

Town and country

A self guided walk around Settle in North Yorkshire



Discover the secrets of a picturesque Yorkshire Dales town
Visit a cave used in prehistoric times by hyenas and bears
Examine stone walls for clues to centuries of farming practices
Find out how Settle became home to Quakers and a naked man

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Created in collaboration with



This walk was a Highly Commended entry in a competition to design a walk held in September 2012 by the U3A in collaboration with the RGS-IBG



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Cover image: View over Settle © Tony Stephens

Town and country

Discover how the Yorkshire Dales market town of Settle developed

Nestled in spectacular North Yorkshire countryside the small market town of Settle retains much evidence of its medieval past as well clues to a more ancient history.

This walk tells the story of Settle's development by exploring the historic town and its surrounding countryside.



The walk starts with a climb high above the town to the Craven Faults to discover a coral reef and a cave which hold prehistoric clues.

Along lanes and footpaths, see how different stone walls cover the hillsides and become an expert in estimating how old they are. Find out about centuries of different farming methods, from ancient valley field systems to the cattle driving trade of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

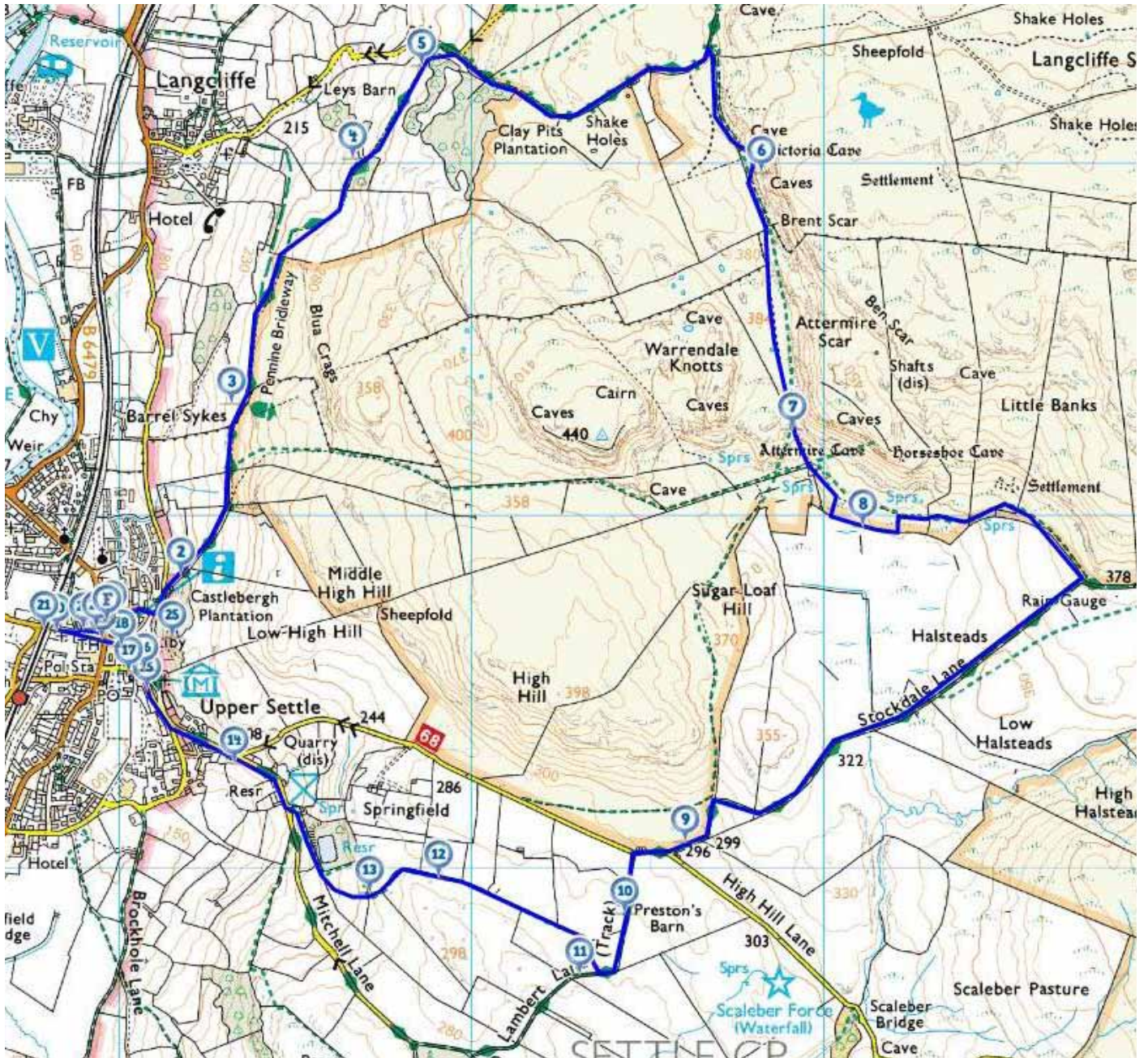


The second part of the walk explores the town and its oldest buildings to uncover clues about former residents.

