

Ingleborough via Ingleton (Ribblehead Circular)		
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Ingleborough via Ingleton (Ribblehead Circular)

Start & Finish: Ribblehead Station

Ribblehead Station, map reference SD 765 789, is 336 km northwest of Charing Cross, 85 km southeast of Carlisle, 70 km northwest of Leeds, 315m above sea level and in **North Yorkshire**.

Length: 24.3 km (15.1 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 790m. For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 7 hours walking time.

Transport: Ribblehead is a station on the Leeds - Settle - Carlisle Line, with nine trains per day Mon-Sat and five on Sundays. Journey time to Ribblehead is 84 minutes from Carlisle, 16 from Settle and 77 from Leeds.

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

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:

Demanding route up to and across Yorkshire's second-highest top (and arguably its only mountain), largely avoiding the crowds that ply some of the very popular paths up, including the notorious Three Peaks Route. The route starts through the disused Ribblehead Limestone Quarry, now a National Nature Reserve, and ascends the lower northerly slopes of the Ingleborough massif on good clear paths up to the northerly subsidiary top of Park Fell. It then skirts along its westerly edge with fine views across the valley to Whernside and back to the Ribblehead Viaduct. Another, gentler ascent follows to the edge of the top of Simon Fell and you follow the steep westerly scarp to the engineered path that carries the busy Three Peaks Route up across from Whernside. Follow the stepped path for the final steep ascent 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 steep engineered path and some farm tracks-with-views all of 600 height metres to the tourist honeypot that is Ingleton with its many lunch options, from where a short steep ascent along a quiet lane gets you back onto an interim plateau with fine views to the surrounding hills (Gragareth, Ingleborough) as well as some limestone scars. From here, climb up to the extensive Scales Moor limestone plateau with its outcrops, pavement, erratics, shake holes, sink holes and pot holes. The return to Ribblehead Station follows good tracks through the valley between Whernside and Ingleborough and under the famous Railway Viaduct. A ridge walk, shortcuts, an alternative ending and a (ticketed) Waterfalls Trail complement the options.

Walk Options:

An Alternative Route from the plateau of Park Fell leads over the tops of Park Fell and Simon Fell en route to Ingleborough's top, avoiding any exposure, rather than along the continuous scarp. A slightly boggy area in the saddle between Park and Simon Fell is unavoidable though on this variant.

A Shortcut cuts the final descent into Ingleton for lunch (cut 1.5 km and 80m ascent; map-led).

Buses from Ingleton Community Centre link to the following railway stations: Benthams, Lancaster, Giggleswick, Settle. None of those buses run on Sundays.

An Alternative Finish from Ingleton to Benthams Station (Leeds - Lancaster Line) is shown on the route map, this is largely flat and cuts 6.8 km (4.2 mi) and 269m ascent.

The ticketed Ingleton Waterfalls Trail (£10 as of 04/24) is a splendid alternative ascent out of Ingleton, leading through a wooded gorge and along the River Twiss' spouts, cascades and waterfalls.

Lunch - selected (details last updated 26/07/2024)

[all passed after approximately 12 km/7.4 mi and most of the ascent/descent]

The Wheatsheaf Inn 22 High Street, Ingleton, LA6 3AD (01524 241 275, <https://www.thewheatsheaf-ingleton.co.uk/>). Open 12.00-23.00 daily. Food served 12.00-14.30 & 17.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, all day Sat-Sun.

Peaks & Troughs Bar & Kitchen 6 High Street, Ingleton, LA6 3AA (01524 969 519, <https://www.peakstroughs.co.uk/>). Open Tue-Thu 17.00-22.00, Fri-Sat 12.30-22.00 and Sun 12.00-15.00 (if dry). Food served from 13-00 Fri-Sun.

The Village Kitchen 8-10 The Square, Ingleton, LA6 3AA (01524 241 869). Open all day Wed-Mon.

Ingleton Chippy, Ingleton Pizza

G&T Café and Kitchen 39 Main Street, Ingleton, LA6 3EH (07985 111 799). Open 10.00-15.30 Mon, Thu-Fri and 10.00-16.00 Sat-Sun.

