

# Ingleborough Walk

Ingleborough is one of England's most famous mountains. At 724 metres above sea level, it is the second highest of Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks, but perhaps the most distinctive, a landmark visible from four counties. With some of the finest areas of limestone pavement in Britain, Ingleborough is rich in geological, archaeological and natural history interest. As well as being within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, much of the area forms the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. But this is also a very accessible mountain, crossed by numerous public rights of way and large areas of open countryside which now enjoy public access rights on foot.

The best way to experience and enjoy this unique area is on foot, taking advantage of available good public transport to cross the summit or shoulders of the mountain without being forced to return to a parked vehicle. This series of ten Ingleborough Walks leaflets is designed to show how local buses and trains make such magnificent linear walks possible.

It is essential to use **OS Map OL 2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western areas** to work out exact routes, using public rights of way and public access areas. Sketch maps in the leaflet are for approximate guidance only. These walks use moorland and mountain paths which should only be attempted with appropriate clothing and footwear and not in poor weather conditions. Carry spare clothing, waterproofs, food and drink, and leave adequate time for your return transport. If you bring a dog, please keep it under control, preferably on a lead, in areas where there is livestock. Walking times are for guidance only in good weather conditions, so always leave adequate margins - which also gives time for well-earned refreshment.

This series of leaflets has been produced by the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company a subsidiary of the Yorkshire Dales Society, in partnership with Friends of DalesBus and Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line, to encourage environmentally sustainable access to Ingleborough.

Ingleborough Walks forms part of the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership's **Stories in Stone** project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. For further details of the project and work of the Trust visit [www.storiesinstone.org.uk](http://www.storiesinstone.org.uk) and [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org).

## Transport information

Ingleton is served by the Craven Connection 580/1 which runs Mondays to Saturdays two hourly between Skipton and Settle and through to Ingleton with connections in both directions at Settle and Giggleswick Stations. Ribbleshead has daily train services on the Settle-Carlisle line back to Settle, Skipton and Leeds or Appleby and Carlisle.

For details of outward and return bus times including additional service 832 and 881 Summer Sunday bus services from Lancaster to Ingleton and Ribbleshead, see the Metro DalesBus booklet, visit [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) or ring 0871 200 22 33; for trains see the Northern Rail Timetable Leaflet 7 or [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org) or ring 08457 484850.

PDFs of all 10 Ingleborough Walks leaflets can be downloaded at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org) or [www.settle-carlisle.co.uk](http://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk)

