

Walk 7

Southfield, Marchup & High Laithe

Start & Finish: Addingham Main Street car park by Beckside Close, LS29 0PD, SE 075 498,

Main Walk: about 2¾ miles (4.4km), **Height Gain** 209ft, **Shorter Walk:** 2 miles (3.2km)

Summary:

This is a short walk round the top half of the village which includes the ancient Southfield, the village nature reserve at Marchup Ghyll and the 'Museum of Gateposts' at High Laithe. The going is easy, on meadows and public footpaths, though the section alongside the bypass can be muddy when wet and there is a (shallow) ford so good footwear is needed.

The Walk

Starting from the small car park at Beckside Close on Main Street, cross the **bridge** in the top corner and continue **up the track** to, and through, the little wicket gate which is between two field gates. **Walk straight up the field beside the wall** to the gap beside a large tree. **Turn right** along the hollow lane to the end stile. After this stile, **turn left** up the field, alongside the hedge, and at the top of the field, near the bypass, **turn right** (the 'Dales High Way') along the path parallel with the road, under an overhanging hedge. **Continue** through the field but **bear left** to a gate in the top left-hand corner and along **behind** the housing estate. After a field gate, the path drops down to a beck, which is forded using the stony bed, before turning **right** along the hedge. **Note:** This ford is at the top of a small waterfall and is normally shallow, but may test your footwear! At the bottom of the field **go down** the winding steps and then **left** across Marchup Beck by means of the stepping stones (do **not** cross the wooden bridge yet - that comes later).

Fork left at the top of the steps to enter the Daniel Palmer Nature Reserve. Take the path **up to the woodland** at the top, follow this round the wood and then retrace your steps but go down the little meadow on the **left** - this area is ablaze with colourful flowers in season - to the **steps on the right** and back down to the stepping stones. Now **cross** the stepping stones **and the wooden bridge** to follow the footpath above the beck to Big Meadow Drive. **Cross** the road and go down to continue following the beck.

The gate at the bottom leads into the Townhead Trading Estate. Go down the yard and **Cross** Main Street, **climb** the steps opposite, and **go left** up Green Lane. At The Green, **turn right** along School Lane and **left** along the footpath just after Shearing Path (sp 'Haw Pike').

The shorter route continues along School Lane to a footpath on the **left** at the point where the road bends right. This path passes chicken runs beside Back Beck to Chapel Street, where it **rejoins the full walk** (see overleaf).

The full walk now enters the Bracken Hill Golf Course. The public footpath **bears right**, crosses a stream and **turns left** to follow the coloured posts up the left-hand hedge, past a large tree, then **across** the fairway (watch out for golf balls!) to a coloured post and gate opposite. **Follow** the path up to a small gate and **continue** up two meadows to a ruined barn at the top, in the field on the left.

This is High Laithe and near the barn is a remarkable collection of gateposts (once referred to as a 'Museum of Gateposts'). This point marks a **turning point** - from the barn, **cross** to the high hedge and keep this on the **left**, going down the meadows to a gate at the far, bottom left, corner of the **third field**. The path here joins Long Riddings Lane (behind the hedge) which was probably the medieval road to the village's High Field. Continue down the lane and turn right into Chapel Street. Where this road, shortly, bends left (**the Shorter Route rejoins here**) is the original Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

Follow Chapel Street down to Main Street and, right, to the **start point**.

