

TALES FROM DalesRail

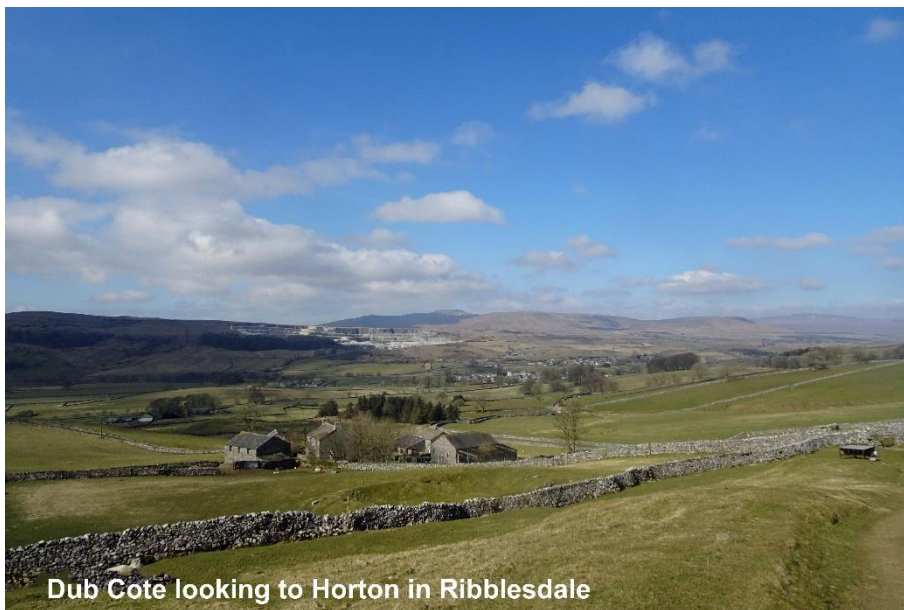
Pen-y-Ghent

A strenuous circular walk from Horton in Ribblesdale taking in Pen-y-Ghent John Barnes

DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to Richard Watts at richard.watts.crl@gmail.com or Simon Clarke at simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com

'Pen-y-Ghent' (a fine Celtic name, meaning the hill of the winds, or the snowy headed) is surrounded by the homes and burial places of prehistoric tribes; in its limestone are deep potholes – like the tremendous chasms of Hull and Hunt Pots and deep hollows like Churn Milk Hole – and on its western slopes are scores of caves, too.

The mountain looks most impressive on a windy day in early spring – especially noble from the green lanes which go climbing away from the highway at Helwith Bridge, or from that grand switchback road which, going north from Stainforth village and beyond the farms of Dale Head and Rainscar, drops into Pen-y-Ghent Gill and Litton Dale.



Dub Cote looking to Horton in Ribblesdale

From these green lanes the mountain is a craggy monster rising above the bents and boggy land. From the grey road you see it from its feet to its proud crest and from end to end – and from its leonine head over its saddle along its smooth flanks called Plover Hill, to its tail end where the Berghs become the pastures of the Halton Gill and Foxup farms.

Pen-y-Ghent Circular Walk



Pen-y-Ghent

We alight at Horton in Ribblesdale Station and take the road southwards through the village to Horton Bridge and continuing southwards for a further 300 yards, turn left along the road to the old farmhouse of Dub Cote, which has been converted into a bunkhouse. Climbing by a faint path towards Dub Cote Scar we come to Long Lane and turn left, joining the Pennine Way at Churn Milk Hole, a large sink hole where you may see a ring ouzel if you are lucky.

We now follow the Pennine way to the road at Dale Head and continue via Rainscar to Blishmire Close and turning left at the cattle grid we follow the field path via Blishmire House to Giants Grave. Crossing the road we continue on field paths by Pen-y-Ghent Gill coming to the road again just beyond Swan Dike. This is a fine path with lovely views of the limestone escarpments and on the right hand Darnbrook Fell. Straight in front we look towards Littondale and Horse Head beyond which is Wharfedale.

We continue on the road to Hesleden Bergh and take the path northwards towards Foxup and at Low Bergh follow the path westwards which takes us across Foxup Moor. If we continue along this path we will come to Hull Pot and eventually arrive back at Horton in Ribblesdale having rejoined the Pennine Way at Tarn Bar but from the finger post on Foxup Moor we decide to take the path which climbs to Plover Hill. From Plover Hill we continue southwards following a well-worn path to rejoin the Pennine Way at Pen-y-Ghent summit. We now return along the Pennine Way to Horton in Ribblesdale calling at Hull Pot on the way.



This is a splendid walk which completes a full circuit of Pen-y-Ghent and Plover Hill with extensive views of the surrounding countryside and much interest for the botanist.

This is a strenuous walk of 15 miles. Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL2 – Yorkshire Dales South & West.