

the Crackpots Mosaic Trail

This enjoyable 12km (6½ miles) trail around part of Dallowgill is illuminated with 22 mosaics depicting local scenes and flora and fauna which might be encountered along the route. The trail was created as part of a community project to celebrate the designation of Nidderdale as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The mosaics were made during 1997 by 'The Crackpots' from Kirkby Malzeard who met regularly under the expert supervision of Margaret Murphy from Rural Arts North Yorkshire.



A Roman soldier's body, found on Grewelthorpe Moor, is buried in Kirkby Churchyard.

The Route

The most convenient place to start is the parking area on the moor above Tom Corner that has been provided by the Dallowgill Estate (MOSAIC 22: Roman soldier). Walk back to Tom Corner

(MOSAIC 1: sheep) and continue down the road taking the moorland track just before the wall on the left (MOSAIC 2: red grouse). Follow the track down to the 'sheep wash' pen, cross the ford (MOSAIC 3: dragonfly) and head uphill to a gate in the wall (MOSAIC 4: adder). Proceed along this walled lane to the hamlet of Carlesmoor. Carry on past the Potato House (MOSAIC 5) continuing along the lane noticing an aqueduct down to your right (and on the left, MOSAIC 6: sighting tower) until you reach a tarmac road (MOSAIC 7: wild rose) and turn left.

A few metres up the hill, take the narrow Drift Lane (MOSAIC 8: greater spotted

woodpecker). Continue along this lane, cross a footbridge and carry on uphill bearing left through the gate (MOSAIC 9: friesian cow). Walk down the lane until you reach another going off to your right (MOSAIC 10: flag iris & tadpoles). Take this lane and continue, crossing the stream by the footbridge (MOSAIC 11: brown trout). Carry on up this track, Belford Lane, noticing an aqueduct in the valley to your right. You join the tarmac road at a corner (MOSAIC 12: leaves) where you go straight ahead to a T-junction. MOSAIC 13: curlew, is to be found inside a gate in a field to your right before the road. Turn right to the Drovers Inn (MOSAIC 14: boots & beer) (closed on Mondays).



Oak Woodland in spring



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After refreshment, turn right and take care on the narrow road as you walk to Dallow Lane, on the right after the farm buildings (MOSAIC 15: bluebells). Behind the wall to your right are the remains of an Iron Age fort. Continue on to the hamlet of Dallow, taking in good views across to the Greygarth Monument, and through the gate at the end. Following the track with the woods on your right you reach a right hand bend (MOSAIC 16: fungi), go through the gate that takes you downhill through the woods. Stay on the track that bends down to a footbridge, cross and continue



round to the right (MOSAIC 17: deer) ignoring the track to your left and later some double Forestry gates. Take the steep track uphill to your right and cross the stile near the gate into a field on your left (MOSAIC 18: rabbits). Cross the field diagonally, making for a gate in the bottom left hand corner which leads into beautiful old oak woods which are carpeted in bluebells in May (MOSAIC 19: barn owl). The track through the woods can be rather overgrown with nettles and brambles but, keeping near the wall on the right, you'll soon emerge through a small gate into the fields.

With the wall on your left you soon reach Bents House (MOSAIC 20: Bents House) where you go through a small red gate next to the buttressed barn. Head towards the next buildings, "Pete's Place", and go through a gate in the wall. Having passed "Pete's Place" on your left, go left through the gate in the new planting then right through another gate into a field. Keep the wall on your left and cross the stepping stones to the next gate, then cross the next

field diagonally to a gate in the right hand corner. With the wall now on your right, keep to the left of a small barn and you eventually meet a lane. Turn right here (MOSAIC 21: pheasant) and follow the sunken lane uphill bearing right past a derelict building - it can be a little over-



grown with gorse bushes. At the top of the hill go through a gate and you will finally emerge onto the moor - to enjoy a view which is breathtaking, especially in August when the heather is in bloom. From here you can see the gravelled parking area where you started the walk off to your right.



