



# Addingham Moorside Connections Walk



**BRADFORD 2025**  
UK City of Culture

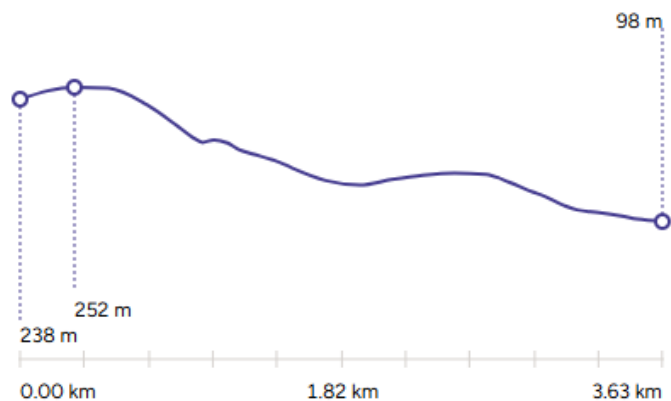
## DARK BLUE ROUTE

*From Beck House Farm on Moorside Lane to Addingham Village via School Wood Farm, Cuckoo's Nest, Small Banks, The Street, The South Field and Town Beck on Addingham Main Street.*

**Distance:** 3.63 km

**Total Ascent:** 28 m

**Total Descent:** 154 m



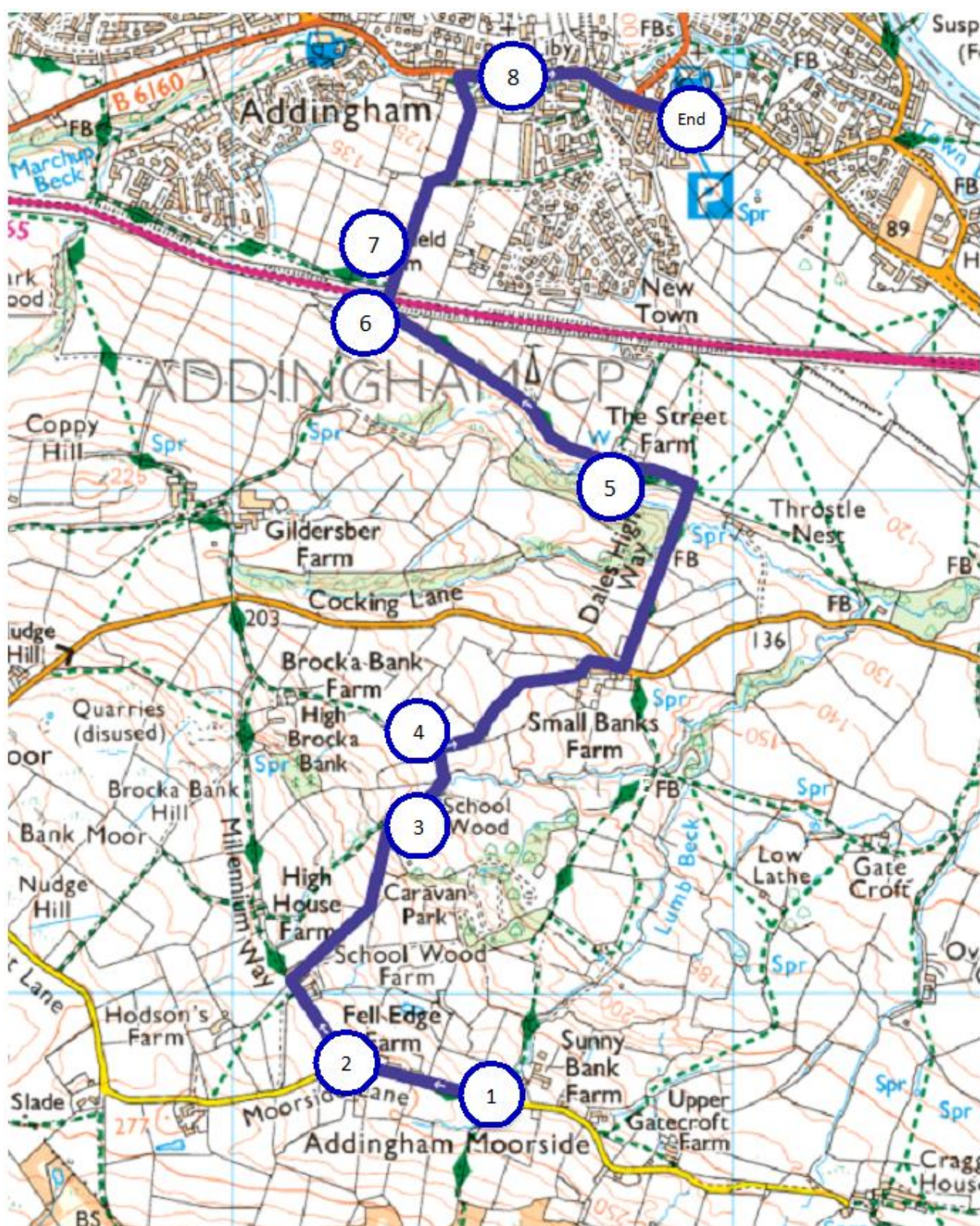
**Cattle and sheep:** Dogs must be kept on leads where cattle and sheep are grazing.

