

WALK 5 – HARD: 13½ miles and 2,000 feet of climbing (approx)

Starting point: Litton

Litton – Pen-y-Ghent – Plover Hill - Foxup

Refreshments: Pubs & cafe in Horton (slight detour); Katie's Cuppas, Halton Gill; Queens Arms, Litton

Directions: Walk up the road away from Park Bottom and the Queens Arms pub.



Just before the last houses in Litton turn left at the sign and head down the hill and across the River Skiffare on the wooden bridge – often the river is bone dry due to a fault in the river bed which allows the water to run underground. Following heavy rain the river should be in full flow.



Once over the river turn right and head through the small wooden gate and go diagonally across the fields until reaching a small wooden gate, with Spittle Croft on your left. Go through this and then climb the stone steps to the next gate, once through this gate you are on the bridleway. Turn right and continue along the bridleway to New Bridge. At New Bridge go through the wooden gate in front of you and start to climb the track by the wall, ignore the footpath sign for Nether Hesleden ¾ mile and continue up the bridleway as it climbs up steadily at first and then more steeply.



Don't forget to look back to see views of Litton and Littondale. To your right views of Nether Hesleden, Halton Gill and Plover Hill can also be seen. As the bridleway starts to level out Pen-y-Ghent Gill is on your right and views of Pen-y-Ghent will start to appear in front of you. The path is mainly easy walking with a couple of muddy parts and a beck crossing which can be tricky following heavy rain. Continue along the bridleway until you meet Silverdale Road at the footpath sign for New Bridge. Here turn left and start to walk along the road. The road climbs steeply to start with and then levels out. You will be walking along the road for just over a mile; the road shouldn't be busy but please be careful. Passing the farm on your right, at the Pennine Way sign at Dale Head signposting Pen-y-Ghent turn right and go down the bridleway and to the right. The bridleway will start to climb, as it levels out again take the turning on the right hand sign with Pen-y-Ghent in front of you and start to climb towards it.



Continue along the path as it climbs towards Pen-y-Ghent and over the duck boards now installed to prevent erosion. Continue up Pen-y-Ghent, the climb is very steep and a bit of a scramble but only lasts ½ mile and soon levels out with paving slabs to the trig point on the top. At the trig point go through the gap in the wall and turn immediately right, sign-posted Plover Hill 1 mile. Follow the path keeping the wall on your right. The path can be boggy especially following heavy rainfall. The summit of Plover Hill isn't very obvious (approximately at the wall) but once over the wall the path goes off to the left, following wooden posts.

