

Walk 2

Beamsley Beacon and Bolton Abbey

Start and Finish: The Memorial Hall, Main Street, Addingham, LS29 0LZ, SE 079 497

The shortest walk is about 5½ miles (8.8km)

The medium Walk is about 8¼ miles (13.2km)

The full walk is about 9 miles (14.4km)

Height gain: 1022ft (335m)

Summary:

This is a great walk up Addingham's local hill and on to the ancient ruins of Bolton Priory, before a gentle return along the riverside stretch of the Dales Way. Although the full walk is about nine miles, and includes the climb up Beamsley Beacon, there are two shorter options detailed, and a number of other possibilities if using other starting points. However, the 360 degree panorama from the top of the Beacon, and the dramatic ruins of Bolton Priory, make the effort well worth while.

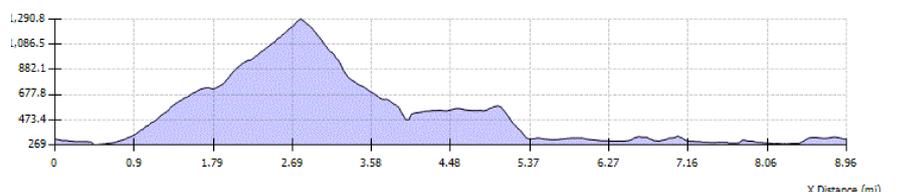
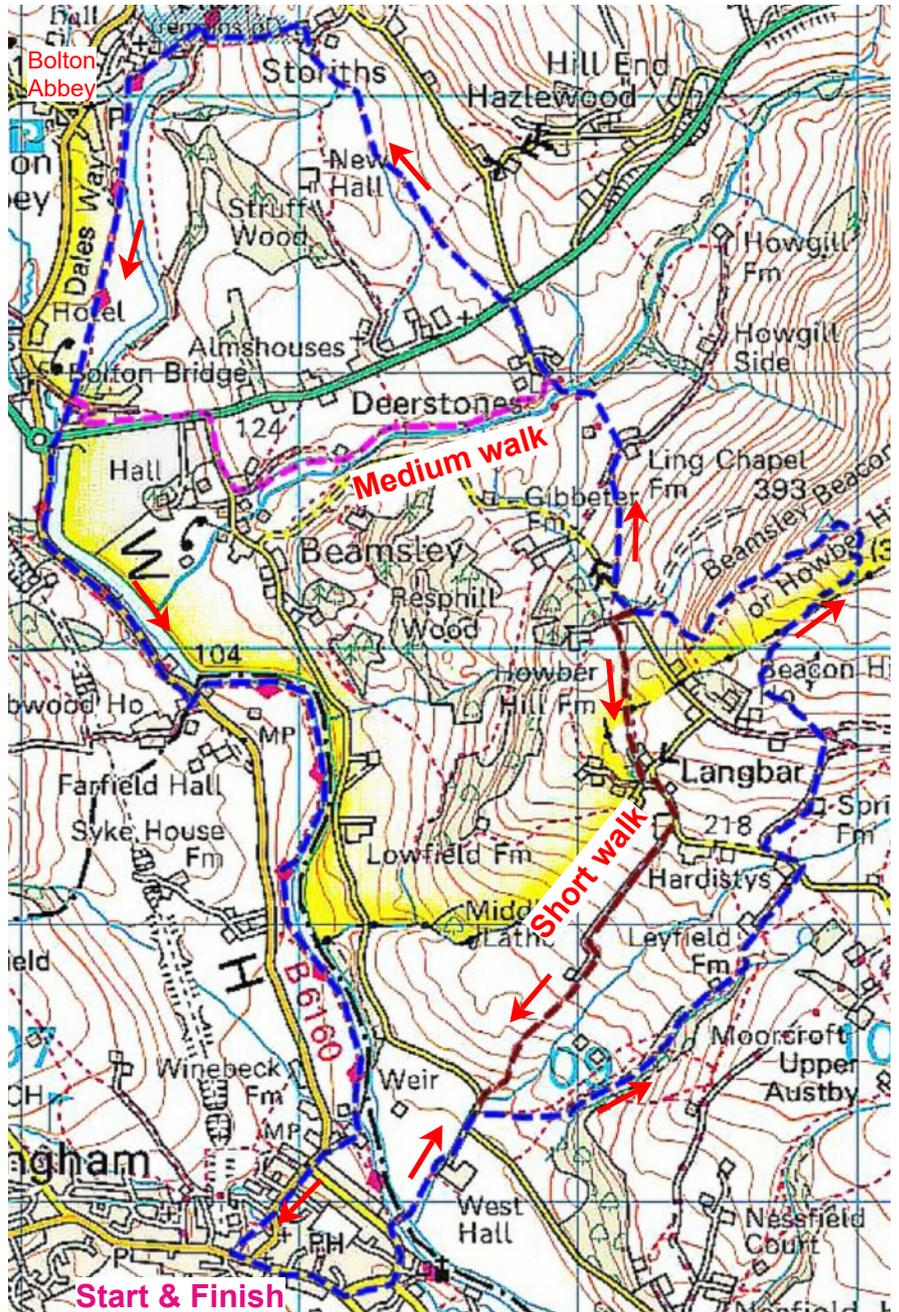
Note that areas of the Bolton Abbey estate are closed for shooting on certain days during the Autumn - check local information before heading out at that time.

