

Pen-y-ghent and Plover Hill (Horton in Ribblesdale Circular)		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
22 nd July 2024		
Current status	Document last updated Tuesday, 10 th September 2024	
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Pen-y-ghent and Plover Hill (Horton in Ribblesdale Circular)

Start & Finish: Horton in Ribblesdale 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 and in **North Yorkshire**.

Length: 17.2 km (10.7 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 559m. For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 5 out of 10

Time: 4 ½ hours walking time.

Transport: Horton in Ribblesdale is a station 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.

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:

An ascent and descent of the distinctively shaped and often hidden-in-the-clouds Pen-y-ghent and its neighbour Plover Hill along quieter approach and return routes than the usually busy Three Peaks Route takes.

You cross the River Ribble and the Horton Beck and follow a quiet wooded lane along the beck to the open countryside, then follow farm lanes to the initial ascent up Dub Cote Scar Pasture to pick up Long Lane, an ancient trading route. An engineered path veers off and up the southerly flank of Pen-y-ghent.

Halfway along, the Three Peaks Route joins and a final steep pull with some short and easy scrambling moments gets you onto the narrow plateau with its trig point and storm shelters.

Follow a wall along the quiet elongated ridge through a shallow drop to the partly boggy Plover Hill, before descending with fine views to some hills and valleys in the easterly Dales through Foxup Moor along another engineered path to a good bridleway that skirts the bottom of the hill through some wild and remote landscape. You cross the watershed back into Ribblesdale and pass through Horton Moor on the track to reach Britain's largest natural hole with its 18m drop: Hull Pot, where the Hull Pot Beck falls and sinks to only re-emerge a couple of kilometres away at Brants Gill Head, close to Horton. From near the pot, you return to Horton along a gravel track-with-views across Ribblesdale to the Forest of Bowland and Pendle Hill.

Shortcuts follow the well-engineered but busy Three Peaks Route.

Walk Options:

A Morning Shortcut follows the usually busy Three Peaks Route more directly up the side of Pen-y-ghent, along an engineered gravel or stone path. Cuts 2.1 km and 25m ascent.

An Afternoon Shortcut follows the usually busy Three Peaks Route more directly down Pen-y-ghent, cutting Plover Hill, Foxup Moor and the Hull Pot, this cuts 4.4 km and 70m ascent.

A Variation of the Shortcut includes Hull Pot in the shortened route, this cuts 3.7 km and 60m ascent.

On the hill plateau, an alternative route to the right of the drystone wall running between Pen-y-ghent and Plover Hill briefly provides for some protection from westerly winds. After 370m turn left through a gate to the left-hand side of the wall, as there won't be another crossing point after that (i.e. ignore the gate ahead).

Bus Line 11 (Horton in Ribblesdale to Clitheroe) starts in Horton near the railway station, with a late afternoon last bus (Mon-Sat at 15.55 (as of 06/24)). This is a good alternative to the infrequent train service if staying in Settle or Giggleswick.

Lunch: Picnic

Tea (details last updated 02/07/2024)

The Golden Lion Hotel Hawes Road (B6479), Horton in Ribblesdale, BD24 0HB, North Yorkshire (01729 860 206, <https://goldenlionhotel.co.uk/>). The Lion is located 850m from the station. Closed on Tuesdays.

The Crown Hotel Chapel Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale, BD24 0HF, North Yorkshire (01729 860 209, <https://www.crown-hotel.co.uk/>). The Crown is located 400m from the station. Currently for sale.

Horton Station Café Bar Horton in Ribblesdale Station, Horton in Ribblesdale, BD24 0HH, North Yorkshire. Open Sat-Sun in summer, 10.00-18.00.

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/leath: 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 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/>

Ribble River

The Ribble River is a 121 km (75 mi) long river that starts as the confluence of Gayle Beck and Cam Beck south of Ribbleshead, but has its furthest tributaries on the high moors north east of Ribbleshead Viaduct.

It runs through North Yorkshire and Lancashire to the Irish Sea between Lytham St. Anne's and Southport and is one of the few rivers that start in the Yorkshire Dales and flow westwards (the Dee, the Twiss, the Clough and the Rawthey being others).

