

Walk 8 Pre-Historic Addingham: Counter Hill and Round Dykes

Start & Finish: Townhead Trading Estate, Main Street, Addingham LS29 0PD, SE 072499

Full walk: 4¾ miles

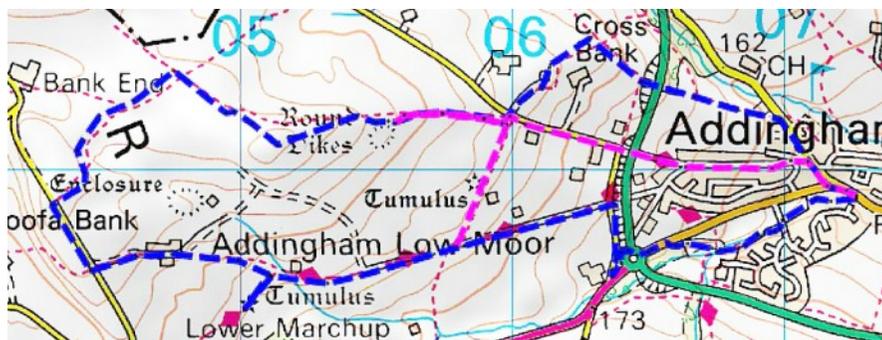
Shorter walk: 3 miles

Height gain (full walk): 575ft

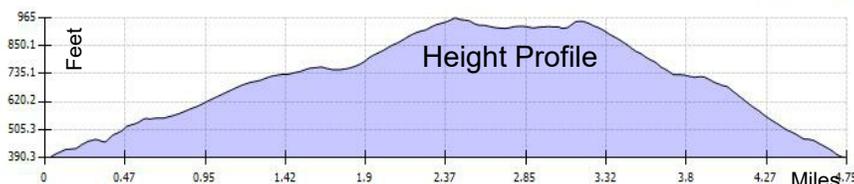
OS Maps: Explorer 297 (except for a small western section) or Landranger 104

Summary:

There was a lot of pre-historic activity around Addingham - witness all the enigmatic 'cup & ring' stones, and other remains, on Rombald's Moor - and this walk goes through another 'hot spot', on Addingham Low Moor with Tumuli, Enclosures and the striking Round Dykes earthworks. The walk starts at Townhead Mill trading estate at the top of Main Street, follows Marchup Beck to the Daniel Palmer Nature Reserve at Marchup Ghyll, continuing along Parson's Lane up to Addingham Low Moor, looping back to view Round Dykes and finishing close to Heathness Gill, then back to the village. There is a shorter variation for those with less time or energy. The going is gently uphill to begin with and along tracks, footpaths or across grassy meadows but **parts of this walk can get very muddy and it is not recommended in wet weather without suitable footwear.**



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The Walk

The walk starts from the former Townhead Mill at the top of Main Street. From the top of the mill yard, **the route follows Marchup Beck, Continue parallel to the beck** and, immediately after the wooden bridge, turn right to cross stepping stones. Fork left at the top of the steps into the Daniel Palmer Nature Reserve (see Walk 7 for details). From the top gate, **cross Silsden Road**, up to the roundabout, cross the bypass and go left and then **right into Crossbank Road**. This road was built when the bypass was constructed (it opened in 1991) to give access to upper Parsons Lane and Moor Lane. **Turn left into Parsons Lane** (sp 'Oaktree Farm')

For the shorter route:

Take the footpath right (sp 'Moor Lane 0.5 miles') soon after the farm, and go over the wall stile on the right after about 25m. Go diagonally across the field to a stile in the right hand top corner of the field, across the next, small, field and along the third field to go over the wall stile on the left about 20m from the far gate. **Climb gently up the field** and over another stile into the next field, going left at a solitary marker post towards the wire fence to view pre-historic Round Dykes. Return the same way but **turn left** after the second stile and **right down Crossbank Road** to the bypass. **Cross with care**, continue down Moor Lane and right down Skipton Road back to the start point.

For the main route:

Continue straight up Parsons Lane, through a gate (sp 'Public Bridleway'), where it becomes a green way. After the second gate the route goes over a **wall stile on the right** just after the bend in the track. However, a small deviation is suggested to view the pre-historic round Tumulus. For this, continue on the lane round to the left for about 100m to the tumulus (on the left side of the track) and return up the lane and over the wall stile, **now on the left**.

From this stile, **go straight across** to another (**rather high!**) wall stile and then slightly left to the gate at the corner of the field, near the farm buildings.

Walk through the farmyard, past the front of Moorcock Hall and up the drive to Bank Lane. **Turn right** up the road and **take the footpath (right)** after about 100m, follow the track beside the wall on the right and continue round the field to a wall stile. **Over the stile go left** through the first gate and then through the gate on the **right**. Follow the wall on the right to the stile near the corner of the field (towards the right hand wind turbine), **bear right** to a wall stile (left of the metal gate) and continue, with the wall on the right, to a ladder

stile in the far corner. **Turn right** here, along the wall, which marks the boundary between Addingham and Silsden, to a distant, facing wall stile, about 25m from the corner of the field.

The route now enters a large field enclosing the gentle summit of Counter Hill, ahead, the high point of the area at 885ft (290m). From here the magnificent views in every direction include the Vale of York, Worth Valley, Pendle Hill and Lothersdale, Draughton Moor and Upper Wharfedale, with Great Whernside, Simon's Seat, Bolton Abbey and Beamsley Beacon all visible on a clear day. Purple heather colours many of these hills in late summer.

From the summit, **walk down the field in the direction of Beamsley Beacon**, across the valley, to a fence stile. Follow the wire fence to view the pre-historic earthwork **Round Dykes**.

Leaving Round Dykes, turn left, away from the earthworks, to a solitary wooden signpost in the middle of the field and follow the waymark (right) to a stile. Go down the next field to the electricity pole opposite and over a wall stile at the bottom of a small quarry. Here **turn left** to come out on Crossbank Road, formerly Moor Lane. **This runs straight down to Addingham, as used by the short route, if you prefer a more direct route home.**

To continue on the main route take the footpath across the road, right of the drive to Low Cross Bank Farm which dates from the late 17th century and was the home of some of Addingham's stone masons (there were small quarries nearby). It has typical small windows, and a circular stair turret at the rear.

The path goes round the farm and then right, following the wall on the right to a stile in the corner of the field. Here, **turn right** on a crossing footpath and follow the wall on the right, through two wall stiles, down to the bypass (Wharfedale Road).

Cross the bypass (with care) and follow the footpath down two fields to Skipton Road. Turn right down the road and round to the left by the Craven Heifer, back to the **start point at Townhead**.