Find out how yeoman farmers diversified and became wealthy. Discover how the Quakers gained commercial control of the town. Hear about a man who went to church naked and see another naked man in the market square!

Images: 'Settle Market Place' by W G Herdman (1840s) © Tom Lord / Sheep on Stockdale Lane © Tony Stephens

Route overview



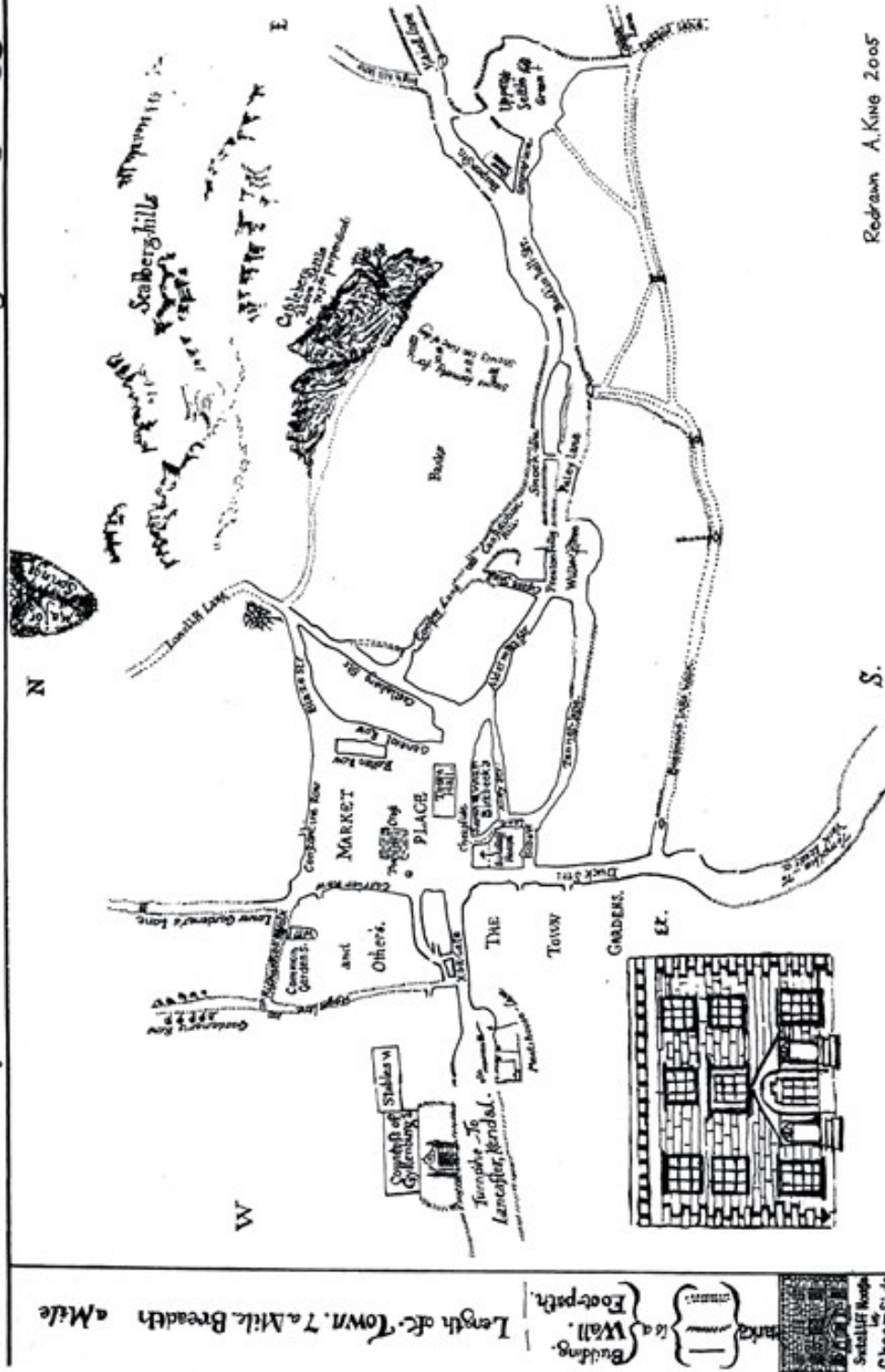
Practical information

Location	Settle, Craven, North Yorkshire
Getting there	<p>Train - Direct rail services to Settle run from Carlisle, Lancaster and Leeds every 2 hours on weekdays.</p> <p>Bus - Served by local routes from Giggleswick, Skipton and Kirby Lonsdale (routes 580 and 581). Alight in Settle Market Place.</p> <p>Car - 20 miles from M6 Junction 36; just off the A65 between Kendal and Leeds. There are three public car parks close to the town centre: Ashfield (BD24 9DX), Whitefriars (BD24 9JD) and Greenfoot (BD24 9HL) - charges apply.</p> <p>Bicycle - Settle is on National Cycle Route Number 69 (Morecambe to Grimsby)</p>
Start & finish point	Settle Market Place, BD24 9EF
Distance	6 miles
Optional extension	Castlebergh Crag (¼ mile return)
Directions from railway station to start	<p>From the station entrance, turn left and go down the access road. At the bottom turn right into Station Road. Continue along Station Road and at the end turn left into Duke Street (signposted Tourist Information Centre).</p> <p>Follow Duke Street up to Ye Olde Naked Man Café. The Market Place is on the opposite side of the road next to the Town Hall.</p>
Level	Moderate – A town and rural route with a total climb of 400 metres.

Terrain	The route follows marked footpaths and tracks in the countryside, and quiet roads in the town. The fields can be muddy after rain. Strong boots are recommended. Total climb of 400 metres.
Conditions	The weather in the hills can change suddenly. Warm, waterproof clothing and a map are required. You are advised to check the local weather forecast before you go on the walk.