Its 16 km estuary forms part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area for wildlife. An average of 340,000 waterbirds over-winter in the estuary making it the most important wetland site in Britain. The Ribble is also a key breeding ground for the endangered Atlantic salmon.

The Ribble has the third-largest tides in England, with tides that run at 4 knots (7 km/h) and a tidal range at the mouth of the river of 9 metres during spring tides.

The name *Ribble* may be a Brittonic compound-formation. The second element is the noun **pol*, with connotations including "puddle, pond, upland-stream" (Welsh *pwll*). The first is *rö-*, an intensive prefix, with nouns meaning "great" (Welsh *rhy-*, Cornish *re-*).

Ribble may once have been known as **Bremetonā-*, underlying the name *Bremetenacum*, the Roman fort at Ribchester. Involved here is the Brittonic root **breμ-*, meaning "roaring" (c.f. Welsh *brefu*), as observed at the river names Breamish in Northumberland, Braan in Scotland and Brefi in Wales.

Ribble Way

The Ribble Way is a 113 kilometres (70 mi) waymarked long-distance walk between the Lancashire coast and the Yorkshire Dales National Park, largely following the course of the River Ribble while passing through tidal marsh, open moorland and limestone gorges. The route begins in Longton and ends at the source of the Ribble on Cam Fell at Gayle Moor north east of Ribbleshead.

The Pennine Way

The Pennine Way is a waymarked 429 km (267 mi) National Trail running along the Pennine hills, sometimes described as the 'backbone of England'. It starts in Edale in the Peak District National Park and runs north through the Yorkshire Dales and the Northumberland National Park and ends at Kirk Yetholm, just inside the Scottish border, and features 287 gates, 249 timber stiles, 183 stone stiles and 204 bridges.

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/>

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 Ribble 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.

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 Leeds bound platform 1. **If arriving on the Carlisle bound platform**, use the barrow crossing at the southerly end of the platform to get to platform 1. **Leave the station** on platform 1 down some steps into the small car park and *turn right* then left to go down **Station Road** into the village. In 90m ignore Cragg Hill Road to the right and continue to the main road through Horton, the **B6479**, at a bend. Continue ahead and in 250m, just before a humped road bridge over the **River Ribble**, you *turn right* along a tarmac path and ignore the signposted **Ribble Way** turning right through a wooden gate to cross the river over a two-railed footbridge by its confluence with the **Hull Pot Beck**. **The Crown Hotel** is visible to the left. In 30m from the bridge continue with the tarmac path to the left of a toilet block and *bear to the left* of a car park and to the road and follow its right-hand pavement. **The Pennine Way** (PW) has joined along the road.

In 90m you pass the (closed) **Pen-y-ghent Café on the Pennine Way** on the right and a bus stop on the left and in 75m at a three-way signpost, the PW turns left but the Long-Distance Path **A Pennine Journey** (APJ) joins from the left. In 300m the pavement switches to the left-hand side, by **The Golden Lion Hotel**. *Turn left* with the main road by **St. Oswald's Church** on the left and past the church ignore a left turning cul-de-sac, cross the **Horton Beck** on **Horton Bridge** and *turn left* along a tarmac lane parallel to the beck. In 200m ignore a footbridge on the left, followed by a ford, and continue along this quiet wooded glen, with the beck on the left. In 400m you emerge from the trees into the open countryside, by a perpendicular drystone wall on the left. The lane veers to the right uphill while the beck veers to the left. In 250m, you reach the first buildings of **Brackenbottom Farm** on the left, where a signposted track turns left through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate ('Yorkshire Three Peaks – Pen-y-ghent Summit 1 ¾ ml').

Here you have a choice:

For the Morning Shortcut, *turn left* through the gate and in 10m ignore a track turning left towards a wooden field gate and in another 20m, in front of a metal field gate ('No Public Right of Way'), *bear left up some steps* with the footpath to and through a wooden gate and follow a stepped flagged path uphill along a drystone wall on the left. You rise up along a mixture of stepped sections and gravel and in 400m go through a gate (there is a QR code on the left for donations to the path maintenance effort). Continue through the next tiered pasture along a mixture of earth and grass paths, passing some limestone outcrops and a crag en route, and in 370m you go through another gate to **enter Access Land** and continue uphill. There is a good gravel path to follow through this walled pasture.

