

The route for this walk, however, leaves the lane via a stile on the left, beside a large oak tree. At the foot of the field, away to the left behind 'The Sailor', is a small depression in the ground which is the site of a coal pit dug in 1845. With increasing mechanisation of industry there was then a growing demand for coal to power steam engines to work the textile mills, and also for domestic use. Here, a group led by Thomas Lister hoped to make their fortune but they found only 'stone and shale' and they 'were forced to give over in consequence of poverty'. Dropping down the field, note **Burnside Mill** (photograph below), to the right, then cross the Town Beck footbridge and emerge into **Main Street**. On the left, just after the bridge, note the house with mullioned windows (No.71 Main St), dating from the late 17th century but with an 18th century 'taking-in door' inserted on the first floor so that yarn and cloth could be winched in and out.

Proceeding down Main Street to the starting point, the legacy of the textile industry and its evolution into the machine age during the Industrial Revolution is evident; take note of **Burnside Cottages** (1811) across the beck, the mill manager's house (c1800) up to the right of **Burnside Mill**, the late 18th century handloom weavers' shop on the left of Chapel Street, and the imposing, late 18th century, (cloth) 'Piece Hall' (No.97), later a butcher's shop. Inns such as The Swan (early 19th century) sprang up to cater for travellers to the thriving village. The 1777 Lister's barn (No.99), with its external stone staircase, and adjacent houses, some with datestones, point to these late 18th century boom years. The tall houses on the bend, opposite Sugar Hill, also have taking-in doors, and the great gash of Old Station Way marks the course of the Ilkley to Skipton railway up to Addingham Station, which closed in 1965. Continuing down Main Street, the walk **finishes back at the Memorial Hall**.



Burnside Mill

Walk 5: Moorside and Millstones



Addingham & Wharfedale from The Moorside

Start – The Memorial Hall, Main Street, Addingham.

Full walk – 5 miles (8km), height gain 830ft (272m).

With **shortcut A** – 4 miles (6.2Km), height gain 672ft (202m).

With **shortcut B** – 3 miles (4.8Km), height gain 670ft (202m).

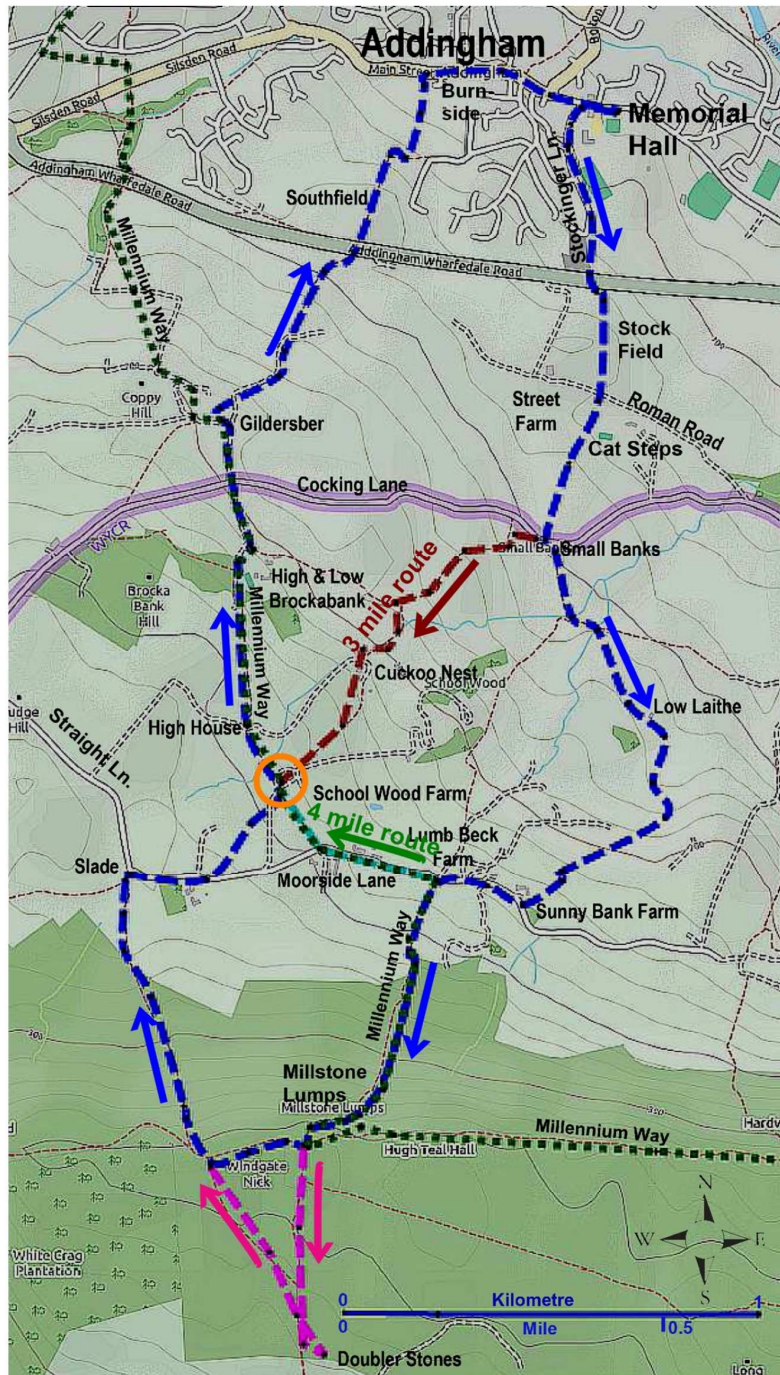
Ordnance Survey Map – OS Explorer 297 – Lower Wharfedale and the Washburn Valley.