Suitable for	Families – Plenty of sights for all ages Note: The route passes through several cattle and sheep pastures, and is therefore not suitable for dogs
Refreshments	There are several places serving food in the town, including The Naked Man Café in the Market Place (at the beginning and end of the walk) which provides a variety of bespoke fresh sandwiches. There are no places to buy refreshments outside the town, so you may want to buy or prepare a packed lunch for the country section.
Toilets	Public toilets at Whitefriars car park in the town. Customers can use facilities in the cafés and pubs.
Places to visit	Settle's open air market is held every Tuesday in the Market Place. The indoor market is also every Tuesday in the Victoria Hall. The Museum of North Craven Life at the Folly (Stop 16) is open from Easter to October. For further details Tel: 01729 822361 or see www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly
Visitor information	Settle Tourist Information Centre is located in the Town Hall by the start / end of the walk. Tel: 01729 825192 settle@ybtbic.co.uk

John Lettsom's map of Settle (1765)

J. JOSEPH RATHBONE of LIVERPOOL, this SKETCH of SETTLE in YORKSHIRE: is offered By his FRIEND B. Lettison.



Redrawn A.King 2005

I The gradual fall of Sarsberry hills
 Bedrock into a level vale
 As far as the meandering hills
 Of Abbie, gave to Sarsberry name

II When Pencil's fragments jaggedly
 Lie, then great hall seems appear
 (Elsewhere in Great Britain show)
 Prospects that each garden rear.

III Nature yet, truly old, her bounties show
 Led to a level vale
 Where the great beams above
 To yield the mind alternate light.

IV Nature's mind, objects bring
 To the valley, mind objects bring
 To the valley, mind objects bring
 To the valley, mind objects bring

V Obergberg, an old Act
 Shows the valley's not of the
 Where again an old Act
 Shows the valley's not of the