The Three Horse Shoes 39 Main Street, Ingleton, LA6 3EH (01524 242 370).

Tea (details last updated 04/06/2024)

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.

Tea Benthams Ending (details last updated 04/06/2024)

Hoggs 'n' Heifers, The Black Bull, The Coach House.

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, Sebastopol 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 km² (841 mi²) 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/>

Ribbleshead Viaduct

The Ribbleshead Viaduct or Batty Moss Viaduct carries the Settle–Carlisle railway across Batty Moss in the Ribbles Valley at Ribbleshead. Built by the Midland Railway between 1869 and 1874, it is a Grade II* listed structure, as well as being the longest, third tallest and the most impressive structure on the Settle-Carlisle line.

Hundreds of railway builders ("navvies") lost their lives building the line, from a combination of accidents, fights, and smallpox outbreaks. The Settle to Carlisle line was the last main railway in Britain to be constructed primarily with manual labour.

In particular, building the Ribbleshead viaduct, with its 24 massive stone arches 32 metres above the moor, caused such loss of life (more than 100 out of a workforce of up to 2,300 at any one point) that the railway paid for an expansion of the local graveyard. Memorials along the line, especially those at St Mary's Church, Outhgill and St Leonards' Church, Chapel-le-Dale commemorate the lives of those who died building the line. The land underneath and around the viaduct is a scheduled ancient monument as the remains of the construction camp and navy settlements (Batty Wife Hole, Sebastopol, and Belgravia) are located there.

Yorkshire Three Peaks (Wharfedale, Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent)

The mountains of Wharfedale (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. Wharfedale 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.

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 *grykes* 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.

River Doe, River Twiss, River Greta

The **River Doe** is a continuation of the Chapel Beck (which itself is a continuation of the Winterscales Beck), which disappears into the ground just before God's Bridge. The Doe flows through Twistleton and on via Beezley Falls and Snow Falls to Ingleton.

The **River Twiss** is formed by the Kingsdale Beck (which drains the valley between Gragareth and Whernside) and the outflow of caves at the bottom of Gragareth at Keld Head. The Twiss flows via several waterfalls, including Thornton Force (14m drop) and Pecca Falls (30m drop over three tiers) and through the Swilla Glen to Ingleton. In Ingleton, the Doe and Twiss form the **River Greta**, which joins the Lune near Tunstall.

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/>

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.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train at **Ribblehead Station**, a stop on the **Settle – Carlisle Railway** in the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**. The exit from the station is from the Leeds bound platform 1. **If arriving on the Carlisle bound platform 2**, use the barrow crossing at the front of the platform to get across to platform 1 (having waited for the train to leave first). You pass the **Ribblehead Station Visitor Centre and Tea Room** and **leave the station through a white gate** on platform 1 to the left of the station building onto a gravel car park area and *turn left* downhill for 200m to **Low Sleights Road**, with views to the **Ribblehead Viaduct** ahead and **Wherside**, one of the **Yorkshire Three Peaks**, beyond. With **The Station Inn – Ribblehead** opposite, *turn left* along the road under the railway bridge and in 30m *turn left* along a broad gravel track, with **Park Fell, Ingleborough**'s north easterly subsidiary top, now rising on the right.

In 25m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate (with a 'Hanson – Heidelberg Cement Group' sign). In 200m you have climbed to the level of the platforms at **Ribblehead Station**. In 120m *turn right* through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate **into Access Land** by a 'Ingleborough National Nature Reserve – Ribblehead Quarry' map and info panel, ignoring the continuation of the car wide track ahead ('No Entry to the public' sign). For the next 570m you follow the **Ribblehead Quarry Walk**, shown on the map as a green line. You follow a gravel track past a marker post with a green arrow and in 60m pass **The Geologist's Seat** on the left, a bench with an audio station, made from quarry stone with the top silhouette showing the three tops of the hill: Park Fell, Simon Fell and Ingleborough itself. The layers of the bench represent the geological strata present in the hill: Silurian & Ordovician Rocks, Great Scar Limestone, the Yoredale Series (shale and sandstone, concealed by peat), Millstone Grit.

