

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 up 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 uphill section along the moor edge is more gentle. The first part downhill is rocky through the millstone quarry but the following downhill path through meadows is much easier.

The Walk

From the Memorial Hall, **go right**, down Main Street, to the Cricket Field, **turn right** up the drive to the Pavilion, **left** to the metal gate and continue **straight** along the fence before heading for the gap in the row of trees ahead. Continue **slightly left** to a stile, preceded by a small stream, then **right** up to and across the bypass (A65).

From the other side of the road, bear **slightly left** to a white gate and then follow the fence to a stile in the corner. Now head for the **left hand** end of the length of stone wall, **slightly left** to the path down the edge of Lumb Ghyll Wood and left to the bridge across Lumb Beck. This wood is carpeted with bluebells in May. Walk up through the wood to the top stile and then **slightly right** to the road (Cocking Lane).

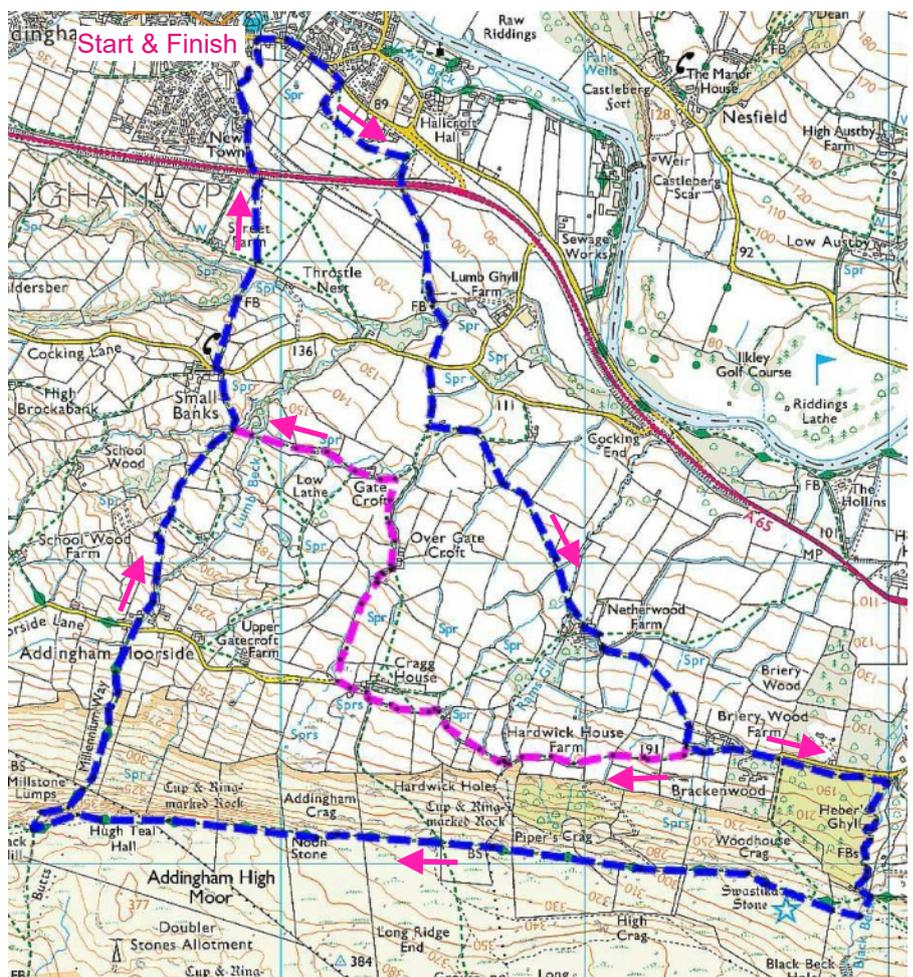
Cross the road and **go up** the drive opposite to the ruins of Plumtree Banks Barn on the left. Just after the ruins **turn left** at the waymarks, on a tree and post, down to the bridge **across** Hall Gill beck.

After crossing the bridge, **follow the fence** round to the **right**, over a wall stile and **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 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.

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 on the next page.

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. 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 and 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. These old steps would have been used by mill workers walking down to Addingham mills from their farmhouse homes.

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, over the remains of a railway bridge (Addingham Station used to be on the left here, more or less on the site of Southfield House in Mount Pleasant - photo overleaf) to the football field. Turn right in front of the pavilion and down to the **Memorial Hall** start point.