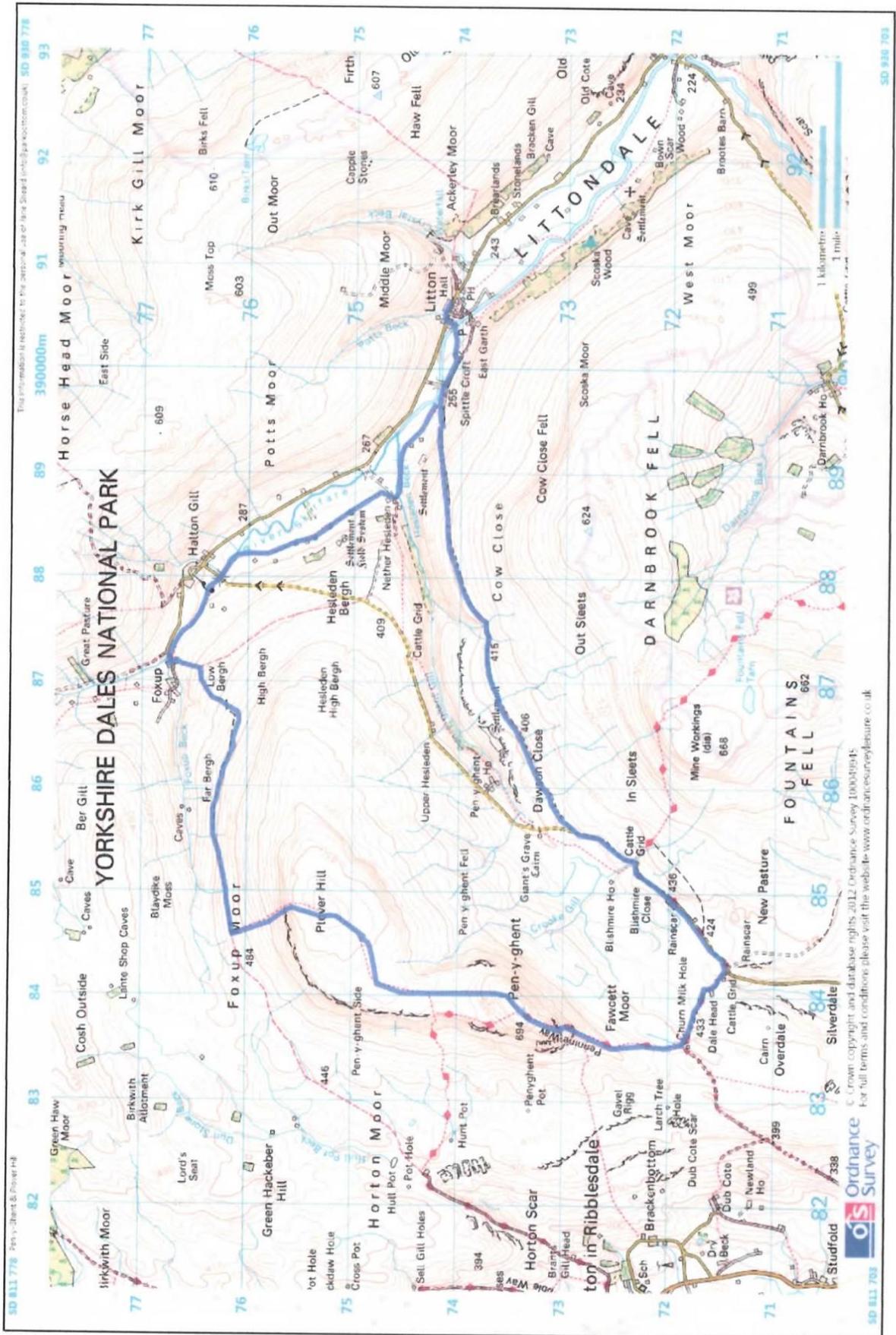


On a clear day, Ribbleshead Viaduct and great views of Ingleborough can be seen. The path then drops down, doubling back on itself, down stone steps, which can be very slippery. The path then becomes grassy and can be very boggy as it drops down to meet the bridleway coming from Horton-in-Ribblesdale, with the footpath sign Plover Hill ¾ mile. Turn right onto the bridleway and continue along the bridleway along Foxup Moor until it drops down steeply into Foxup. Turn right at the track with the farm building and river in front of you.

Before crossing the river take the path on the right to follow the River Skiffare to Halton Gill. At Halton Gill climb the stone steps and head straight across the road (unless you want to visit Katie's Cuppas – to do this turn left and head into Halton Gill) and through the wooden gate and down the stone steps, following the footpath sign to Litton 2 ¼ miles. The path soon moves away from the river and crosses fields through gates and stiles until reaching Nether Hesleden.



At Nether Hesleden head through the 2 wooden gates (this area can get boggy) and turn right and then immediately left by the telegraph pole with the buildings on your right. Go through the black metal gate and head right over the bridge and through the next gate and turn left. Now follow the path back through the fields until meeting the bridleway just before New Bridge where you'd earlier ignored the footpath sign to Nether Hesleden. Go back along the bridleway and then turn left at the sign for Litton by Spittle Croft and walk down the stone steps and across the fields to the river. Go over the river via the wooden bridge and walk up the drive to the road. Turn right and walk down the road to your starting point.



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