(found it? tick it off)



1. Sheep
local farmers have the right to graze their sheep on the moor (Kirsty Hallett).



2. Red grouse
the moor is managed for the grouse which feed on the ling heather (Patrice Lyth).



3. Dragonfly
common on heathland & moor they lay their eggs in water or mud (Margaret Crosfield).



4. Adder
this, our only poisonous snake, may be seen basking on rocks (Nora Whipp).

5. Potato House
A potato store known locally as "the tatty house" (Gwynneth Jackson).



6. Sighting Tower
to get the level for a tunnel from Roundhill reservoir for Harrogate's water supply (Naomi Lyth).



7. Wild Rose
seen in abundance in local hedgerows in May and June (Judy Schlehr).



8. Greater Spotted Woodpecker
at home in both coniferous and deciduous woodland (Sue Swales).



9. Friesian Cow
one of the most popular breeds (Audrey Mackenzie).



10. Flag Iris & Tadpoles
both like pools and marshy areas (Hilary Roome & Nora Whipp).



11. Brown Trout
Stock Beck joins the R. Laver and eventually the Skell & the Ure (Patrice Lyth).

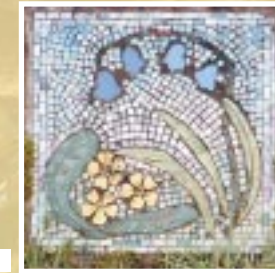
12. Leaves
a wide selection of species abound here: beech, oak, hawthorn and hazel (Margaret Crosfield).



13. Curlew
this large wading bird nests and breeds in upland areas (Nora Whipp).



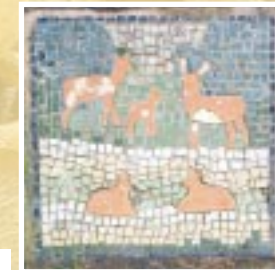
14. Boots & Beer
stop at the Drovers Inn for refreshment and good company - except Mondays when it's closed! (Gerry Mass).



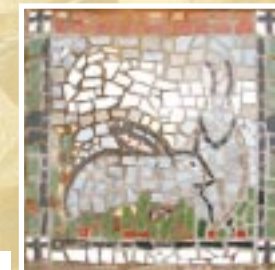
15. Bluebells
a common sight in May along hedgerows and in the woods (Margaret Crosfield).



16. Fungi
found in the woods in Autumn (Gwynneth Jackson).



17. Deer
mostly Roe deer, which are rather partial to young trees (Wahneta Thorne).



18. Rabbits
the farmers' pest - 6 of these eat as much as 1 sheep (James Stewart).

19. Barn Owl
sadly in decline - lives in deserted barns (Patrice Lyth).



20. Bents House
built in the late 18th century and named after Bent, a type of grass (Frances Lyth).



21. Pheasant
very colourful but with a distinct lack of road sense! (Margaret Crosfield).



22. Roman soldier overleaf
(Gerry Mass)

The Crackpots Project

In 1996 a group of people from the Kirkby Malzeard area got together to plan a trail around Dallowgill as part of a community project to celebrate the designation of Nidderdale as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The group christened themselves "the Crackpots" and, under the supervision of Margaret Murphy from Rural Arts North Yorkshire, they created 22 mosaic panels which were positioned along the trail route in 1997 to create Crackpots Mosaic Trail. The Trail is almost 12 kilometres (7 miles) and follows public rights of way passing through a varied landscape from moors, valleys and hamlets to green lanes, pasture and woodland. The mosaics depict features, flora and fauna which may be seen on the walk and they help to waymark the route.

Fine views abound and, from Greygarth Monument (just off the route) you can see right across the Vale of York (including the Minster) towards the Cleveland Hills. Stout footwear is advisable as some parts of the trail can be wet, muddy and rough underfoot. Waterproof clothing and the OS Explorer map 298: Nidderdale are also highly recommended.



The 'sheep wash' near MOSAIC 3: dragonfly

Take Pot-Luck!

The Trail is nearly 12km in total but it is possible to walk parts of the route. For example, parking at the recommended place (MOSAIC 22: Roman Soldier, near Tom Corner) you could choose just to walk the northern section taking in mosaics 1-7 then returning along the road or just the south western section including mosaics 18 - 22 and 1 and using the road. There are quite a few other footpaths and bridleways which connect to the Crackpots Trail so you can make up your own route (see OS Explorer 298). If parking somewhere other than the recommended place, please make sure that you park safely and considerately - farms in the area need to use the roads to move machinery and they also receive frequent visits from large lorries which often fill the narrow roads.

PLEASE REMEMBER: the roads in this area are narrow and passing places are important - don't use them for parking. This is a working, farming area - please respect it and those who live and work here. Take your litter home and keep dogs on leads at all times.



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NIDDERDALE
Area of
Outstanding Natural
Beauty