

Ingleborough via Moughton Scars and Gaping Gill (Horton in Ribblesdale to Ribblehead)		
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## Ingleborough via Moughton Scars and Gaping Gill (Horton in Ribblesdale to Ribblehead)

**Start:** Horton in Ribblesdale Station

**Finish:** Ribblehead Station

Horton in Ribblesdale Station, map reference SD 803 726, is 328 km northwest of Charing Cross, 92 km southeast of Carlisle, 63 km northwest of Leeds and 245m above sea level. Ribblehead Station, map reference SD 765 789, is 7 km northwest of Horton Station and 315m above sea level. Both are in **North Yorkshire**.

**Length:** 20.7 km (12.8 mi).

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 670/600m. For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 7 out of 10

**Time:** 6 hours walking time.

**Transport:** Horton in Ribblesdale and Ribblehead are stations on the Leeds - Settle - Carlisle Line, with nine trains per day Mon-Sat and six on Sundays. Journey time to Horton is 90 minutes from Carlisle and 70 minutes from Leeds. Ribblehead is 6 minutes further from Leeds.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** The walk is doable as a daywalk from London with an early start and a late return.

**OS Landranger Map:** 98 (Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale)

**OS Explorer Map:** OL2 (Yorkshire Dales - Southern & Western Areas)

**Harvey British Mountain Map:** Yorkshire Dales

**Harvey Superwalker XT25 Map:** Yorkshire Dales - South West

### Walk Notes:

This relatively easy and very varied route across Yorkshire's second highest top (and arguably its only mountain), Ingleborough, rises out of the verdant Ribblesdale onto the limestone extravaganza that is the easterly end of the hill, culminating in a stretch along the Moughton Scars with their extensive limestone pavements, while overlooking the scenic Crummack Dale, where the Austwick Beck surges out of a cave. Negotiate the limestone pavement on Thieves Moss and rise up to an interim plateau where you follow grass tracks across to the Trow Gill gorge to walk up the dramatic gorge and through the narrow chasm at its top. On to Gaping Gill, Britain's longest uninterrupted waterfall, where the Fell Beck falls into a cathedral-sized cave system. A three-tiered ascent along an engineered path leads to Ingleborough's featureless plateau, former site of an Iron Age hillfort and very exposed to weathers drifting in from the nearby coast. On a rare clear day, you have views to Morecambe Bay and can identify up to 42 named hills and mountains. In mist or driving low clouds though, all you are going to identify are: storm shelter, trig point and piles of stones! You descend along a very steep engineered path for 280 height metres to another limestone shelf and wind down into the quiet valley of the Winterscales Beck, which you cross at a usually dry spot and eventually pass under the famous Ribblehead Railway Viaduct to the Station.

## Walk Options:

**A Shortcut** on the ascent follows the popular Three Peaks route up Sulber Nick and Simon Fell Breast direct onto Ingleborough's plateau, forgoing the very interesting features of Moughton Scars, Crummack Dale, Trow Gill and Gaping Gill. This cuts 4.8 km and 180m ascent.

**A Short Link Route between the Main Walk and the Shortcut**, starting from Sulber Gate, means you can walk along the Moughton Scars above Crummack Dale and yet cut 2.4 km and 120m ascent.

**A couple of Alternative Finish routes** lead to Clapham village (for a bus to Settle) or Clapham Station for trains to Giggleswick (for Settle) and Leeds. This means you can visit all the limestone and geological features on the ascent route without then ascending to the top, which is useful – and even recommended – in bad weather. Staying on the main route to Gaping Gill and then returning to the turn offs for the shortcuts is recommended if the weather allows (the wind down the gorge may prevent you from going up to the gill on a very bad day though). This cuts up to 7.8 km and 450m ascent.

**A late Shortcut**, following Low Sleights Road straight to Ribbleshead Station, cuts 1.8 km and 25m ascent.

**An Alternative near the end of the walk** diverts around the crossing of the Winterscales Beck, which – although usually dry at the crossing point – can become too dangerous to cross when in spate.

## Lunch: Picnic

**Lunch Clapham Ending** (details last updated 19/07/2024)

**The Old Sawmill Café** Riverside, Clapham, LA2 8DS (01524 237 788, <https://oldsawmillcafe.co.uk/>). Open 09.30-16.30 every day.

**The New Inn** Old Road, Clapham, LA2 8HH (01524 489 569, <https://www.newinnhotelclapham.com/>).

**Tea** (details last updated 04/06/2024)

**The Old Hill Inn** Low Sleights Road, Chapel-le-Dale, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3AR (015242 41256, <https://oldhillinningleton.co.uk/>). The Old Hill Inn is located 4.3 km from the end of the walk.

**Philpin Barn Snack Bar** Philpin Farm, Chapel-le-Dale, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3FH (015242 41846, <https://philpinfarm.co.uk/index.html>). Philpin Farm is located 3.9 km from the end of the walk. The Snack Bar is open summer weekends only (Sat 08.30-16.00, Sun 11.00-15.00), but vending machines offering drinks and snacks are accessible at all times.

**Station Inn - Ribbleshead** Low Sleights Road, Carnforth, North Yorkshire, LA6 3AS (015242 41274, <https://www.thestationinnribbleshead.com/>). The Station Inn is located 200m from the end of the walk.

