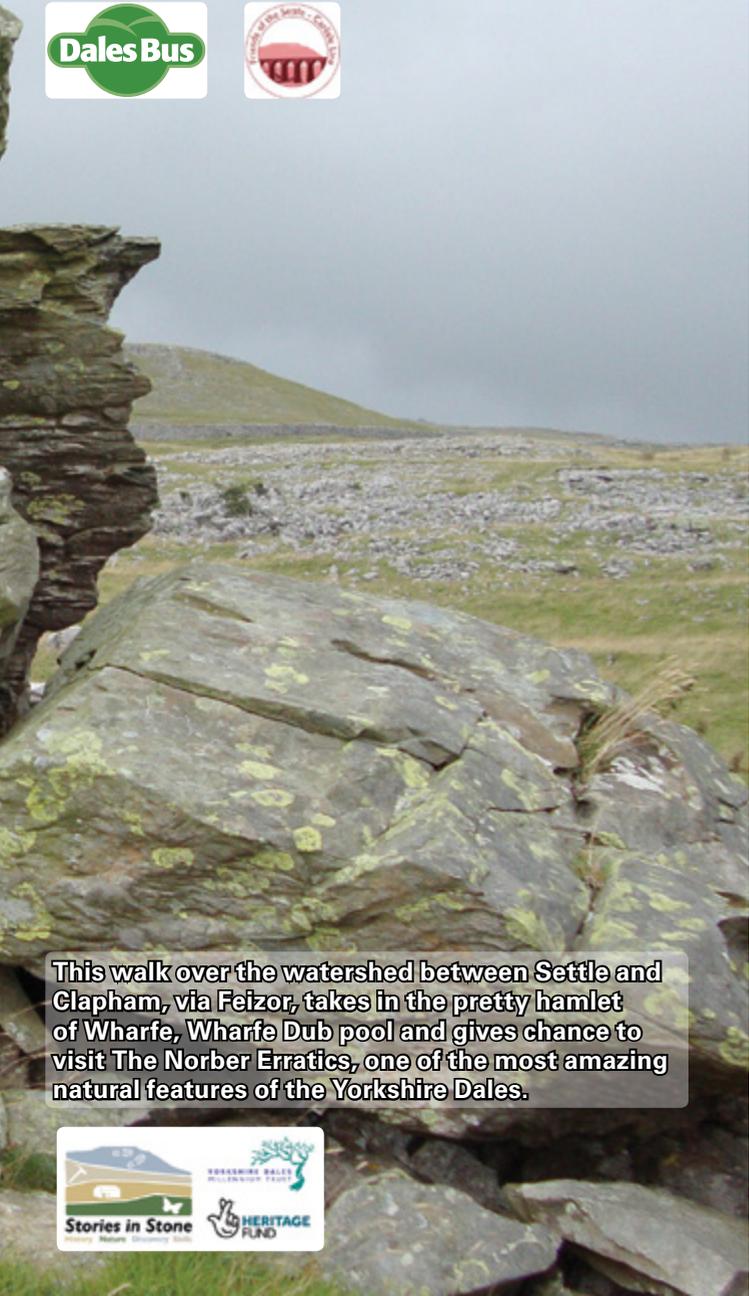


Ingleborough Walks

Walk 4

Ribblesdale, Wharfe and The Norber Erratics



This walk over the watershed between Settle and Clapham, via Feizor, takes in the pretty hamlet of Wharfe, Wharfe Dub pool and gives chance to visit The Norber Erratics, one of the most amazing natural features of the Yorkshire Dales.



The Walk

From Settle Market place, head along the narrow lane at the side of The Naked Man café leading into Kirkgate. Keep straight ahead but turn sharp right into a narrow alleyway just past Proctor House. This leads behind Whitefriars, under Settle Viaduct to emerge onto the Church Lane. Turn left to reach and cross Settle Bridge, crossing the road over to take the signed and waymarked path between river and the playing field. This path twists left then right then marked by stiles across the fields to the Stackhouse road. Cross to the stiles opposite to follow the path right behind the wall over stiles. At Stackhouse the path goes behind the hamlet then bears half left up the steep slope. Keep ahead until a ladder stile in the wall above comes into view. Straight ahead to the next stile, beyond which, the path bears slightly left, a

grassy track along the top side of a wall, through a gate past remains of an old cairn. Follow the wall through a field before crossing through a gate on the right to the other side of the wall. A grassy path, marked by gates, now leads across the fields of Feizor Thwaite down to the little hamlet of Feizor with its popular walkers' café.

From Feizor, turn right along the narrow lane as it climbs through a shallow ravine, past limestone crags and caves. Some 250 metres past the summit a stile on the left, signed Wharfe, leads down to Wharfe Gill. Go through gateways by the corner of Wharfe Wood below, along wall and wood down the hillside, over more ladder stiles. Cross a track and over a stone step stile by a little ford. Keep ahead over two small footbridges before descending to the lane at another stile.

Turn left along the lane towards Wharfe. At the first

junction take the track right towards a cottage, going left then first right up a narrow, grassy enclosed way between stone walls that climbs behind the hamlet. This becomes a narrow track between stone walls turning northwards into Crummackdale.

