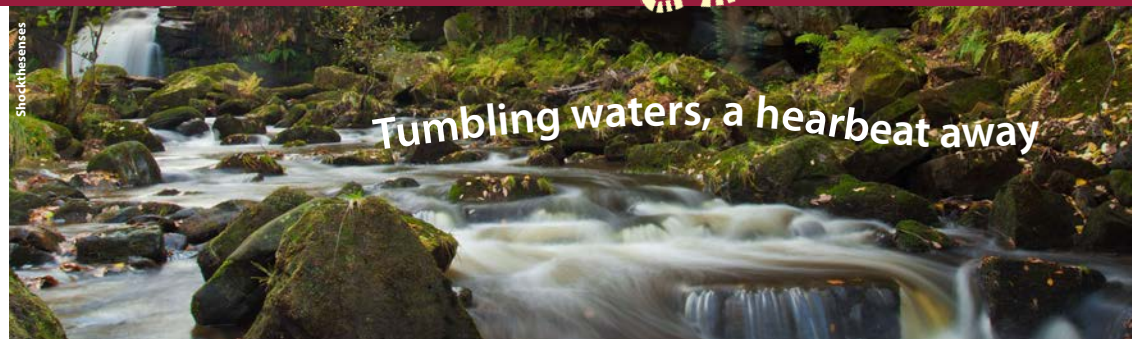
Mallyan Spout and Beck Hole



Long before Heartbeat and TV fame, the tumbling waterfall of Mallyan Spout helped put Goathland on the map as a tourist village in the nineteenth century. See the spectacle that charmed Victorian visitors on this 3-mile circular route from the village, which descends into the wooded valley bottom and to the waters of West Beck before returning along part of the track bed of the original Whitby-to-Pickering railway line.

Mallyan Spout

The water cascading from Mallyan Spout rises from springs in the moorland above Goathland. It finds the easiest route downhill until it meets New Wath Scar. This deep ravine was cut by the flowing water of West Beck, which over thousands of years has eroded a path through the sandstone. At Mallyan Spout the sides of the ravine are 70 feet high and almost vertical. Water draining from the moors has no option but to tumble over the edge – forming a towering waterfall for us to enjoy. It's even more spectacular after rain but take care – the wet rocks can be treacherous under foot.

Goathland's first railway

Goathland dates back to at least the 12th century, but until 1836 it was a mere farming village. Then George Stephenson's railway arrived, bringing visitors en masse. The final part of the walk follows a straight path that marks the line of the original railway – it may seem like a gentle uphill stroll but the 1-in-10 gradient was too steep for horse-drawn carriages. The solution was to attach the coaches (via a rope around a pulley at the top of the hill) to a wagon containing water tanks. The tanks were filled and the weight of the wagon hauled the carriages up the incline.

It made for a slow and dangerous ascent, and was eventually abandoned in favour of a more level route, but you can still find evidence of the original railway – from the line of the track to former railway workers' cottages like Incline Cottage.

Did you know?
Until the 1950s, Goathland's village green formed part of a 9-hole golf course – with several of the drives crossing the quiet village roads.

Great for:	woodland wanders, family walks, nature nuts
Length:	3 miles (4.8km)
Time:	1 hour 30 minutes
Start/Finish:	Goathland car park
Grid Reference:	NZ 833 013
Map:	OS Explorer OL27
Refreshments:	Goathland and Beck Hole
Toilets:	Start/Finish of walk

