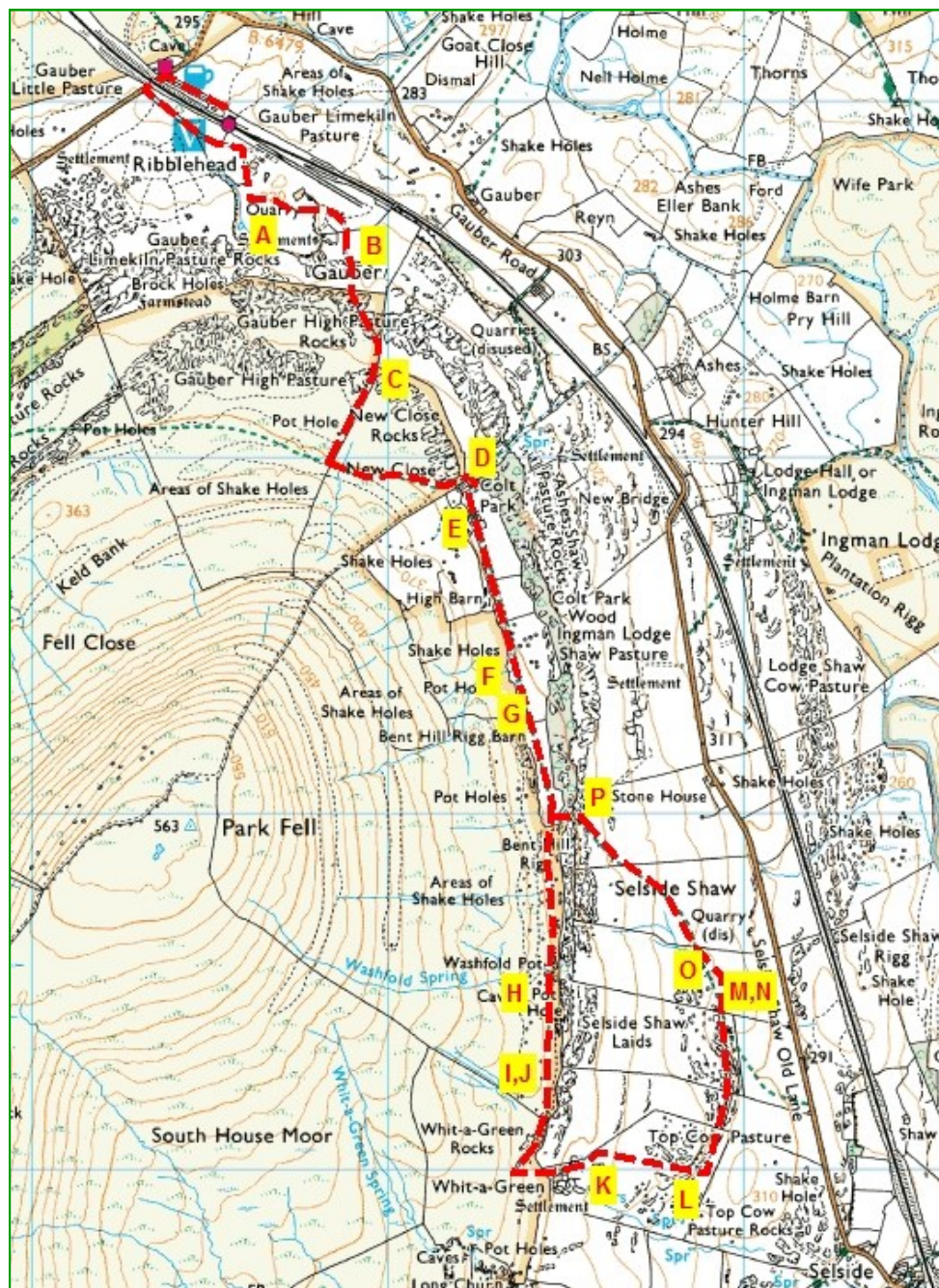


Ingleborough National Nature Reserve  
Archaeology Walk No. 1  
**Ribblehead to Selside**

**One of a series of three self-guided walks**  
produced by the  
**Ingleborough Archaeology Group**  
in association with  
**Natural England**



# Your Route





## Ribblehead to Selside

This 8km (5 mile) walk on the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve (NNR) takes you past many points of historical and archaeological interest. The start of this walk is the same as for Walk 3. It is a moderate walk over open fell with no steep ascents or descents. Please be advised to wear appropriate clothing – including stout walking shoes. Please keep dogs under close control at all times. All distances given are approximate.