**Ground nesting birds:** Please also keep dogs on leads during the nesting season.

**Liability:** While every care has been taken in the preparation of this self-guided walk, please note that Addingham Civic Society does not accept any liability relating to personal injury or illness, loss or damage to personal property, or any other unforeseen events that might occur during your walk.

**Click a heading and its position will be displayed on Google Maps. If you have location enabled it will also show where you are standing.**

The 1:25,000 scale map OS explorer 297, or similar digital mapping, should be carried in addition to this route description.





**1. From Beck House Farm** [[SE 07516 47787](#) [53.92616](#), [-1.88703](#)] turn right and walk along the lane, passing Fell Edge Farmhouse and Fell Edge bungalow. Turn off the lane (opposite Bracken Bank) taking the footpath to the right across the field toward the School Wood Farm buildings. When you reach the farm road cross the road and go over the wall stile, and almost immediately over a second wall stile to the right and then walk across the field to another stile in the lower right-hand corner. Climb over the stile and continue steeply downhill to a small metal gate just above Cuckoo's Nest farmhouse.



## **2. School Wood Farm** [SE07224786](#) [53.92687](#), [-1.89146](#)

- This farm was so-called as part of a block of land owned by Ermysted's Grammar School, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- Diversification has happened here; in addition to grazing for sheep, part of the land has been developed as a static caravan park.
- In recent years new native hedges and trees have been planted on this holding.
- In the early summer, curlew, lapwing and oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) are seen foraging in these fields.

## **3. Cuckoo's Nest Farm** [SE07314832](#) [53.93100](#), [-1.89008](#)

- The late 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, barn and weavers' workshop was in a semi-derelict state until about 10 years ago when it was restored by the current owners.
- The land is being managed to restore habitat for wildlife; the land is no longer grazed. New native woodland has been planted below the farmhouse and alongside the beck.
- Roe deer, brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), stoat (*Mustela erminea*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), barn owl, tawny (*Strix aluco*) and little owl (*Athene noctua*) are frequently seen here.
- The beck here is well wooded and with no grazing farm animals there is no soil erosion or pollution of the water course on this section, compared to further upstream where livestock in the fields next to the beck have free access.
- However, invasive Himalayan balsam has been degrading the habitat next to the stream and on the bank above the house. The landowner, with support from AEG volunteers, has been working to bring this under control. Read more [here](#) about The Environment Group's work across the parish to eradicate this and other invasive species which threaten native plants and wildlife. A wildflower rich meadow is in development on semi-improved grassland, next to the footpath. This was sown with yellow rattle seed and plug planted with Dales hay meadow species in the autumn of 2023. Yellow rattle is especially helpful in hay meadow



restoration. It is a 'hemiparasite', attaching its roots to the roots of nearby grasses, suppressing their growth and creating room for other meadow flowers to grow.

- Nature recovery at Cuckoo's Nest has been supported by advice and grants from the City of Bradford Forest, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and Addingham Environment Group volunteers.

*At Cuckoo's Nest Farmhouse cross the track and go over the beck to follow the footpath down through the meadow with the beck on your right. At the bottom of the meadow, go over the wall stile and cross the field to a second wall stile. Once over the stile turn right to walk around the edge of a Brocka Bank Farm hay meadow.*

#### **4. Brocka Bank Farm hay meadows** [SE07404848](#) [53.93244, -1.88870](#)

- Several fields on this holding are managed as traditional hay meadow, allowing wildflowers and meadow grasses to flourish, with common knapweed particularly abundant, and colourful in late June and July, buzzing with bumblebees. Look out too for meadow brown butterflies (*Maniola jurtina*).
- This field is designated as part of a Local Wildlife Site (Grassland near Stegholes), because of its value as a now scarce flower-rich grassland.