Open all day every day. Food served daily to 21.00.

**Ribbleshead Station Visitor Centre and Tea Room** Low Sleights Road, Carnforth, North Yorkshire, LA6 3AS. The Tea Room is located on the Leeds bound platform. Open daily April-October, 10.15-15.15.

## Northern Glossary

beck: *stream, brook*; brig(g): *bridge*; -by: *habitation*; cam: *bank, slope, ridge*; carr: *marshy woodland or shrubland*; clough: *narrow valley, cleft in a hillside, ravine, glen, gorge, cliff, rocky precipice*; crag: *steep rugged mass of rock projecting upward or outward*; currick: *cairn, pile of stones, often locations used to keep watch for Scottish raiders*; dale: *valley*; -ey: *island, dry area in a marshy place*; fell: *hill, mountain slope (especially rough moorland)*; firth/frith: *long, narrow inlet of the sea or estuary*; force/foss: *waterfall, rapids*; frith: *area of peace, protection, safety, security*; garth: *small grass enclosure adjacent to a house*; gate: *way, street*; gill/ghyll: *small narrow valley or ravine*; hagg: *part of an area of woodland, especially on a sloping bank*; holm(e): *island, inland promontory, raised ground in marsh, river-meadow*; how(e): *barrow, small hill*; hush: *(Roman era) mine on steep hillside, using dammed up water to wash away topsoil and boulders, revealing the underlying lead or ore veins*; ing(s): *meadow(s), especially water meadow near a river*; keld/kell: *spring or well*; kirk: *church*; laithe/leeath: *barn, agricultural building*; lang: *long*; ling: *heather*; lonning/lonnin': *lane or track, something less than a road, more rural than a street, usually short*; mell: *sand dunes*; mire: *bog*; moss: *bog, marsh*; ness: *headland, promontory*; nick: *shallow notch, cut or indentation on an edge or a surface*; pike: *spike, sharp point, peak*; rake: *slant, incline*; rigg: *ridge*; scar/scaur: *cliff, rocky outcrop with a steep face*; seat/set(t)/side: *summer pasture or dwelling place*; seaves: *rushes*; shaw: *hurdle, gate*; sike/syke/sitch: *small stream or gully, gutter*; stang: *pole, shaft, stake, wooden bar*; stoop/stowp/stoup: *post, gatepost, distance marker (milestone), standing stone*; -sty: *ascent, ascending lane or path, narrow pathway or course*; tarn: *lake or pond (especially in an upland location)*; thorp(e)/t(h)rop: *village or small settlement*; thwait(e): *village or small settlement*; toft(s): *small farmstead with enclosed land, later applied to a village or small settlement*; wath: *ford*; whinny: *gorse, furze, thorny vegetation*; -wich/wick: *village or settlement*.

## Notes

### Settle – Carlisle Railway

The Settle – Carlisle line is a 117 km-long (73 mi) railway line in northern England. The route crosses the remote, scenic regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines, running between Settle Junction on the Leeds–Morecambe line and Carlisle, near the English-Scottish borders. It was constructed in the 1870s and has several notable tunnels and viaducts. The line was built by the then Midland Railway to be able to run trains to Scotland, as the then London & North Western blocked access to a short bit of track linking Midland's network to the existing line to the North. The works needed over 6,000 navvies, who worked in remote locations, enduring harsh weather conditions. Large camps were established to house the navvies, most of them Irish, with many becoming complete townships with post offices and schools. They were named Inkerman, Sebastapol and Jericho. The remains of one camp – Batty Green – where 2,300 navvies lived and worked, can be seen near Ribbleshead.

In the 1980s, British Rail planned to close the line. This prompted a campaign to save it, led by the Friends of the Settle–Carlisle Line (FoSCL). The campaign uncovered evidence that BR had mounted a dirty tricks campaign, by exaggerating the cost of repairs and diverting traffic away from the line in order to justify its closure plans, a process referred to as 'closure by stealth'. In 1989, the UK government announced the line would be saved from closure. Since then, passenger numbers have grown steadily from less than 93,000 in 1983 to 1.2 million in 2012. Eight formerly closed stations have been reopened and several quarries have been reconnected to the line and it remains one of the most popular railway routes in the UK for charter trains and specials. The railway's summit at 356m is at Aisgill, just north of Garsdale Station, and is the highest point reached by main-line trains in England. <https://settle-carlisle.co.uk/> <https://www.foscl.org.uk/>

Four of the railway properties are available as holiday lets:

<https://settlecarlisletrust.org.uk/stay-at-a-station/> <http://www.dentstation.co.uk/>

### Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a 2,178 km<sup>2</sup> (841 mi<sup>2</sup>) national park covering most of the Yorkshire Dales (some to the south and east of the national park are located in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Most of the park is in North Yorkshire, with a sizeable area in Cumbria and a small part in Lancashire. The park was designated in 1954 being then entirely within Yorkshire, and extended in 2016 westwards into Lancashire and Cumbria - encompassing much of the area between the old boundaries of the park and the M6. Over 95% of the land in the park is in private ownership and there are over 1,000 farms in the park, as well as some 23,500 residents (as of 2017). A 2018 report estimated that the Park attracted over four million visitors per year. In 2020, the park was named as an International Dark Sky Reserve.