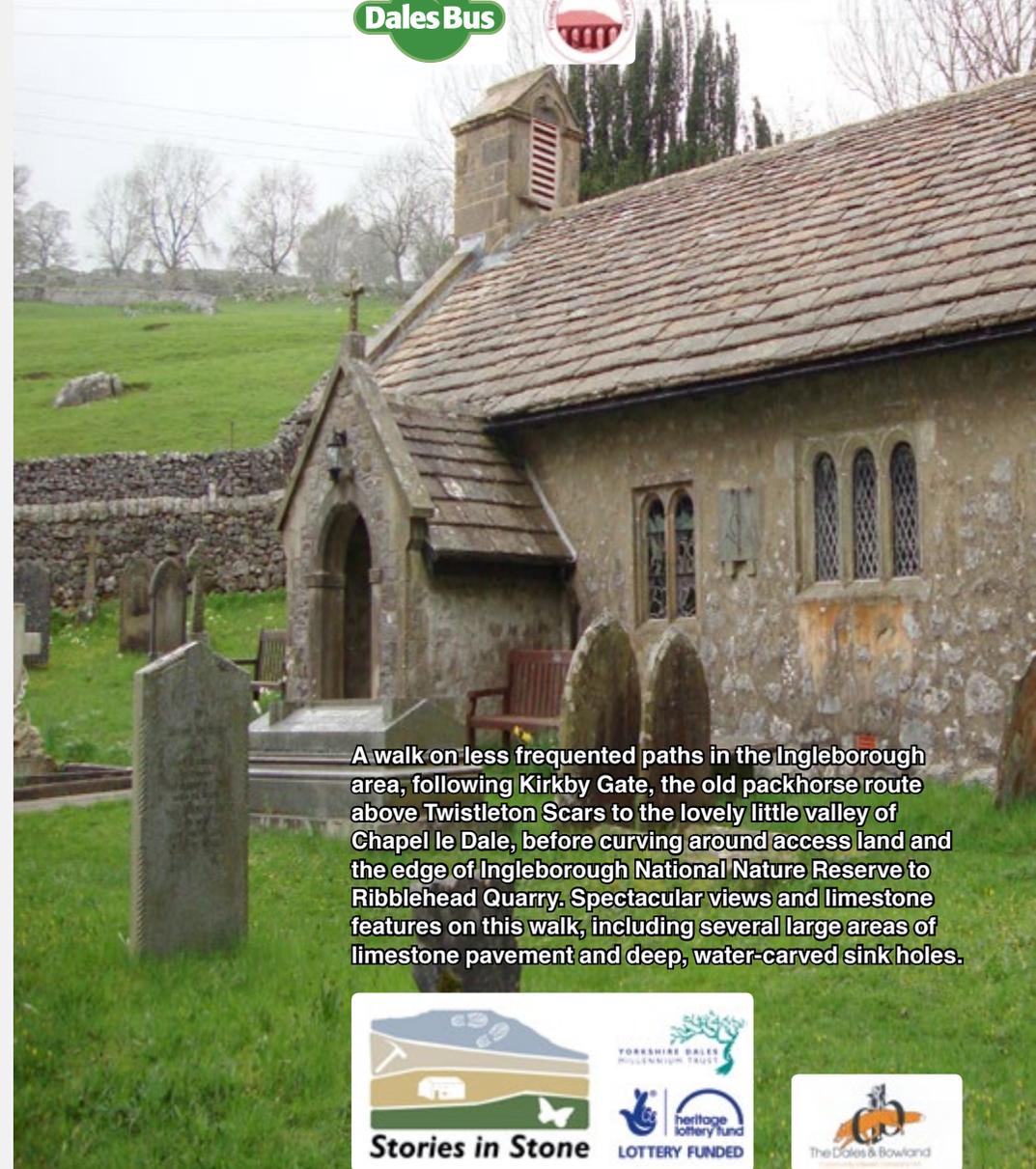
Car drivers can take advantage of the bus or train, by parking in Settle going out on the 581 bus from Settle Market Place to Ingleton and returning from Ribbleshead to Settle by train. On summer Sundays park at Ingleton and return on late afternoon service 830 from Ribbleshead to Ingleton. You will also be safeguarding the environment by reducing your carbon footprint in the National Park.



# Ingleborough Walks

## Walk 8

### Chapel le Dale and Souther Scale Ingleton - Ribbleshead



A walk on less frequented paths in the Ingleborough area, following Kirkby Gate, the old packhorse route above Twistleton Scars to the lovely little valley of Chapel le Dale, before curving around access land and the edge of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve to Ribbleshead Quarry. Spectacular views and limestone features on this walk, including several large areas of limestone pavement and deep, water-carved sink holes.



## The Walk

From Ingleton bus stop and Community Centre, descend the steps from the corner of the car park beyond the public toilets, alongside the viaduct and down to the main road at Bank Top, bearing left down on the lane signposted to the Waterfalls to cross the bridge over the River Doe. Turn first right into Oddie lane, a narrow, quiet road with little traffic. This soon climbs quite steeply winding past the old Meal Bank Quarry, now a nature reserve, on the narrow strip of land between the famous Ingleton Falls, With Ingleton Quarry soon a dominant feature to the right, but increasingly spectacular views of Ingleborough as the gradient eases.

Continue for over a mile, past the turn off to Twistleton Hall, to where, an iron pedestrian gate indicates where the Waterfalls Walk down to Beazley Farm crosses. Turn left up the narrow, usually busy path (this part of the Waterfalls Walk is a public right of way). Head up the slope towards Twistleton Hall Farm at a gate to join a track. Continue past the farm along the track as it curves up to a second gate, about 100 metres beyond which a wooden post indicates a narrow path on the right which curves steeply up the hillside.