In 70m by a green-ringed marker post and with a wooden gate visible ahead beyond the rim of the quarry wall (from here you can see a **waterfall** tumbling out of the limestone quarry wall on the right), **[!]** you *turn left* with a broad gravel track. In 30m pass a marker post and in 40m by the next one *curve to the right*, in 30m pass the next one and in another 25m another one. In 25m you reach a T-junction by another marker post and *turn left* gently uphill. In 30m pass a marker post and in 20m another one and *bear right* through some bushes then *turn right* to the next marker post 20m ahead. In 15m follow a linear spoil heap on the left, shielding the still active quarry from the nature reserve. In 20m you pass another marker post and *bear right* to in 20m join a car wide gravel track. In 40m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate with a Ribblehead Quarry Walk sign. On the left you have **Pen-y-ghent**, the third of the Three Peaks.

In 30m and in another 80m ignore right forking paths (the latter being the Quarry Walk and leading to the wooden gate seen earlier from the bottom of the quarry) and continue along the track, as it curves to the left towards the corner of the walled area, which incorporates crash barriers as part of a sheep pen. In 100m *turn right* with the track to go through a metal field gate and go through the sheep pen for 60m to leave it through another metal field gate and past some limestone boulders. Follow the left-hand drystone wall in a southerly direction through **Gauber High Pasture Rocks** towards Park Fell. There is some **Limestone Pavement** visible away to the right. You curve gently to the left with the track towards a metal field gate, but just short of it, in 130m, you *turn hard right* with a track joining from the gate. Immediately curve to the left with the track and circle back to the wall, and in 240m you go through a metal field gate in the wall to its easterly side (**New Close**) and *turn right* uphill along the wall, at about 345m above sea level.

Ascend through the pasture along a clear grass path, in 115m passing a stone slab stile over the wall. After a short steep stretch, the continuation of the track higher up can be

seen to be turning left to the upper-left corner of this pasture. In 500m (at just above 400m height) go through a wooden gate in the drystone wall corner, where a path joins from along the wall up from the farmhouse visible below (**Colt Park**). You follow a clear path broadly along the wall on the left close to the 550m height level to the edge of **Park Fell's plateau**. The gradient eases notably and there is a fork in the grass path.

Here you have a choice:

For an Alternative Route over the tops of Park Fell and Simon Fell, continue along the wall and pick up the directions below under **Park Fell and Simon Fell Option**.

For the Main Walk, do not follow the wall, but *bear right* (250° initially) to cut a corner in it. In 70m you can see **Park Fell's trigpoint** away to the left beyond the wall (at 563m above sea level). In 90m you pick up the wall again at a bend (by a blue marker pointing backwards) and follow it to the left. There is an initially gentle drop on the right and **Wherside and the Ribbleshead Viaduct** dominate the view across the valley and the three tops passed or crossed on this walk are visible (in most weathers) on the left and ahead: Park Fell to the immediate left, at 563m height, Simon Fell to the half left ahead, at 650m height and Ingleborough, at 723m height. In 250m the wall bears to the left and in the far distance ahead to the right (in good weather) you can see **Morecambe Bay**. The valley to the right below shows an abundance of **Limestone Pavement**.

In 270m, at about 545m height, you go through a metal gate in a drystone wall joining up from the valley below and continue in the same direction. Go through a dip and in 400m, where the wall curves away to the left, at 530m height, you continue up ahead. At about 565m height, you pass the notable **Black Rock** on the left (as per the OS map) and in 70m a rocky outcrop and soon after the gradient eases (at 595m height). At 600m height, you contour along the north westerly edge of Simon Fell towards another drystone wall joining up from below and visible ahead. In 350m go over a stone slab stile in the wall (there is also a hole in the wall a few metres to the right, a **stone slab stile for dogs**). In 100m, the scarp curves to the left and the dramatically curved scarp continuation reveals itself ahead and you continue along the scarp without too much undulation along the lofty part-engineered path, always with higher ground to the left.