Introduction

The full walk is one of the more energetic in this book but the views over Addingham and up Wharfedale, and the sight of the millstone quarry, the Doubler Stones (photograph below), and the many traditional farmhouses, make it well worth the effort. The going is fairly gently uphill across meadows until the Moorside Road is crossed, when it becomes steeper. These often flower-rich upland meadows and heather moorland are valuable habitats for wading birds and echo to the sound of lapwing and curlew from the spring onwards. Please avoid disturbing ground nesting or foraging birds. You should carry appropriate outdoor clothing. The ground may be muddy in places so good footwear is essential.



The Doubler Stones



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back of the house is more traditional in style. Cross small fields ahead, using the wall stiles, with more fine views of Upper Wharfedale, before following the path downhill, between fences and walls, with the buildings of **High** and **Low Brocka Bank** to the right. Both houses are sheltered by a landslip of sandstone blocks. The lower house is dated 1728. Here the Brocka Bank sandstone has been much quarried; the quarries standing on the open moor until the Enclosure Act of 1873. The fine-grained ganister-like sandstone indicates deposition millions of years ago in a shallow water swamp environment and contrasts with the coarse sandstone of the moors above. Take care on this often muddy, downhill stretch, at the bottom of which turn left over the cattle-grid.

Cross **Cocking Lane** to **Gildersber** (photograph below), an old farmstead first mentioned 800 years ago. The present buildings are mostly of early 18th century date but the five footpaths which still converge here indicate its former importance. Follow the track to the left, then turn immediately right, with the waymarks, round and through farm buildings. Continue downhill, crossing more channels cut by meltwater at the end of the last ice age. Below is the large channel which was crossed previously at Cat Steps, followed by the line of the Roman road which is clearly visible here as a raised grassy track with a stone wall on the north side. To the left it is now cut by the Addingham bypass.



Cross over the **bypass** and through a gate into the **Southfield**, a place name which indicates the site of one of Addingham's large, medieval, open, strip farmed, arable fields. Today the hedgerows of the long thin fields represent former edges of the old ploughed strips. At the bottom of the field take a deep hollow lane running west to east, a continuation of Southfield Lane which connects this big open field with the main village.