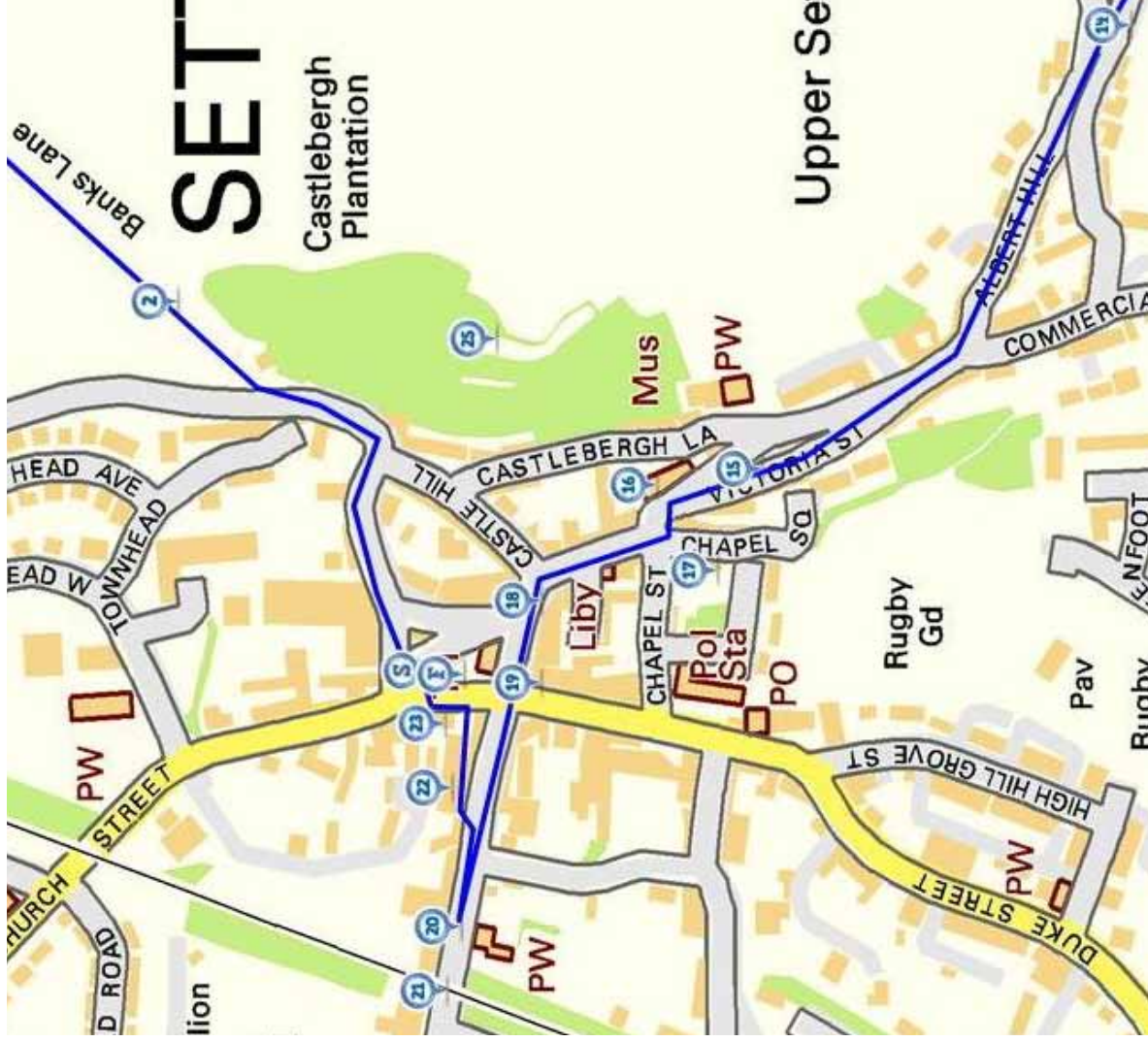
© Alan King

Settle has changed little since this map was drawn in 1765 and it is still possible to use it to navigate the town today.

The map was drawn by John Lettsom, a Quaker who lived in Settle for about five years during the 1760s.

His map is referenced several times during the walk, especially in the town stops so you may like to use it for comparisons with present-day Settle.