In 250m cross a stream. To the right, across the bottom of the valley of the **River Doe**, you can see a large area of exposed limestone scars and pavement, **Twistleton**: the return route will cross that area. The steep engineered ascent path of the Three Peaks Route is visible ahead, this side of a drystone wall running up the flank of the hill, and another drystone wall is running parallel up on the left on **Green Hill**. Parts of the **Lake District** come into view on the right and in 600m you pass the path carrying the Three Peaks route up from the right (SWC Walk Ingleton via Moughton Scars and Gaping Gill descends that way, and the **Dales High Way** (DHW) joins along it), just before crossing a stream on a clapper bridge. *Turn left* up a stepped engineered path. In 30m, just before a wooden kissing gate in a drystone wall corner, the Park Fell and Simon Fell Option joins from the left along a grass path along the wall.

*) Go through the gate and in 10m you pass an info panel on a boulder on the left (Ingleborough Hillfort (or not!)) and continue steeply uphill along a flagged path. In 250m, at about 685m height, a flagged path joins from the left, the DHW runs left here. You go up through a 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° for 270m to the cross-shaped storm shelter not initially visible (there is a toposcope in the centre of the shelter at a higher level). A trigpoint (at 723m above sea level) stands 50m to the left of the shelter,

with a pile of stones in-between. 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.

You continue in the previous direction for 60m to the remnants of a 19th century tower with **views down to Ingleton** and the coast and *turn left* for 30m to a cairn and *turn right* to pick up a steeply descending path through a boulder field. In 30m, at a pile of stones, you *bear left* along an engineered path heading for some more piles of stones lower down (at 673m height), where another steep engineered path commences down to the 650m level, where – on the reverse of one of the boulders on the right – there is an info panel ('Now you see a town, now you don't'). The gradient eases for a stretch, as you pass some peat hags to both sides, before another engineered path section leads through a small boulder field. Shake holes and pot holes can be spotted at a lower level. **Twistleton Scars** (limestone crags) and **Gragareth** (Lancashire's highest hill) are away to the right.

At about 600m height a gravel path continues the descent, now with a developing stream on the left (can be dry up here). You cross the stream at about 470m height and soon after have another one on the left. At about 390m height the path briefly continues on grass, by the **Red Gait Head** sink hole on the left and at 360m height another stream joins from the left (**Green Springs** as per the OS map) but in 190m it disappears into a sink hole. You have some dramatic limestone crags on the right and in 50m can see a house ahead. In 250m you pass **Crina Bottom House** and slowly converge with the drive leading to it over the next 200m to a signpost ('Bridleway Ingleborough 1 ½ ml' backwards). You follow the car wide gravel track and in 150m pass some wooden benches on the right and **leave the Access Land** through a wooden field gate in a drystone wall.

Continue downhill along the lane between drystone walls (**Fell Lane** (Track) as per the OS map). In 420m a signposted footpath joins from the left over a stone slab stile ('Slatenber 1 ml') and in 170m the track bottoms out and you *curve to the right* with the track. In 330m you *turn left* with the track. And in 150m a signposted footpath joins from the right through a wall gap on the far side of it ('FP Skirwith ¾ m').

Here you have a choice:

For a Shortcut, *turn right* through the wall gap ('Please keep to wallside') and follow the route as per the route map. Pick up the directions below at the double asterisk ******).

In 150m **Whernside** comes back into view and in 200m you can see a quarry in the valley bottom, on the right over the shoulder. In 220m you pass a standing stone and a sheepfold on the left and enter **Storrs Common**, an area of disused limestone quarries and associated spoil heaps (and **Access Land**). Follow the track veering away from the wall to the right and in 280m you have another drystone wall on the left. In 150m by a bridleway signpost ('Public Bridleway Ingleborough 2 ½ ml'), you *turn left* downhill along the **B6255** into Ingleton, without a pavement. In 80m pass a milestone on the left ('Lancaster & Richmond Road – Ingleton ¼ mile'). In 70m **Clapham Old Road** joins from the left and now there is a pavement on the left beyond a row of trees. In 280m *turn right* off the B road along the **High Street** into the village and in 100m you reach **The Wheatsheaf Inn**.

