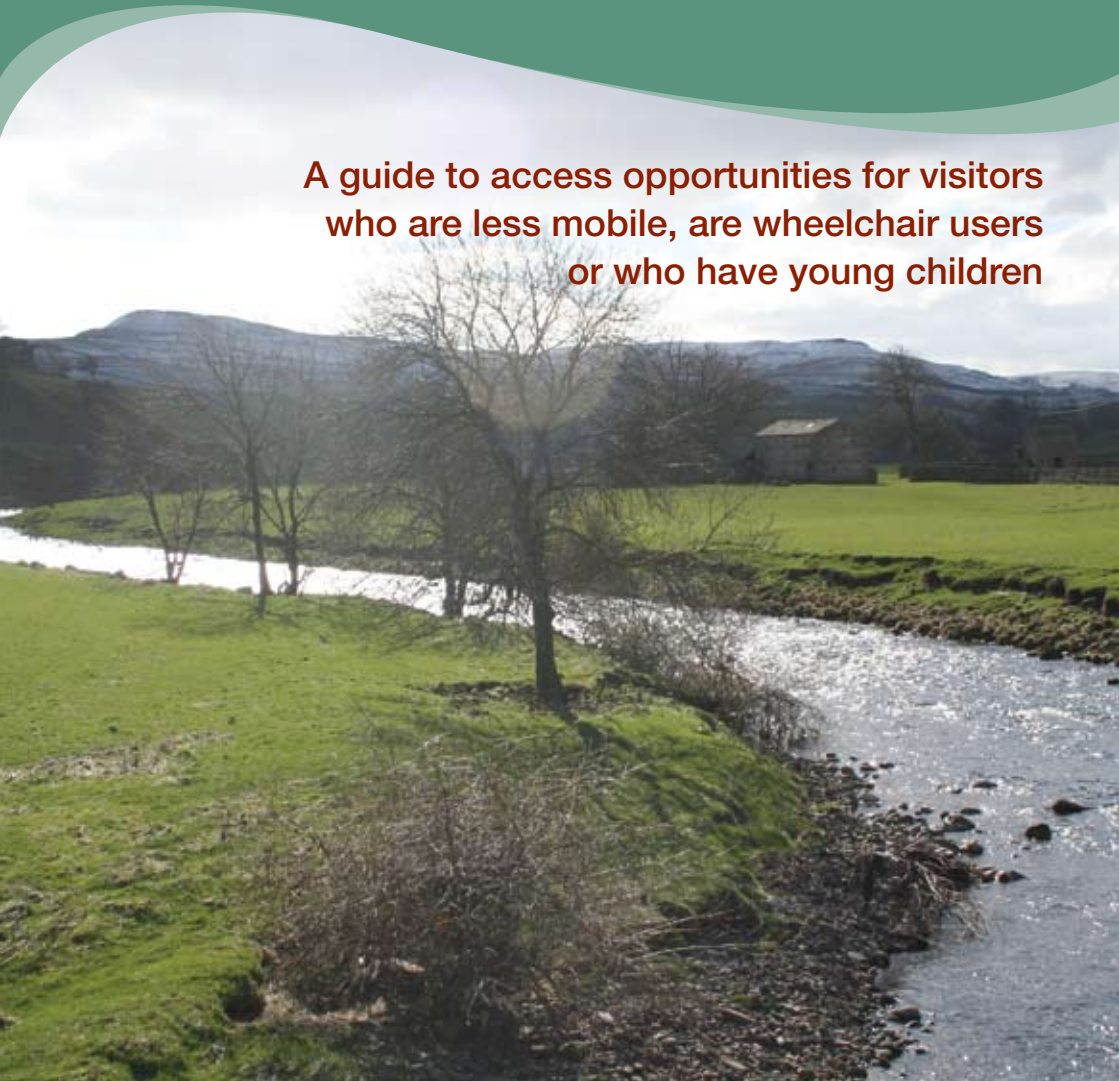


YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Access for all

in the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**
Wensleydale

**A guide to access opportunities for visitors
who are less mobile, are wheelchair users
or who have young children**



Introduction

The Yorkshire Dales has outstanding scenery, a diversity of wildlife habitats, a rich cultural heritage and many opportunities to enjoy the unique qualities the area has to offer. In 1954, the Yorkshire Dales was designated a National Park in recognition of these special qualities.

