

**Ingleborough National Nature Reserve**

**Archaeology Walk No. 2**

# **South House, Sulber and Upper Pasture**

**One of a series of three self-guided walks**

produced by the

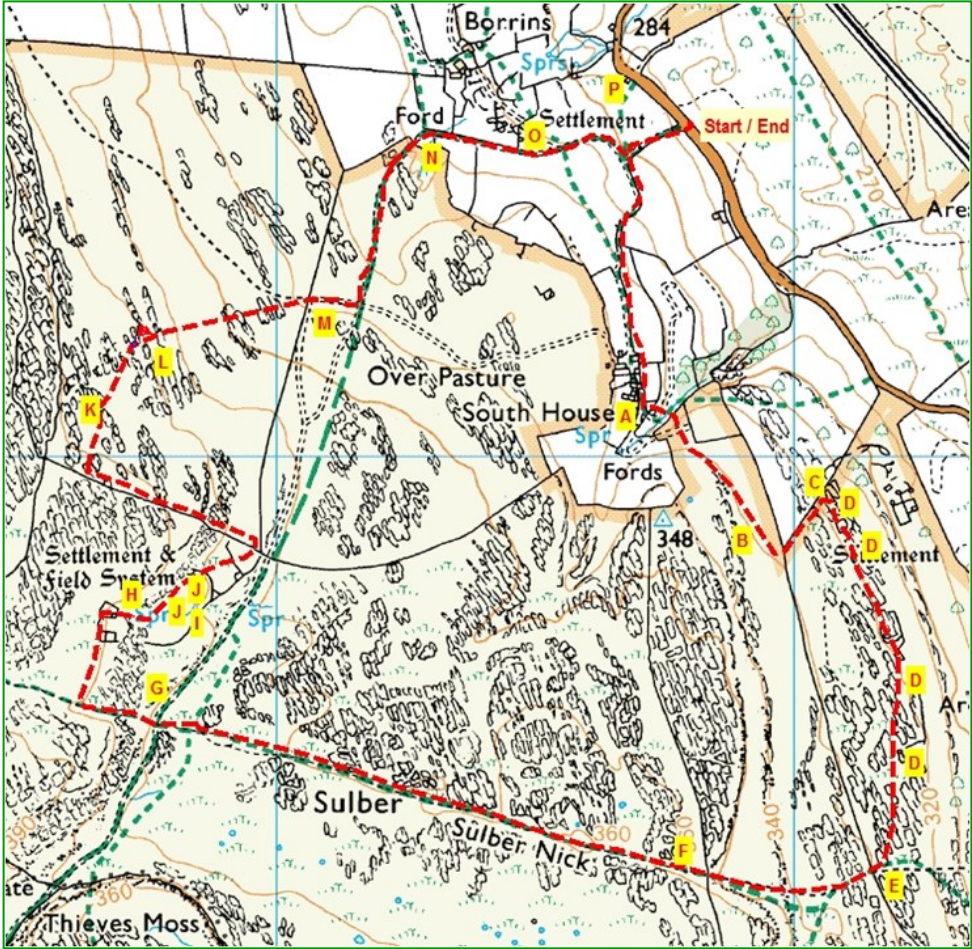
**Ingleborough Archaeology Group**

in association with

**Natural England**



# Your Route



## South House, Sulber and Upper Pasture

This 7km (4.5 mile) walk on the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve (NNR) takes you past many points of historical and archaeological interest. Although a GPS is not necessary to complete the walk you may find one useful to help you locate some of the features described.

This is a moderate walk over paths and open fell with no steep ascents or descents. It does cross extensive areas of limestone pavement which can be quite difficult and, when wet, very slippery. Please wear appropriate clothing – including stout footwear. Please keep dogs under close control at all times.

Park in the informal lay-by on the southbound side of the B6479 Ribbleshead to Settle road about 1km south of Selside where the Pennine Bridleway crosses at SD7881 7463.

Carefully cross the road and follow the bridleway up the tarmac drive. Where the track splits follow the tarmac round to the left and after about 400m go between the buildings with South House Farm on your right. This farmhouse was originally built by the Ingleborough Estate as a shooting lodge in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Follow the track through a series of large gates to the last building on your right.

### A. South House

This building was the old South House farmhouse, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Note the stone mullioned windows and the porch. This farmhouse was replaced by the new house and is now used as a cowshed.

Your route now takes you through the large gate which has a yellow plastic disc attached, opposite the cowshed.



Follow the yellow waymarkers downhill over a stone step stile. Do not go over a second stile to your left but continue straight ahead uphill to the next yellow waymarker. Continue straight ahead following the yellow waymarkers.

## **B. Burial Cairns**

After about 200m – before the wall on your left becomes ruinous – look out for a grass covered bump on the left next to the path. It stands about 1m high and is about 5m long. This man-made mound is possibly the remains of a Bronze Age burial cairn (see table of archaeological periods on the back page). There is some evidence of kerb stones around the cairn. Similar cairns have been recorded elsewhere on the flanks of Ingleborough.