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>

### Yorkshire Three Peaks (Whernside, Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent)

The mountains of Whernside (736m), Ingleborough (723m) and Pen-y-ghent (694m) are collectively known as the Three Peaks. The peaks, which form part of the Pennine range, encircle the head of the valley of the River Ribbles in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Whernside is nowadays partially in Cumbria, including its summit trig point, but the whole mountain is within the historic county of Yorkshire.

Geologically, the Three Peaks are carved from an almost flat-lying succession of sedimentary strata of Carboniferous age. The lower slopes of each of the fells are formed from massive limestones while the upper slopes are formed from alternating bands of limestone and mudstone grading up into sandstone. Differential weathering and erosion of the various bands has given Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent a distinctive, stepped appearance. The summits are capped by Grassington Grit, a variety of Millstone Grit.

Considerable areas of the flanks of each of the fells are covered by peat whilst other areas are blanketed by glacial till notably across the southern and eastern slopes of Pen-y-ghent.

Fringing Ingleborough on each side however are impressive areas of limestone pavement, while there are extensive networks of caves within the limestone strata.

### Shake Holes and Swallow Holes

Shake holes (or sinkholes or dolines) are a depression or hole in the ground caused by some form of collapse of the surface layer. Some are caused by karst processes, for example, the chemical dissolution of carbonate rocks or suffusion processes. They tend to occur in karst landscapes, which can have up to thousands of sinkholes within a small area, giving the landscape a pock-marked appearance. These sinkholes can drain all the water, so that there are only subterranean rivers in these areas.

### Limestone Pavement

A limestone pavement is a natural karst landform consisting of a flat, incised surface of exposed limestone that resembles an artificial pavement. The term is mainly used in the UK and Ireland, but similar landforms exist in other parts of the world and are known as alvars.

Conditions for limestone pavements are created when an advancing glacier scrapes away the topsoil and exposes horizontally bedded limestone, with subsequent glacial retreat leaving behind a flat, bare surface.

Limestone is slightly soluble in water and especially in acidic rain, so corrosive drainage along joints and cracks

in the limestone can produce slabs called *clints* isolated by up to several metres deep fissures called *grikes* or *grykes* (terms derived from a northern English dialect).

If the grykes are fairly straight and the clints are uniform in size, the resemblance to man-made paving stones is striking, but they are not necessarily so regular. Limestone pavements that develop beneath a mantle of topsoil usually exhibit more rounded forms.

Limestone pavement, with its deep fissures and patterned with swirling hollows and runnels sculpted by thousands of years of rainwater, forms an unlikely wildlife habitat. It may contain unusual combinations of plants, with woodland and wood-edge species well-represented in the grykes. The clints support plants of rocky habitats or are often unvegetated. In the absence of grazing, scrub may develop; in oceanic areas scrub over limestone pavement is important for epiphytes. All these habitat niches support a range of invertebrates.

### **Pennine Bridleway**

The Pennine Bridleway is a 330 km (205 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path and National Trail from Carsington Water, Derbyshire, to Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria. In its southern part, it follows the High Peak Trail along the track bed of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway. The idea for it was launched in 1986 by Mary Towneley, who rode on horseback 402 km (250 mi) from Corbridge, Northumberland to Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It took a mere 9 years for the trail to be approved.

It is not to be confused with either the Pennine Way or the Pennine Cycleway.

### **Dales High Way**

The Dales High Way is a waymarked 144 km (90 mi) Long-Distance Path from Saltaire in West Yorkshire to Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, roughly parallel to the line of the Settle and Carlisle Railway. The path was conceived as a high-level alternative to the established Dales Way.

### **A Pennine Journey**

The Pennine Journey is a 391 km (243 mi) waymarked circular Long-Distance Path from Settle up through North Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and over to Cumbria and back to Settle. It was developed by David Pitt of the Wainwright Society and is a recreation of a solitary walk Alfred Wainwright made in 1938 through the Pennines, but adapted for today's roads and rights-of-way, i.e.: taking a route that Wainwright might have chosen today. The route traverses the Yorkshire Dales and Durham moorlands to follow Hadrian's Wall for a while and heading back south along the western Pennines, up the Eden Valley and along the Howgill Fells.

<https://penninejourney.org/>

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train at **Horton in Ribblesdale Station**, a stop on the **Settle – Carlisle Railway** in the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**. The exit from the station for this route is from the Carlisle bound platform 2. **If arriving on the Leeds bound platform**, use the barrow crossing at the southerly end of the platform to get to platform 2 (allow the train to depart first). **Leave the station** on platform 2 up some steps towards the Settle end of the platform, and go through a wooden gate into a pasture. Follow a clear path uphill through the pasture and in 60m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall into a larger pasture with the large **Horton Quarry** dead ahead and **Ingleborough** to the half right. **Pen-y-ghent** dominates the views behind. *Bear right* downhill through a dip along a clear gravel path (part of the busy Three Peaks Route – in reverse) and in 150m the last of the **Yorkshire Three Peaks** comes into view on the half right (330°): **Whernside**.