This guide has been produced to provide information about access opportunities in Wensleydale for visitors who are less mobile, are wheelchair users or have young children. The guide is not definitive, but offers a selection of natural and heritage attractions for mixed ability parties as well as essential information such as the location of information centres, car parks and toilets. We have also suggested a number of trails, describing the terrain and any potential obstacles along the route.

If you have any comments to make about this guide, please contact the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Access Development Officer on **01969 652363**

Public transport

For information on public transport in the area, call Travel Line on **0870 608 2 608** or visit www.traveldales.org.uk

Some bus and train services in Wensleydale run wheelchair accessible services.



Gayle Beck in Gayle

Car parking

Many of the parking areas detailed within this booklet are informal with space for a few vehicles only and no specific facilities for the disabled. Please give consideration to where and how vehicles are parked so as not to cause inconvenience to others.

RADAR toilets

The National Key Scheme (NKS) was set up to allow entry by disabled key holders to locked accessible public toilets. There are around 5,000 toilets fitted with the NKS lock throughout the UK.

RADAR toilets are located at Askrigg, Bainbridge, Hawes, Aysgarth and Leyburn.

For more information or to obtain a RADAR key, please call **0207 250 3222**, visit www.radar.org.uk or write to:

RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EX1V 8AF

Further information

To find out more about opportunities to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, where to stay, how to get here and more, please contact a National Park or Tourist Information Centre.

Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre

Tel: **01969 662910** Email: aysgarth@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Hawes National Park Centre

Tel: **01969 666210** Email: hawes@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Leyburn Tourist Information Centre

Tel: **01969 623069** Email: leyburn@ybtic.org.uk

Settlements

For hundreds of years, people have lived in Wensleydale, building the structures which housed their industries, ceremonies, festivities and homes. These buildings now remain for us to enjoy as our shared heritage.

Hawes with Gayle

SD 876898

The busy town of Hawes received its market charter in 1700. A coach road from Richmond to Lancaster was completed in 1795 and the arrival of the railway in 1878 confirmed it as the 'capital of Wensleydale'.

Toilets

There are public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, in the Hawes National Park Centre car park and town centre.

Parking

There are parking facilities for the disabled in the Hawes National Park Centre car park and town centre, but it can be particularly busy on market days (Tuesday) – so get there early!

General

There are many accessible features, but wheelchair users will require assistance on some gradients.



Hawes Church

West Burton

SE 019867

West Burton is a beautiful Dales village, with a large central green, in the quiet valley of Walden.

West Burton waterfalls (also known locally as Cauldron Falls) can be easily viewed from the car park. Both the waterfall and woodland are peaceful and scenic (although access is difficult following flood damage) – a good place to relax and enjoy a picnic.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are at the Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre.

Parking

There is no public parking area in the village; parking tends to be on the roadside. There is an informal parking area at the waterfalls.

General

Vehicular access to the village and waterfall is via narrow roads which are steep in places.



West Burton waterfalls

Bainbridge

SD 935904

The village of Bainbridge is centred around a spacious village green complete with stocks. The River Bain, the shortest river in England, flows from Lake Semer Water over a picturesque waterfall near the village.

Toilets

There are public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, in the village centre.

Parking

There is some general parking on the road or at the public toilet area.

General

Many of the footpaths are cobbled and sloping; access tends to be via the country road that crosses the village green.

Askrigg

SD 948911

Viewers of the long-running BBC TV series All Creatures Great and Small will recognise Askrigg as the home of Skeldale House, where vet James Herriot lived.