Keep ahead to the crest of the hill, before this ancient packhorse way descends into the shallow valley formed by Austwick Beck. At a junction of paths take the broader path left which drops down to pass a grassy area by the beck, with stone clapper bridges and shallow waterfalls. This is Wash Dub where the beck forms a natural pool once used for sheep dipping. Cross the first bridge and walk up the grassy hillside to a pedestrian gate. The path, faint on the ground, climbs past unusual slab-like stone outcrops, before turning due south. Head for the summit of the low hill ahead where a pole indicates a step stile. The path now descends in the same direction, marked by a ladder stiles, crossing a track, then down to a ladder stile, right, at the corner of Crummack Lane.

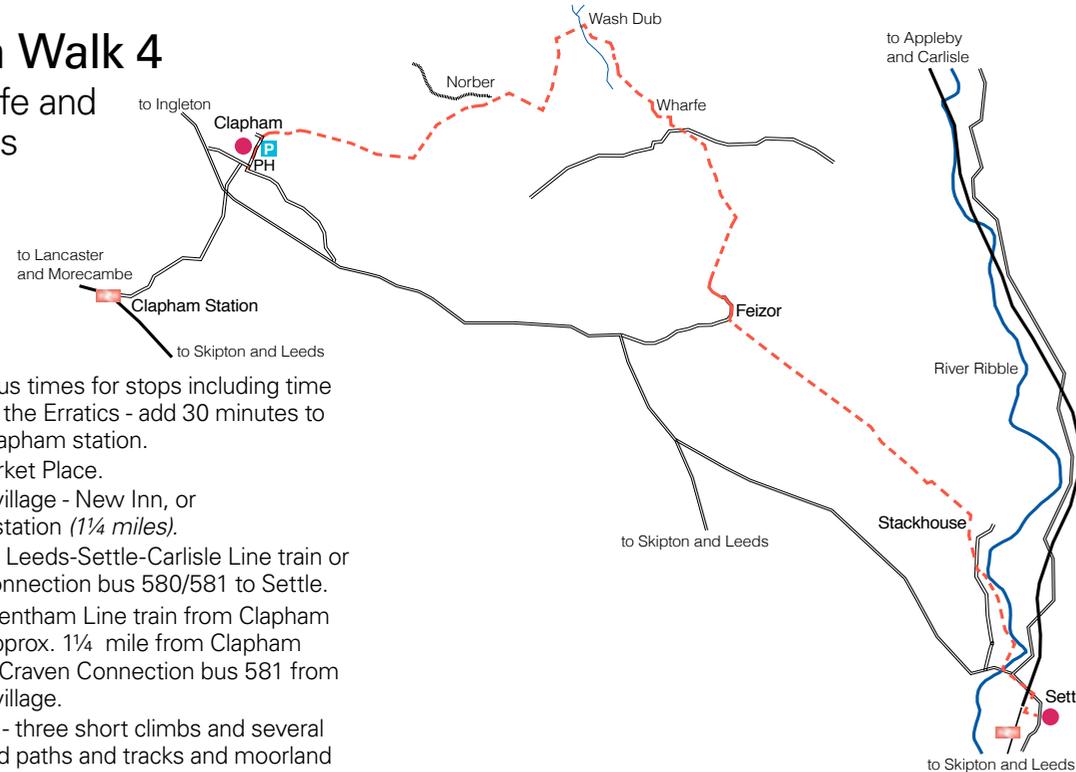
Cross the lane to the steep stile opposite, signed Norber. This climbs by a wall along the narrow ledge of Nappa Scar, before reaching a broken wall and stile right. This leads to an area of open ground dominated by the huge weather-carved boulders of Norber Erratics. Glaciers scooped up these massive Silurian boulders 12,000 years ago from Crummackdale and carried them to where they remain when the ice retreated, huge natural monuments, some perched precariously on limestone plinths.

Continue half left over the brow and follow a winding path through the boulders past gnarled trees to a 4-way footpath sign on the horizon. Keep straight ahead (signed Clapham) with a wall on your left and prominent Proctor's Scar on your right to a ladder stile beneath the scar. Continue to the protruding wall corner then bear diagonally left past the outline of a long vanished tarn, keeping to the right of the limestone outcrop aiming for the ladder stile left of a gate. Turn right along Thwaite Lane for a mile, passing through two short tunnels to emerge in Clapham by St. James Church. Turn left for the village centre, cafés, toilets (in the car park) and bus stop by the New Inn.

If you are going to Clapham station (allow half an hour for the 1¼ miles), with the New Inn on your left continue straight on down the No Through Road known as The Green past the school and houses. Turn right over Mafeking Bridge to cross the beck. An underpass by the beck takes you safely under the A65 to follow the lane to the station.

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Ribblesdale, Wharfe and The Norber Erratics



Travel Information

- Distance:** 7 miles.
- Time required:** 4 hours plus times for stops including time to explore the Erratics - add 30 minutes to walk to Clapham station.
- Start:** Settle Market Place.
- Finish:** Clapham village - New Inn, or Clapham station (1¼ miles).
- Travel:** **Outward:** Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line train or Craven Connection bus 580/581 to Settle.
Return: Bentham Line train from Clapham Station (approx. 1¼ mile from Clapham village) or Craven Connection bus 581 from Clapham village.
- Terrain/Grade:** Moderate - three short climbs and several stiles. Field paths and tracks and moorland paths and field paths, care is needed when exploring the Norber Erratics because of rough terrain.
- Refreshments:** Choice of pubs, shops and cafés in both Settle and in Clapham. Shop in Clapham. Café in Feizor.
- Toilets:** In Whitefriars Settle, and National Park car park in Clapham. Feizor for café customers.