This is the start of Kirkby Gate, the ancient packhorse way between Dent village and Kirkby Lonsdale. Follow the path as it angles steeply up the hillside, soon giving wonderful views along the limestone scars of Kingsdale before it hairpins sharply back, up the hillside, then turning left through an area of limestone pavement. Follow the grassy path keeping some hundred metres from the wall on the right heading for the craggy area of limestone ahead where you will see a narrow gap where the ancient path squeezes between high limestone clints, a path partly natural, partly man-made between rocks to soon reach Ewe Top. Wherside is a dominant feature ahead with magnificent views of Ingleborough to your right.

The gradient eases to level walking, soon with a slight descent. The path winds slightly left to about 100-150 metres from the wall to the left - follow cycle tracks and footprints as you wind between amazing swallow holes and areas of limestone pavement. Continue over Raintree Moss, with more extensive limestone pavements to your right, swerving round the outside of more pavement below the end of the great ridge of Wherside, with fir plantations directly ahead. The path eventually crosses Blake Bank Moss - with spectacular views of Ribbleshead Viaduct ahead - to the ford below Ellerbeck farm, where you meet a track. Turn right here, descending to woodland, through a gate, downhill into a narrow, atmospheric, romantic valley at the bottom of which is Chapel le Dale, the tiny Dales chapel alongside the burial ground of many railway navvies who died building the Settle Carlisle line in the 1870s.

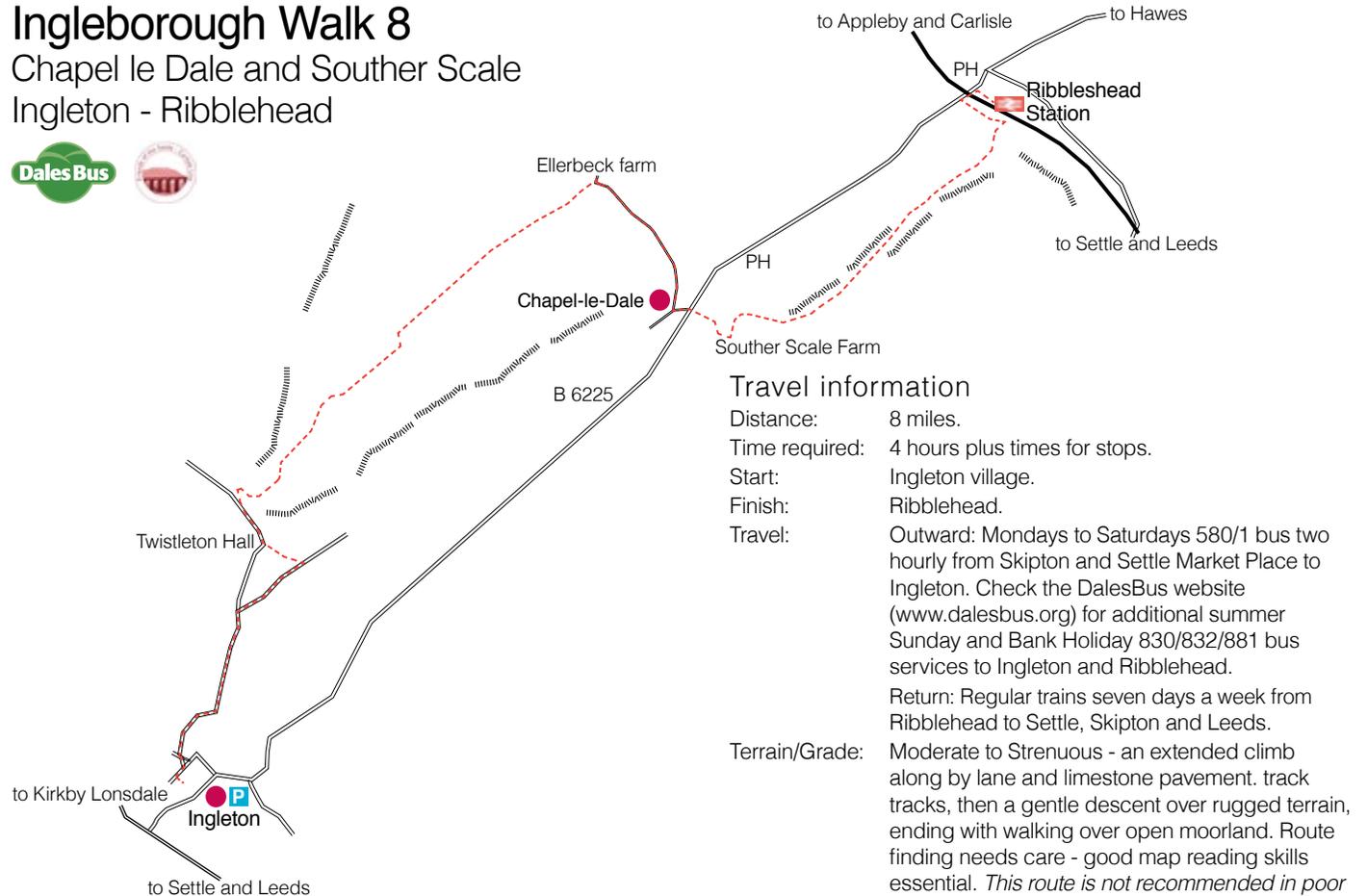
Continue to the main B6255. Unless you want to call at the