The village's cobbled streets and tall houses make Askrigg a worthwhile place to stop for refreshment.

Toilets

There are public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, in the village hall.

Parking

There is some general parking on the road.

General

Many of the footpaths and roads in Askrigg are cobbled and sloping. The main street (Station Road) has a particularly steep gradient.



Bainbridge



Askrigg

Places of interest

1. Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes SD 877898

At the Dales Countryside Museum you can experience what life was once like in the beautiful, but sometimes harsh, landscape of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Museum has been adapted for disabled access throughout, with wide aisles, lifts, ramps and a two-level information counter.

(Please note: there is an admission charge into the Museum exhibition areas; carers enter free of charge.)

Toilets

There are public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, in the car park. Adapted toilets are also available in the entrance hall of the Museum for all visitors, access via ramp from main lobby to lower ground floor.

Parking

There is designated car parking at the Hawes National Park Centre and Museum car park.

Contact details

Telephone **01969 666211**



Dales Countryside Museum

2. Haylands Fishing Platforms, Hawes SD 876904

Two adapted fishing platforms suitable for wheelchair users are situated on the River Ure at Hawes. Whilst fishing for brown trout and grayling, look out for various birds, such as dippers, grey wagtails, kingfishers and sand martins.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

Parking

There is wheelchair friendly, off-road car parking at Haylands Bridge for four cars.

Contact details

Day tickets are available from the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. Telephone **01969 666211**



Fishing at Haylands Bridge

3. Semer Water

SD 920875

Just south of Bainbridge lies Semer Water, one of Yorkshire's few natural lakes. According to legend, a town once stood where the water now runs deep, but it was doomed to a watery grave after a weary traveller was refused shelter from a raging storm. As he left he cursed the town, decreeing that it should be drowned under rushing waters.

Semer Water is a great place to relax and enjoy a picnic, with good views of the lake and Raydale from the parking area.

Take your binoculars and you may see over-wintering ducks, oystercatchers, great crested grebes, wigeon, buzzard and sand pipers.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are in Bainbridge.

Parking

There is an informal parking area on the northern shore of the lake. A small car parking charge is made by nearby Low Blean Farm.



Male wigeon

4. Ballowfields

SD 988898

Ballowfields is one of six Local Nature Reserves owned and managed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

In the 1930s, despite local outcry, a number of holiday chalets were built on this site which also supported a shop, café, village hall and swimming pool. During the war, some of the chalets were let to women and children who had been evacuated to the country from the north east and Gateshead. After the war, the holiday village fell into disrepair. The land was purchased by the council, which knocked the chalets down one by one and landscaped the area.

Ballowfields is a great place to relax and enjoy a picnic. In early May the area is carpeted with thrift leaving a pink blaze of colour. Late August is good for devil's bit scabious – look out for the blue haze. You may also see a common blue butterfly.