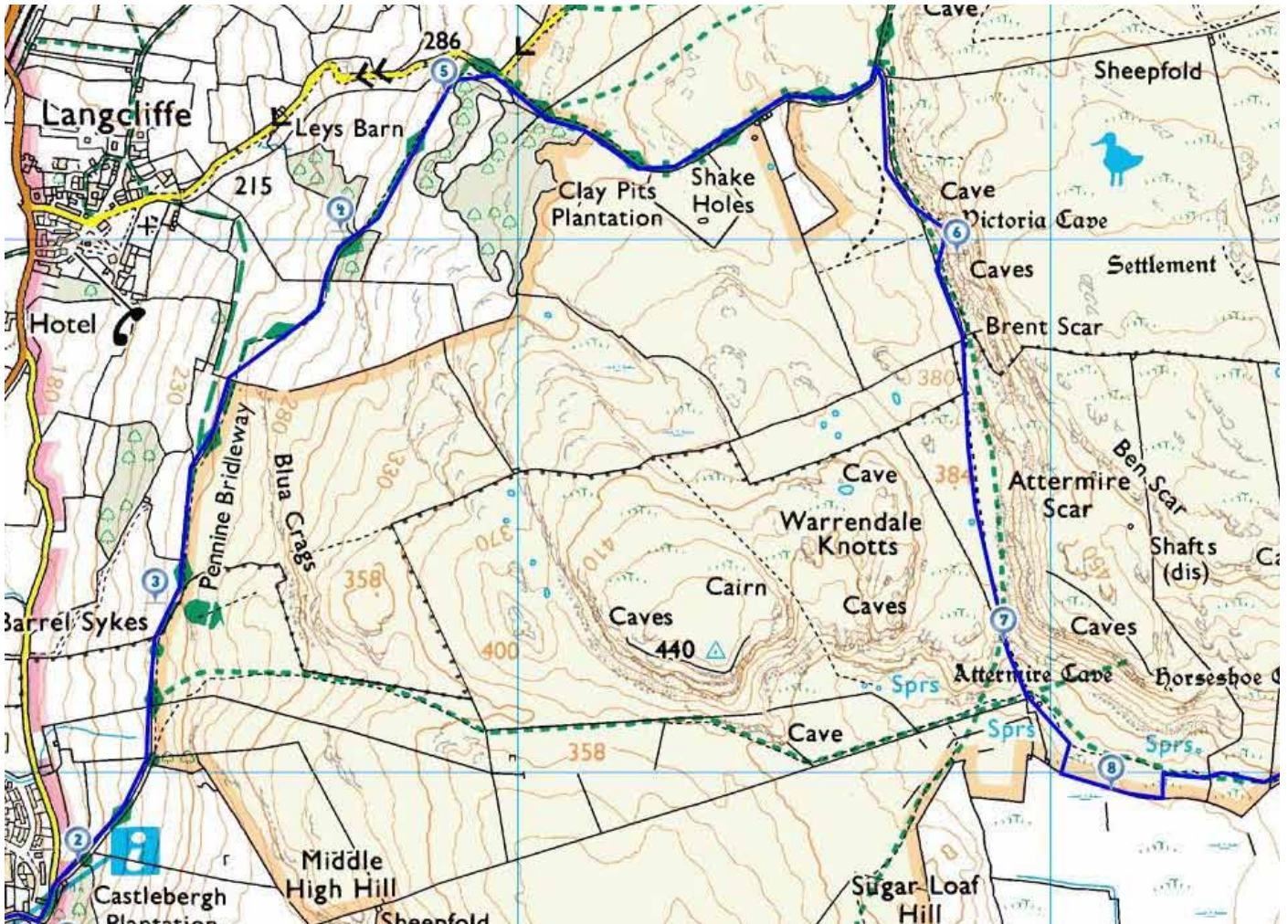
Start and end of the route



Stopping points

- S.** The Market Cross, Market Place
- 2.** View of a straight stone wall from Banks Lane
- ...
- 15.** Castlebergh House, Victoria Street
- 16.** Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly
- 17.** Liverpool House, Chapel Square
- 18.** Quaker warehouse, east end of Cheapside
- 19.** Sutcliffe House, corner of Cheapside and Duke St
- 20.** Victoria Hall and Quaker Meeting House, Kirkgate
- 21.** Settle to Carlisle Railway bridge
- 22.** Bishopdale House, Bishopdale Court
- 23.** Ye Olde Naked Man Café, Market Place
- F.** View of The Shambles, Market Place
- ...
- 25.** Optional extension to Castlebergh Crag