At a three-tiered rockface (**Brackenbottom Scar**) you can **either** hug the wall on the left in a steep direct line **or** curve to the right around it at an easier gradient. In 670m go through a wooden gate and continue along the gravel path. You go through a dip and higher up the path curves to the right on the ascent and in 680m you go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall onto a path by a three-way signpost ('Pennine Way' left and right, 'FP Brackenbottom 1 ¼ ml' backwards. Fountains Fell can be seen across the valley ahead (SWC Walk Fountains Fell and Catrigg Force). The Main Walk joins from the right. *Turn left* and pick up the directions below at the asterisk *).

For the Main Walk, continue along the lane through the farm, leaving the Three Peaks Route. In 400m *turn left* at a three-way lane junction between drystone walls. You follow this undulating lane for 500m to **Dub Cote Farm**, crossing a stream en route and maybe noticing the ancient terracing in the field just before the farm. At the far end of the farm

buildings, by a two-way signpost, public footpaths join from three directions and you *turn left* up along a car wide gravel drive with a PW signpost ('FP PENYGHENT 2'). In 40m go through a wooden field gate (often open) and in 130m ignore a metal field gate on the left to in 10m go through a wooden field gate into a steep pasture. *Turn right* uphill along a grassy track and follow it for 110m, where you *turn up to the left* with the track. In 170m you have converged with the wall on the left and follow it uphill for 100m to a ladder stile to the left of a wooden field gate in the upper-left field corner. In the next pasture, follow the wall uphill for 70m, then *bear right* with the clear grass track, further up the hill flank.

Ingleborough and **Whernside**, two of the **Yorkshire Three Peaks** are visible to the right over the shoulder. In about 500m you meet the **Long Lane (Track)**, so named on the OS map, a car wide restricted byway, and *turn left* uphill along it. You are at 400m above sea level and have **entered Access Land**. The stony track steadily ascends **Dub Cote Scar Pasture**, with views on the left to Horton village and **Horton Quarry** to the left of it, with (in good weather) **Ingleborough** looming large beyond it. In 380m go through a wooden field gate and continue with Pen-y-ghent's elongated plateau dead ahead and the **Dub Cote Scar** (escarpment) nearby to the left. In 25m you pass a large **shake hole** or pot on the left and in 30m a **sink hole**. In 110m *curve up to the right* with the track (**Fountains Fell** is now in view dead ahead: SWC Walk Fountains Fell and Catrigg Force) and in 290m *turn left* with it through a wooden field gate.

You continue with a drystone wall on the left and in 75m a signed public footpath joins from the right behind from Moor Head Lane. You go over a little brow and descend to a track junction 350m away. 50m before that track junction, just after a drystone wall corner on the right, you pass a couple of Grade II-listed **Parish boundary stones** on the left (on the OS map, inscribed 'Stainforth', 'Arncliffe'). You have the **Churn Milk Sinkhole** on the right and *turn left* at the three-way junction past some blocking boulders and along a wide gravel track ('Pennine Way FP Pen-y-ghent 1 ml'). The Fountains Fell walk turns right here. The track slowly ascends the lower parts of the hill until in 450m the gradient eases so much that the terrain becomes almost flat, still with some higher ground to the left though. Over another 250m you rise gently to the upper left corner of this walled area, now along a narrower path. Go over a stone slab stile in the drystone wall corner and continue uphill along a clear earthen path along the left-hand wall, immediately ignoring a wall gap on the left. This area of the hill is **Gavel Rigg** (rigg = ridge). In 130m ignore a wall gap on the left and in 160m by a three-way signpost on the left and at 530m above sea level, the Morning Shortcut joins through a wooden gate on the left ('FP Brackenbottom 1 ¼ ml').

*) Continue steeply uphill along a flagged path. In 160m follow a gravel path for 40m along the bottom of a rockface and then go up through it and follow natural steps further up the limestone crag (slippery when wet). You cross an interim plateau around the 580m height level for 40m then start rising again along rock slabs and flagstones, with a boulder field away to the left, while passing several large cairns. Follow the engineered path for 230m to the bottom of the final (gritstone) rockface, which you scramble up for 10 height metres. The last bit of the ascent follows the engineered path through the middle of a washed out area with a drystone wall away on the left and in 400m you reach the **trigpoint at the top of Pen-y-ghent** at 694m above sea level, by a plaque celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Park in 2004 and with **a couple of storm shelters** provided by seated curves in the drystone wall. *Turn left* over the wall using one of two stone slab stiles with wooden gates on top. There is a Pennine Way signpost to the right.

