

Walk 4 The Addingham Blue Plaques Trail

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

Full Walk: 7.4 miles

Medium Walk: 4.4 miles (excluding Farfield Meeting House)

Short route: 3.7 miles (excluding Farfield and the Band 'Oil)

Summary:

Addingham Civic Society and Parish Council are erecting thirteen blue plaques on buildings around the village to commemorate notable people, buildings or events. These are in addition to two bronze plaques which were erected in the 1990s.

The full walk passes all the plaques, and also passes many other places of interest in the village (see map overleaf). The following pages include more historical information than could be written on the plaques themselves.

The going is easy, mainly along roads but including some footpaths where suitable footwear is needed.

The Trail



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Plaque 1: The Women's Knitting Circle & The Memorial Hall

The first plaque on this trail is at the start point, the Memorial Hall. This commemorates the ladies of the Addingham Knitting Circle and their part in the purchase of The Memorial Hall for the village.

Leave the Memorial Hall, cross Main Street, **go right**, past the War Memorial and **turn left** down Sawmill Lane beside the Co-op food store.

Plaque 2: William Brear

At the end of Sawmill Lane, the second Blue Plaque is on Low House (on the corner, left), commemorating William Brear who lived here and started the sawmill business opposite in 1860. **Continue** through the mill yard and **up the footpath** on the left at the end. This leads past the mill dam (pond) used to supply the original mill waterwheel and fed from under Bolton Road by Town Beck.

Cross Bolton Road (with great care), and Town Beck, then **turn left** on the footpath bordering Manor Garth.

Plaque 3: The Rookery

The buildings immediately in front are The Rookery which were built by John Cockshott in about 1805.

Continue down Bolton Road to Main Street

Plaque 4: William Kendall Gale - Mount Hermon

On the left corner, facing Main Street, is Mount Hermon Wesleyan Reform Church which has our next blue plaque. This commemorates Pastor William Kendall Gale.

From Mount Hermon, cross Bolton Road and **continue up** Main Street, past The Crown, built in 1769, to the lane on the right which leads to Manor Garth.

Plaque 5: The Manor House

The house on the left is the Manor House.

From the Manor House, **cross** Main Street and go **up Old Station Way**. Bear **right** across the grass meadow area and turn **right** along Southfield Lane to the end. **Facing**, at the junction with Southfield Terrace, is Blue Plaque 6 (on the end house).

Plaque 6: Soldiers of WW1

This plaque commemorates all the 414 Addingham men who served in the First World War, 1914-18, of which 83 died.

Continue down Southfield Terrace, **along** the footpath at the bottom, **down** the steps and then **left, down** to George Street. At the far end of George Street, **re-cross** Main Street to the **Old School**.

Plaque 7: The Old School

This plaque commemorates the building which has been at the heart of the village community for many years.

Continue up Main Street, passing The Swan and the shops to 88 Main Street, on the **right**.

Plaque 8 (bronze): John Cockshott, 88 Main Street

The house was built for John & Martha Cockshott in 1748 and the datestone shows their initials.

The next Blue Plaque is on Silsden Road but, if you wish to leave that for later, **take the shorter route by turning right** up Chapel Street to re-join the trail at the top. On the way, you will see Cockshott's Large Loom Shop (built 1806) on the left, the former 'High' School (now the Methodist Church) and the old Methodist Chapel (built 1778) on the right, past the graveyard. **Go to lower on this page.**

For the full trail, continue up Main Street to the Craven Heifer and **fork left** up Silsden Road. The first building on the left is The Band 'Oil ('Ole or 'Oile, meaning Hole).

Plaque 9: The Band 'Oil

This building was built by the village in about 1686 as a poor house.

Return down Silsden Road, **cross** Main Street and **go up** Skipton Road to The Green. **Turn right** and then **left** along School Lane, **continuing** well down the lane to a **footpath on the left** where the lane bends right. This path passes chicken-runs beside the beck.

At the end (**the short walk re-joins here, on Chapel Street**), continue along Back Beck Lane to the prominent railway bridge.

Plaque 10: Railway Bridge No.55

This is the only railway bridge in the village still looking as it did when the Ilkley to Skipton railway ran through the village.

Continue past the school and turn **left** up Bolton Road, cross Bark Lane and, **right**, down High Mill Lane to High Mill.

Here there are **two options - for the full walk, turn left** and follow the river bank (The Dales Way footpath) for **about 1½ miles** until reaching Bolton Road again at Farfield (this is the reverse of the latter part of Walk 1). **Cross** the road (**with care**) and the building beside the road is the Farfield Meeting House.

Plaque 11: The Farfield Meeting House

This is one of the earliest Quaker meeting houses, being dated 1689. It is open every day and makes an interesting visit.

For the shorter walk, turn right at High Mill, (or after returning along the river from Farfield, keep straight ahead), and go through the car park to the Dawson Crossley field.

Plaque 12: The Dawson Crossley Field

This field and the adjacent river bank was given by John Crossley and Joshua Dawson. The field is now the property of the Addingham United Charity but rented by the Parish Council for the free use of all, and it is a pleasant place for a picnic or a bit of fishing.

From the Dawson Crossley plaque, **continue** through the field and **along** the river bank to the steps above the Suspension Bridge. From the top of the steps go **down North Street** and turn **left** just before the junction with Church Street to go into the church field. **Continue** up to the Parish Church gate.

Plaque 13: The Parish Church of St Peter

This plaque commemorates the fact that this has been a place of Christian worship for over a thousand years and was a place of refuge for Archbishop Wulfere of York who fled here in AD 867 from the Viking invasion.

From the plaque at the gateway, **continue** up to the Church and have a look round it (it is usually open) before **continuing** through the churchyard to a **gate on the right**. Go down to the little 'Moorside' Bridge over the beck and **up** the steps to, and **left along**, Low Mill Lane. This was the main access to Low Mill from the village when the mill was working but the last part is now pedestrian only so it is a nice quiet lane beside the river. On reaching the mill cottages **continue** up to the **last cottage** on the right before Holme Ings, where is the Penny Hole plaque on the porch.

Plaque 14: The Low Mill Penny Hole

This **final plaque** on the trail commemorates Low Mill and the fact that this cottage was the mill gatekeeper's home.

From the Penny Hole, **continue along Old Lane**, pausing to look at the weir on the left, and turn **right** at the tee junction along Ilkley Old Road. At the junction with Church Street, **cross with care** and **continue** along Ilkley Road, and then Main Street, back to the **Memorial Hall**.