

Selside and Ribblehead

Our walk starts on a rough lane just off the B6479 which runs between Horton in Ribblesdale and Ribblehead. If you are approaching from the Ribblehead end of the road, the lane is on the right just before Selside – and if you are coming from Horton, then you need to drive through the village and turn left just after the last house on the right. The lane we are using leads to Alum Pot and a number of other caves, so parking is at a premium. An early arrival may therefore be wise in the peak season.

The OS grid reference for the parking is SD78277576, and the what-3-words tag **patrolled.reporting.finger** pinpoints it accurately. If you are using satnav to get to the start, then the address is Shaw Old Lane Selside, but please be aware that there is another Selside near Kendal – so take care to pick the right one.

We start out by heading back down the lane toward the main road, where we turn right, and walk down toward Selside. The road is not particularly busy, but what traffic there is can be heavy quarry vehicles, so care is required.

We pass Top Farm and head toward the village centre where we turn left and head under the railway – this is of course the Settle to Carlisle Line. We are now on a farm track which we follow through the farm buildings and then downhill toward the Ribble which runs in the bottom of the valley. If the weather is favourable, there are good views over to Pen-y-Ghent from here.

Before long we arrive at a fork in the track - we head left to a stile with a way marker where we leave the wide track and enter fields, turning right to track along the inside of the drystone wall.

The path now heads East through the field toward a footbridge over the Ribble – the bridge is not visible at first, but as long as you skirt along the right hand edge of the field, without climbing the hillock on the right, it will soon become clear.

Ahead of us we see a second footbridge – this crosses the Coppy Gill, a tributary of the Ribble, and after crossing the gill we head slightly left to follow the gill upstream toward the farm buildings at Low Birkwith.

At the farm we see a stile. This takes us onto a flat piece of land with a further footbridge, back over the Coppy Gill.

We cross the footbridge and follow the path round to the left where it merges with a farm track which takes us across fairly flat meadows, keeping a drystone wall on our left. At this point we are heading Northwest, and back toward Ribblehead, so Ingleborough now dominates the view.

We stay on the track for a while, until we see it approaching a dry stone wall, and here we head to the right to follow the valley bottom North, following the Cam beck (another Ribble tributary) upstream. Opposite us here is a small hill called Holme Hill, and if you are quiet and patient, you are likely to spot Roe Deer feeding here.

We continue up the right hand side of the Cam Beck, looking for a footbridge which we use to cross the stream. The area just before the bridge is flat and dry, with lots of convenient places to sit, so this may be a good place to take a break.

We cross the beck and continue North on the far side, now heading toward Nether Lodge Farm. The farm is not visible at first but the path is clear, and before long we have Great Barn as a landmark – we head just to the right of it.

From here, Nether Lodge Farm comes clearly into view, and we head there to pick up the Three Peaks Way. We head left when our path meets the more heavily used three peaks route, and cross the beck at an impressive footbridge. The path then bends left around the farm buildings and heads over toward Ingleborough and another bridge over the Ribble.

Beyond the bridge the track climbs gently toward Lodge Hall, and the rather fine though seemingly unloved Seventeenth Century Farmhouse. Note that the track veers left and then right as it approaches so don't be too concerned if it feels like you are heading in the wrong direction.

At the main road we turn right and walk along the road for a short while – again, care is needed as quarry traffic uses this road.

Ahead of us, on the left we now see the railway cottages that we first saw from Low Birkwith, and we head along the B6479 until we see an access road to these cottages and a way marker pointing us to Sleights. We take this road up past the cottages and follow it over the railway.

Beyond this, the road contours round as it rises toward Colt Park, the views back to Pen-y-Ghent are worth noting and can be enjoyed from the rocks on the right of the road which provide a good place to stop for another break.

From Colt Park, we now head South along a clear lane, which becomes a path, until we arrive at the end of the fourth meadow, and we need to locate the gate which takes us down the scar and toward the road – there is a gate ahead on a path that continues through the meadows – don't be tempted by this – the right route is downhill at the bottom corner of the field.

At the bottom of the scar we head right and in a South Easterly direction, diagonally across the field – the path is clear, and brings us back down to the B6479 just above Selside. We follow the road to the right for a short while, which brings us to the lane where we parked.

- **Total distance 9.5 km (5.9 miles)**
- **Total ascent 181 m**
- **Easy walk**