You can start this walk from either the car parking area at the entrance to Ribblehead Quarry (SD7660 7886) or from Ribblehead railway station. From the station walk down the access track to the main road (B6255) and turn left. Go under the railway bridge and then left again up the track running parallel with the railway line. The entrance to the Nature Reserve is on your right after 300m.

Pass through the gate into the quarry and make your way to the Geology Seat where you will find an audio post. Listen to the short recordings to learn more about the wildlife, geology and history of the quarry and its surroundings.



Return to the route and follow the green waymarkers. Bear left at the pond and continue to follow the green waymarkers up a rough stone slope.

### A. The Quarry

The quarry was first established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to supply crushed limestone for the Settle to Carlisle railway. The quarry became part of the Ingleborough NNR in 2000.

Pass through a small gate and continue following the green waymarkers.

### B. Settlement

Around you lie a number of banks and earthworks, all that remains of a multi-period settlement, probably reaching back through the Romano-British period to the Iron Age.

Continue to follow the green waymarkers to another small gate. Once through this gate leave the waymarked route and head to towards a long field wall about 100m away on your left. Take great care as you dodge between the limestone blocks on this uneven ground. Walk alongside this wall and you will come to a large gate. Don't go through this gate but continue to walk alongside the wall.

## C. Orthostats

50m beyond the gate you come to a very old section of wall with large upright stones in the base. These stones are known as orthostats. This wall probably dates back to the medieval period.



Continue alongside the wall past another large gate until you come to a stile. Go over this stile and follow the path ahead towards the trees in the distance. On reaching a wall follow the path to the left, passing the farm buildings seen over the wall on your right. This is Colt Park Farm. Note the date-stone over the door.



Go through a small gate and then immediately turn right. Pass

through a large gate to access the track running past the farm. Colt Park Farm is no longer a working farm; it is a private residence, so please respect the privacy of the resident family.

## D. Colt Park Farm

The first building on the right, now a garage, is probably the oldest standing building on the farm. Next to this is the farmhouse. Look up at the gable end and note the window lintel with '1663 T H' carved in the stone work. The 'T H' is believed to be the initials for Thomas Howson, who, according to the Ingleton Parish Register, was buried 'in woolen in the north quire' in 1679. This lintel is from an earlier building on the site, and this may also be true of the door lintel that you saw above the back door which has the date '1625', the initials 'T G' and a cross. This date-stone probably refers to a Thomas Gibson as there were two recorded at Colt Park—one in 1620 the other in 1640.

The farmhouse you see today was probably rebuilt in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and some of the



stone used in its construction came from the earlier farmhouse.

Colt Park was associated with Furness Abbey, the early landowners, and, as the name suggests, it was probably involved with the breeding of horses.

**Leave Colt Park Farm via the large gate ahead and follow the track around the meadow to another group of buildings.**



## **E. Colt Park Barn**

The barn on the left is a modern barn, while on the right there is a large traditional-style Dales barn. This is Colt Park Barn. Since 1990 it has been the base for the Natural England team that manages the Ingleborough NNR. It had earlier belonged to Colt Park Farm and was in use as a traditional 'bank barn', built into a bank in order that both floors can be accessed from ground level.

The lower floor is accessed off the track you are standing on. This level was for cattle (middle section), pigs (probably in the end nearest the farmhouse) and horses (in a stable at the far end).

The upper floor is accessed from the rear through a wide porched entrance. This level was for the storage of hay fetched off the surrounding meadows.

The walls of the barn have projecting stones, a typical feature of Dales barns. These stones are called 'through stones' as they pass through the wall. Their main purpose is to tie the inner and outer wall skins together.

