

Walk 5

Netherwood House, Heber's Ghyll and the Moor Edge

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

Full Route: Approx. 6½m (10½km)

Short route: 4m (6½km)

Height gain: 928ft (282m)

Summary:

Starting from Addingham, the walk climbs in a south-easterly direction up the Addingham Moorside meadows to the edge of Ilkley, crosses the bridges over the tumbling waters of Heber's Ghyll, continues along the breezy edge of the moor for 1½ miles, and then back down to the village. A shorter option stays below the edge of the High Moor but still has fine views.

The going is moderate up the Moorside meadows, the climb steeper up Heber's Ghyll, but the section along the moor edge is more gently uphill. The first part downhill is rocky through the millstone quarry but then the downhill path through meadows is much easier.

The Walk

From the Memorial Hall, walk up the car park and up the path round the children's playground to pass the football pavilion and turn **left** up Stockinger Lane. **Continue** up the footpath through the hedge 'tunnel' beside the allotments up to, and across, the bypass (A65) **with care**.

From the other side of the road, bear **left** across Stock Field towards a small group of trees which are just before a fence stile. After the stile continue across the field to the corner of the fence ahead to a gate followed by a stile. The path now goes down (**the first bit can slippery**) to a bridge over Lumb Beck and bears right up to Cocking Lane.

Turn **left** up the road and **right** over the cattle grid at the start of the drive to Gatecroft Farm. **Go up** the drive to the ruins of Plumtree Banks Barn on the left. Just after the ruins, turn left off the track at the waymarks, one on a telegraph pole and another on the nearby tree, to descend to a footbridge over Hall Gill beck. Cross the bridge and climb up to the waymarked tree ahead. Follow the fence round to the right, over a wall stile and straight across the field to the fence opposite. Turn left here and follow the wall to a wall stile on the right. then **diagonally left** across the field, towards the clump of trees, to a metal gate. From the following stile, it's **straight across** the field to find a **low waymark** (right of a large tree) leading left down to a stone slab bridge across the beck. Go **left** through the field gate and then **bear right** to another gate to enter the grounds of Netherwood House. **Turn left** along the road and follow it round to the **right** up to a metal field gate on the **left**, just after the entrance drive.



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X Distance (mi)

When through the gate, **bear slightly left** across the field, heading for a solitary stone gatepost on the skyline. After the following squeeze-stile, go **straight** across the field towards Briery Hill Farm but, after passing the end of a small beck, **bear right** to a waymark on an electricity pole and up to a small **metal gate** in the wall, followed by a second gate.

This marks the point where the main and short routes diverge - the Main Route continues below.

For the short route, continue **straight** from the gate to meet a crossing path and **turn right** along it. **Follow** this path up to the top of the field, and over two wall-stiles. **Follow** the fence, then **wall** (on the left), to a wall-stile in the corner of the field. Take the **gate on the right** in about 50m which leads past Hardwick House Farm and **continue** along the track, passing Hardwick Cottages, to join the metalled road (Moorside Lane) after the next farm: Cragg House.

About 50m after the farm, turn right at the finger post and **down** the fields, with a hedge and ditch on the left, to a gate in the corner by Over Gatecroft farm. **Follow the waymarks** left across the drive and then **turn right** down the field, beside the beck, but **bear left** down to the driveway and **turn left** along it, past Gatecroft farm. After the wall stile, continue along the path across two fields and over Lumb Beck, to go **right** over a small slab bridge. **Here the short route rejoins the full walk (go to lower on this page).**

For the main route, turn **LEFT** after the second small gate to a wall-stile and across in front of Briery Wood Farm. Continue along the drive for about 100m then go right up the bank and through a gap in the wall to continue along the wide footpath above the road. On reaching the beck, just after a small stone building, turn right to climb up Heber's Ghyll. The path and steps up the ghyll are steep but there are frequent benches and the sight of the chaotic, tumbling water (particularly after heavy rain) is spectacular. The path crosses the beck, back and forth, over seven wooden bridges and, at the top, turns left to cross the eighth bridge. After this (opposite three benches - another rest?) turn right up a rocky path to a crossing, well-surfaced, path. Turn right along this, over the beck and through a gate to see the pre-historic Swastika Stone (on the right, protected by railings).

Our route now follows a clearly defined, and much used, path along the edge of Rombald's Moor, of which Ilkley Moor is a part. The route continues along this bracing (if the wind is from the north!) path for about 1½ miles, with dramatic views all the way. To the north/north-west is Addingham and, beyond, Wharfedale stretching into the distance; to the east can be seen Ilkley and The Chevin woods above Otley. Piper's Stone, on the right of the path, is a prominent, cup-and-ring marked stone and, after about a mile, the path passes a large, solitary, rock known as the Noon Stone. After about 1½ miles of steady, but moderate, climbing, a well-made cairn marks the top of our route down towards Addingham. Turn right here and descend the rocky path through the Millstone Lumps quarry where part finished millstones can still be found lower down, though they can be elusive! (See Walk 6). After the tall ladder stile over a 19th century enclosure wall at the edge of the heather covered Addingham High Moor an almost finished millstone can be seen standing in the field on the right. From here, the path is more-or-less straight down the hillside, over a wall stile and down to Moorside Lane, near Lumb Beck Farm.

Cross the road and continue down the drive beside the farm but fork left onto the footpath before the sign for Ghyll House Farm. The path goes steeply down the field and up to a gate, left and right down to, and over, three wall stiles, passing a caravan park on the left. The last, lumpy, field before a row of trees along Lumb Beck, is a Bradford Wildlife Area known as Steg Holes. This is very colourful with orchids, betony and other wildflowers in the spring and summer. At the bottom of the field, cross the beck (left) over a stone slab bridge (**where the shorter route rejoins**), through a gate and continue along the wall and then slightly left across the field to a gate in the wall round the house in the top corner; go round the garden to come out on Cocking Lane.

Go a few metres **left** along the road to the footpath on the **right** which goes down to a gate and then crosses a small field to a wall-stile and stone steps, known as the Cat Steps, down and then up the sides of a small valley.

From the gate at the top, **continue** slightly left down the field to the gate onto the bypass in the corner of the field. **Cross** the road (**more care required**) and continue down a green tunnel of holly bushes at the top of Stockinger Lane, to the football field. Turn **right** in front of the pavilion and down to the **Memorial Hall** start point.