

Settle

We start in Langcliffe, a small village just outside Settle on the B6479. There is parking available opposite the Church of St John the Evangelist – this operates on an honesty box principle. If you are using Satnav to get to the start of the walk, then the address is Main St, Langcliffe, BD24 9NF. The grid reference is SD82296508, or if you have access to a what-3-words device, use the tag **shirt.plank.peach**.

From the car park, we head uphill on Main Street as if heading toward Malham. We are on the road for just a few metres, and we soon see a way marker on the right taking us out onto open fields. This is part of the Pennine Journey path which goes down into Settle, and if you look at the OS map, it appears that we need to walk some way down the Pennine journey toward Settle before we pick up the Pennine Bridleway to head North toward Victoria Caves. In practice this is not the case: Just stick to the drystone wall on the left as we climb steeply out of Langcliffe, and we soon find the Bridleway at the treeline – the prominent gateway is your landmark.

We now head North – away from Settle and left through the gate - to follow the bridleway along the base of the woodland and back to the Malham road. We join the road at a sharp bend. If you were driving uphill, the road goes left and ahead is a rough track – this is part of the Pennine Bridleway, and this is the route we take toward Victoria Cave.

We head up the lane passing a cattle grid, and then continue uphill with great views across the Ribble valley toward Giggleswick Scar and the quarries at Horton behind us. We soon arrive at a barn, and ahead we can see Attermire Scar looming, with Victoria Cave visible part way up. It would be tempting to assume that there is a path through the fields from this barn – there is not - carry on up the lane until the next gate, and just after this we see a fingerpost showing us the right of way to the cave.

From here, the path hugs the drystone wall as we head along the base of the scar. The entrance to the cave is via a small path that leaves the main path on the left – it's a bit of a climb and can be slippery when wet so take care. As we get higher, we notice a small cave entrance on the left – there are many caves in this area, and this is not Victoria Cave so press on for a while until a much larger cave entrance presents itself.

From the cave, we return to the path at the base of the scar and then head left. As we progress, we get great views over Sugar Loaf Hill toward Pendle Hill ahead, and the back of Warrendale Knotts to our right. To our left is Attermire Scar.

After a while the path starts to head downhill – we notice a gate in the drystone wall on our right – don't be tempted to take this – it's part of our return route. Instead, we carry on downhill, and follow the base of the scar round to the left, to walk underneath the Horseshoe Cave entrance, and then round to Stockdale Lane – a minor metalled road.

We join the road at a bend and need to head right (downhill) for a little while, following Stockdale Lane for about 1000m, at which point the road takes a sharp left turn whilst we see a stile and way marker on the right taking us back toward Sugar Loaf Hill. This should be easy to find, but if you find yourself meeting the larger Settle to Malham road (High Hill Lane) at a T Junction, you have overshot a little and need to come back.

We now head gently uphill – the large hillside to our left is High Hill, and ahead and to the right is Sugar Loaf Hill – we are taking the valley between the two. We are now more than halfway round,

and this is a good place to take a break – there is lime kiln over to the left – it's a bit a scramble to climb up there but the views make it worthwhile, and there is a good supply of bench sized outcrops to sit on.

Having enjoyed a brief rest we head left again and past Sugar Loaf Hill – feel free to climb it if you wish – ahead we see a drystone wall at the base of the Warrendale Knots – we head to that drystone wall where we find a gate at which we head right.

Ahead of us, we see the drystone wall that we followed down from Victoria Cave earlier in the day, and halfway up we see the gate that we need to head for – then turn left to retrace our route past Victoria Cave and back to the lane that we left earlier in the morning.

When we get there it's worth taking a short diversion to the right to find Jubilee Cave – this is about 100m up the lane and just to the right of the track. The cave is often considered to be part of the same system as Victoria Cave and has two side-by-side entrances with several subsidiary fissures appearing to connect with the interior.

Having spent a while exploring the caves, we head back downhill. Simply retracing our outbound route until we reach Langcliffe, where if you have picked a Sunday for your walk, you can enjoy homemade cake and refreshments at the Langcliffe Village Institute.

- **Total distance 11.4 km (7.1 miles)**
- **Total ascent 592 m**
- **Easy walk**