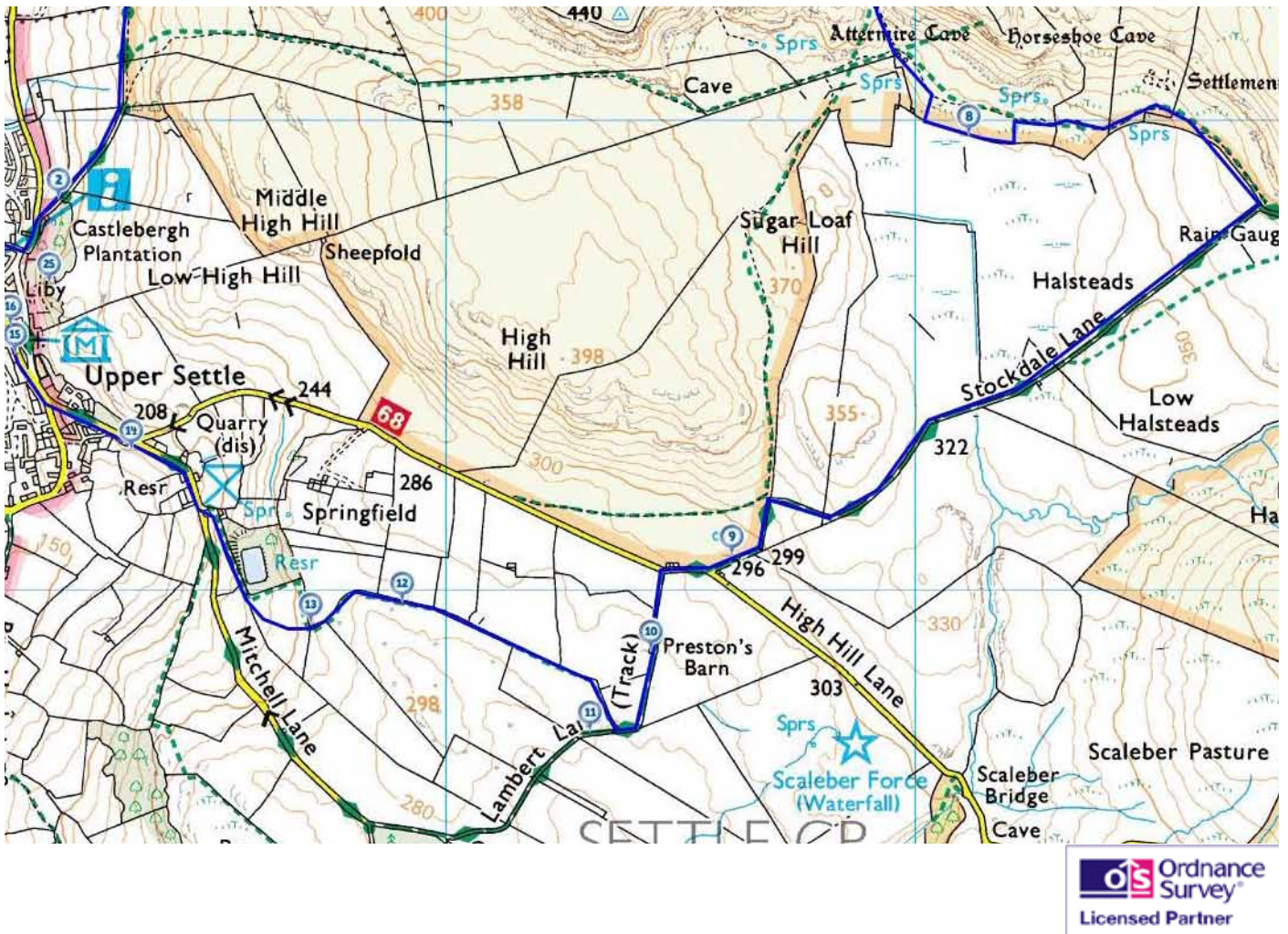
Second part of the route



Stopping points

2. View of a straight stone wall from Banks Lane
3. Boundary wall between Settle and Langcliffe
4. View above Langcliffe village
5. View of Lower Winskill Farm and the Three Peaks
6. Victoria Cave
7. Straight limestone wall before Mid Craven Fault
8. Wall at the boundary site of Authulnesmire

Third part of the route



Stopping points

- 9. Stockdale Lane on the flank of High Hill
- 10. Preston's Barn, Newfield
- 11. Cattle underpass, Lambert Lane
- 12. View of three stone walls by Newfield boundary
- 13. Western section of Newfield boundary wall
- 14. View over Settle valley from the bench at the junction of Mitchell Lane and the road from Settle to Malham

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Settle

The Market Cross, Market Place

Directions 1

From the Market Cross walk to the left side of the arched building known as The Shambles. Walk up Constitution Hill following the sign for Castleberg and Tot Lord Trail and continue as the road bears left. Take a gravelled path on the right following a sign for Pennine Bridleway Langcliffe. After about 100 metres on the right after a tree plantation is a gate leading into a field. Stop here and listen to Track 2.