In 180m cross a farm drive and in 50m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. You go through a large pasture along an undulating path, not without some mud-prone patches. En route you pass a shallow **shake hole** on the left and at the far end of the pasture go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall **into Access Land** by an info panel ('Welcome to Ingleborough National Nature Reserve'). Follow a clear stony track to the right uphill through the limestone landscape. About 25m before reaching a wall corner, the path curves up to the left, and in 40m it curves further to the left by a cairn on the left with a yellow marker post in its middle (ignore a grassy track ahead). In 80m curve to the right and in 60m take either of two gravel paths (they reunite in 30m by a cairn). You continue with a few cairns and posts guiding you through **limestone outcrops, bands, beds and boulders** and in 220m go through a gap in a drystone wall. In 90m pass a cairn in a grassy cutting and in 20m you reach a three-way signpost on the right by a small cairn.

### Here you have a choice:

**For a Shortcut**, direct to Ingleborough's plateau, *bear right* ('Yorkshire Three Peaks – Public Footpath Ingleborough 3 ½ ml') and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Sulber Nick Route**.

**For the Main Walk**, *fork left* along a grass path ('Public Footpath Austwick 3 ½ ml') to the left of a rockface. You now follow a general bearing of 200° to the far-right corner of a walled area of limestone outcrops 430m away, and out of view from here. *In view* is an **agricultural silo** on the half left, in a field this side of the **Horton Quarry** located that way. In 120m, where the rockface turns away to the right, you ignore a right fork along it and continue in the same direction. You have fine views of the limestone crag curving away to the right and in 180m Ingleborough's top plateau comes into view. In 120m go through a wooden gate in the field corner and continue along the wall on the right along a good grassy path, in effect bearing left from the previous direction through the heathery ground. Ahead to the right, there is a large area of **Limestone Pavement** visible and in 180m you pass some pavement on your left, 40m after going over Point 350m (on the OS map).

In 340m (about 100m before the end of the field), you pass an **Ingleborough National Nature Reserve** sign stuck into the limestone bands and *turn right* over a ladder stile in the drystone wall to a two-way signpost on the far side. Continue in the direction of 'Austwick 2 ¾ ml' along a clear grass path through a heathery area. In 60m you pass the first of a row of stone **grouse butts** on the left and in 150m a cairn on the left. In 20m, by another grouse butt, *turn left* with the path and in 90m *turn right* with it, now with a wide valley visible ahead. In 80m you reach the drop into the very scenic **Crummack Dale** where a sharply dropping track descends to the right into the dale.

[!] **Do not** follow that trail downhill. *Turn right* along the edge of the drop along a good grass path. In 110m you pass a cairn on top of the imminent rise and follow the path along the edge, with some pavement to the right. In 180m you pass the last of the line of grouse butts, 15m away to the right, and in 130m a drystone wall joins from the left below up out of the dale and you follow it along the drop (**Capple Bank** as per the OS map). In 160m the wall turns away to the left. The grass path is now a little difficult to follow for the amount of limestone pavement and boulders, just make sure that you keep the drop of the **Moughton Scars** close to the left. In the valley, you can see the meandering Austwick Beck, and can also spot the cave from which it emerges at **Austwick Beck Head**. In about 750m the path drops noticeably. In the bottom of the cut, a public footpath joins from the left over a ladder stile (called '**Beggar's Stile**' on the OS map). You *bear right* along a clear grass path, mainly between raised ground. In 100m *fork right* gently uphill between areas of limestone pavement (but see 4 rows below for **a more interesting alternative**).

In 140m the path levels out and you continue through a wider grassy area. In another 140m *bear left* with the path, now through some pavement. In 40m a grass path joins from the right behind and you *veer left* towards a drystone wall at a higher level. In 170m ascend on the path towards the meeting of a fence and a drystone wall. [**Dry Weather Alternative:** *at the fork continue ahead and in 120m go through a narrow point between limestone areas. In 110m you reach a 5 metre high limestone crag. Turn right to scramble up to the top of the crag and bear left (i.e. continue in the previous direction) across Thieves Moss, a large area of limestone pavement (dangerously slippery when wet). In 70m bear right across more limestone pavement for 100m and then across grass for 50m, where you turn up to the left to a meeting of a fence and a drystone wall.*]

In 100m you pass the point above where fence and wall meet and in 20m you have risen to the level of the wall and *turn right* through a wooden gate. The **Pennine Bridleway** (PBW) joins through a wooden field gate on the right with a ladder stile to the left of it.

### **Here you have a choice:**

**For a Link to the Shortcut**, *turn right* through the gate or over the stile and follow a grass track for 400m to a four-way signposted junction and *turn up to the left* ('Three Peaks Route – Public Footpath Ingleborough 2 ½ ml'). Pick up the **Sulber Nick Route** text at the end of this text, and at the asterisk **\***) there.

**For the Main Walk**, *turn left* along the drystone wall along a good grass track. After a while, Simon Fell and Ingleborough are looming on the right, and ahead to the left (175°) 31 km away you can see **Pendle Hill**, near Clitheroe, Blackburn and Burnley, overlooking the River Ribble near its mouth. In 400m the drystone wall turns away to the left and then continues some way away to the left, but parallel to the track. Another crumpled drystone wall starts on the right about 30m away. In 370m *fork right* with a PBW marker post along the broader of two grassy tracks, ignoring the other bridleway forking left. You rise gently in the direction and in 140m can spot a large cairn ahead. In 200m a clear grass track joins from the right by a marker post, with the **Dales High Way** (DHW) running along it.

In 30m ignore a left turn and in 140m at another marker post, you *veer left* (leaving the PBW) and in 60m *bear right* (ignore a left fork and the DHW) towards the cairn. In 220m *fork right* up to the cairn situated on **Long Scar** (at 393m above sea level), **a fine viewpoint** up to Ingleborough and down and ahead to the Trow Gill chasm, as well as back to Moughton Scars and Pen-y-ghent. Fork back down to the track below and follow it towards a drystone wall corner. In 240m the PBW joins from the right behind and in 50m you pass the wall corner. Follow the track through a wooden field gate 130m away and in 320m you reach a drystone wall with a wooden field gate with a PBW marker on it.

### Here you have a choice:

**For the first of two Alternative Finishes** in Clapham village or at Clapham Station, *turn left* through the gate and follow a car wide stony track downhill between walls and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Alternative Finishes in Clapham**.

**For the Main Walk** and the second route to Clapham, continue steeply downhill with the wall on your left. The tight valley on the left is the **Clapdale** and the **Clapham Beck** springs out of the **Ingleborough Cave** just a few hundred metres down the dale (but out of sight from here). In 130m you follow a sunken path along the wall to the left, and steeply so. In 80m pass a stone slab stile on the left and then reach a wooden field gate in the wall. **A Pennine Journey** (APJ) the Long-Distance Path, joins through the gate.

### Here you have a choice:

**For the second of two Alternative Finishes** in Clapham village or at Clapham Station, *turn left* through the gate and follow a car wide stony track downhill and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Alternative Finishes in Clapham**.

**For the Main Walk**, *turn right* up along a gravel and stone track through **Trow Gill**. The gorge narrows to a chasm and in 300m you go steeply up through it. In 70m you reach the top of the gash (fine views back) and continue with a drystone wall on the left and between higher ground on both sides. In 350m, just before another wall joins on the left, the path levels out for a short while. You ignore a subsequent ladder stile in the wall and in 275m pass a filled **cave entrance** on the right, with a steel bar fixed horizontally above it. This will be one of the 20 known entrances to **the Gaping Gill cave system**. In 100m go up a bank and *turn left* through one of two stone slab stiles with wooden gates on top. In 50m you pass a pot hole with a couple of trees growing out of its walls and in 250m reach a clear fork in the path. The left fork is the direct route towards Ingleborough's plateau.

[!] *Fork right* and in 150m you reach the fence around **Gaping Gill**, where the Fell Beck tumbles down the very deep pot hole in what is **Britain's longest uninterrupted waterfall** (although the majority of the water – and at times all of it – sinks underground before it gets to the lip of the fall). Follow the path along the fence to the right for 60m to an info panel and then walk down some steps to the level of the beck and to a viewing point overlooking the top of the waterfall (mind your feet on the potentially slippery path, as **any fall will be deadly!**). Cross the beck to the left-hand side (an ideal picnic spot) and *bear up to the left* to in 20m pick up a path turning right. In 70m *turn left* with the path and in 70m this meets the direct path up Ingleborough from the fork passed some time earlier. This engineered path will guide you all the way up the **tiered ascent of Ingleborough**, first onto the (grassy) subsidiary top of **Little Ingleborough at 635m height**, then onto an interim plateau at 670m height before another steep ascent onto the top plateau, which you reach by a large cairn at its easterly edge at about 710m height. *Turn left* (280°) from the edge of the plateau and in 50m (in most weathers) the trigpoint and a very large cross-shaped **storm shelter** come into view, 200m away.

\*) At the trigpoint (at 723m above sea level), you *turn right* for 50m to the shelter, with a pile of stones in-between. There is an info panel on Ingleborough as a hillfort (or not!) in the centre of the shelter, as well as a toposcope at a higher level. *Turn left* for 60m to the remnants of a 19<sup>th</sup> century tower (a large heap of stony rubble) and the westerly scarp with **views down to Ingleton** and the coast by **Morecambe Bay**. In all, the **views from the plateau** (on a clear day) encompass **up to 42 named mountain peaks**, but in low clouds or mist that shrinks to zero.

**For the continuation of the route**, from the westerly scarp *turn right* from the previous direction to the northerly scarp and *turn right* along it with the drop on the left.

**Wherside, Ribblehead Viaduct**, the limestone plateau of **Scales Moor** and **Gragareth** dominate the view. In 300m you pass a couple of large cairns, just before the easterly scarp turns right, and in 60m start the steep descent off the hill just by the steep drop on the left, again with the DHW. In 90m the path continues on flagstones and in 20m you ignore a right fork (the **Shortcut** came up that way.) In 250m you go through a wooden kissing gate and descend for 30m to a clapper bridge which crosses an infant stream, fed by a spring just above. You *turn left* steeply downhill with the stepped path, ignoring a right fork along the drop (SWC Walk Ingleborough via Ingleton comes up that way).

You are at 620m height and will follow this well engineered path (mainly flagstones, steps, or boardwalks) through the coming steep and tussocky boggy stretch (**Humphrey Bottom**) all the way to the 340m level, onto easier ground. This is part of the popular **Three Peaks Route** (in reverse), so expect busy counter traffic! Some streams are crossed on flagstone bridges, which then invariably disappear into pot holes further to the left before reappearing as springs much lower down and feeding the Chapel Beck, encountered later. You leave this walled area through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and *veer right* with the path, in 120m passing in 100m a cave in a large shake hole on the right (**Braithwaite's Wife Hole**), then a large limestone pavement area on the left (with some scattered trees growing out of it) and in 60m a small tarn just right of the path.

In 350m *turn right* with the path along the bottom of the **Southerscales Scar**. The valley on the left is that of the Chapel Beck with **Chapel-le-Dale** hamlet just below. In 400m ignore a left forking track down to a wooden field gate and stay on the higher ground. In 120m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate in a drystone wall by an info panel and continue along a broad grassy track. In 140m, at a four-way signpost by a metal field gate, a public bridleway joins from the right from 'Great Douk' and you continue ahead with it ('Sleights Road 3/8 ml'). Go through the gate to **leave the Access Land** and in 380m go through a wooden field gate briefly back into Access Land and follow a clear gravel track through a grassy area. In 150m you pass a **limekiln** on the right, with a disused small **quarry** just behind it, and in 40m curve to the left to in 70m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate onto **Low Sleights Road**, the **B6255**.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For a late Shortcut**, *turn right* along the road all the way to the **Station Inn - Ribblehead** and **Ribblehead Railway Station**.

**For the Main Walk**, *turn left* along the road and in 150m you pass **The Old Hill Inn** on the left. In another 130m *turn right* along Philpin Lane, signed 'Broadrake Bunkbarn' and 'Philpin Farm Campsite 300 metres'. You are still reverse-walking a part of the Three Peaks Route. Go over a cattle grid to the left of a wooden field gate and in 140m pass a house on the right. In 40m go over another cattle grid to the left of a wooden field gate and in 75m go through **Philpin Farm**, where in 50m you find the **Philpin Barn Snack Bar** in a barn on the left. The **Winterscales Beck** runs below to the left, but is dry-on-the-surface here at most times. [This is being called **Chapel Beck** further downstream.] In 270m you curve to the left with the road and in 20m reach a ford (only in very wet periods) or crossing of the (usually dry) streambed just before another cattle grid. A bridleway signpost points to the right along the streambed. **If the streambed to the right is flooded**, it is likely that the upcoming crossing of the Winterscales Beck 300m away is going to be too dangerous, as the rushing beck could flush you down a deep drop into a very large pot hole.

**Here you have a choice:**



**In case of the stream being flooded**, continue in the same direction along Philpin Lane over the cattle grid and in 350m and in another 300m go over more cattle grids. In 170m *turn right* along a gravel car wide track just before another cattle grid with a wooden field gate to the right. This is not a right of way, but is signed here for the 'Broadrake Bunkbarn'. In 160m, where the track turns to the left, you *turn right* with a public bridleway along the fence on the left. In 60m continue in the same direction where the fence turns left and in 60m *turn left* with a bridleway signpost along a grassy track. In 60m you go through a wooden field gate in a drystone wall and in 200m reach a ford across the Winterscales Beck. On the far side follow a grass track to the right which in 250m meets a road where you *turn left*. Pick up the directions below at the double asterisk \*\*). [Should the ford here be impassible, *turn left* along the beck, in 270m jump over a stream and in 80m meet the same road on the far side of a road bridge mentioned below.]

**If the streambed is dry**, *turn right* along it. In 50m ignore a metal field gate up on the left, unless the following stretch is flooded and impassable. In 125m *turn up to the left* and through a wooden gate into a pasture and continue to its far-right corner. In 120m leave the pasture through the right of two wooden field gates and continue for 20m to a wooden gate to the left of a sheep barrier stretching across a (usually) dry river bed. This is the **Winterscales Beck** and a **detour to the right** across grassy and bouldery rough ground enables views of a large pot hole into which the beck disgorges water from a resurgence a few metres below the (usually) dry surface. Continue ahead through the gate to the left of the sheep barrier and in 20m *bear right* to cross the dry river bed and continue along a clear grass path to in 70m pass to the left of a clump of trees growing out of a **shake hole** below. [Here it pays to go left for 20m, as the river stretch below features both a **sink and a resurgence**]. In 50m you pass a drystone wall corner on the right and rise to a brow in 180m. In 65m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and follow a path for 100m through a grassy area to a tarmac lane. *Turn left* across a cattle grid to the right of a wooden field gate. In 30m a grass path joins from the left, this is the flood diversion.