Another feature of the barn wall is the continuous line of slates projecting out of the wall to deflect rainwater.

The barn is late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the story (unverified) is that it was paid for from money the landowner received as compensation for loss of land when the Settle to Carlisle line was built between 1869 and 1876.

**Leave Colt Park Barn and enter the meadows in front of you through the small wooden gate.**

## **F. Pre-Enclosure Wall**

As you walk through the meadows on a well defined track have a look



## G. Bent Hill Rigg Barn

This is a typical Dales field barn which was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century and which originally was used to house cattle over the winter. Hay from the meadow was stored above the cattle for winter feed and muck from the cattle was spread across the fields as fertiliser.

at the wall alongside on your right running along the top of a bank. This wall is much older than most of the other walls you will see on your walk which were mainly built as a result of the local Enclosure Award of 1791.

We can tell this is an older wall because the stones are irregular in shape with some large stones high up in the wall. This is characteristic of a wall built with stones cleared from a field rather than from quarried stone. In places there are also a number of large orthostats in the base of the wall.

Please do not enter this barn as it is still used by the tenant farmer.

Go through the small wooden gate and follow the track for about 700m, through another small gate,



Follow the track to Bent Hill Rigg Barn.

until you get to Washfold Pot. This is a pothole surrounded by several trees and enclosed by a fence. Turn right here and head towards a short length of stone wall.



## H. Washfold

You have now arrived at a washfold which was restored in 2013. This washfold is typical of many in the Dales where a water course was dammed to make a deep pool and



the natural limestone bedrock was used as a platform to safely push sheep into the water for washing. The sheep were gathered by being driven against the projecting driving wall and into the fold. Once dipped and scrubbed they were released onto the fell. Many of these washfolds were still in use well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Return to the track and continue along it heading uphill. After about 400m you come to a wall with a small gate alongside a larger gate.

## I. Bank and Ditch

Just before the gate there is a bank and ditch feature. To your right it runs away up the hill, Park Fell. To your left it disappears under the wall. It marks an old boundary before the present wall was built, perhaps that of Park Fell and the horse breeding centre of Colt Park. It would have been made more stock-proof by hedging planted along the top of the bank.

## J. Field Patterns

From the track look down into the valley. Just to the north of the buildings lie a number of small, irregularly-shaped fields. These are the oldest of the present fields. The large fields with straight walls on this side of the road were laid out after the Enclosure Award of 1791. Before then there was just one large

field, Selside Shaws, which wrapped around this side of the hamlet. We don't know when Selside Shaws was walled but the wall just in front of you is far from straight, hinting that it might date back to the time when Furness Abbey owned the land. Selside Shaws was 'stinted' common pasture on which each tenant farmer had grazing rights.

'Stints' or 'gates' controlled access to common land to prevent over-grazing. Each farmer was entitled to a certain number of 'gates' and there was a formula which took into account how much livestock different land could support. For example, 4 sheep or 6 geese might be equivalent to 1 cow, and 6 sheep might be equivalent to 1 horse.

Go through the gate and follow the track ahead for about 150m until you come to some limestone pavement. Bear slightly right to skirt round the pavement and then head toward the wall on the left. Go through the small gate. You have now entered Top Cow Pasture.

Turn right and walk beside the wall for 20m to a large boulder and look down to your left.

## K. Top Cow Pasture

The lumps and bumps in the ground are the remains of an earlier, possibly Iron Age, settlement with hut circles and enclosures. This is a

Scheduled Monument protected by law. The original limestone rubble walling is now overgrown, but in general the walls survive to heights up to 1m high.

**Explore the site at your leisure before returning to the gate. Continue straight on from the gate keeping a wall on your left and after about 100m cross a small stream.**

Just beyond the stream on your right is a confusing set of earthworks. These appear to be the remains of three dry-stone wall structures, now partly covered over by turf, and a homestead surrounded by small enclosures and fields.