Toilets

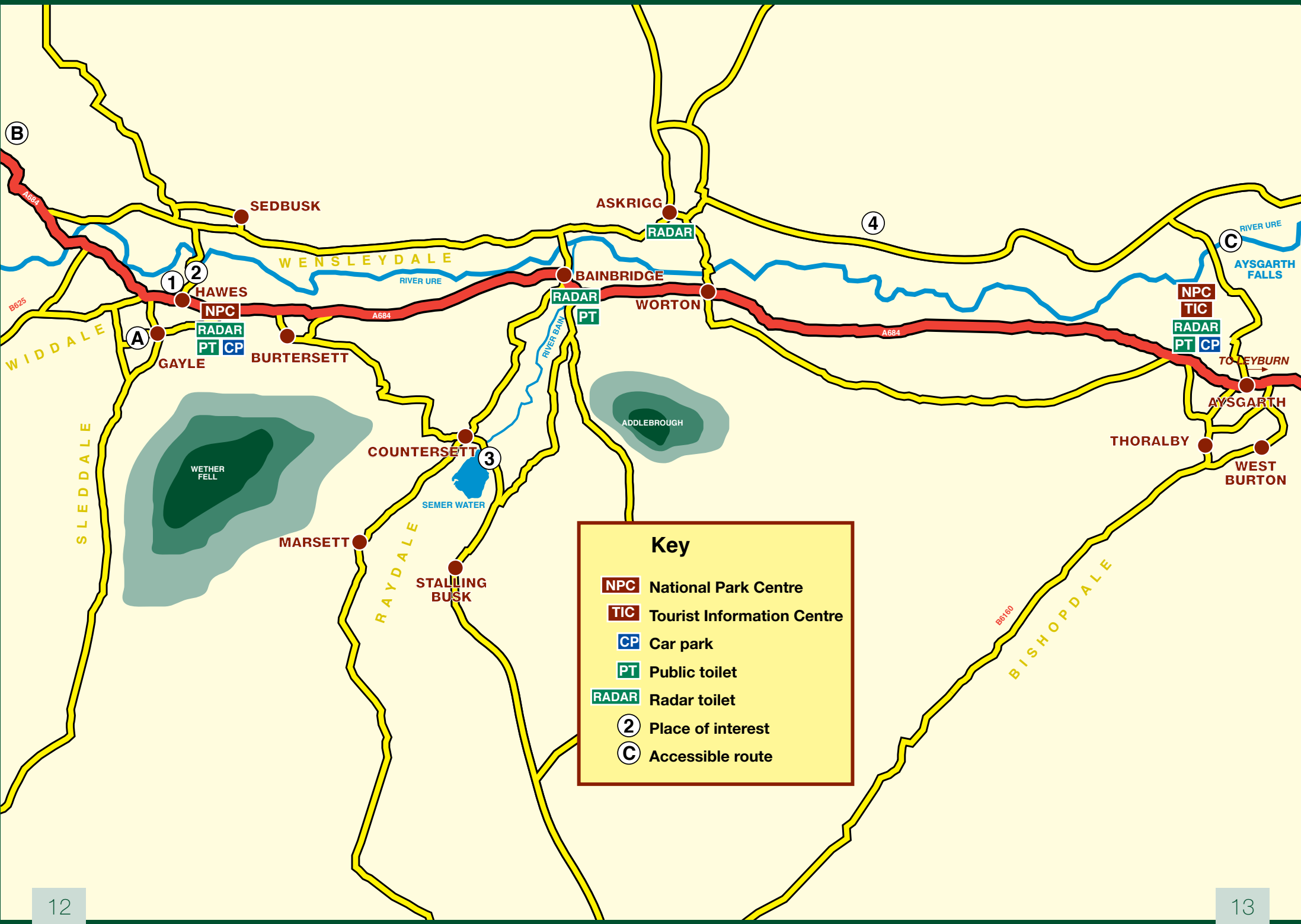
The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are at the Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre.

Parking

There is a small car parking area at the Local Nature Reserve.



Common blue butterfly



Key

NPC	National Park Centre
TIC	Tourist Information Centre
CP	Car park
PT	Public toilet
RADAR	Radar toilet
2	Place of interest
C	Accessible route

Accessible routes

A. Hawes to the Wensleydale Creamery

SD 874898
SD 870895

Trail

This 450m linear public footpath follows the Pennine Way from the church in Hawes to the Wensleydale Creamery.

The first 70m of the trail are cobbled with a gradient of 1:7. After this point, the footpath levels out with some slight gradients up to 1:10. Most of the length is constructed of stone flags at a width of 100cm. There is a rest area halfway along the route.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are at the Hawes National Park Centre.

Parking

There are numerous places to park within Hawes. There is a free car park along the main street. There are also disabled parking bays at the Hawes National Park Centre.