[**Hills identifiable from here**, clockwise from Ingleborough (275°, 10 km away): Whernside (310°, 13 km away), the Howgill Fells, Wild Boar Fell (340°, 27 km away), Cross Fell (350°, 63 km away), Buckden Pike (55°, 13 km away), Great Whernside (88°, 16 km away), Fountains Fell (125°, 3 km away).]

Here you have a choice:

For the Afternoon Shortcuts, follow the signpost ('Pennine Way – Yorkshire Three Peaks') along a broad gravel path (335°) across the grassy plateau, gently downhill. In 100m pick up a stepped flagged path steeply downhill. In 200m the path reaches the westerly scarp and *turns right* along it. In 600m the path turns left and forks immediately.

- **For the (longer) Shortcut** via the Hull Pot, *fork right* along a faint path and follow it meandering downhill for 750m to a stream crossing (there is a plank bridge 25m to the right of the direct line, should the water be deep) and in another 30m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. In 210m ford a stream and in 80m you reach a crosspaths by a drystone wall corner on the right with a sheep pen beyond. The Main Walk joins from the right. *Turn left* along a grass path and pick up the directions below at the double asterisk **).
- **For the (shorter) Shortcut** omitting the Hull Pot, *fork left* with the engineered path (the Three Peaks Route). In 1.0 km go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. [**Hunt Pot Diversion:** In 50m a faint left fork leads in 80m to the fascinating Hunt Pot; from there follow another faint path for 70m back to the gravel path and *turn left*; in 260m...] In 470m go through a gate in a drystone wall. In 70m you reach a signposted four-way track junction. The Main Walk joins from the right along the APJ from the **Hull Pot**, 300m away. *Turn left* with the Pennine Way and the APJ ('Horton in Ribblesdale 1 ¼ ml') and pick up the directions below at the triple asterisk ***).

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along the wall on your right with a public footpath ('Plover Hill 1 1/3 ml'). A boggy stretch in 60m has had some flagstones put down to ease its crossing and in 100m the wall veers to the left to run in a northerly direction, now notably descending. In another 100m you descend more steeply and in 100m a drystone wall joins the wall from the right (a wooden gate in the nearby wall enables a switch back from walking on the right-hand side of the wall). The ground is mainly bouncy or tussocky grass, and the next boggy area in 200m has a wooden field gate lain down it to get across (slippery when wet), **but** you can *skirt it about 40m to the left*. In 450m (an unmarked footpath joins from the left behind), you go over a stone slab stile with a wooden gate on top in a wall corner and continue with the wall. In 120m you *veer right* with the wall, but about 30m away from it, as the path stays on firmer ground away boggy areas. In 250m you are back by the wall and in another 75m *turn right* with the wall, gently ascending **Plover Hill** through some peaty but firm ground. In 300m the wall *curves to the left* and in 500m it *turns left* to in 60m meet a junction of four walls, with one coming in from the right, then two coming in from the left, 10m apart, at about 680m above sea level.

The unassuming top of Plover Hill lies to the right of the wall. *Turn right* over a ladder stile on the right between the first left turning wall and the one from the right. *Turn left* along the wall continuation, in the previous direction. In 10m, where the second wall on the left turns left, you continue in the same direction (5°) along a broad grassy track across the plateau, passing a low post on the right, which shows remnants of yellow paint at its top. In 100m pass a primitive low two-way fingerpost and start the descent along a washed out bouldery path, in 60m continuing along grass on the flat. Over the next 200m converge with a wall on the right. At the wall, a stepped path commences the descent off the northerly scarp of Plover Hill. In 20m you pass another primitive low two-way fingerpost and in 30m the path turns left away from the wall. You have a steep drop on the right and in 80m you *turn right* along a stepped flagged section. At the bottom of the steps (now at 600m height), in a further 30m you go through a part-collapsed drystone wall.