Hill Inn (quarter of a mile up the busy road) cross the narrow stile ahead, and the step stile in the next field, to reach the path to a gate below Souther Scale Farm. Climb past the farm to the ladder stile in the wall above. Cross, following the grassy path right signed to Douk Cave. Pass the Cave, a deep pothole (access for experienced cavers only) bearing left to a pedestrian gate and then, on the right, a second gate.

Turn left to follow the wall side over access land above Souther Scale Nature Reserve (access by stile). The narrow wall side path eventually bears half right to a (locked) metal gate some 50 metres from the wall corner ahead. Cross, again keeping the same direction above Fell Close Rocks and below Keld Bank to eventually join the right of way from Sleight

Pasture. Head for the pedestrian gate. Follow this narrow path, but about 100 metres beyond the gate, look out for a narrow path on the left crossing Gauber High Pasture. Head for the pedestrian gate in the wall below. The path winds between limestone pavement. Go through the gate, bearing right at the junction marked by a post with green waymark, and follow the path as it winds down to the quarry floor, turning right to the entrance of the Nature Reserve. Follow the old quarry drive to the main road and railway bridge by the viaduct. Turn right under the bridge to the Station Inn and right again into Ribbleshead Station drive. Allow 10 minutes to walk from the Inn to the station platform to be sure of catching your train.

## Ingleborough Walk 8 Chapel le Dale and Souther Scale Ingleton - Ribbleshead



### Travel information

- Distance: 8 miles.  
Time required: 4 hours plus times for stops.  
Start: Ingleton village.  
Finish: Ribbleshead.  
Travel: Outward: Mondays to Saturdays 580/1 bus two hourly from Skipton and Settle Market Place to Ingleton. Check the DalesBus website ([www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)) for additional summer Sunday and Bank Holiday 830/832/881 bus services to Ingleton and Ribbleshead.  
Return: Regular trains seven days a week from Ribbleshead to Settle, Skipton and Leeds.
- Terrain/Grade: Moderate to Strenuous - an extended climb along by lane and limestone pavement. track tracks, then a gentle descent over rugged terrain, ending with walking over open moorland. Route finding needs care - good map reading skills essential. *This route is not recommended in poor weather conditions.*
- Refreshments: Cafes and pubs in Ingleton; pub at Ribbleshead.  
Toilets: In Ingleton - by information Centre. At Station Inn in Ribbleshead for customers only.