Continue along the road and in 90m pass the **Peaks & Troughs** restaurant and *turn left* with the road. In 40m pass **The Village Kitchen** on the right, where **Thacking Lane** turns off to the right (the **Ingleton Chippy** lies 50m along that road). In 50m pass **Ingleton Pizza** (takeout) then in 20m the **St. Mary's Church, Ingleton** on the right. At a subsequent fork, the **G&T Café and Kitchen** and the **Three Horse Shoes** lie 60m away to the left along **Bank Top** (followed further down by **The Craven Heifer** pub). **[!]** But you *fork right* (**Bell Horse Gate**, signposted 'Ingleton Waterfalls Trail'). In 75m ignore a

right fork downhill, signed for the Swimming Pool and continue in the same direction. In 30m cross the **River Doe** on a road bridge, with the **Ingleton Viaduct** of the long dismantled Ingleton Branchline to the left, beyond the meeting of the Rivers Doe and Twiss to form the **River Greta**. In 20m **Oddie Lane** (‘formerly Mill Lane’) turns right.

Here you have a choice:

For the Waterfalls Trail Alternative (ticketed), continue along the road and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Waterfalls Trail Route**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along **Oddie Lane**, signed ‘Falls Park 2 ½’ and still following the APJ, without pavement and initially on the level. In 100m pass the last house on the right (Twiss Bank House) and continue along the single track road with passing places. In 40m pass a ‘13%’ gradient warning sign and ignore a right fork. The lane steeply ascends through a wood for 340m where the gradient eases, the tree coverage becomes a bit lighter and you can see a quarry ahead to the right. In 60m the top of **Ingleborough** comes into view, just before you *turn left* with the lane. In 110m you get another view of Ingleborough, with the **White Scars** dominating its flank. In 120m you pass the last of the trees on the left and continue on the flat between high drystone walls, with the **Twistleton Scar End** ahead and **Gragareth** on the left and a large (active) quarry on the right.

In 250m pass the drive to **Twistleton Manor House** and in 110m ignore a signposted footpath on the right over a stile (‘Beezleys Farm ½ ml’), just before the lane starts to ascend. In 280m the lane turns right and a tarmac drive continues ahead through a wooden field gate to **Twistleton Scar End Farm**. There is no ‘Private’ sign and the gate is never locked, so go up the drive and in 550m *bear right* with it past the farm buildings (some of which are rentals). In 90m a gravel track joins from the right. The Ingleton Waterfalls Trail runs left-to-right. *Turn left* along the tarmac lane.

[**Should there be any sign that this drive is private:** continue along the lane for 720m to a two-way footpath signpost on the left and a right turn to Falls Park Holidays. *Turn left* through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate (‘Twistleton Hall ¼ ml’) and follow a path uphill through a pasture. This is part of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail (in reverse). In 200m *bear left* with the path and in 140m you have a drystone wall away to the left. In 130m go through a stepped wall gap with a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and pass some farm buildings. In 75m go through another stepped wall gap and in 10m a tarmac lane joins from the left through the farm and you continue ahead along it.]

In 25m the lane curves up to the right steeply and in 80m you *turn left* through a wooden field gate and continue along a gravel car wide track with a drystone wall on the left. In 130m, by a low bridleway sign on the right, a grassy track bears up to the right. The Ingleton Waterfalls Trail Alternative joins along the track ahead, where in a few hundred metres you can find **an ice cream van** catering to walkers (on most days at least; it is also selling hot and cold drinks). *Bear up to the right* with the bridleway.

******) You have **entered Access Land** and have the **Twistleton Scar** up on the right. Rise up to and in 280m you can spot a layby below (with the occasional ice cream van) and a wooden field gate through which the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail has joined as well as some cascades in the **River Twiss** just above the **Thornton Force** waterfall. A drystone wall with a ladder stile leading over it is 35m away, but you *bear up to the right* with the track and ignore the stile (a public footpath crosses it). In 30m *turn hard right* with the track. In 100m there is some **Limestone Pavement** up on the left and in 60m the track curves to the left. The top of Ingleborough comes into view on the right and in 40m you can see a drystone wall to the right about 150m away. In 50m you walk through a band of limestone.

