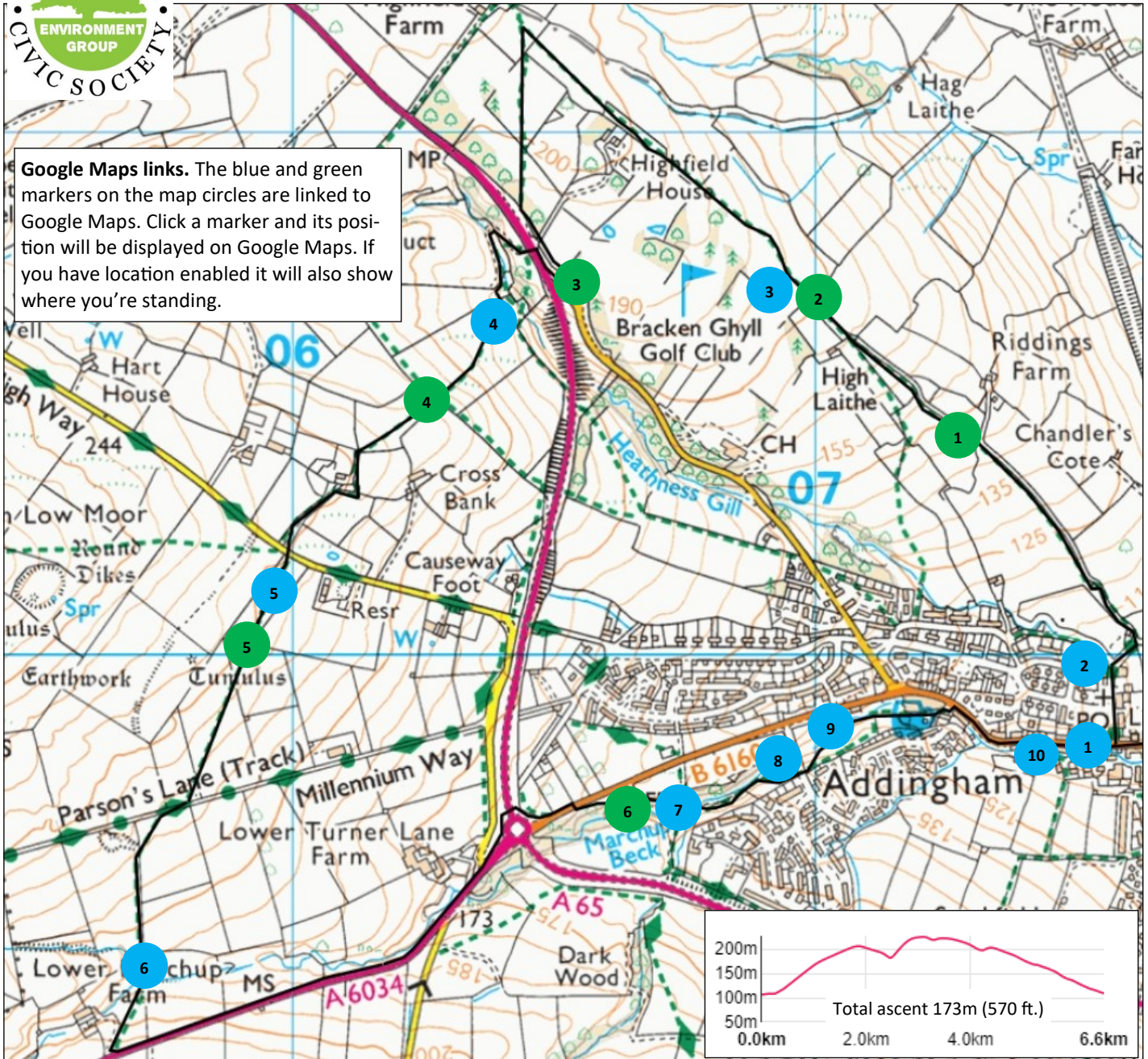




Addingham Environment Group

Environment Walk - Sustainable Water & Wildlife Friendly



Sustainable Water Points of Interest

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4. Water conduit to Bradford - EW/SW 4	5. Addingham Waterworks - EW/SW 5	6. Lower Marchup - EW/SW 6
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Wildlife Friendly Addingham

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For more information about Points of Interest, click a link or scan a QR code

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Addingham Environment Group Environment Walk - Sustainable Water and Wildlife Friendly

Grade : Moderate 6.6km (4.1 miles) Total ascent 173m (570 ft.) Good paths; narrow gates; stone wall side-step stiles.