*At the bottom of the meadow go over a wall stile, cross the field and walk down the northern edge of the field to Small Banks, and walk through the hamlet to Cocking Lane. Cross over the lane to rejoin the outward [GREEN] route by going down the footpath by the side of the stables, down to Cat Steps across the beck and back up to The Street.*

*Once you reach the top of Cat Steps and come through the gate onto The Street, you have a choice of routes to return to the village:*

*Continue straight down the field to return via Stockinger Lane on the outward [GREEN] route.*

*Alternatively turn left and continue on the [DARK BLUE] route:*

*Walk along the field edge in a westerly direction to the gate next to Street Farm, with the steep melt water valley on your left.*

*After the Street Farm continue walking in the same direction, along 'The Steet', through a field gate, and then a metal footpath gate, after you have passed the mobile phone mast on your right. After around 0.3km lookout for a footpath gate to your right to take you across the A65 by-pass back to the village via South Fields arriving in the village close to the Lord Addingham pub.*

#### **5. The Street Local Wildlife Site** [SE07804902](#) [53.93729, -1.88260](#)

- The former Roman Road 'green corridor' on this section of the walk and the meltwater valley below are designated as a Local Wildlife Site. A medieval park for hunting, later divided among local farms and in part now used as grazing land [See Cat Steps on the GREEN ROUTE].
- This land has a diversity of habitat: ungrazed flower rich grassland on the open south facing slope by the Street Farm. Knapweed, yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), selfheal, harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), betony and greater birds-foot trefoil have been recorded here. Look out for bumblebees and butterflies foraging. Buff-tailed, white tailed (*Bombus lucorum*), red-tailed (*Bombus lapidaries*) bumblebees and speckled wood, red admiral (*Vanessa Atalanta*), small white (*Pieris rapae*), large white (*Pieris brassicae*) and peacock butterflies have all been seen here by AEG bee & butterfly recorders.

- Hawthorn, elder, willow and alder scrub, and native woodland on the slopes of the valley and a line of mature oak trees along the edge of the Street provide excellent shelter, nesting sites and food for a wide range of birds. Enjoy the birdsong here and look out for tree creepers and nuthatch on the trunks of the oak trees.
- The more open area of grassland once you pass the mast is more intensively grazed by farm animals (beef cattle and sheep) and so there are fewer wildflowers, and in turn resources for pollinating insects. Blackthorn, dog rose (*Rosa canina*), holly and bramble scrub is encroaching on the edges, which has more value for insect and bird life. White and buff tailed and common carder bumble bees (*Bombus pascuorum*), speckled wood, meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), ringlet, red admiral, orange tip, small tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) holly blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) and small copper butterflies (*Lycaena phlaeas*), (pictured), have been seen here by the AEG bee and butterfly recorders.
- At dusk in spring and summer bats are often seen foraging by the line of trees, holes in the mature oak trees provide nesting site for woodpeckers, and barn owl hunt here too.



## 6. The Glacial Meltwater Channel SE 07327 49342 53.94015, -1.88986

- The glacial meltwater channel is especially clearly seen here.
- At this point the channel is broad and relatively shallow. It was probably cut by glacial meltwater during the waning stage of the last ice age about 18,000 to 14,000 years ago. Although there is a small, culverted stream running from west to east in the valley bottom it is now largely dry, an indication that it was not created by the modern drainage system. Streams in such valleys are often called misfit streams.
- The channel follows the line of the more easily eroded Carboniferous shales, or mudstones, that lie beneath the Middleton Grit. Here the meltwater channel has exposed an outcrop of mudstones on the north side of the valley. Although not always visible this outcrop contains a thin pale grey layer of potassium bentonite clay, a clay derived from volcanic ash. The mudstone was deposited in a relatively calm low energy marine environment and the volcanic ash would have fallen into the water and preserved in the sediment. According to local geologist Will Varley, the nearest volcanic activity at the time was in Derbyshire. He explains that the bentonite clay can be accurately dated using the potassium-argon radiometric dating technique. The decay of radioactive minerals in the rock begins as soon as the molten rock (magma) crystallises. Precise measurements of the amount of  $^{40}\text{K}$  relative to  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  in an igneous rock can be related to the amount of time that has passed since the rock crystallised. The rocks here are about 320 million years old. Download Will Varley's Addingham Geology Trail [here](#).