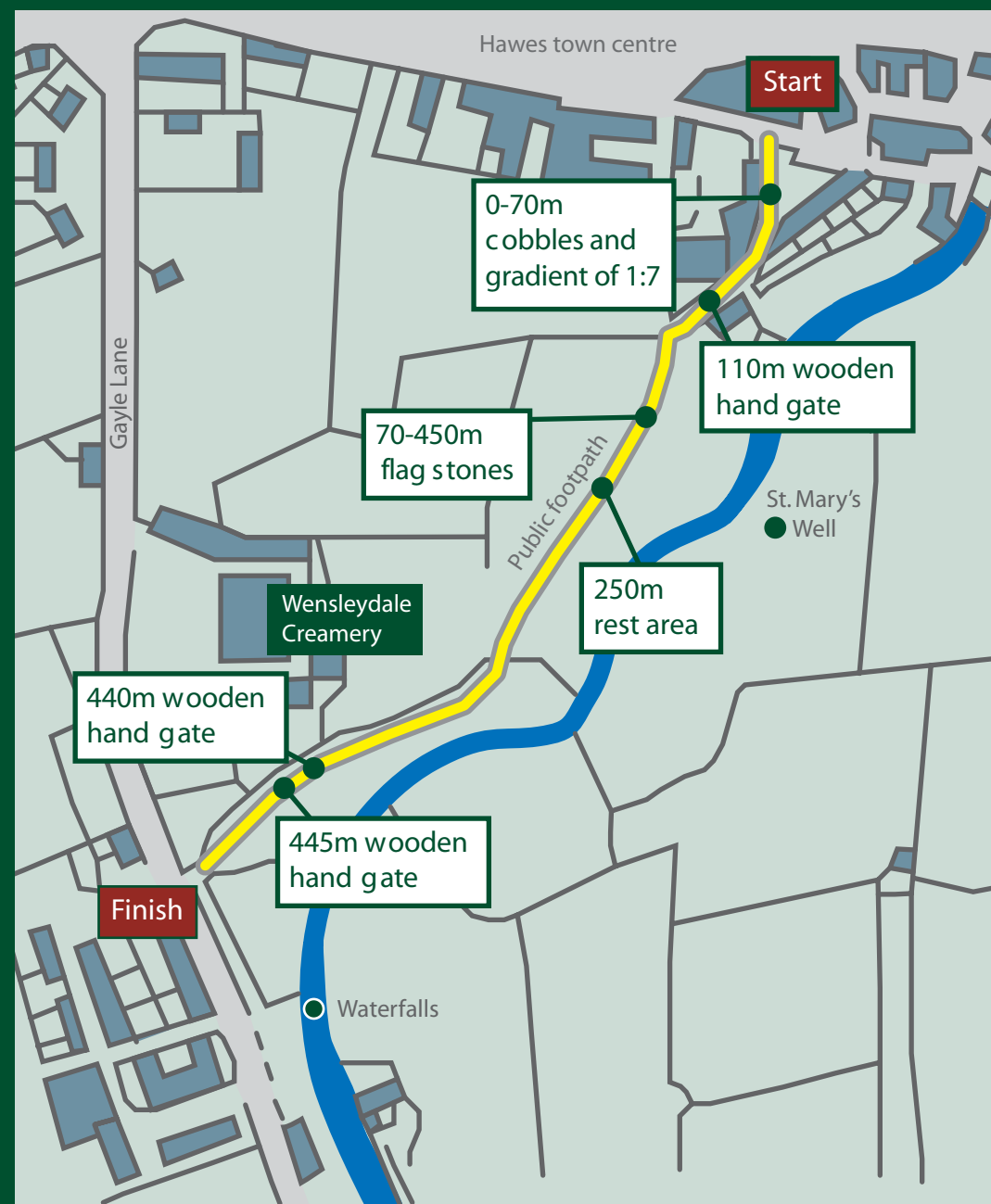
Wensleydale Creamery

Famous for its cheese, the Wensleydale Creamery has a visitor centre with museum, shop and restaurant. The visitor centre is fully accessible with accessible toilets and designated parking for people with disabilities.

