

Horton - Tour of Pen-y-Ghent

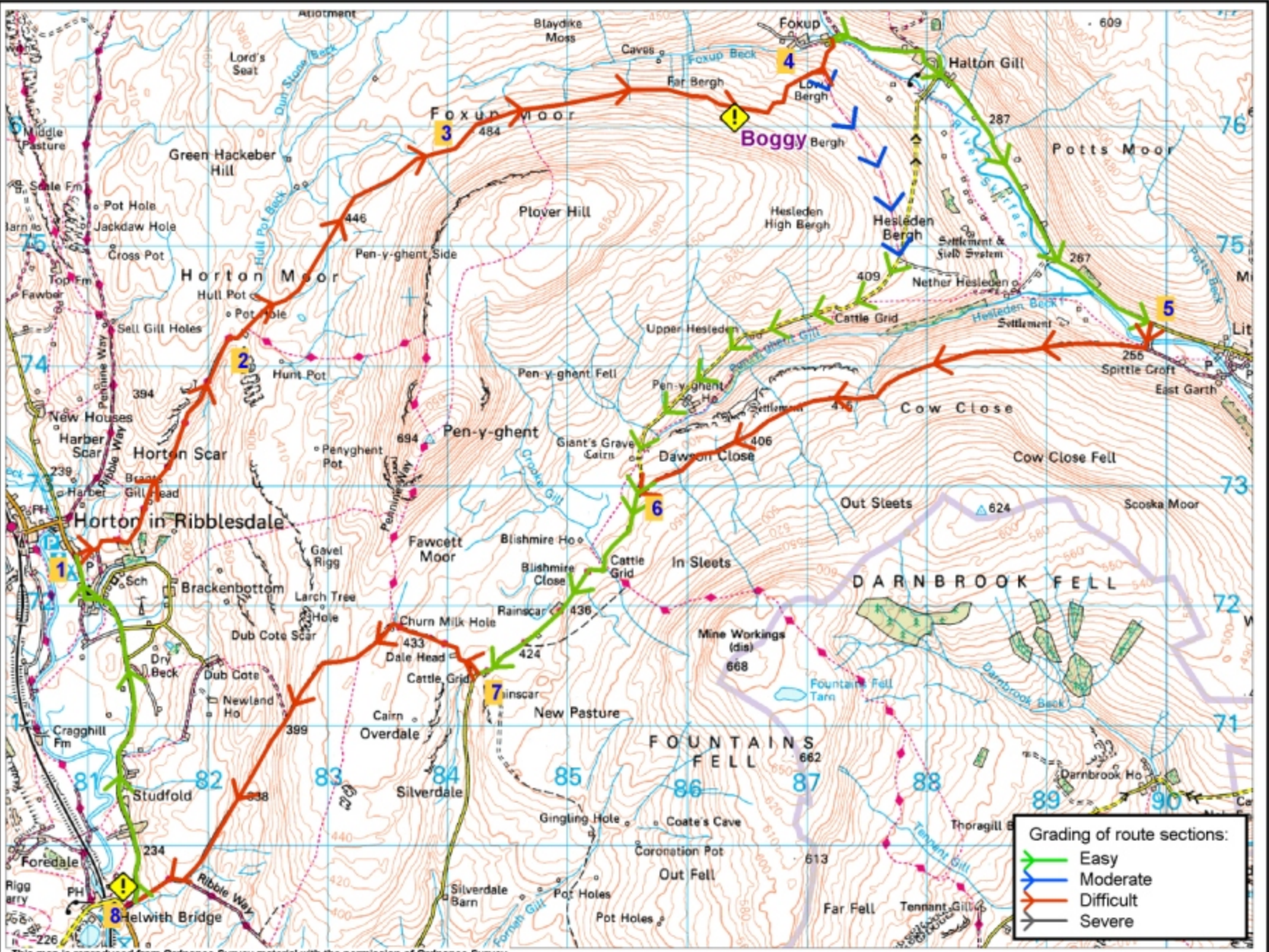
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Start: Horton NPC, GR: SD 808 726

Distance: 27km

Ascent: 640m

Grade: Difficult



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HORTON – TOUR OF PEN-Y-GHENT

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| Start and finish | Horton in Ribblesdale National Park car-park in. SD807726 |
| Distance | 27km (19 miles) |
| Toilets | These are located in the car-park at the start |
| Pubs and cafes | Horton, Helwith Bridge |
| Nearest train station | At Horton-in-Ribblesdale |

The tour of Pen-y-Ghent is a well known classic for good reason. Great rocky track is followed by a superb moorland crossing on a mixture of purpose and built and natural surfaces. A steep rocky climb up Dawson Close takes you onto a lovely track, and then there is the final descent from the shoulder of Pen-y-Ghent before a spin out back to the café.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

1. Turn right out of the car-park and look for the wooden finger-post sign after 150m directing you left and along the Pennine Way. It's uphill from here on a firm stone base but with plenty of loose stuff on top in places. The track flattens out and ends at a gate leading out onto Horton Moor.
2. The Pennine Way footpath goes off to the right. Straight in front is Hull Pot, a spectacular entrance to a pothole, about 250m away, which is worth looking into if you have the time. The ride takes a single-track section through the moorland reeds between these two routes. Through a gate and follow a rough track up. This meets a path coming down from Pen-y-Ghent. Turn left, then right to follow wall in the same direction as you have been travelling. The track starts to improve as you reach a single-track with a sandstone base and is easier to ride. Keep on single-track to the highest point on the ride on Foxup Moor under Plover Hill. A few stream crossings will have tested your technical skills with alternative stone bridges for those not up to the task. The route is undulating over moorland for a while before reaching a gate.
3. This is the start of the downhill to Foxup but the next 4.5km will test the technical skills of any rider. Soft moorland, mud, rushes and moss lay ahead along with ruts, tricky stream crossings and slippery rocks protruding through the surface. There is then a steep and often slippery descent towards Foxup. Enjoy but take care. This leads through to a gate.
4. Having gone through the gate an option presents itself depending on the weather, the time you allowed for the ride and how tired you feel.
5. *Short-cut* - Turning right up hill for a short distance to High Bergh will lead to an easier route along the contours of the hillside to Hesleden Bergh where it meets the metalled road. Turn right and follow the road to meet the main route near Dawson Close.
6. *Normal route* - Drop steeply to Foxup Farm turn right onto the road and on to Halton Gill. Around 4km on road with a downhill bias gives a chance to stretch the legs for a little while.
7. Go right at a junction at New Bridge over the river Skirfare. Immediately over the bridge turn right up a gated track and start to climb up the steepest section on the whole route. A 2km climb levels out onto a good track that runs along the edge of the valley. An undulating route takes you off the hillside to join the metalled road near Dawsons Close.
8. Turn left and ride for 2km on the quiet road with a great view of Pen-Y-Ghent to your right until you come to a cattle-grid just after a parking area with an 'honesty box' on the left.
9. Turn right and drop down on the hard-packed stone track to Dale Head. Keep right at the farm and through the gate on a solid-based track. Turn left at a track junction by Churn Milk Hole, another of the innumerable potholes in this area. Up the stony track takes you to the start of the 4½km downhill section to Helwith Bridge. Be careful on the last 100m, which is loose and drops steeply to the busy main road.
10. Turn right onto the road for the final 3km stretch on the road.