**\*\*)** In 350m you cross the **Winterscales Beck** (often dry here) on a road bridge and in 70m *fork right* along a tarmac drive, in 20m passing a three-way signpost on the left ('Ribblehead 1 ¼ ml'). In 600m you reach a bridge on the right across the beck at a three-way tarmac lane junction. *Turn right* over the bridge across the beck (usually not dry here), a signposted bridleway ('Ribblehead 4/5 ml'). You immediately get a fine view of the **Ribblehead Viaduct**, initially framed by a farm shed and a farm cottage. In 30m go over a cattle grid or through a wooden gate to the left of it and follow a concrete track through the farmyard. You bear to the right, passing the cottage and continue along gravel, now with full view of the viaduct. In 200m go through a metal field gate **back into Access Land**, and curve to the right with the track. In 250m a track joins from the left. In 100m you go through one of the 24 arches of the viaduct and on the far side pass a memorial for the navvies that built it and the Blea Moor Tunnel and also various info panels.

Continue in the previous direction, ignoring a tempting right turn, and in 110m *curve to the right* with the main track by a two-way signpost, where a gravel public footpath joins from the left (the outbound route). On one of the first low boulders on the left, there is an info panel for the **Ribblehead Locomotive Depot and Brickworks**. In 90m a grass track joins from the left behind, a former **tramway** during the building works, and in 170m you ignore a left fork towards a car park on the valley road. In 240m you reach **Low Sleights Road** and *turn up to the right* along it. In 30m go through a wooden gate to the right of a cattle grid and in 50m reach the **Station Inn – Ribblehead**. *Turn left* across the road and up along a gravel drive and in 200m reach **Ribblehead Station** with its single platform and waiting room, as well as the **Ribblehead Station Visitor Centre and Tea Room**. Leeds bound trains depart from the near platform 1, Carlisle bound trains from the far platform 2, reached via a barrow crossing at the far end of platform 1.

## Sulber Nick Route

In 20m you pass a low plastic marker post of the Ingleborough NNR ('Sulber Nick Walk') and in 30m go up a small rise, with a cairn visible at the top of it. In 50m continue on the flat towards a wooden gate in a drystone wall in a dip between a grassy bank on the left and a crag face on the right. In 90m the path runs on flagstones and in 40m you go through the gate. In 20m go up a stony path and in 50m the terrain levels out. You continue along the **Sulber Nick** between higher ground on both sides, with the top of **Ingleborough's** plateau visible to the left ahead and its subsidiary top **Simon Fell** dead ahead. In 60m go up a small rise to a cairn and you now have open views ahead and to the right. **Park Fell** is visible to the right of Simon Fell and you have somewhat boggy ground to the right, with a drystone wall parallel to the path some way away. Tiered bands of **limestone scars** (on the left) and **grassy plateaus** (on the right) are visible ahead.

In 800m you get views on the left as well, where a fence line runs on the far end of the grassy tussocky **Sulber** area. Beyond the fence lie the Thieves Moss and the Moughton Scars, i.e. the route of the Main Walk. In 170m you pass a high grass bank on the left, just after a faint grass path has joined from the left (a public footpath from Thieves Moss). In 60m you reach a signposted four-way junction, where the Link Route from the Main Walk joins from the left along a broad grassy track ('**Pennine Bridleway** – Clapham 3 ½ ml'). Continue up ahead with the 'Three Peaks Route – Public Footpath Ingleborough 2 ½ ml'.

\*) You pass the first of several limestone crags on the left and in 50m the path levels out and leads through limestone pavement for a short period. In 300m you walk through limestone outcrops at head height and in 180m you go through a wooden gate at a drystone wall three-way junction and continue with a wall on your right. The path is now mud-prone for a while, as you have higher ground on the left and the wall on the right. In 90m the limestone pavement on the left discontinues and you continue through grassy terrain. In 50m the **Sulber Pot** can be seen to the right about 30m away. You have fine views behind from here, to an erratic boulder sitting on the pavement about 150 away. In 230m the path starts to ascend noticeably, just before curving to the right. There is a shallow valley on the right of the path and the stream running down it disappears into the **Nick Pot** a little further down, but this is difficult to spot when walking past it.

In 100m you pass a footpath marker post (with a QR code linking to a donation page for the footpath maintenance effort) where a gravel track joins from the left behind. The **Dales High Way** (DHW) joins along it. In 110m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate with a DHW marker on a gate post. In 300m you ford the stream and follow a gravel path towards a ruined shooting hut ahead (on the OS map). In 130m re-cross the stream (on the path), just before it veers off to the right, and in 70m pass the hut and follow the path uphill with another stream now on the left, briefly along a stepped and flagged section. In 130m the gradient eases and you are close to the easterly nose of **Simon Fell**. In 140m follow a boardwalk to cross a stream a couple of times. In 40m continue along another section of flagged stepped path and in 100m continue up along a well-engineered and drained gravel path. As you climb higher, the **Moughton Scars** come into view behind (130°), with the very green **Crummack Dale** to their right, and on 170° you can see a large cairn on a green hump (**Long Scar**). The Main Walk passes it.