Contact Details

Telephone 01969 667664

Map of route



Footpath from Hawes to the Wensleydale Creamery

B. Cotter Force

SD 850915

Known as 'the valley of the waterfalls', Wensleydale harbours many delights for the visitor. Cotter Force, west of Hawes, is a lovely secluded waterfall in a wooded setting. It is a series of about half a dozen waterfalls with the largest single drop being about 1.5m. The force widens as it descends being only a couple of feet wide at the top and about 4.5m wide at the bottom.

Trail

This 490m level footpath alongside the beck is suitable for wheelchairs. The surface is constructed of compacted stone with a general width of 110cm. There are three seating areas evenly spaced along the footpath.

Whilst walking the route look out for dippers, grey wagtails, redstarts, long tailed tits and kingfishers.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, are at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

Parking

There is a pull-in for three cars, but with limited width for wheelchairs.



Grey wagtail

Map of route



C. Aysgarth Falls and Freeholders' Wood

SE 012888

Aysgarth Falls is a series of cascading falls separated into three forces, Higher, Middle and Lower. Higher Falls is the most vigorous of the group whereas Middle Falls had the largest single drop of around 2m. Lower Falls is in the most serene setting.

The National Park Centre café nearby is wheelchair accessible and can cater for specific dietary requirements.

Trail to Freeholders' Wood

This level footpath runs through Freeholders' Wood with great views of the Middle Falls. All gates are accessible and there are seating areas along the route.

A further route can be followed along a muddy track through the woodland.

