

Southerscales

Lying on the north-west slopes of Ingleborough, and part of the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, Southerscales is a fine example of a limestone pavement of national importance.



WHITFIELD BENSON

THE RESERVE of 42.6 hectares lies at an altitude of approximately 323m amidst dramatic scenery. The Ingleborough section of the famous Three Peaks Walk passes through the reserve. Here, the typical features of limestone country – the scars, the potholes, the limestone pavement and the limestone grassland – may be seen, along with a remarkable variety of ferns and flowering plants. About half of the reserve is classic Karst Carboniferous Limestone pavement presenting a wonderful example of clint and grike formation (the clints are the blocks and the grikes are the fissures between the blocks); the remainder consists of calcareous and acid grassland.

The reserve also includes a small paddock above the old Souther Scales Farm buildings.

The pavement has a rich grike flora with baneberry, lesser meadow-rue and hairy stonecrop. Twelve species of ferns have been recorded, including rigid buckler-fern and polypody.

The limestone grassland contains bird's-eye primrose and mountain everlasting, while heather grows sparsely in the acid grassland. An area of blanket bog holds cross-leaved heath, cranberry and round-leaved sundew.

Wheatear and meadow pipit breed, while ring ouzel have been seen, often in the vicinity of the shake holes, the largest of which is Braithwaite Wife Hole, 155 metres in circumference.

Ingleborough viewed across the limestone pavement



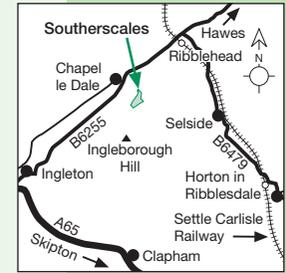
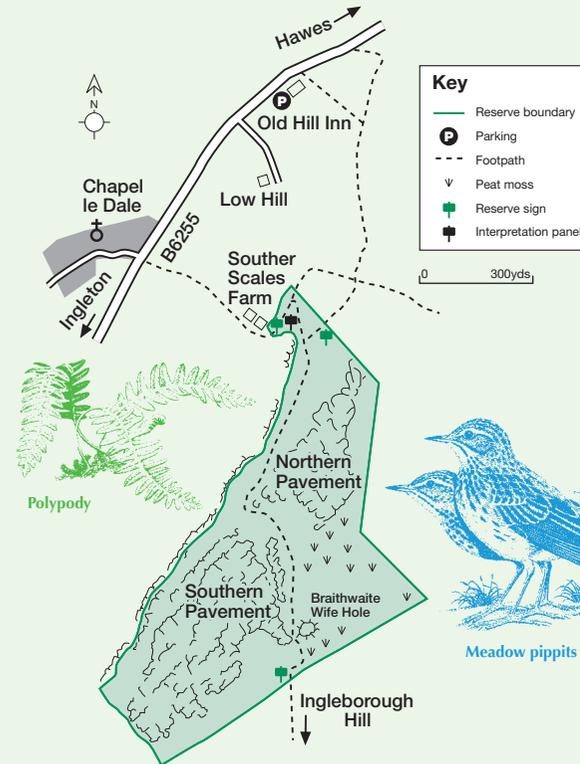
Baneberry

P. CORRIHILL

Card sponsored by



Southerscales



The reserve is off the B6255 Ingleton to Hawes road.

O.S. LANDRANGER 98
GRID REF. SD 742769

- Size: 42.6 hectares
- Parking at The Old Hill Inn, Chapel le Dale; small charge
- Nearest railway station is Ribblesdale
- Buses pass along the B6255 on Sundays in summer. Telephone Ingleton T.I. 015242 41049
- Public houses – The Old Hill Inn or Station Hotel at Ribblesdale. Ingleton has good visitor facilities
- Dogs on leads permitted on footpaths
- Public footpaths

VISITING

The reserve is off the B6255 Ingleton to Hawes road in North Yorkshire. Park in the car park next to the Old Hill Inn and take the path (signposted Ingleborough) just beyond the Inn towards Hawes. Another path to Souther Scales Farm and ultimately the reserve, leaves the B6255 opposite Chapel le Dale.



Wheatear

J. LINTON SMITH

Ribblesdale Station on the famous Settle Carlisle railway is one-and-a-half miles from the reserve towards Hawes. There is currently a daily service, all year.

MANAGEMENT

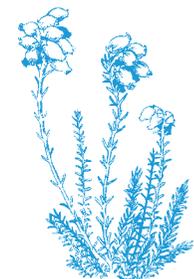
YWT made Southerscales stockproof and in 1987 was able to re-introduce the traditional grazing regime of cattle in summer and sheep in winter. This is in ecological balance with the growth-cycle of the plants on the reserve. It means that Southerscales is empty of stock, just at the time when the leaves of flowering plants are beginning to grow, until the grass is long enough for cattle to eat, which allows time for spring flowers to blossom.

The YWT reserve of South House Pavement is also part of Ingleborough National Nature Reserve.

DENIS SYKES



Dog's mercury



Cross-leaved heath