An option now is to take a detour straight across the moor (waymarked 'Silsden Strolls') to see the **Doubler Stones** (photograph on page 1). These spectacular mushroom-shaped stacks of rock are all that is left of the weathered gritstone outcrop. They were formed when the area experienced a cold, tundra-like climate at the end of the ice age. When returning, fork left soon after the wall (the path is marked by a grassy strip across the heather) soon heading for a seat and small stone pillar on the skyline at **Windgate Nick**. The post (photograph left) is a memorial to those killed in a wartime plane crash here. (See 'Addingham in World War Two' for details.)



If you are not going to the Doubler Stones, turn right at the cairn and continue along the gritstone edge path. In clear weather the distinctive whaleback of Pendle Hill can be seen

to the south west. The deep track at **Windgate Nick** has been created by centuries of use as the only route linking Addingham with Silsden and the Aire Valley, passing by the Doubler Stones, Elizabethan coal pits, and 14th century iron working sites in Silsden. 'Johnnie Grey', describing this walk through the Nick from Silsden in 1891, wrote: "A view of Arcadian loveliness bursts upon the vision, rendered all the more captivating by its complete suddenness. Wharfedale is now revealed in grand array." This is still very true today and it's well worth sitting on the seat for a while to take it all in. From here it's downhill all the way!

The grassy path descends from near the seat (do not take the track) straight to the former farmhouse of **Slade**, with its fields enclosed within a large circular intake wall. Here turn right along **Moorside Lane**, past **Scar Ghyll** (18th and 19th century) and take the footpath, left, after passing the drive to **Hodson's Farm**, a laithe-house with attached barn built in the local tradition. Cross the field to a gate and continue to **School Wood Farm**, so named because it was previously owned by Ermysted's School, Skipton. It dates from the early 18th century, but, like many Addingham houses, it was altered later in that century as the farming and textile industry boomed. Turn left here over a stile. *The 3 mile and 4 mile walks rejoin the longer one here.*

Continue to a stile on the left of little **High House** farm, with its symmetrical frontage and elegant cartouche over the door, which has, for its architectural style, a surprisingly early date of 1697. The

The Route

From the **Memorial Hall** opposite the **Fleece Inn**, go up **Main Street** and take the second left, **Stockinger Lane**. Continue up Stockinger Lane, along a footpath between high hedges and across the **Addingham bypass**. The path now enters Stock Field where trees indicate the line of former smaller fields. From the corner of the short wall, bear right across the field towards the **Cat Steps**. To the right is **Street Farm**, a much altered 18th century farmhouse under which lies the Roman road. Commonly referred to as 'The Street', this road linked the Roman forts at Ilkley and Elslack but here all trace of its course has been ploughed out.

At the top of the field, through a wooden gate, the **Cat Steps** lead down into a broad channel cut towards the end of the last ice age by meltwater flowing beneath the margins of the retreating ice of the Wharfedale glacier, approximately 15,000 years ago.

From the steps, **Throstle Nest**, another 18th century farmhouse, can be seen to the left. On the bank opposite the farm, the disturbed ground marks the site of medieval ironstone workings. The path continues across a field to a stile and up to **Cocking Lane** which is the old turnpike road from Cocken (Cocking) End on Ilkley Road, across the open moors to Silsden, and on to Colne. Here it passes **Small Banks** (photograph below), a collection of houses, barns and workshops, mostly dating from the 18th century.

*For the shorter 3 mile walk, turn right along **Cocking Lane** and then bear left through **Small Banks**. After the houses head diagonally and gently uphill across a field to a wall stile. Following the fence line, look for another stile and turn left onto a path leading into delightful*



Small Banks

woodland, with a stream, where **Cuckoo Nest** farmhouse (dated 1758) appears to hide away. Go over the track to a small metal gate and continue to head quite steeply uphill to the right of Cuckoo Nest and cross the field to an obvious wall stile in the far corner. The field beyond leads to **School Wood Farm** where the longer walks are rejoined (marked  on map). Turn right here for **High House**.

For the longer walks, bear left across **Cocking Lane** to a small gate in the wall, skirt around a garden to another gate and cross the field to the beck with a stone slab bridge. Here turn left (east), cross another beck, and almost immediately, at the end of a short stone wall, turn right, bearing steadily and diagonally left uphill across fields between interesting old stone gateposts.