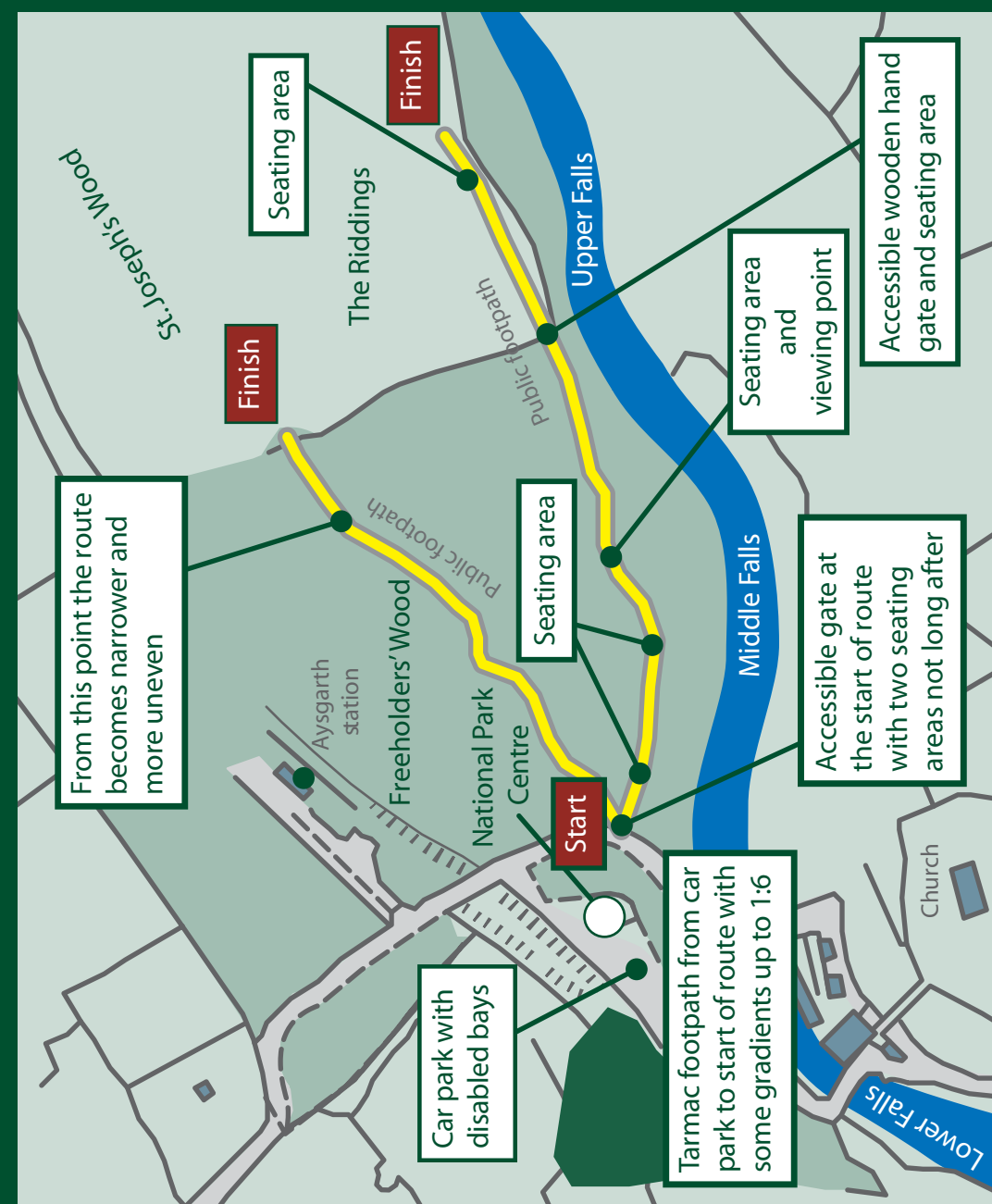
Toilets

There are public toilets, including RADAR facility toilets, at the National Park Centre.

Parking

There are designated car parking spaces near the toilets, National Park Centre and entrance to the café.

Map of route



Aysgarth Falls

Useful information

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has also published 'Access for all in the Yorkshire Dales', a booklet which details access opportunities throughout the National Park for visitors with disabilities, as well as facilities such as toilets and car parking.

For a free copy contact the Access Development Officer on **01969 652363**.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is committed to providing opportunities for enjoyment and understanding throughout the area. If you have any comments on the content of this leaflet please write to us at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EL, email info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

For more detail of the area and routes described in this leaflet, refer to the following Ordnance Survey Explorer maps:

Explorer OL19 – Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley

– 1: 25 000 scale

Explorer OL2 – Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Areas

– 1: 25 000 scale

Explorer OL30 – Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central Areas

– 1: 25 000 scale

You can view maps and details of the routes in this leaflet when you visit the 'Rangers' Pages in the Looking After section of our website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

View the full Countryside Code at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



Help us safeguard our precious landscape

Did you know that over 98% of land in the National Park is privately owned? National Park Authority Area Rangers have an important role to play in maintaining the balance between the needs of residents who live and work in the Park and the desire of visitors to share in the beauty of this special place.

Help them maintain that balance by following the Ranger Code:

- Keep your dogs under close control, preferably on a lead.
- Keep to public rights of way and access areas.
- Avoid trampling meadow grass by staying in single file through meadows in summer – grass is winter food for sheep and cattle.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take only memories home, not wild flowers or plants.
- Dress and equip yourself to suit the weather, the location, the walking conditions and length of time you are going to be out; always take the clothing and equipment you might need.
- Park thoughtfully, and try to use designated car parks where available.
- Take special care when driving on narrow roads, especially during lambing time in April and May.
- Give your car a break – leave the car at home and use environmentally-friendly public transport where possible.
- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Notes:

Front cover photograph: River Ure at Bainbridge

Photographs by: Whitfield Benson, Roger Henson, Jonah Tosney,
Michael Briggs and Rachel Briggs



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

We would like to thank Open Country and the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for their help and advice in the compilation of this guide.

This publication can be supplied in other formats on request.

Please contact the Access Development Officer on 01969 652363

Other guides available:

- Access for All in Garsdale, Dentdale and Sedbergh
- Access for All in the Yorkshire Dales

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