

The Settle Loop

Settle 10.1 miles (16.3 km) Time: 5:00 Ascent: 540m **Strenuous**

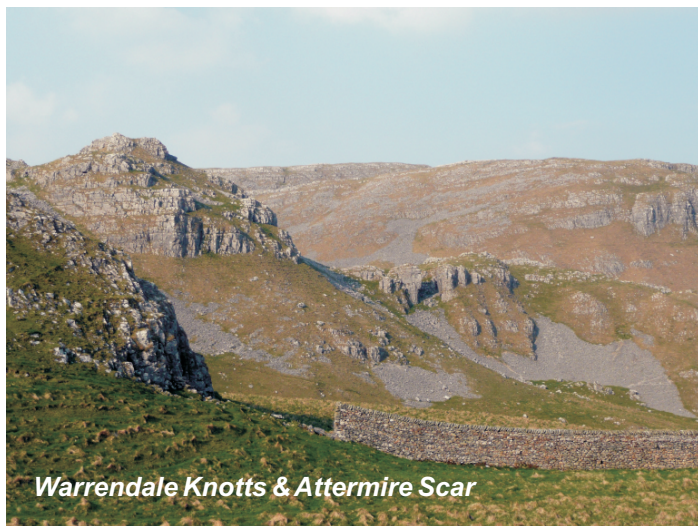
A long airy walk following the Settle Loop of the new Pennine Bridleway, with fine views across Malhamdale and the option to visit Malham.

(With optional Malham loop: 13.5 miles, 860 m of ascent, 6:45 hrs.)

OS Map: OL2.

From Settle Station head up into the town, turning left along the main street (Duke St.) and up along the narrow lane called Constitution Hill at the northern end of the market square. After a sharp left bend, take the enclosed track that forks to the right, climbing onto the open fell along the Pennine Bridleway (1).

Beyond a gate turn right for **Malham**, climbing east on a clear track steeply uphill. Through a gate the ground begins to level (2), with excellent views ahead of the craggy peaks of Warrendale Knotts to the left, and the steep escarpment of Attermire Scar beyond.



The track drops, passing to the right of the steep escarpment through several gates, before climbing gently again, bearing right to a gate out onto Stockdale Lane (3). Turn sharp left and follow the lane east. Where the road cuts down right to Stockdale Farm, continue through a gate along a clear, rocky track, climbing through two more gates, to a high point between Kirkby Fell on the right and Grizedales on the left.

The path begins to dip to meet Nappa Gate, with fine views east into Malhamdale (4). *There is an option here to go through the gate and continue down to Malham (see notes at end).* Otherwise, turn left by the gate for **Langscar Gate** and follow the wall on your right, dropping gently NNE with Malham Tarn prominent ahead in the distance. Just before the wall on the right drops away, look out for the remains of the restored shaft of Nappa Cross on the wall.

The clear path continues to descend NE through three more gates, before joining the **Pennine Bridleway** for **Langcliffe** by a gate at a wall corner (5). Turn left to follow the clear track climbing gently NW alongside the wall on the right. Through the next gate the path has been considerably improved and the walking is now easy, if long. The views are open but the landscape lacks the sustained interest of the outward journey.

Finally, after passing through a couple more gates on this very long track, Ribblesdale begins to open out, with long views of the Three Peaks. The path begins to descend, bearing left beneath Langcliffe Scar to pass the Jubilee Caves on the left, where access is easy (6). By a gate a little further on, a track on the left gives the option to climb up to Victoria Cave.

Otherwise go through the gate and continue west to pass some woods and through a gate to reach the road down to Langcliffe (7). Turn left down this, but almost immediately take a gate on the left on the **Pennine Bridleway** for **Settle**. The path bears right alongside a wall around a wooded area, heading south west to pass through a narrow gap between two other woods (8), dropping down below Blua Craggs to rejoin the outward route from Constitution Hill (9). Retrace your steps back into Settle.

Optional Malham Loop: From Nappa Gate (4) head east along the clear bridleway for **Cove Road**. This eventually leads down to the Cove Road above Malham, however, look for the more direct route on a footpath which cuts off to the right about 300 metres beyond Nappa Gate, for **Malham**. Follow this as it descends south-east below Pikedaw Hill on the left, to run alongside a stream bed. The faint track passes a small cave, before crossing a stile where the views ahead of Malhamdale open out, with Weets Top in the distance. Follow the track descending in a straight line, towards a string of barns ahead. Eventually join an enclosed track for **Malham**, following the line of the barns, bearing right at a fork onto Long Lane which drops, curving left, to Town Head, Malham.

There are plenty of facilities for the walker in Malham, including good pubs, cafes and a Tourist Information Centre. Dalesbus buses run throughout the year to Skipton, and on summer Sundays and bank holidays to Settle.

Return along the track north to **Malham Cove**, climbing the stone steps to the left of the Cove and crossing the limestone pavement at the top. Bear left along the **Pennine Way** to climb NNW through the Dry Valley at Watlowes. After a rocky scramble, where the Pennine Way track turns sharply right, go on to a stile ahead on the left signed for **Langscar Gate**. The path follows a wall on the right, due east, to cross the Cove Road at Langscar Gate. Cross the road and through the gate to continue west to rejoin the main **Pennine Bridleway** route back to Settle (5).

Dropping from Nappa Gate to Malham



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Main Route
--- **Alternative**
--- **Optional**

Scale - 1:32,250
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