

Langcliffe to Stainforth Circular

The walk starts in Langcliffe village. This is north of Settle on the B6479 Horton-in-Ribblesdale Road. There is only one turn into Langcliffe from the main road, and it's well signposted, and once in the village there is ample parking opposite the church – with an honesty box for payment. If you are using a paper map to get to the start, the grid reference is SD82286509. If you prefer satnav, then use the address / postcode for the church – St. John the Evangelist, Main St, Langcliffe, Settle BD24 9NF. If your preferred tool is What-3-Words, then the tag is **shirt.plank.peach**

To start the walk, we head away from the church and find a small lane at the northern end of the car park – this is Pike Lane, and as we head up the lane, it veers left to a junction where a smaller track exits on the right. We take the smaller track and head due North for a while between drystone walls, until we reach a fingerpost offering us a choice of routes. We take the public footpath to Stainforth – a 90 ° turn to the left, but it's worth noting here that the second option of a gentler left turn is our return route; so there is an option at this point to walk the route the other way, or to visit just the Hoffmann Kilns as a very short walk.

We now head across the field keeping to the boundary line to find a stile in the far right hand corner of the field. This gives us access to a track where we turn left and head down to the main road – this is the B6479 again. As we approach the road, we notice that over to our right it crosses the railway, and just beside the road bridge is a pedestrian bridge which we take to cross the tracks.

At the far end of the bridge, we see a minor lane opposite us heading downhill toward the River Ribble. We take this lane and follow it until the river comes into view. Just below the weir is a footbridge which we cross before taking a sharp right turn to head upstream along a path adjacent to the Ribble. This is the Ribble Way – a popular route, so navigation is clear. In essence we follow the river upstream until we get to the packhorse bridge at Stainforth.

We carry on heading North up the left bank of the Ribble until the caravan park at Knight Stainforth comes into view, and as it does, we see Stainforth Beck disgorging into the Ribble over on our right.

Slightly further upstream from here we arrive at the waterfalls known as Stainforth Force and above them we find an ancient packhorse bridge which now belongs to the National Trust.

We cross the bridge and follow Dog Hill Brow up toward Stainforth. Just before we arrive at the bridge over the Settle to Carlisle railway line though, we take a bridleway on the right which follows the railway and then turn sharp left to cross it before heading under the B6479 to enter a carpark (with public toilets) in Stainforth.

We then head back out to the main road and turn left to head along the pavement on the left hand side – we are now heading back in the direction of Langcliffe and Settle. We cross a minor road on the left and soon after this, the pavement runs out. This is not a problem though, because at much the same time we see a fingerpost indicating a public footpath across fields to the Lime Kilns.

We cross a couple of fields – fording a stream that can be anywhere from dry through to a wide but shallow flow. At all times we are heading South using the point where the woodland spills down the Langcliffe Scar to meet the lower level pasture as our target.

As we approach the woodland, we see the first indications of the remains of the Craven Lime Works.

The site is well worth spending time exploring: The following links may be useful:

<https://www.visitsettle.co.uk/craven-lime-works.html>

<https://www.yorkshire-dales.com/hoffman-kiln.html>

<http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJto2009/Journals/2000/J00A9.html>

<https://youtu.be/KYUqx3Dhk60>

From the Lime works, we follow the railway line, passing behind some new industrial units that are being developed at the site, and on to a small road under the railway. Straight on (i.e., without going under the railway bridge) we see a rough lane which heads uphill in much the same direction as the tracks. We follow this lane which soon fades to become a path which heads South across the fields crossing a couple of stiles and rising gently until we arrive back at the lane where we left Langcliffe.

From here the return journey is short and simple – it's a reversal of the start of the walk.

- **Total distance 7.6km (4.7 miles)**
- **Total ascent 192m**
- **Easy walk**