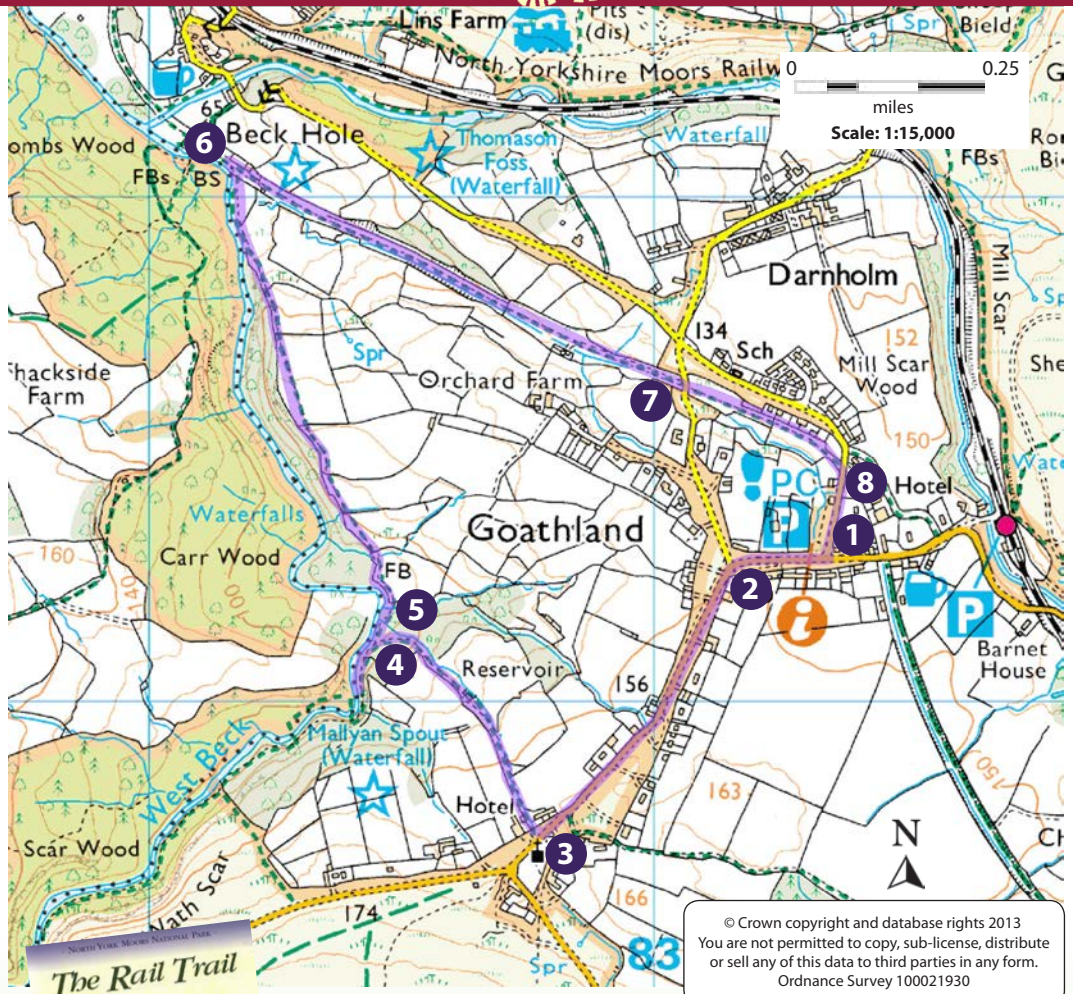
There are several cafés, pubs and tea rooms in Goathland. Follow the short detour at Incline Cottage and you can visit Beck Hole's Birch Hall Inn, probably the smallest pub in the North York Moors.

National Park Information Point in Goathland Post Office.

. . . tumbling waters, a heartbeat away . . .

Route instructions

1. Turn right along Goathland's main road, past the village shops, towards Egton Bridge. Use the pavement where available.
2. At the Beck Hole junction follow the road around to the left (signposted 'Church, Mallyan Spout').
3. Turn right (through a gate) down the side of the Mallyan Spout Hotel, signposted 'Footpath Mallyan Spout', and descend into the woods.
4. At the junction at the bottom, the path to the left leads upstream to Mallyan Spout. The waterfall can be seen by following the stream's edge for a short way – it's a rocky scramble and should only be attempted by the sure-footed.
5. Return to the junction and follow the boardwalk (signposted to 'Beck Hole') through the woodland. Keep to the path as it crosses the fields and climbs high above the valley, before descending again.
6. At Incline Cottage, turn right up the broad incline towards Goathland. (For the short detour to Beck Hole turn left instead and follow the signs.)
7. Cross the road and continue up the path.
8. At the road, turn right and return to the car park.



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Ordnance Survey 100021930

There are steps on the descent past the Mallyan Spout Hotel into the wooded valley, and steps and gates on the ascent. All paths may be slippery and muddy after rain. The rocky path alongside West Beck to Mallyan Spout can be challenging, especially after heavy rain – take great care.

The waters of West Beck can be fast-flowing after rain. Please keep your dog under control, and always on a lead near livestock.

Like this walk?

Then also try 'The Rail Trail' – a circular route involving a 3-mile journey on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from Grosmont to Goathland and a 3½-mile walk back down the line of the original railway. Buy the Rail Trail booklet from our Visitor Centres or online shop.

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP