

Horton in Ribblesdale

The walk starts in Horton in Ribblesdale. From wherever you park, head out along the main road toward the railway station and take the access road up to the station. Cross the lines carefully at the designated crossing, and from there you will see a path heading uphill to a kissing gate on the far side.

Once clear of this gate the path through the field is clear, and well-trodden, as this is a popular route over to Ingleborough.

The path initially heads right, and crosses a farm track, and we continue Northwest toward limestone pavements and the entrance to the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve (INNR) at Sulber Nick.

As we walk through Sulber Nick, we soon see a fingerpost ahead of us. Here we take the route to the right – which is the Pennine Bridleway heading toward the B6479.

We now track North, initially along the contours, before heading downhill toward a stone wall. Beyond here the Bridle way turns sharp right, but we carry straight on – with a ladder stile clearly visible in the distance.

We cross a couple of fields before picking up a track which becomes an enclosed green lane which we follow for a short while.

The green lane comes to a sharp right turn, which we take, but before we do, notice the entrance to Alum Pot at the corner.

Staying safely above ground, and with good views of both Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent, we follow the lane down to the road (B6479) at Selside, where we turn right, walking along the road for a short while. As we arrive at the village green, we head left down a lane which takes us under the railway.

We pass a farm on our left and the track veers right as we skirt Hornsey Hill.

The path then leaves the lane. Our route is clearly signposted for Birkwith.

The footpath takes us round to a footbridge over a smallish river. This is in the upper reaches of the River Ribble - it seems surprising that it gets so much bigger in the relatively short distance down toward Settle and beyond. We cross a second much smaller footbridge, and the path now follows Coppy Beck Northeast toward a farm at High Birkwith. We arrive just in front of the farmhouse, at a very attractive two story outbuilding, and see our path continue opposite, along the line of the beck.

Beyond the farm, there are a series of limestone outcrops which provide a good place for a lunch break.

We now head uphill toward a stand of trees. The path goes through this small area of woodland and then continues over a stile, we continue uphill following way marker poles which lead us to the farm at High Birkwith.

At the farm we turn left, pass the farm on our right, go through a gate, and then start to head steeply uphill, on a road that soon degenerates to a rough track. At this point we are back on the Pennine Bridleway.

As we head uphill we see a clear path leaving on the left – don't be tempted to take this - we stay on the uphill route until we see a finger post for the path to Sell Gill.

This takes us sharply back on ourselves, at the rather wonderfully named Dismal Hill, to a stile over a wall beyond which the path forks. The upper route looks more inviting, but we take the lower path which tracks the contours along the side of Horton Moor. We are now heading consistently South, and back toward Horton.

The path we are now on is part of the Ribble Way, so the route should be clear. Initially it is easy walking, just below an attractive scar with great views over the Ribble valley toward Ingleborough. We soon arrive at a steep cut where a beck has carved a valley which we need to cross.

The route down is clear, and a bridge is provided. The route back up on the far side is less obvious so be prepared for a little bit of a scramble.

Having crested the far side of the valley, the route becomes easy again, and relatively flat. We track along the contours for a while now, passing the remains of a Lime Kiln on the left, and a path down toward the Ribble on the right. We ignore this and carry on through a couple of fields until we arrive at a dilapidated farm building in the corner of a field.

There are options to both the right and left here, but we carry straight on in a consistently Southerly direction. Over to the left (though not visible) is Bull Pot, which features in another BFG walk.

We cross a couple of fields with rough pasture and grazing sheep before we arrive at a very attractive wildflower meadow, where (in single file to minimize damage) we cross to a second meadow on the way down to a gate onto rougher pasture.

Below, we see a farm track and we head down to that to turn left, through the farmyard and onto a minor road at a hamlet referred to as New Houses.

The road here is same one we saw at High Birkwith (which is to the right). We take left and follow the lane gently downhill to Horton. We arrive back in Horton at The Crown pub where we collect the cars.

- **Total distance 15.5 km (9.6 miles)**
- **Total Ascent 454m**
- **Challenging walk**