2. Enclosing the pastures

View of a straight stone wall from Banks Lane

Directions 2

Follow the path and go through a gate next to a small barn. Continue with the wall on your left for about 200 metres to reach a short section between two stone walls. After going through a small gate, stop after about 50 metres, just over halfway up the walled section. Listen to Track 3.

3. Ancient builders

Boundary wall between Settle and Langcliffe

Directions 3

Continue in the same direction with a wall on your left until you reach a small gate by a copse on the left. There are now several rather indistinct tracks across the field ahead. It does not matter which you take to climb upwards to a gate below a wood. Go through this gate and stop just before a second gate. Listen to Track 4.

4. Water power

View above Langcliffe village

Directions 4

Go through the gate. Follow the path until it meets a wall at the end of a copse where you can see a tarmac road coming up from Langcliffe. Stop here and listen to Track 5.

5. Three peaks

View of Lower Winskill Farm and the Three Peaks

Directions 5

Follow the path to the right and proceed through the gate onto the tarmac road. Immediately turn sharp right away from the road and follow the sign for Pennine Bridleway Settle Loop. After about 800 metres you will reach the base of a limestone crag called Langcliffe Scar. Pass a barn then continue to a gate on the right. Go through the gate then immediately sharp right following a small path for about 300 metres along the base of the scar. Look carefully for a track on the left which climbs up to Victoria Cave. The track is not signed and the cave is not visible from the path below. Stop at the information board in front of the cave. Listen here to Track 6.

6. Hippos, hyenas and bears

Victoria Cave

Directions 6

From the cave, retrace your steps back down the track to the bottom of the scar and turn left along the path. Go through a kissing gate and after about 600 metres the path descends reasonably steeply to a lower level. Stop about halfway down the slope, next to a small gate in a limestone wall which is adjacent to the path. Listen to Track 7.

7. Faulty rocks

Straight limestone wall before Mid Craven Fault

Directions 7

From here you can see the next stopping point: a wall which is the boundary of the large area of boggy land below. The wall is not actually on a path but is on open access land. To reach it take the path downhill and to the left, before leaving it to walk over to the meandering wall. Follow the wall in the same general direction as the path you have left for about 100 metres. Look out for large stones in the base of the wall. Stop when you have located a cluster of these large boulders. Listen to Track 8.

8. A monks' mire

Wall at the boundary site of Authulnesmire

Directions 8

Return to the main path and continue with the scar on your left for about 500 metres. Go through four gates, keeping the wall on your right. Go through the next gate by a signpost and onto the tarmacked Stockdale Lane. To the left this leads to Stockdale Grange. We however turn right here and follow the lane for just over 1km as it zigzags over the saddle of High Hill. Stop about 50 metres before the T-junction with a larger Malham road. The junction is clearly visible from the stopping point. Listen to Track 9.

9. Tropical times

Bridge over the River Colne into Harmondsworth Moor

Directions 9

Continue along Stockdale Lane to the T-junction with the main road (this is the Settle to Kirkby Malham Road). Turn right and then in about 100 metres, turn left into Lambert Lane, which is a track between two walls signed 'Pennine Bridleway'. Follow the lane for about 75 metres stopping when a barn comes into view on the right. Listen here to Track 10.

10. A crusader's legacy

Preston's Barn, Newfield

Directions 10

Follow Lambert Lane for about 200 metres beyond Preston's Barn to a sign on the right to Settle 1¼ miles. Go through the gate into the ancient cattle pastures and immediately on your left you will see a well-engineered tunnel under Lambert Lane. Stop beside it and listen to Track 11.

11. Thirsty cattle

Cattle underpass below Lambert Lane

Directions 11

From the cattle underpass return to the gate where you entered the pasture but don't go back through it. Turn left and keep the Newfield boundary wall on your right for about ½ km. At one point you will need to cross over an adjoining wall using a set of steps. Stop when you are under the first of a group of trees that you come to just inside the Newfield boundary wall. Listen to Track 12.

12. A dating game

View of three stone walls by Newfield boundary

Directions 12

Continue walking round Newfield boundary wall up to a stile. Cross over it and just beyond you will see a low wall made of massive boulders at the top of the slope going down to the valley. Walk up to this wall and turn right. Follow it to the tree plantation then go through the gap to look at the other side of the wall. Stop at the boulders you judge to be the largest. Listen to Track 13.

