

HARDRAW FORCE

Welcome to Hardraw Force, England's highest single drop waterfall, set within 15 acres of wooded grounds in Upper Wensleydale.

We have a choice of two walks: the lower which takes about fifteen minutes to reach the base of the waterfall and is level (marked yellow on the plan) and the upper a more strenuous horseshoe shaped walk involving stone steps, which takes around twenty five minutes (marked green on the plan). Both start and end at the visitor centre.

LOWER WALK: Walk along the avenue of lime trees and pass through the old iron gate into the second field, here you can take a left across the first of three oak footbridges, or continue on the right hand side of Hardraw Beck. In the field is a large circular structure which is the base of a bandstand, this was the third structure on or near this site and was home to the annual Hardraw Scar Brass Band Concert dating from 1880. (Britain's second oldest outdoor contest where up to thirteen brass bands would play forty minutes of their own choice of music.) The one day event initially took place in June and combined choir singing on a site above the waterfall. In more recent times the contests have been held in September.

The second bridge immediately to the right of the bandstand leads to a former tea bothy and shelter for the gentry where they were treated to refreshments after a bracing waterfall walk by their host and then owner of Hardraw Estate, Lord Wharnccliffe, when staying at his nearby shooting box, Simonstone Hall.

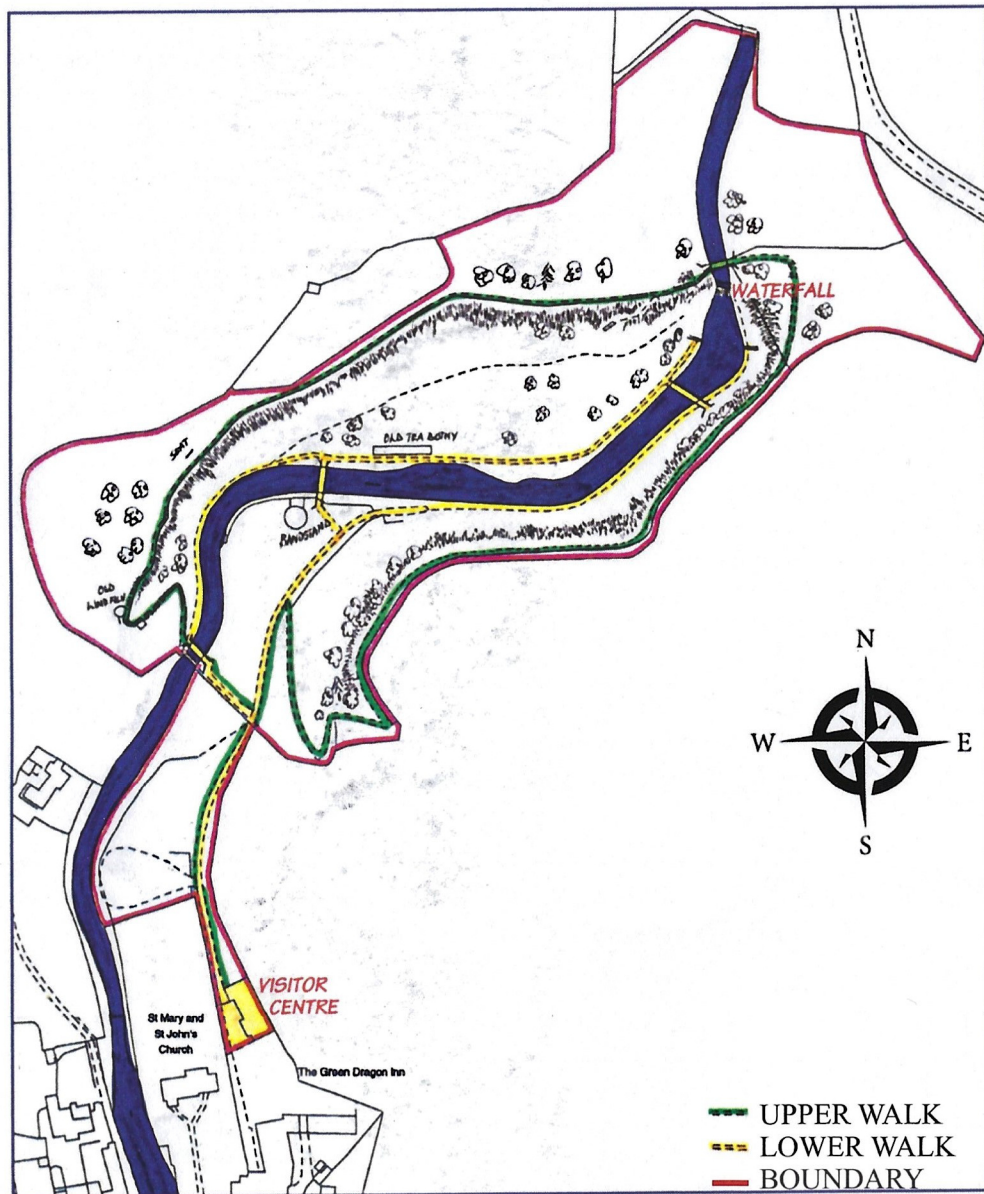
If you continue along the left hand side of the beck just after the third (Brides) bridge and beyond the small gateway, are the steps made famous in the 'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves' film starring Kevin Kostner in 1991 where Maid Marion caught her first glimpse of Robin bathing in the buff.

Finally you see Hardraw Force falling one hundred feet through the Yoredale Series of rocks to the pool below.

UPPER WALK: This is only suitable for the physically fit and as the pathway is a combination of Victorian stone flags, steps and earth, great care is needed at rainy times when the surfaces may become slippery, please ask if it is accessible during poor weather. In the second field take the small path to your right (indicated by a marker post) up the hill into the wood and along the horizon where between two beech trees a view of the waterfall is to be seen. Follow the path along the post and wire fence until you reach two stone seats beside a beech tree and keep to your left. You will then see the fourth bridge and the lip of the waterfall as it falls to the pool below. Continue up the pathway to the left and climb the stone steps to reach the flagstone path that will take you to the former lime kiln and the descent down 50 steps to the beck side and first bridge again. Then retrace your steps to the Visitor Centre and exit.

SAFETY ADVICE

You are entering a Victorian Pleasure Ground, which we are continually working to improve and restore, it may be that at times a pathway or steps are closed for repair so common sense and great care is needed at all times. You are strongly requested not to walk behind the waterfall or beyond the two maintenance gates beside the waterfall at any time and to keep to the two walks described above. If in doubt please ask a member of staff to direct you, we are always happy to oblige.



www.hardrawforce.com

01969 667572

Disclaimer: We do not accept any form of responsibility for personal accident, injury or loss of any kind resulting from your visit to Hardraw Force, woodland and grounds and entrance is offered on that basis only.

Persons visiting Hardraw Force Waterfall and Woodland do so at their own risk and will indemnify D Mark Thompson Limited, Hardraw Scour Waterfall Company and their employees against any claim of whatever nature arising in connection with their visit.