At least eight other cairns can be seen either side of the path over the next 50m.

Cross the remains of the wall on your left at the point where it becomes ruinous and walk downhill alongside a wall.

## **C. Stock Enclosures**

After about 150m you will come to a rectangular clearing in the limestone next to the wall measuring approximately 25m x 8m. This is the remains of a man-made enclosure for keeping stock. We don't know the exact age of this and other similar enclosures but they are most probably prehistoric dating back at least 2,000 years.

Although the land now appears unsuitable for grazing, when this enclosure was first built there would





have been greater soil cover with small areas of woodland and much less exposed limestone.

Your route now takes you southwards away from the wall across the exposed limestone. Walking through the limestone you will come across the remains of many man-made features, just a few of which are described here. GPS coordinates are given to help you locate these features.

#### **D. Prehistoric Landscape**

About 50m from the first enclosure are the remains of another of a similar size in a natural hollow (SD7910 7391). Of particular interest is a narrow curved wall

**Please take great care when exploring this prehistoric landscape as it is very fragile and many of the limestone plants are vulnerable to walkers' boots.**

**The limestone itself can also be extremely slippery when wet.**

passage on its southern side. Wall passages such as this one are found at a number of sites in the limestone Dales but their purpose is not known. They are all of a similar size with blanked-off ends and most are curved. Adjacent to this enclosure is a group of smaller enclosures and a second large stone-free hollow.

After a further 300m there is a large ovoid enclosure (SD7923 7358) built into a natural well-sheltered east-facing hollow. This enclosure still retains some upstanding walls.

After another 150m along the limestone there is a large enclosure with a three-bay structure (SD7921 7343). At its northern end is another wall passage but unusually this one is not curved.

After this last feature continue in a southerly direction for about 200m until you meet the well worn Three Peaks path. Turn right along this path heading uphill towards a prominent gap in the wall ahead.



## E. Orthostats

To the left of this gap is an excellent example of a medieval wall with large vertical stones – known as orthostats – built into its base.





Continue along the path. Going through a small gate you are now entering Sulber Nick, which runs along a natural geological fault.

## F. Sulber

The name 'Sulber' literally means 'Silver Hill', which is a reference to the exposed limestone that glistens when wet. The large pasture of



Sulber is a stinted pasture, which is a way of controlling access to common land to prevent over-grazing. Farmers are allocated a number of 'gates' which determine how much stock they can graze on the land. However, this land is now part of the NNR and all the 'gates' are owned by Natural England. Sulber, and the other NNR pastures on this walk, are now grazed by rare breed cattle in order to maintain and enhance the important limestone habitats.

Continue along this path for about 1km until it crosses a well defined track.



## G. Clapham Lane

This track is shown on a map of 1755 as 'Clapham Lane'. At that time this was the main route between Clapham and Dent.

Continue across 'Clapham Lane' for a further 150m and then head off to your right above a small limestone scar looking down onto the limestone pavement. After about 120m you will come across the remains of a wall running across the top of the bank (a line of shattered limestone). About 50m further on there is a distinct stone and earth bank running down the hill to what looks like a pile of stones. Follow this bank down the hill to the pile of stones.



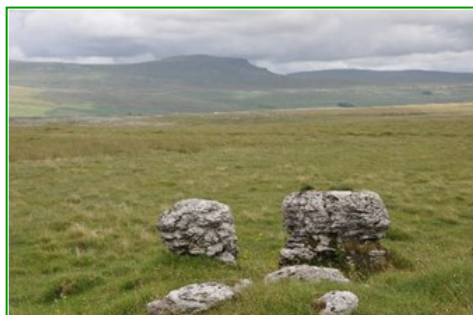
## H. Round House

These earth and stone banks are the remains of a complex series of enclosures, and the pile of stones marks the remains of a prehistoric round house (SD7770 7370).

Continue directly downhill to cross the limestone pavement heading towards two prominent blocks of limestone at the edge of the pavement.



## I. Large Semi-Circular Bank



You are now overlooking the remains of a large semi-circular stone and earth bank which is about 70m across at its widest point. This bank encloses what is now marshy ground but which may once have been a large body of water.

Turn left and walk alongside the edge of the limestone pavement.

## J. Rectangular Structures

After about 50m you will see the remains of a rectangular structure on the edge of the limestone. This structure is probably associated with the large enclosure although the date of the structure and the enclosure are unknown. About 75m further on there are the remains of a second rectangular structure. Just beyond this structure you will cross the northern bank of the large enclosure.

Now head for the large gate in the wall ahead of you. Go through the gate into Upper Pasture and turn left, heading uphill alongside the wall. About 100m before you get to the top corner of the field there is an outcrop of limestone. Turn right here and walk away from the wall you have been following.