**Continue along the wall to a large gate. With the gate at your back look downhill and take the left-hand track through two gaps in the limestone.**

At the second gap, on the left of the track, there is a large shallow basin enclosed by the remains of a stone bank. This enclosure once offered good quality pasture. Where the turf is broken you can see a layer of loess that has been deposited here. Loess is fine wind-blown silt carried over long distances. This happened 10,000 to 11,000 years ago. Since then much has been blown away but it still survives in small pockets like this. Early settlers recognised its

qualities and were attracted to the potentially good farming land.

Opposite this enclosure, right next to the track, is a small very low semi-circular bank; the remains of a D-shaped enclosure cleared for stock. Such enclosures appear frequently in limestone areas and are generally accepted as prehistoric, that is pre-Roman, or possibly early medieval. Its limited size reminds us that sheep breeding had hardly begun and the animals would have been much smaller than today.

**Continue downhill along the narrow track that passes through a cleft in the limestone scar.**

This cleft is probably a natural feature that has been exploited and enhanced by man, to give a good access route for man and animals. Its narrowness suggests that it has remained largely untouched from an early period.

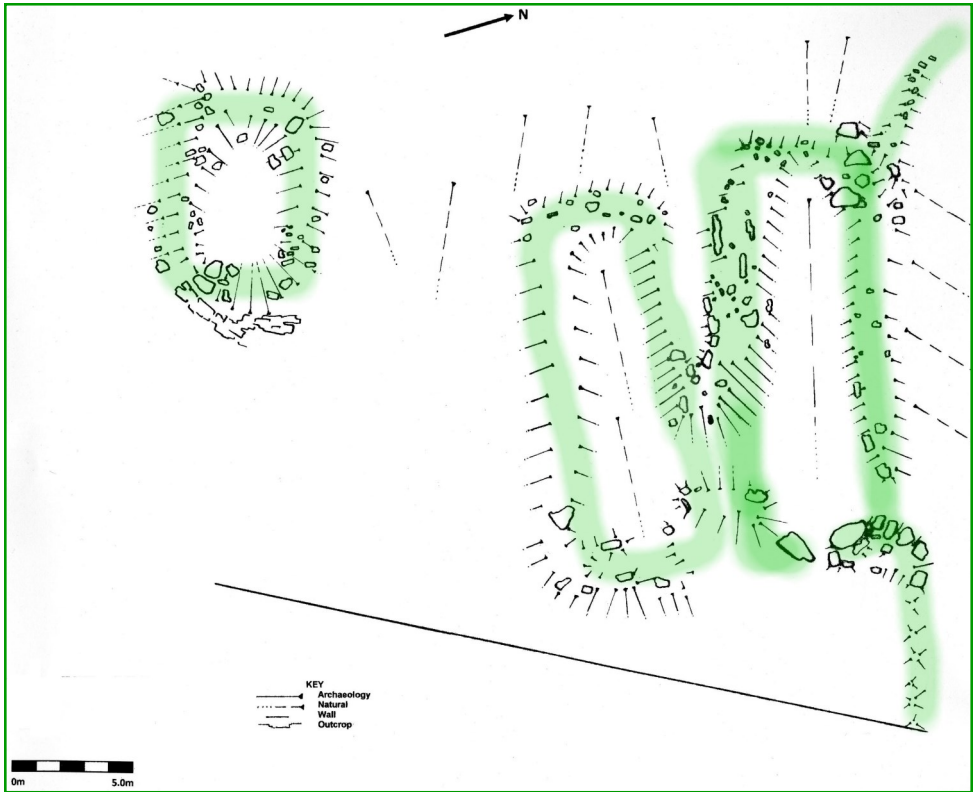
**Continue through the cleft downhill to a large gate.**

## **L. IAG Excavation**

To the right of the gate you will see the outline of three rectangular features excavated by the Ingleborough Archaeology Group in 2014.

Excavation within the three structures secured four radiocarbon





dates placing the site within the eleventh and early thirteenth centuries. The surrounding field banks and enclosures suggest connections with animal farming and/or the growing of crops.

All three structures had low walls with limestone block facings and rubble infill. They were buildings,

not stock enclosures, and the walls supported turf or timber roofs.