You continue downhill through **Foxup Moor**, in 60m on grass, about 70m to the left of the right-hand drystone wall. In a shallow dip you cross a short boggy area. At a fork, *fork left* along a faint path away from it, towards a three-way signpost below. [Do not worry if you

miss the fork, as the more obvious path will get you to the same track ahead, just 70m to the right of the signpost.] In 240m, at the signpost ('Public Footpath Plover Hill $\frac{3}{4}$ ml' backwards) you meet the APJ at a T-junction with a public bridleway and *turn left* along the grassy track. This area drains into the **Foxup Beck**, a tributary of the **River Skirfare**.

The watershed to Ribblesdale lies ahead. In 260m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and in another 410m through a gap in a half-collapsed drystone wall. In 240m, at **Swarth Gill Gate**, you cross the **Swarth Gill Sike** (can be dry) on a clapper bridge, having now **crossed the watershed**, as the sike feeds into the Hull Pot Beck and thence the River Ribble (in Horton by The Crown Hotel). You now walk along a good grassy track, with a drystone wall to the left. In 130m you cross a tributary of the sike (rarely dry) on a clapper bridge and continue along gravel. In 550m *bear left* with the wall and immediately cross another tributary stream on a clapper bridge. In 110m go through a wooden field gate in a drystone wall and (back on a grass path) in 650m, on **Marble Quarry Hill**, you pass a metal field gate on the left (leading into a sheep pen). In 30m the wall turns left and in 10m you cross a path (the Long Variant of the Afternoon Shortcut joins from the left).

******) Descend gently with the track ahead, and in 150m *turn to the right* with it. In 30m pass the first in a line of grouse butts and in 70m a stream can be seen to the left below. In 40m **the stream disappears** into a sinkhole. In 80m *turn right* with the path and now **Britain's largest natural hole**, the **Hull Pot** (a collapsed cavern), can be seen ahead. In 80m, just before a drystone wall, *turn left* with the path. In 50m *turn right* through a wooden field gate and *turn right* to the lip of the Hull Pot 70m away, where the **Hull Pot Beck** discharges as a waterfall into the 18m deep natural hole (in dry periods, the beck sinks well before getting to the lip of the fall, so it **can be dry on the surface** and any water will emerge from out of the pot wall). Circle around the pot and ford the beck just above the waterfall if safe to do so and return to this point to *turn left* from the previous direction along a broad grassy path. In 300m you reach a signposted four-way track junction. The Pennine Way joins from the left and continues ahead. The Three Peaks Route crosses. The Short Variant of the Afternoon Shortcut joins from the left. You continue ahead with the Pennine Way and the APJ ('Bridleway Horton-in-Ribblesdale 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ml').

*******) You go through a wooden field gate, **leaving the Access Land**, and follow **Horton Scar Lane** all the way to the B road through Horton. **In more detail:** go through a right bend and a left bend, then continue in a south south westerly direction, with fine **views across Ribblesdale towards the Forest of Bowland and Pendle Hill** and the coast near the mouth of the Ribble, i.e. near Preston and Southport. There is an intermittent stream (can be dry) on the left, disappearing into a cave or a sinkhole and reappearing as a waterfall (can be dry), and in 780m from the left bend you go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate, where there is a small plantation down to the left. In 140m the stream sinks underground again into a pot hole (out of sight from the track though).

You have full views of **Horton Quarry** on the far side of Ribblesdale and in 600m pass a ruined two-storey barn on the left, just before the track curves to the right a little. In 110m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and in 300m follow the track curving around to the right and in 100m *turn left* with the track (an unmarked footpath joins from the right). From the brow in 40m, **Horton** village comes into view. In 100m *turn left* with the track and in 50m you ignore a left turning track (an unmarked public footpath). In 30m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and in 200m reach the **B6479**. **The Golden Lion Hotel** is 300m away to the left. For **The Crown Hotel**, a **bus stop for services to Settle** as well as the **Railway Station**, *turn right* though and retrace your steps from the morning to the station. The **Horton Station Café Bar** can be found on the nearby Leeds bound platform 1. Carlisle bound trains depart from the far platform 2, reached via a barrow crossing at the Settle end of the platforms.