You cross a couple of streams and from the second one can see a drystone wall ahead. In 80m go over a stone slab stile with a wooden gate on top in the wall and follow the path uphill through **Simon Fell Breast**. This slope drains into the **Fell Beck** which sinks and falls into **Gaping Gill** (passed on the Main Walk). This can be identified from the path as a funnel-shaped depression with rock walls (i.e. a crater) in the grassy valley into which the beck runs. The best views to it you get when level with a cairn (or storm shelter) just to

the right of the path in 380m. In 300m cross a stream (on the OS map) and in 650m (50m before a steep washed-out ascent), you pass an info panel on a boulder on the left ('**Ingleborough – swamps and glaciers**'). The washed-out ascent is followed by a grassy path with some rock steps. At the top of this, you can see a large boulder field ahead, covering the slope of the top plateau of Ingleborough (the '**Swine Tail**' as per the OS map). Continue along a gravel path, in 20m along a flagged section, and in 25m you pass a tarn (or maybe a water-filled shake hole) on the right (on the OS map).

You are just a little bit higher than the cairn on **Little Ingleborough** away to the left, so you still have about 80 metres to conquer to the top. In 50m continue along a flagged section to pass some peat hags on the right and in 100m you reach the northerly scarp of Ingleborough and meet a stepped flagged path coming up from the right. This will be the descent route after climbing up to the plateau. **Gragareth** and **Whernside** are the hills on the far side of the valley, with the **Twistleton Scars** and a large limestone plateau sitting this side of them. The **Ribblehead Viaduct** sits prominently away to the right.

*Turn left* up through the steep boulder field, the top of which signals the edge of **Ingleborough's top plateau**. There are several large cairns in the vicinity. The Long-Distance Path **A Pennine Journey** (APJ), joins from the left. Follow a bearing of 250° (i.e. *bear left*) for 290m to the trig point (not visible for another 70m) and pick up the directions in the main text at the asterisk \*).

## Alternative Finishes in Clapham

### I Via Long Lane

Follow the car wide track (**Long Lane**) downhill with the deep **Clapdale** on the right below. Ignore a couple of right turning footpaths that link across the dale to the Clapdale Finish Route, and in 2.3km *turn right* at a signposted three-way junction of bridleways (the Pennine Bridleway and A Pennine Journey join from the left). The route enters a wood and in 500m from the right turn, you *turn left* with the track by **St. James' Church, Clapham**. *Turn right* with the track, and in 30m by the churchyard entrance, with a bridge over the **Clapham Beck** ahead, *turn left* down a side street. [**The Old Sawmill Café** though lies across the bridge and up to the right.] In 300m you meet the main road through **Clapham**, the **B6480** at a bend, by a **bus stop for services to Settle** and by **The New Inn**.

[!] Continue ahead along a side street (The Green), where the main road turns left. This is a public footpath and in 300m you *turn right* with it across a footbridge over the river. *Turn left* along a pavement and in 5m *fork left* down along a tarmac path and through a subway under the busy **A65** road (the subway can be flooded in wet weather). On the far side *turn left* along a road pavement and follow it for 1.5 km to **Clapham Station**. Leeds bound trains depart from the near platform.

### II Via Clapdale (ticketed: £2.50 as of 04/24)

You have **left the Access Land** and follow the track downhill through the deeply cut **Clapdale**. In about 500m you can see some springs emerging from the hillside on the left (**Beck Head** as per the OS map), forming a small stream which in another 30m joins the stream emerging out of the **Ingleborough Showcave** on the right (with its **café and kiosk**), to form the **Clapham Beck**. The water out of the cave is fed from Gaping Gill, i.e. from the Fell Beck. Pass a two-way signpost ('Trow Gill 750 metres, Gaping Gill 2,150 metres, Ingleborough 4,450 metres' backwards, 'Clapham 1,995 metres' onwards) and follow the beck downhill. More spring-fed streamlets are joining all the time.

You pass an info panel by a **Hydraulic Ram Pump** and in 270m from the cave ignore a right forking bridleway path through a wooden field gate and uphill (this is a non-ticketed alternative though). In 80m ignore a footbridge over the river on the left and in 30m go through a mkg left of a wooden field gate to enter **Clapdale Wood**. A stream comes down from the right immediately and you follow the broad gravel track downhill. You are mostly high above the beck, pass some info panels, get some interesting views, pass **rapids and waterfalls** and benches and eventually continue to the right of **The Lake**. At the far end of the lake, ignore a hard left turn along the dam and *bear right* instead. In 30m *turn left* with the path and in 90m, close to the audible pond outflow, *turn hard right* with it. In another 40m you pass the ticketing kiosk to pay your dues. If this is closed, you can pay 20m away in **The Old Sawmill Café**, which also serves as a visitor centre.

Past the café, you emerge on a road at a bend and follow it (**Riverside**) downstream, with the Clapham Beck on your left. In 70m ignore a road bridge on the left leading to a church and follow the beck side road all the way down to a meeting with the main road through **Clapham**, the **B6480**. There is a fine **village store** away to the right. *Turn left* along the road across the river and *turn right* with the road pass the **bus stop for services to Settle** by **The New Inn**. [!] Continue ahead along a side street (The Green), where the main road turns left. This is a public footpath and in 300m you *turn right* with it across a footbridge over the river. *Turn left* along a pavement and in 5m *fork left* down along a tarmac path and through a subway under the busy **A65** road (the subway can be flooded in wet weather). On the far side *turn left* along a road pavement and follow it for 1.5 km to **Clapham Station**. Leeds bound trains depart from the near platform.