You have **Gragareth** to the left and **Ingleborough** to the right. Over the shoulder on the right (on 160°) you can see **Pendle Hill**, 35 km away near Clitheroe, and also most of **Morecambe Bay** behind you. The grass path starts up again (ignore a left fork) and in 50m you curve to the left with it. In 80m you pass a lone tree on the left and in 70m you *veer left* with the path (a faint path has joined from the left behind). In 80m go through a bouldery outcrop and *bear left* to in 50m walk through another outcrop, just where another path joins from the left behind. The stony path curves to the right and stays clear to the right of a drystone wall. In 230m ignore a right forking grass path that seems to aim somewhat to the left of a cairn ahead on higher ground (on the OS map). In 80m follow a slightly sunken path through limestone outcrops for 80m and continue on grass. In 50m pass to the left of a lone boulder perched on the flat terrain, by a **shake hole** on the left.

Wherside has come into view on the left now and you are on the flat **Ewes Top** area along a broader grass path (ignore a left forking path). The drystone wall on the left is now about 150m away. In 150m you pass a pot hole on the left and curve to the left with the partly gravelly path, which skirts around a large area of limestone pavement (**Ewes Top Moss**). You can see the **Standing Stone** that is marked on the OS map: on the left by the drystone wall. In 110m pass a larger **pot hole** on the left and in another 60m one on the right. In 50m pass a blue-topped post and in 150m pass another erratic, this one standing in a shake hole 20m to the left, i.e. only its top is visible from the path, while there is **another photogenic erratic** away to the right on an area of limestone pavement, in line with the top of Ingleborough. In 150m you are level with a **field of erratics** on the left, the closest one just a few metres away. In 230m you have limestone pavement on the left (**North Green Head**) and away to the right (**Rantree Moss**).

In 140m ignore a left fork, which turns away to the left in 20m. The path descends briefly in 160m and then *bears left*, staying to the right of a raised grassy area. In 160m the path *bears to the left* and in 120m it *curves to the right*, now a narrow grass path. In 80m pass another shake hole and an erratic in it and in 120m you have more limestone pavement on the right. In 75m you are level with an erratic about 50m to the right on the pavement, with a crumbled man-made structure beyond it. In 50m the **Ribblehead Viaduct** comes into view far ahead, signalling that the ground ahead is gently descending and in 50m you reach another erratic just to the left of the path and level with the end of the pavement on the right. The obvious path veers right to continue in the general direction of a distant white building in the midst of some trees visible on a bearing of 80°. This is **The Old Hill Inn** on Low Sleights Road, passed on the other SWC Ingleborough walk.

[!] *Curve to the left* here with a faint path (shown on the OS map) for 120m to a T-junction with a clear grass path running below the imminent rise ahead (the westerly nose of Wherside). *Turn right* along the grass path, generally descending. Three plantations can be seen ahead, with the viaduct in the distance beyond. You are aiming for the right-hand edge of the furthest left plantation, 1.3 km away. This includes negotiating a few soggy stretches, where infant streams begin to form off the runoff from Wherside's slope on the left, but the path is always clear. Where it forks, take either fork as the paths re-join in 70m. In another 400m you meet a gravel car wide track, 30m before a ford of the **Ellerbeck Gill** and that plantation on its far side. You **leave the Access Land** past a two-way signpost ('Deepdale 7 ¾') and ford the stream (can be dry) while spotting a small waterfall on the left (can be dry). The DHW has joined from the right.

Cross a cattle grid (or go through the wooden field gate to its right) and proceed towards **Ellerbeck Farm**. In 180m, at the farm, *turn right* with a permissive path through a wooden gate to *turn left* through pastures. In 80m you go through a wooden gate to re-join the farm drive and *turn right* along it. In 90m cross a stream on the track (can be dry) and in 130m go over a cattle grid or through a wooden gate to the left of it. You have a

walled plantation on the left on the moss-covered scar and in 250m pass a stone barn on the left. In 40m go over a cattle grid or through the wooden gate to its left and in 250m go through a metal field gate and pass **Bruntscar Farm**. In 220m you reach a signposted three-way track junction where the Yorkshire Three Peaks Route joins from ahead down from Wherside ('Wherside 1 ¾ ml') and turns right ('Hill Inn 1 ¼ ml').