No pottery was found but two metal objects were recovered: a draw-knife blade of the kind used in the Anglo-Saxon period to the years following the Norman conquest in 1066, and an iron fastener, possibly part of a 'chatelaine', worn at the waist by women during the same period. The chatelaine may have had keys or chains suspended from it.



Don't go through the gate but turn left, heading slightly uphill, to a small gate in the wall facing you. Go through the gate and continue

straight ahead through a gap in the next wall and a small gate in the wall after that.

Now divert from the path slightly by heading downhill diagonally across the field until you come to a lime kiln.

### M. The Selside Lime Kiln

This is a typical example of a Ribblesdale field kiln. Field kilns are a traditional feature of the Yorkshire Dales landscape, the majority dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This one is partly built into the hillside with associated trackways and a spoil heap in front.



It was filled from the top with fuel and limestone and the burnt lime was taken out from the arched draw-hole below. Burnt lime has many potential uses but in this case it would have been spread on the fields to improve the soil.

### N. Road and Railway

The railway beyond the road forms part of the Settle to Carlisle line, constructed by the Midland Railway Company between 1869 and 1876.

The road you can see is the B6479 between Ribbleshead and Settle. Originally a winding road known as Selside Shaw Old Lane, it was straightened in 1791 as part of the Enclosure process.

Return to the track by walking to the wall beyond the lime kiln and then heading uphill to a small gate.

### O. Lazyman Quarry

Walking up the field alongside the wall you will see small areas of exposed limestone. Stone for building the wall was quarried here in these 'lazyman' quarries, so called because of their proximity to the wall.

Once through the gate walk diagonally uphill across boggy ground to another small gate. Continue diagonally uphill across the pasture, aiming for the mid-point of the natural limestone scar at the top of the field. When the base of the scar is reached a wide track cutting back through the limestone is revealed.

### P. Ancient Tracks and Woods

The width of the track, its deep cut



through the limestone scar and its even gradient all suggest that this was an important route for both livestock and man. This passage through the scar takes you through a narrow strip of ancient woodland. This is Colt Park Wood. This woodland is thought to be a fragment of subalpine ash forest that at one time grew in abundance across the limestone parts of the Dales. The wood has been largely ungrazed by farm animals since it became part of the National Nature Reserve in 1962. In addition to the dominant tree species of ash you can see bird cherry, rowan, birch,

hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel. Ground flora does particularly well in ash woodland. This is because the ash tree is late into leaf and when it is in leaf, the canopy is not dense.

Your route continues up the track through the limestone cut towards a field gate that bars the route. Before reaching this gate, the path turns abruptly right to pass through a small gate and then into a meadow. Turn right to re-join your outward route.

From here you can retrace your steps to the start of the walk.





## Information

Spring and Summer are a great time to see the wonderful flora on the nature reserve but often they can mask archaeological features which are just lumps and bumps in the ground. On this walk Features B, I, J, K and L are all earthworks which are best seen between October and April.

The approximate dates of the archaeological periods referred to in this publication are:

Neolithic	4500 BC to 2500 BC
Bronze Age	2500 BC to 800 BC
Iron Age	800BC to AD70
Romano British	AD70 to AD410
Early Medieval/Anglo Saxon	AD410 to AD1066
Medieval	AD1066 to AD1540

Please be aware that there may be cattle in some of the fields during the summer months. If left alone livestock will generally not cause a threat to visitors. However if you are walking a dog and cattle become agitated you are advised to let go of your animal.

Please close all gates. Do not climb on, or remove stones from, any of the walls or other features. Take great care when walking as much of the ground is uneven and limestone can be very slippery when wet.

There is limited mobile phone reception around Ingleborough and it cannot be relied upon. We advise that you take the relevant OS map:

**Explorer Map OL2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Areas**

This leaflet has been part-funded by Stories in Stone, a programme of conservation and community projects concentrated on the Ingleborough area and developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership.

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[www.storiesinstone.org.uk](http://www.storiesinstone.org.uk)