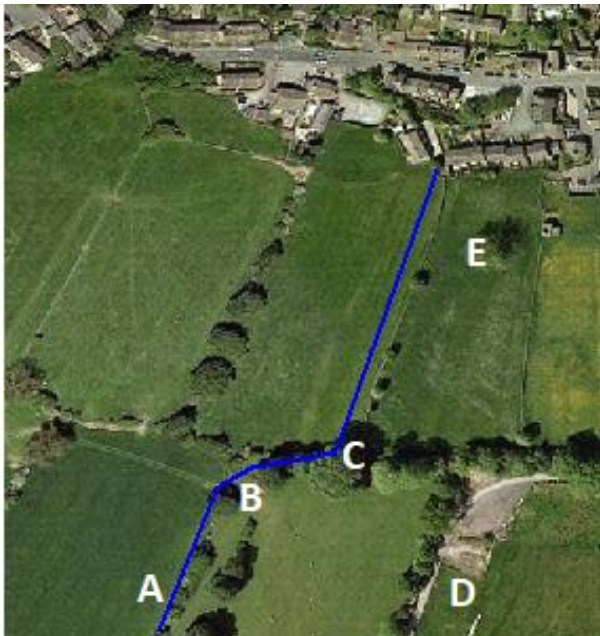


Go through the footpath gate and take great care crossing the A65. Once over the by-pass go through the footpath gate and walk down the field edge towards the village. At the bottom of the first field cross over



*the wooden stile to the right and walk for a few meters along the 'hollow lane', until you reach a narrow wall stile on the LHS next to a large oak tree. Climb over the stile and continue walking downhill until you reach a small gate and follow the path down to Town Beck. Turn left along the track to come out by the Lord Addingham or turn right to cross the beck into the BMDC car park on Main Street.*

## 7. The South Field [SE07324940](#) [53.94071, -1.88990](#)



<b>A</b>	Species rich hedgerow
<b>B</b>	Open field enclosed strip
<b>C</b>	The hollow lane
<b>D</b>	Southfield Farm
<b>E</b>	Ash Tree

- Today these fields are grazed by sheep and cut for silage to provide winter food for livestock and have limited value for biodiversity. However, there are many clues in the landscape, field patterns and names which provide evidence of how the land was used in the past.
- As you walk down the first field below the by-pass, see how many different trees and shrubs you can count in the hedgerow to your right. From old maps and records we know a hedge was planted here in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, enclosing one of the medieval open field strips (if you look through the hedge you will see a line of trees and shrubs which are the remnants of a hedgerow on the other side of the enclosure).
- Earlier in the Middle Ages this was part of one of the Manor of Addingham's big common open fields – The South Field. The Lord of the Manor allocated each villager narrow strips in the open field to cultivate. The South Field extended from here right the way across to Town End, close to the Cricket Field.
- Just before the stile look out for the small length of cobbled paving. This was part of 19<sup>th</sup> century improvements carried out by the Parish Council. Millworkers from the outlying farms and hamlets would have used this footpath daily to walk to and from Addingham's textile mills.
- At the bottom of the field, where you turn into the hollow lane look over the gate back up the strip enclosure. See if you can spot the 'rig and furrow' marks made by the medieval ploughman and the headland where the plough pulled by oxen was turned at the end of the strip. Rig and furrow indicating medieval ploughing are most clearly seen at the cricket field end of the South Field.
- The 'Hollow Lane' formed the boundary between the Manor of Addingham's open field, and land on the north side going down to Main Street which was in different ownership. The boundary was made by excavating the surface and building up a low bank on one side. Villagers would have used the lane

to walk to their allocated strips to work the land and harvest their crops. Oats were the staple grain grown, with some rye and barley.

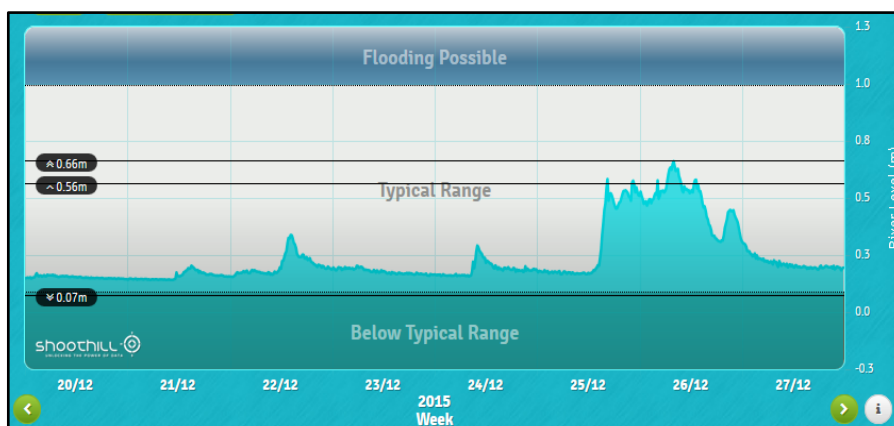
- The hollow land lined by old oak trees and holly hedges provide nesting places and shelter for birds and other wildlife.
- The fields below the Hollow Lane are included in the village Conservation Area and are designated as 'Local Green Space' in the Neighbourhood Plan, recognising their importance to the open character of Addingham and their history. Above the Hollow Lane, the fields are in the Green Belt.
- The large ash tree in the field to the right is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), and the large hole in the trunk is a barn owl nesting site. Sadly, there are some signs of ash dieback.

