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Bewerley Moor and the Coldstones Cut

Starting point and OS Grid reference	Free car park at Toft Gate (SE 129644)
Ordnance Survey map	OS Explorer 298 - Nidderdale
Distance	9.2 miles
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This walk near Pateley Bridge is a circuit of Bewerley Moor which passes various mining remains and visits The Coldstones Cut, a massive stone sculpture created by the artist Andrew Sabin. You are able to walk through this to viewing areas. The lower area takes you to a viewing platform which overlooks the colossal Coldstones Quarry at Greenhow Hill. At 1,400 feet above sea level, this is one of the highest quarries in Britain. There are information boards about quarrying, mining and the geology of the area.

At the higher level of the sculpture, an orientation plate around the wall tells you what you can see in the distance. The North York Moors are visible, and there are views along Nidderdale and across to Wharfedale.

Also here is the Toft Gate Lime Kiln, built around 1860. Information boards tell you about the history and the lime making process.

I worked out this route from a map and inadvertently found I was in part following around two thirds of the Bewerley Industrial Heritage Trail. This provides information via notice boards about some of the old mining sites visited.

The walk starts from a free car park (SE 129644) on the B6265 at Toft Gate, at the junction with a minor road. To get there, take the B6265 west from Pateley Bridge. The car park is on the left after 2 miles.

Coming towards Pateley Bridge from the west, the junction where the car park is positioned is the first on the right, a mile beyond Greenhow.

There is an option to shorten the walk about half way round – see green dotted route on the sketch map.

Start: Take the obvious path from the rear of the car park following the fingerpost for The Coldstones Cut. At the fork a few yards later, go left for the Toft Gate Lime Kiln. You can still see the remains of the long flue and chimney.

Follow the path around the kiln and at the lane, cross over to follow the fingerpost for The Coldstones Cut. The path climbs the moderate slope and you walk through the “street” up the middle of the sculpture.

Return to the lane by the kiln and turn right, to walk along it for just under half a mile. Turn left at the start of a copse of trees to follow the fingerpost for "Public Footpath to Pateley Bridge" (SE 133638).

As you drop down, it can be quite hard to spot the route and stiles, amongst the broken down walls. Keep to the right of a ruined barn and in the field beyond, head for the opposite right hand corner where you will find the stile. Beyond this stile, keep to the right of the little valley, along its top.

At the tarmac track, turn left.

At the farmhouse, fork right through a metal gate.

After crossing a ladder stile, head to the left of a tall upright stone ahead of you, then to the left of the cluster of buildings beyond and through the five bar gate.

Once through this gate, the route has been diverted and you go left through a small walkers' gate. There were some fierce dogs going ballistic at my presence, in the grounds of the farm here (Gill Beck Farm) (SE 144640) but thankfully, they seemed to be securely contained behind mesh fencing.

The route round this farm is obvious and you drop down to a broad track go straight ahead ignoring the right hand turn, staying on the Bewerley Industrial Heritage Trail which is marked with yellow arrows. The path opens into a large field. Keep to the left hand boundary and pass Moor View Farm. Follow the main farm track.

At the next property (Haver Garth), fork right, following the main track (SE 149645).

After passing the next farm (Wood Farm), turn left along the barn like structure then turn right at its end. In the field, the path is not obvious but go diagonally across it, heading roughly to the right of Pateley Bridge below you. As you get to the point where the field starts to drop away from you quite steeply to the left, look out for the narrow slit stile in the stone wall, towards the bottom of the copse of trees.

Through the stile, head down through the trees and at the stream, turn left through the walkers' gate. At the next gate is a superb view across Pateley Bridge and up Nidderdale. Go through the gate and head downhill, towards the bottom right hand corner of the field, where there is a wooden deck/bridge to cross the stream. At the bottom right hand corner of the field, turn left along the lane (se 155651).

At the B 6265, cross carefully and head along the tarmac track following the fingerpost for "Public Bridleway, Nidderdale Way and West Lane". You follow the tarmac for a couple of miles, passing Eagle Hall before the track reverts to rougher stone. There are good views along here.

At (SE 131653), ignore the left turn signposted for Toft Gate, unless you want to shorten the walk (see green dotted route on the sketch map).

After crossing a stone bridge over Brandstone Beck, the path branches left in front of Hollins Hill House.

Join another broad track and turn left. There is now open moorland to the right.

At a three-way fingerpost, turn left for Cock Hill Se (SE 121658).

When the track forks on a bend, keep right and at a 'T' junction of tracks, turn right.

After crossing a ford, arrive at an old mining area with a well maintained building at its centre. Follow the path to the left of the building and keep a look out on the left for the old entrance to The Cockhill Lead Mine. This leads to 8/9 miles of underground tunnels, driven in 1782. DO NOT ENTER as the mine is not safe. A notice board tells you that there are some unusual flora to be seen on the spoil heaps here.

Do **not** cross in front of the mine. Instead, at it, turn around to face the way you have come and turn right to follow the ascending path. The path soon follows the left hand top of a valley. On the hill to the right, you can see the remains of the old chimney.

Follow this track as it climbs and after passing a farm, keep straight ahead – i.e. do not turn left to follow the farm's track.

At the next farmhouse, again keep more or less straight ahead again, through a gate and into a walled track. The track passes some old mine shafts, recognisable as mounds with rings of fencing to prevent animals falling in, before emerging at the B6265 at Primgap Farm.

Turn right for a few yards then left on a broad track following the fingerpost for "Duck Street"(SE 107640). Follow the track as it meanders amongst the old spoil heaps. It is not easy to spot the continuation of the public footpath, through the spoil heaps. If you miss it, keep on the broad track. When it joins the drive to a farmhouse, turn right and right again at the road.

At Tewit Farm (SE 133638), follow the fingerpost for "Toft Gate". The path has been diverted around the farm and once past the farm, the path across the fields is clear, emerging via an awkward stile into a quarry road. Watch out for the lorries!

Cross the quarry road to the public footpath fingerpost and turn right following the fences footpath, initially parallel with the road. The path then bends gradually left around the perimeter of the quarry property. There are good views here across to the Menwith Hill domes and Wharfedale beyond.

Continue to follow the path until you reach a small path branching off to the right. Join the road by a small barn and turn left along it, to return to the car park.

Bewerley Moor and the Coldstones Cut