13. Clearing the fields

Western section of Newfield boundary wall

Directions 13

As you look down the hill you will see a wall on the right with a tree plantation; inside is a disused reservoir. Descend the field to the corner of the reservoir and then bear right down a steeply-sloping track. At the bottom turn right into Mitchell Lane. Until the middle of the eighteenth century this was the main highway coming up the valley from Long Preston.

Stop after about 200 metres at a wooden bench where Mitchell Lane joins a road which descends steeply from the right. Listen to Track 14.

14. What's in a name?

View over Settle Valley, bench by Mitchell Lane

Directions 14

Ignore Greenhead Lane on the left and take the main road downhill that bends to the right through Upper Settle. Go to the left of Junction Lodge onto the cobbled road. After 50 metres is a row of three-storey cottages. Stop at the end of the row by Castlebergh House on the right, identified by number 10 on the gatepost and a date stone above the door which reads IWE 1664. Listen to Track 15.

15. Branching out

Directly under the flight path by Bath Road

Directions 15

Continue along the road for 50 metres and stop outside The Folly which is a very large building on the same side of the road as Castlebergh House. Listen to Track 16.

16. Hearths for pews?

Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly

Directions 16

Cross the road in front of The Folly and turn left into Chapel Square following the sign to Greenfoot Car Park. Stop after about 30 metres by the three-storey house on the right. Listen to Track 17.

17. Speculating on a puddle

Liverpool House, Chapel Square

Directions 17

Take the road directly opposite Chapel Square and follow it to the right for about 75 metres until you reach Cheapside, which lies on one side of the Market Place. Cross the road and stop in front of the Tourist Information Centre on the corner of the current Town Hall. Listen to Track 18.

18. Commercial Quakers

Quaker warehouse, Cheapside

Directions 18

With the Tourist Information Centre on your right continue to the west end of Cheapside. Stop where it meets the main road, Duke Street. Listen to Track 19.

19. Medical men

Sutcliffe House, corner of Cheapside and Duke Street

Directions 19

Cross the main road by the pedestrian crossing and proceed ahead down the road signposted Friends Meeting House. Stop after about 100 metres in front of the Victoria Hall, the building with the canopy overhanging the pavement. Listen to Track 20.

20. Meeting places

Victoria Hall and Quaker Meeting House, Kirkgate

Directions 20

Remain by the Victoria Hall and look at the railway bridge. Listen to Track 21.

21. The Railway Age

Settle and Carlisle Railway bridge

Directions 21

From Victoria Hall return back up Kirkgate but do not go all the way to the Market Place. When you reach Poppies Tea Room on the left, turn into the narrow passage beyond it to the right (Kirkgate Yett). Follow the left fork of the passage and pass a metal fire escape. Stop at the end of the road by Bishopdale House, the building just before the Market Place. Listen to Track 22.

22. Space saving

Bishopdale House, Bishopdale Court

Directions 22

Continue into the Market Place and stop in front of Ye Olde Naked Man Café. Listen to Track 23.

23. Naked or not?

Ye Olde Naked Man Café, Market Place

Directions 23

Cross the road to the Market Cross. Listen to Track 24.

24. A shambolic end

Market Cross, Settle Market Place

Optional extension

We hope that you have enjoyed the walk! We can also recommend going up Castlebergh Crag for excellent views of the town and surrounding area. You may like to do this at the end of the walk or another time.

From the Market Cross, walk to the left hand side of the Shambles and up Constitution Hill. After about 70 metres take the first passageway on the right. After about 100 metres is the entrance to the Castlebergh Plantation on the left. There is a reproduction there of Samuel Buck's map of Settle of 1720. There is also a board at the entrance illustrating the 24 recognised rock climbs on the limestone exposure at the top of the hill. Go through the gate into the plantation and climb up to the flagpole.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Tony Stephens** for creating the walk, providing photographs and the audio commentary
- **Mike Jackson** for his contribution to the editing and development of the walk
- **Tom Lord** for advice about the Victoria Cave finds and his generosity in making available images of the finds and the painting of Settle Market Place by W G Herdman
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the walk materials and the audio commentary
- **Rory Walsh** for compiling the walk resources and providing additional photographs
- **Alan King** for kind permission to use his illustration of John Lettsom's map of central Settle in 1765
- **Mike Clarke** for making available a map of the proposed canal extension of 1773
- **Chris Stephens** for kind hospitality and providing the photograph of the Ribblehead Viaduct

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