Duration : 2.5 - 3 hours at a leisurely pace.

Cattle and sheep: Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on leads where cattle and sheep are grazing.

Liability: While every care has been taken in the preparation of these self guided walks, 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.

[EW/SW 1 Burnside](#)

The walk starts at Burnside, situated on the south side of Main St., just above the Newsagent and opposite the entrance to Chapel Street. This is Town Beck. It is one of Addingham's four main becks. It runs down through the village, is joined by Back Beck in the Garth and flows through Church Field before entering the River Wharfe at Low Mill.



The green box houses a River Level Recorder one of many along the Wharfe and its tributaries providing the Environment Agency with a continuous record of changes in water level. The data are available in real time online.

<https://riverlevels.uk/river-wharfe-addingham-addingham-town-beck#.YGyTZWRKi70>. This is a small green oasis, with a high diversity of beckside plants and chance to see brown trout and grey wagtails.

From Burnside cross Main Street, and go up Chapel Street to where the road bears right. Straight ahead is Back Beck and the entrance to the Old First School Site.

[EW/SW 2 Old First School Site](#)



You have now crossed over into the catchment of Back Beck. At this point Back Beck flows around the boundary of the Old First School site and you can see, next to the entrance to the site, access steps to the beck constructed by parents of children attending the School in the 1990s. There are brown trout and bullheads in the beck at this point.

Back Beck rises above the village on the slopes of Counter Hill. You will be crossing it again later in the walk where it is called Heathness Gill.

Continue down the road (Back Beck Lane). Immediately after the houses in front of you turn left on the track (Long Riddings) which is signposted Public Footpath / Bolton Abbey. Continue up the track for about 150m to a very small gate on the left by a large tree. Through the gate turn right and head up the field, keeping to the right-hand side. At the top of this field you're at Wildlife Friendly Addingham Point 1 (WFA 1).

[EW/WFA 1 Long Riddings Hedgerow](#)

Addingham's hedgerows are precious. Hedgerows are not common in Bradford District, so they are a priority habitat in the 'Local Biodiversity Action Plan'. Old, unmanaged species-rich hedgerows are particularly valuable for wildlife. They provide shelter, nest sites and food for small mammals, birds, bats, butterflies, bees and other insects. They are important as 'corridors' for wildlife to move along. Enjoy the hedgerows of holly, hazel and hawthorn, with lovely mature oak and ash trees as you walk up the next three fields.



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Go through the gate and continue up through the next field, again keeping to the right-hand side. At the next gate follow the path which will take you to the stile on to the golf course.

EW/WFA 2 Bracken Ghyll Golf Course



The next part of the walk takes you over Bracken Ghyll Golf Course.

The course has been sensitively laid out around the old field patterns, retaining hedgerows and stone walls, and leaving large generous areas of rough grassland and scrub between the fairways. Woodland, especially along the boundary with Skipton Road, has been extended with new planting.

With no grazing animals and away from the manicured greens and fairways, the golf course provides good habitat for wildlife.

Go over the stile on to the golf course, watch for golfers driving off from your right. Head for the orange marker pole you'll see ahead, and once over the fairway the pond is on your left.

EW/SW 3 Golf Course Pond

This is one of five small ponds on the Golf Course. It is the only one to be seen from a public footpath. They were built about 20 years ago when the Golf Course was extended from 9 to 18 holes. There are few standing water habitats in the village, and these Golf Course ponds are therefore very important.