Continue ahead and in 25m ignore the left turn up to Wherside and continue in the same direction through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate with the DHW along a bridleway ('Winterscales 1 ¼ ml'). The **Ribblehead Viaduct** dominates the view straight ahead as you cross a hay meadow along a narrow gravel path towards a farmhouse. In 180m go through a wooden gate and pass **Broadrake** and its bunkhouse (with some outdoor benches) to the right across a gravel forecourt (ignore an unsigned bridleway turning right). In 40m as you approach some barns, stay to the right of them with a sign for 'Path' and one for 'Viaduct' and continue along a gravel path through another meadow. In 140m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall into the next field and follow a gravel path through it along a wall on the left. In 70m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall into a larger field and follow a clear path in much the same direction along a wide grassy path, which veers to the right after a while.

Pen-y-ghent is back in view on the right. In 240m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and – having noticed the waterfall on the left (can be dry) – *veer right* with the path towards a line of trees ahead, with a couple of farmhouses visible ahead now. In 60m you cross a stream (can be dry) and then follow the line of trees, with a crag face away on the left ('The Scar' as per the OS map). In 160m go through a metal field gate and continue towards a farm ahead, with **Netherscar** holiday cottage up on the left. At **Ivescar Farm**, go through a couple of metal field gates and pass the farmhouse to the right. You cross a stream and at a following signpost at a track junction, **[!]** *turn right* along a bridleway along a track ('Public Bridleway Winterscales Beck 1/3 ml'), passing a barn to its right. *Turn left* immediately after the barn over a stile in a barbed wire fence to the right of a double metal field gate and through a pasture.

Aim with the footpath signpost (120°) for the bottom-left field corner where three drystone walls meet and in 100m go over a stone slab stile into the next field. You follow a left-hand wall slightly uphill and at the brow, by a lone tree on the left on **Lockdiddy Hill**, continue in the same direction downhill. Go through a wooden gate and a subsequent small pasture and *turn left* through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. *Bear right* in this moorland pasture towards an electricity line, with the viaduct behind. In 130m go under the wires and in 30m go over a stile in a drystone wall and follow a wall on the left towards a tarmac lane. In 90m *turn left* along the lane, with the **Winterscales Beck** on the right. In 120m 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. The track bears to the right, passing the cottage and you continue along gravel, now with full views of the viaduct. In 200m go through a metal field gate **back into Access Land**, just before the track curves to the right, and 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.

Park Fell and Simon Fell Option

In 50m you can see a wall corner ahead, as well as a trig point on the other side of the wall and Ingleborough's top plateau beyond. In 60m *turn left* through a wooden gate and *turn right* with a **Ridge Walk** sign along the wall and in 10m *turn right* through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and walk for 140m along a clear grass path (235°) to the trig point on **Park Fell** at 563m above sea level. **Whernside** and **Gragareth** (to the left and behind Whernside) dominate the views to the right across the valley, while the onwards route to Ingleborough's top plateau can be seen (in good weather). Continue in the same direction along a clear path across the mossy top of the hill, in 20m passing a low marker post. In 70m use a **boardwalk** for 30m, by a moss-covered two-part tarn on the right and some peat hags then follow on the left. Just after those, you cross a clear broad grass track by another low marker post. The path starts a gentle descent and you lose sight of the drystone wall on the right and the trig point behind and pass a couple more low wooden poles near a fenced off area 50m away to the right.

The descent **into the saddle** between Park Fell and Simon Fell gets steeper and beyond the saddle you can see a drystone wall coming in from the right and leading up the flank of Simon Fell. The path initially is firm and clear, then the terrain becomes a bit bouncy and the last bit – as well as the crossing of the 200m or so of flat ground at the bottom of the saddle – requires close attention, as some watery or boggy bits have to be skirted and the path becomes intermittent in places. 20m before the wall, you meet a grass path at a T-junction and *turn left* uphill along it. In 50m *turn right* with the path and the wall, more steeply uphill. In 150m, at 570m height, you pass the **Black Rock** away to the right of the wall and in 600m go over the brow of this rise at 626m height. **South House Moor** stretches away to the left and down into the rather green **Ribblesdale**. The easterly nose of Simon Fell stretches away ahead, past the **Lord's Seat** to a cairn (both on the OS map).

