

# 5 GRIBDALE GATE

## PART OF THE CAPTAIN COOK SERIES

The surrounding moorland was laid down in the Jurassic Period, making the North York Moors National Park the original Jurassic Park! To the north, Ayton Moor has many prehistoric sites. A Neolithic chambered cairn there continued in use into the Bronze Age, and there is much evidence of Iron Age settlement.

There has been a farm at Aireyholme since Viking times, and the young James Cook lived there for nine years while his father was employed by the tenant farmer. Foundations of a building where the Cook family possibly lived have been found near the farmhouse.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Captain Cook Monument was built on Easby Moor in 1827, after much debate about a suitable memorial to the great explorer, and was paid for by a Whitby banker. Not far from the Monument is a plaque commemorating the Lockheed Hudson from Thornaby Aerodrome which crashed there in 1940 due to ice forming on its wings. There was only one survivor from the crew of four.

In the 19th century whinstone, a very hard igneous (volcanic) rock, was excavated in several sites around Great Ayton. Gribdale Terrace, downhill from this car park, was built to house whinstone miners. The Gribdale whinstone mine ran just under the surface and, at the sharp bend in the road near Gribdale Terrace, it was not unknown for the ground to collapse into the mine! A narrow-gauge tramway carried the whinstone down to Ayton Station, where it was knapped into setts for road surfacing and taken away by the North Eastern Railway.



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The interpretation panel is located near the carriageway and carpark where Gribdale ends and Lonsdale begins - the "gate" in the North York Moors escarpment. There are many walks from this scenic location and it is the starting point for the climb to the Captain James Cook Monument on Easby Moor. Gribdale Gate is a waymark point on the long distance trail The Cleveland Way. Gribdale Gate is accessed from the village via the Station Road.

## CAPTAIN COOK'S PANEL LOCATIONS

