

Stainforth

The walk starts in Langcliffe village. This is north of Settle on the B6479 Horton-in-Ribblesdale Road. Take the first turn into Langcliffe from the main road, it's well signposted, and once in the village there is ample parking opposite the church. 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**

Notice that there is honesty box to allow for donations for parking – please help support the village by giving a suitable payment.

To start the walk, we turn right out of the car park and walk downhill with the village green on our left. Look out for the war memorial and then New Street (on the right) and take this pleasant lane past the Old Liberal Club back down to the B6479. At the main road there is a footpath starting slightly to the left on the opposite side of the road. Cross carefully and follow that path down to the pedestrian bridge over the railway. This is of course the Settle to Carlisle line, which we meet on many other Bentham Footpath Group walks.

At the far end of the bridge, we see a minor lane opposite which is the entrance to a paper mill. There is a designated footpath to the right of the roadway, and we take this - be aware that heavy goods vehicles may be manoeuvring here so take care. We follow the path round the side of the newer industrial sheds to find the original stone built mill building and the mill pond that served it. The path continues to the right at the far side of the pond.

We follow the path up the side of the mill pond, over a footbridge at a spillway, and continue until we get to the far end of the reservoir, where we find a gate on the left where we access a path at the side of a house to pick up a road between two terraces of houses. We head right here, and at the end of the housing turn left to cross the river Ribble via a footbridge.

After the footbridge we turn right, and we are now on 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 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 meeting the B6479 which we cross with care.

We now head into the village via the optimistically named Main Road, and turn left at the end to walk up Goat Lane until we find an open green on our right with stepping stones over Stainforth Beck. Note that if the flow of the Beck is too strong for safe use of the stepping stones, then there is a safe alternative: Go back to the top of main street and look ahead to find the Craven Heifer pub, walk past the pub, and take the small road on the left which rather confusingly becomes Main Street. Continue left up here and you will find yourself safely at the other side of the stepping stones.

At the Eastern side of the stepping stones we find ourselves on a very pleasant village green with attractive cottages on three sides. Ahead of us is a steep lane, signposted as Pennine Bridleway, which leads up to Catrigger Force. The climb is quite steep at first but gets easier as we progress. Don't

forget to take a moment or two every now and again to turn round and enjoy the views back across the Ribble valley toward the Quarries at Horton and the peak of Pen-y-Ghent as you climb.

At the top of the climb, we reach point where the lane meets three gates. The left gate takes us onto a path which zigzags down to the woodland just below the waterfall, and this is a great sheltered place to enjoy lunch, before we return to the group of three gates and take the one on the right to continue with the Pennine Bridleway, heading up the hill on a clear and well-made track to a gate in a drystone wall. Here we branch off to the right and take the footpath to Winskill – the Pennine Bridleway continues along the track.

There are two groups of buildings at Winskill – higher and lower Winskill. We keep higher Winskill on our right and head toward the whitewashed farm buildings at lower Winskill. As we approach them, look for a stile in the drystone wall to the left, signed for Langcliffe and Stainforth.

We take this path across fields which in spring are used for lambing, to a gate at the opposite side of the field. From there we head slightly right to follow the path downhill with Langcliffe in the distance. From here, the route down is a steep in places, and if wet, can be a little slippery so take care. We also noted that the route on the ground as recorded in our GPX file differs slightly to the OS map – in practice this is not a cause for concern as the correct route is very clear.

After a while, the ground levels off and we arrive at a gate leading into an enclosed lane – this takes us down to Langcliffe. Eventually ending at the car park where we started. So, if you are tired or short of time, press on now, staying on this lane until the walk end.

For those with an interest in industrial archaeology and local history, we take a short diversion to the Hoffman Lime kilns - these are accessed via a waymarked path exiting the lane on the right. The path heads across fields via a number of stiles to end at the access road into the lime kiln site. This has been redeveloped over recent years and now includes light industrial units, so take care to cross carefully and then follow the footpath along the side of the railway to the kiln: There are the remains of three types of Lime Kiln on the site; the Spencer Kilns, the Triple Draw Kilns and visually stunning Hoffman Kiln, along with evidence of railway sidings, a tramway used to deliver raw limestone, and an inclined plane.

From the Lime works, we retrace the railway line, passing behind the new industrial units and back to the small road under the railway. Straight on (i.e., without going under the railway bridge) we see the rough lane that we arrived on. 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 earlier. From here the return journey is short and simple – just head right when we get to the lane.

- **Total distance 11.1 km (6.9 miles)**
- **Total ascent 329 m**
- **Easy walk**