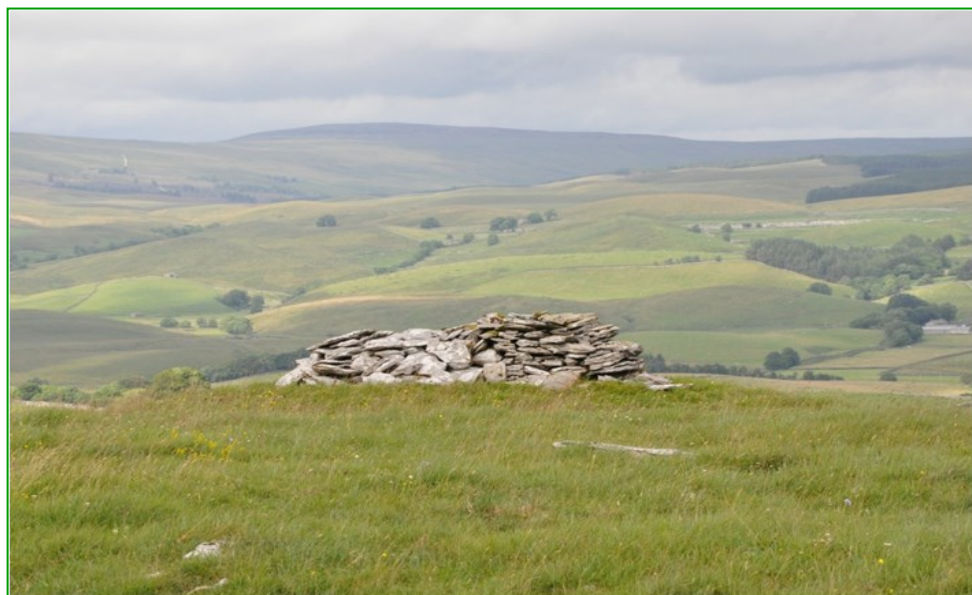
After about 125m, nestling below the edge of a small limestone knoll, you will see the grass-covered remains of a rectangular structure with a small wall about 1m high at one end (SD7767 7410).



## K. Upper Pasture

This rectangular structure (pictured above) was excavated by the Ingleborough Archaeology Group in 2011. Carbon dating of charcoal found in the building revealed that it was in use during the Anglo-Saxon period, but was abandoned before AD 780.

It is thought that it was probably used as a shieling – a hut used by families during the summer months whilst their stock grazed on these higher pastures.



Small pieces of worked chert were also found on the site. Chert occurs naturally in limestone, just as flint occurs in chalk, and it was used for making stone tools during the prehistoric era. These finds suggest that there was human activity in this area about 6,000 years ago.

Standing in the rectangular structure looking out over the small wall at one end you will see a pile of stones about 130m away on the near horizon. Head directly for these stones.

## **L. Burial Cairn**

This pile of stones is possibly the site of a Bronze Age burial cairn.

Leave the stones and go directly downhill heading for a large gate in the wall ahead of you. If the

gate is locked use the stone step stile next to it to cross into Over Pasture and follow the track leading downhill.

## **M. Limestone Extraction**

From before 1870 until 1936 all of this area was stripped of its limestone pavement which was then sold as decorative rockery stone. This operation was carried out on an industrial scale. The stone was advertised nationally and shipped all over the country. Whilst extracting the limestone in 1936 workers uncovered a polished Neolithic stone axe and human remains. The two finds were originally thought to be connected but recent dating of the bones has shown them to be AD 668 – 775, which is similar to the dates for the shieling in Upper

Pasture. The Neolithic stone axe, on the other hand, would date to the same period as the pieces of chert.

Continue to follow the track downhill and go through another large gate.

## **N. Crook Lane Head**

Just through this gate on your right is the site of Crook Lane Head Farm. All that remains of this building are a few lumps and bumps in the ground. This 18<sup>th</sup> century building was at the junction of two roads – Clapham Lane and Crook Lane.

Continue down the track through the gate and over a small stream. About 80m further on pass through another large gate and look over the wall on your left.

## **O. Settlements**

The field you can see over the wall is full of lumps and bumps which indicate an extensive series of man-made earthworks. These are the remains of several settlements whose dates are unknown but the oldest of them could date back into prehistory.

Carry on along the track and down the drive back to the start.

## **P. Wrestlers**

As you walk down the drive note the barn at the side of the road to your left. This is Hewbell Barn. Walk up the road and take a look at the ridge tiles on the roof. Here you will see one of the few remaining examples of ‘wrestlers’ – interlocking stone ridge tiles used in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



## Information

Spring and Summer are the best seasons to see the wonderful flora on the nature reserve but often the vegetation can mask archaeological features which are just lumps and bumps in the ground. These features are best seen between October and April.

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

Neolithic	4500 BC to 2500 BC
Bronze Age	2500 BC to 800 BC
Iron Age	800 BC to AD 70
Romano British	AD 70 to AD 410
Early Medieval/Anglo Saxon	AD 410 to AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 to AD 1540

Please be aware that there are cattle on the NNR throughout the year. If left alone livestock will generally not cause a threat to visitors, but if you are walking a dog and cattle become agitated you are advised to let go of your animal.

Leave gates as you find them unless instructed otherwise. Do not climb on, or remove stones from, any of the walls or 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)