You descend along the wall and in 260m pass another wall joining from the right. In 140m, just before another wall joins from the right, *turn right* over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate (often unlocked). Follow the wall on the left for 170m up to the top of **Simon Fell** at 650m height, with fine views, including of a tarn on the left about 150m away. A small standing stone in a very small cairn marks the spot. **Ingleborough** as well as its southerly ridge descending in two steps down to **Little Ingleborough**, dominate the view ahead. The path follows the wall through a couple of left-right bends and then descends to a wall corner. Just before the corner, follow the path curving further down to the right.

Down in the valley, the imposing **Twistleton Scars** and a very large limestone plateau above them have come into view; the return route crosses that plateau. In 100m *turn left* with the wall, now more or less on the level. On the right, both ahead and behind over the shoulder, you can see a gravel path hugging the escarpment. This is the Main Walk. In 400m you pass a green topped marker post and in 20m cross a stream fed by a spring up on the left beyond the wall and in 10m reach a flagged path up from the right by a wooden field gate at 624m height. The Three Peaks Route and the Main Walk join up from the right.

Pick up the directions above at the asterisk *).

Waterfalls Trail Route

In 50m cross the **River Twiss** and in 30m *turn right* along the approach to the car park for the **Waterfalls Trail**. Work your way through the car park and past several (seasonal) ice cream vans and other food outlets to the ticket office. You then follow a gravel path (wild garlic on the slopes in season) and in 165m go up some steps to follow an earth path with some boulders strewn about. In 80m go through a gate and follow the fenced path right above the river. The stepped path rise to overcome a protruding rockface and in 50m you follow steps back down to the water level. In 30m the gorge widens out a little and in 130m you pass a money tree on the left in a mossy stretch of the gorge. In 150m you pass a **fine viewpoint** over the river, about 10m to the right of the path and overlooking some cascades. In 50m pass a short stretch of fence on the right by a scarp rockface.

The path ascends to a level high above the river and in 50m passes a rockface on the left. In 100m a tributary stream joins on the left out of a cave and in 190m you are back at the river level. In 120m *turn right* to cross a bridge over the river and *turn left* uphill with the path to rise above the river level again. In 110m you pass a **cave** at head height on the left side of the river and in 40m go up some steps. In another 40m the path bears to the right by a viewing area for the **Pecca Falls**. In 180m *turn left* over **Pecca Bridge** to cross to the left-hand riverside, with a disused quarry up on the left. Walk up several tiers of stepped path to the top of the falls and go through a wooden gate to continue upstream.

You leave the tight gorge behind and continue through a wide and grassy valley, in 50m passing green metal cabin. Follow the path over ever changing ground (rock bed, tarmac, gravel) and in 140m continue along a broader track that joined from the left behind (out of the direction of the ex-quarry). In 100m the **Thornton Force** waterfall comes partially into view around a bend of the river, as well as the top of the path. In 50m pass a bench on the left, now with full view of the lower parts of the falls. In 70m *turn left* uphill along a stepped fenced path that winds its way up to the top of the falls. **Further cascades** are visible upstream above the falls. The path continues high above the river level as a gravel path and from the brow, on the left ahead you can see the limestone outcrops on the south easterly flank of **Gragareth** (Lancashire's highest hill).

Descend with the path to in 180m *turn right* across **Ravenray Bridge** and follow a stepped path uphill. You leave the ticketed Waterfalls Trail area and go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate to in 25m join a car wide track (a Public Road). *Turn right* along it. In 160m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate and (in good weather) pass a **Yorkshire Dales Ice Cream Van**. In 300m, with some large farm buildings visible ahead (Scar End and Twistleton Hall) and a large quarry beyond, you reach a bridleway signpost pointing uphill back on yourself to the hard left. The Main Walk and the APJ join from ahead and you *turn up to the left* with it and pick up the directions in the main text at the double asterisk **).