The Walk

The walk starts from **The Memorial Hall**, Main Street, Addingham, opposite The Fleece, **Turn right** and go down Main Street but **bear left** along Church Street. At the road junction, **cross** the road and go **left up** North Street to take the footpath, **right**, just after the bend (soon after the village information board) sp 'Dales Way'. Turn **right** partway down the steps and **cross the Suspension Bridge**. **Continue** past the West Hall buildings to the (narrow) end of the footpath, go **right** through two gates and then **left** up the road.

The route continues **straight** at the road junction but **right** at the **wall stile** about 50m after this. From the stile go **diagonally left** across the field to the **right-hand** gate and then follow the wooded valley (do not cross the beck) up to Leyfield Farm. After the stile before the farm, **bear right** up the field then left to **cross** the front lawn of the farm, before turning **right**, up their drive to the road.

Go **left** along the road but turn **right** along a **track** (the **second** footpath), which turns uphill at the farm



buildings. About 160m past the farm, **fork left** on a path up to the minor road. Turn **left** but **almost immediately fork right** on a grassy footpath toward the woods around Beacon Hill House. Cross a small beck and, when approaching the corner of the wall round the woods, **turn right** on a clear path towards the summit of Beamsley Beacon.

Keep following this path towards, but to the right of, the Beacon. The path bends left and then zigzags up to the huge cairn on the summit. There is a tremendous 360° panorama from here. Enjoy the view! After a well-earned rest, **descend the rocky track** (left) but, towards the bottom, **turn right** on one of the paths which drop down to a wall round two small fields. **Follow** the wall down to the road.

For the shortest walk:

Cross over the road onto a driveway and take the footpath **left** (sp 'Currer Hall') just before the cattle grid. Bear **slightly left** to a wall stile and **continue** across fields, keeping the wall on the right. Go through a wood to the driveway of Currer Hall and **left** up to the road. **Turn right** down the road and after 150m turn **right** again over a cattle grid and then **left** down the track. Follow this track for about ½ mile - it becomes narrow and sunken (and may be wet) after skirting round a house - down to a field and then the road. Straight ahead are West Hall and the Suspension Bridge crossed at the start.

For the longer walks:

Turn **right down the road** and after 80m take the footpath **right**, sp 'Harrogate Road 1¼ miles', across the moor to the farm track near Ling Chapel Farm. **Cross** the track diagonally and take the footpath, sp 'Deerstones'. Follow this path **down** through the wood before zigzagging down to, and across the bridge over Kex Beck (photo opposite) and then **up to** the houses at Deerstones hamlet.

For the medium walk:

When approaching the Deerstones houses, **turn left and follow the footpath**, sp 'Beamsley Lane', down through a wood above the stream and continue to follow the beck across fields. Just after a big black barn, **turn right** at the little humpback **bridge** (do not cross back over the beck), go **diagonally right** across fields to a footpath beside the old mill goit (stream) and then past the former Beamsley Mill, on the left, which it supplied, to the road. At the tee-junction **turn right** and then **left** at the A59 Harrogate road. Take the cycle way/footpath on the **left**, go **right** under the road bridge and **left** over the old river bridge to **rejoin the full walk here (see below)**.

For the full walk: Go **straight** through Deerstones hamlet, **cross** the main Harrogate Road (**with care!**) and take the footpath opposite. **Follow** the wall (on the left), ignore the crossing footpath but go **left over the wall stile** after about 700m and continue to follow the wall (now on the right) to Storiths hamlet.

After sp 'Priory Bridge ¼', **Continue** through Storiths to a narrow track (**left**) down to the Priory, which can now be seen below. At the bottom of the track **turn right**, where a fine view over the Priory, **then keep left** and follow the path to the river and across the wooden bridge (or risk the stepping stones!). This is your opportunity to go and look round the ruins and the church if you have time. The 'Hole in the wall' up to the left of the ruins leads to the village and tearooms.

The rest of the walk back to Addingham follows The Dales Way footpath. Returning from the Priory, follow the path, **right**, along the river bank **downstream** through the fields, passing the cricket ground behind the Devonshire Arms hotel on the right, **up to** a wall gate and **across** the road (the old Harrogate to Skipton Road, before the new bridge was built).

The Medium Walk (and Walk 1) join here.

Follow the Dales Way **down steps** beside the house, under the new bridge and then over a wooden bridge to the Bolton Road. **Turn left** up the road to go past the car parking area and up the hill (**take extra care on this steep, narrow, and busy stretch of road!**). **Fork right** up a track about 150m after the parked cars and follow the wall for about ¾ mile (1.2km), **keep right** of the driveway and go **left** at the metal gate behind Farfield Cottages. The path then goes **left** behind the ancient Friends' Meeting House (well worth visiting, see Walk 4), before **crossing**, the road again (**take care!**) and down steps to join the river bank. The path continues for about 1½ miles (2.4km) along this delightful stretch of river, still following the Dales Way, (**see Walk 1 for details of this stretch**) to the caravan site and chalets at High Mill. Passing behind the mill note the Blue Plaque at the Dawson Crossley Field (see Walk 4). Continue along the river bank to the steps above the Suspension Bridge, up the steps to North Street, **left** down to Church Street, **right** towards Main Street and back to finish at the **Memorial Hall**.