

## **A WALK AROUND ADDINGHAM AND LOW MILL**

**Distance approx: 3.5 miles**

**Time approx: 75 minutes**

**Difficulty: Easy**

**Parking: The Swan Car Park**

**Suggested Footwear: Trainers or Walking Shoes.**

**Turning left out of The Swan walk down Main Street on your left you will pass the 'Old School', this building now houses the village library with the upper floor being the parish room.**



The building dates from 1666 and was built by Anthony Ward. The school originally was a single storey two-roomed cottage but another floor was added in 1805 when the school moved into the upper room. The ground floor was divided into two to originally be used as cottages for the poor. However in 1827 it was decided one of the cottages would be used as the village prison and the other became the girls/infants classroom. Latterly the lower rooms have been used as shops and a barber and the school closed around 1845 when it was replaced by the Church of England school (Low School) in North Street.

**Continue walking down Main Street and turn left onto Sugar Hill. Walking up Sugar Hill the embankment where the former railway line between Ilkley and Skipton, which opened in 1888 and closed in 1965, can clearly be seen.**

**Walk up pass Croft Cottage** (formerly housed a hand loom weaving shop on the first floor) **and follow the road around to the left past Crakye Cottage and then continue along Sugar Hill until you join Back Beck Lane. Turn right and walk down Back Beck Lane going under the old railway bridge.** Looking to the right across Manor Garth former mill cottages can clearly be seen. **Continue down Back Beck Lane until the lane joins Bolton Road.** On your left hand side is Addingham Primary School, which was built in 1979 this, combines the first and middle schools after the first school was closed in 2000.

**Turn left onto Bolton Road and cross the road, walk along Bolton Road past The Acres and up a slight incline. Cross over the road at Bark Lane and head down the hill towards the Addingham border stone Beamsley Beacon can be clearly be seen in front of you, continue on and turn right into High Mill Lane. Proceed down the hill to High Mill cottages at the bottom.** Olicana Caravan Park is on your left hand side and the weir at High Mill can be seen. **Turn right to join the Dales Way.**



High Mill was built in 1787 as an old manorial corn mill with a weir across the River Wharfe. The buildings were later extended and used at various times for linen, cotton, worsted spinning and latterly silk spinning. The water wheel was in use until 1925.

**Follow the Dales Way sign across Cross Dawson Crossley field and along the banks of the River Wharfe. The Dales Way meanders along the side of the river and soon on your left hand side a suspension bridge will come into sight.**

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The original footbridge was erected in 1897 and replaced a ferry; the footbridge was built to allow parishioners from Beamsley to travel to church, as at the time Beamsley was part of the Addingham Parish. The bridge was washed away in the great flood of 1936 and the suspension footbridge you see today replaced it.

**Proceed up the steps and a Dales Way sign will direct you down Bark Lane into North Street.** On your left hand side you will see Ferryman's Cottage and walking down the hill onto the bridge the former Church of England School which opened on Christmas Day 1845 can be seen on your right. **Turning left at the Dales Way sign and pass Bridge Cottage, a gate will lead you through into St Peters church and the surrounding fields.**

St Peters church is built on a very old site probably Iron Age. There is little remaining of the early church with the north aisle and nave roof built around 1500 A.D. The church tower was added in 1757.



**Walk across the field and turn right by the beck and proceed up the stone steps. Turn left onto Low Mill Lane and walk down the road past The Old Rectory you are now on The Dales Way.** The Old Rectory was built in 1809 after the previous rectory having to be demolished due to structural problems.

**Carry on down the road passing Holme House on your right hand side whilst the River Wharfe can be seen on your left hand side continue down until the road ends and there is a path leading into Low Mill village.**



Low Mill Village is the second oldest and first successful worsted spinning mill in the world built in 1787 by John Cockshott and John Cunliffe. Cockshott became bankrupt and in 1802 the Cunliffe family bought the mill and hamlet and increased the site to 26 cottages and 40 spinning frames. During the first world war Low Mill produced silk cordite. Spinning ceased at Low Mill in 1967 and the houses were modernised in the 1980's to form today's cottages.

**Follow the road through Low Mill and as you leave the village the Weir can clearly be seen behind you on your left hand side. Continue down the road looking across the river Wharfe on your left hand side you will see Ilkley Golf course. At the road junction turn right and walk along the old Addingham/Ilkley road for approx 400 metres. On your right hand side you will pass Hallcroft Hall (built in 1840) at the road junction turn right onto Church Street. Walking straight up along Church**

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**Street you will again see St Peters church and pass the Church Orchard on your right hand side. Continue on until the path bears right and cross the road at the corner of what becomes North Street into Church Street. Walking up Church Street passing Parkinson Fold (formerly a farm with 3 cottages built in 1810) and Fir Cottage (the oldest house in the village of medieval origin and rebuilt in 1677) until you join Main Street. Turn right and walk up Main Street and turn right at the public footpath sign into The Sawmills, Saw Mill Lane.**

Originally the mill was built for cotton spinning by Anthony Fentiman in 1802 and was powered by a water wheel from Town Beck and Back Beck. In the 1860's the mill was used as a sawmill with a gas engine being installed and the waste sawdust being used as fuel.



**Walk down the lane and bear left, follow the road to the end where a footpath sign indicates the path around the pond. Walk around the pond until the path takes you to a gate leading onto Bolton Road. Cross the road and bear right onto the bridge and turn left and walk around the edge of Manor Garth.**

**Walk around the bottom of the Garth and re-join Bolton Road. Continue along Bolton Road past The Rookery (The Rookery was formerly a loom shop and cottages built by John Cockshott and dating from 1806) and turn right at The Crown (Built 1769) back onto Main Street.**

**Walk up Main Street past The Manor House (Built 1730) and back up to The Swan.**