After crossing the stone slab bridge pass, on the left, **Low Laithe**, a small field barn which housed 6 cows with hayloft above and a threshing floor. Keep to the right before a gateway, with a wall on the left, and turn left through the next gate, following waymarks uphill. The adjacent fields have been cleared of material from natural landslips that occurred at the end of ice age. Such landslips, very characteristic of this area, resulted from hillslope collapse during and after the ice melt. Keep going steadily uphill across several fields, still following waymarks, towards a newly planted copse, with a short, steep section (by which time the copse is on your left), and then towards **Sunny Bank Farm**, to the right, and **Moorside Lane**.

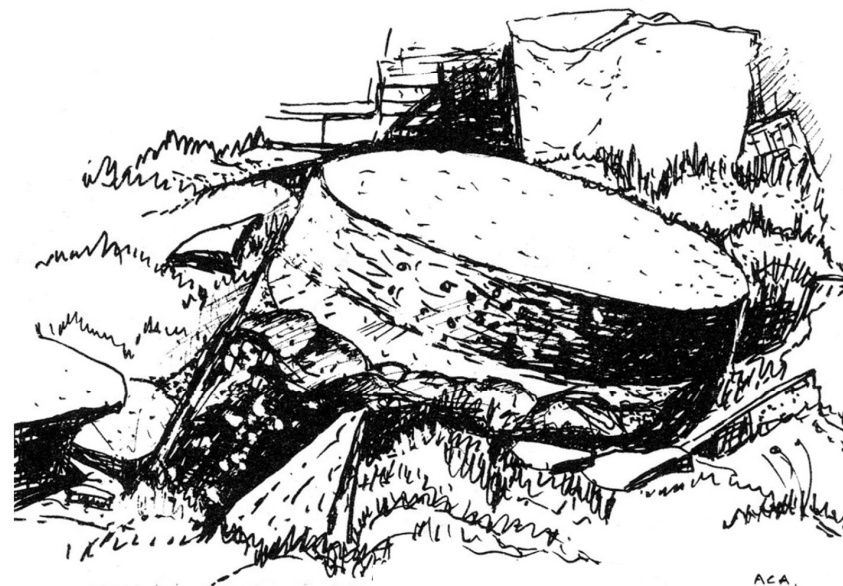
Skirt round to the left of **Sunny Bank Farm** (photograph below), which dates from about 1740, to **Moorside Lane** which follows the 800-foot contour and marked the upper limit of crop cultivation in past centuries. The green pastures above the road were once acid moorland but were improved in the 18th century by draining and the application of lime fertiliser. Turn right (west) along the road, passing



another 18th century barn. The pecked decoration of the door lintel is seen on many Addingham buildings of about 1790 and may be the work of a particular local mason. Continue past **Lumb Beck Farm**, now entirely rebuilt but incorporating a doorhead dated 1670 and a small window from the original house.

*For the shorter 4 mile walk continue along **Moorside Lane**, past 18th century houses and **Fell Edge Farm** (late 17th century) with its unusually large stonework and eaves-level windows. Take the footpath right, signed 'Addingham', towards **School Wood Farm** () , where the longer walk is rejoined, and then **High House**.*

For the longer walk, turn left off **Moorside Lane** up the signposted **Millennium Way** footpath which climbs through pasture and moorland, over a high ladder-stile, to reach **Millstone Lumps** quarry (below). From the 17th century, millstones were manufactured on this hillside, the quarry at the top probably representing the later workings. Over 40 broken or unfinished millstones still lie on the hillside and in the delf (excavation) holes. The coarse 'Addingham Edge' sandstone was formed when a huge river delta covered the area about 315 million years ago. The rock contains fossil impressions of tropical plants which were buried in the sands of the delta. The rock at the top of the quarry becomes flaggier and there are fossil sand ripples to be seen on top of the rock outcrop. Fine views can be admired over Addingham to Beamsley Beacon, Simon's Seat, and beyond to Upper Wharfedale, Great Whernside and Buckden Pike to the north-west.



Drawing by Alison Armstrong