Turn left towards the Lord Addingham public house or cross over the beck using the footbridge into the small car park and turn right down Main St. staying on the right side of the road.

## 8. Town Beck SE 07555 49818 53.94442, -1.88638

- Town Beck begins life as Marchup Beck, rising close to the top of Silsden Road near Cringles. Its name changes to Town Beck at Townhead where it is culverted under the Townhead Trading Estate. It flows through the Garth where it is joined by Back Beck, continues through Church Field reaching the Wharfe at Low Mill. The green box on a long pole by the side of the beck houses a water level recorder, and there is a stage board bolted to the side of the channel wall next to it. Water levels have been continuously recorded at this site for many years. The highest level recorded until 2012 was 0.56 m.

This was exceeded on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2015 when it reached 0.66 m. The highest level to date was on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 when it reached 0.8 m. These progressively higher levels over the last two decades or so support the claim that winter storms are becoming more extreme owing to climate change.



- Live monitoring of water levels in the back at this point can be seen here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/8277>
- Water quality in Town Beck is not good. The stones in the water below the weir are coated in filamentous algae. This species is called blanket weed (*Cladophora glomerata*), the same species often found forming algal scums on ponds. It indicates that the beck is suffering from nutrient pollution due to the high concentrations of dissolved phosphorus in the water. The phosphorus comes from runoff from agricultural land, discharges from septic tanks and runoff from impermeable urban surfaces entering the beck via storm drains and other pipes.
- The beck also contains signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*), a non-native invasive species introduced into the UK from the USA towards the end of the last century. The crayfish population here is derived from individuals that escaped from a fish farm on the Wharfe and is thought to have migrated into Town Beck from the Wharfe approximately 20 years ago. Both hand searching and environmental DNA studies (Greenhalgh et al. 2022) have shown that signal crayfish populations occur in all village becks but have not yet migrated upstream in Town Beck beyond Townhead.

- More positively native brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) occur in the beck, although not as abundantly as in the past. Adult fish can sometimes be seen in the pool below the weir and electro-fishing shows that young-of-year (fish younger than 1 year old) are also present indicating that trout are nesting in the beck and that populations are not dependent on annual migration from the Wharfe.



- Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) also are seen in this section of the beck, dippers (*Cinclus cinclus*) nest upstream in some years, kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) occasionally fly over and just at this point there is an abundance and diversity of wetland plant species, including marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), hemp agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*) and great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*).



Continue down Main Street to return to the Memorial Hall car park and bus stop.

## References

Greenhalgh, J., Collins, R.A., Edgley, D.E., Genner, M.J., Hindle, J., Jones, G., Loughlin, L., O'Donnell, M., Sweet, M.J. & Battarbee, R.W. 2022 Environmental DNA-based methods detect the invasion front of an advancing signal crayfish population. *Environmental DNA* 2022, 596–607.

Kate Mason, Addingham from Brigantes to Bypass. 1966

Arnold Pacey et al, Addingham: A view from the Moorside. 2008

Don Barrett, Walks Around Addingham. 2018

Haycock & Jay Associates Ltd., Moorside Connections: Phase 1 Habitat & National Vegetation Classification mapping of Lumb Beck Catchment 2021. (study funded by a Natural England Nature Recovery Grant, for the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust & Addingham Environment Group)

Addingham Civic Society, 2025. [Will Varley's Addingham Geology Trail](#)

Addingham Environment Group website links:

[Moorside Connections](#)

[Bee & Butterfly Transects](#)

[Bird Report](#)

[Invasive Plants](#)

## Photograph Acknowledgments

Addingham Environment Members

Addingham Photo Archive (Southfield Aerial photo)

John Fontana, Ilkley Camera Club – Moorside buildings & footpath signs

Keith Allen, Ilkley Camera Club – moorland birds

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