They provide a habitat for aquatic plants such as reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), burr reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and aquatic mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and for damselflies, dragonflies, frogs and newts. Several of the ponds have resident moorhens.



Continue to follow the path marked by orange poles. Please do not wander off the path onto the fairways, and pay attention to where golfers are and the direction in which they are playing. After two more stiles and at the end of a line of small trees on your left look out for this sign.

NOTICE TO FOOTPATH USERS
THE FOOTPATH TO THE LEFT
IS A PERMISSIVE PATH.
THIS PATH IS THE MOST DIRECT
ROUTE TO THE A65.
PLEASE FOLLOW THE ORANGE
POSTS.

Turn left heading for the orange pole across the fairway. Stop and look both ways. Continue straight on following the orange marker poles over another fairway. Stop and look both ways. At the next orange pole, look half left across the fairway to another orange pole and head for that after looking both ways. Follow the path through a small wooded area to the A65 layby. Turn left and walk 150m to the Skipton Road junction.

EW/WFA 3 Skipton Road Bank



Three years ago this road bank was mown regularly right through the summer. Since then Addingham Environment Group has worked with Bradford Council to change the way it is managed. In that short time it has been transformed from a poor quality grassland into a colourful wildflower bank, buzzing with bumblebees and butterflies.

Now Bradford Council only cuts the grass once a year in September, allowing all the wildflowers to finish flowering and set seed, saving money and carbon emissions too.

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Retrace your steps and cross the road at the Highfield House gates to the gate and bus stop on the other side of the main road. Take great care crossing the road. Go through the gate or over the stile, follow the concrete track crossing Heathness Gill (the local name for this stretch of Back Beck). After climbing for a 100m or so and after a right hand bend look for the field gate on the left that is just before a newish gate across the track, which may be open. Go through the field gate noting the ridged ground about 15m to your right. Go straight across the field to the next gate.

[EW/SW 4 Water conduit to Bradford](#)

Walk up to the ridge in the ground on your right. You are now standing on the line of the conduit that takes water from the two Barden reservoirs higher up the valley down to Bradford. This pipeline was built to supply water to Bradford (and Addingham en route) in the 1850s. As you can see from the date engraved on the stones this section was completed in 1858. As Bradford needed



more water later in the century reservoirs were built in Upper Nidderdale in the 1890s and a second conduit was constructed. It follows a similar route through this part of Addingham parish.

Head uphill towards the gate in the wall at the top of the field.

[EW/WFA 4 A65 to Crossbank Road](#)



As you walk across these fields you will see little sign of wildflowers, bees and butterflies. In the fields grazed by sheep the grass is kept low and any wildflowers in the sward are nibbled before they have a chance to flower.

Traditional hay making for winter feed has been replaced by silage production. Pasture is reseeded with fast growing, vigorous varieties such as rye grass, and spread with slurry and fertilizer to make the grass grow faster for an early cut and higher yield.

Go through the gate and straight ahead towards the left hand side of the farmhouse. Take the small gate to the left of the farmhouse, go through the gate at the end of the path turn right and head into the field. Continue towards the end of the farm's drive and out on to Crossbank Road. Take the stile or gate across the road to your left (be careful of the barbed wire nearby) then walk straight ahead ignoring the wall stile to your right.

[EW/SW 5 Addingham Waterworks](#)

The first large building you can see to the left down the hill is the original Addingham Waterworks. It is now a private residence although the underground reservoir still exists and can be seen just beyond the building after you've walked a little further on.

It is probable that the Waterworks were commissioned as part of the first scheme taking raw water to Bradford in the 1850s (see POI SW 4). Our knowledge of the history of Addingham's water supply is incomplete. We need to find out more about water sources and water treatment in the past.



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Continue straight ahead towards the wall stile into the next field.

EW/WFA 5 Counter Hill



In the spring and early summer, listen out for the sound of curlews and lapwing in the sky and look for them landing to forage in these fields.

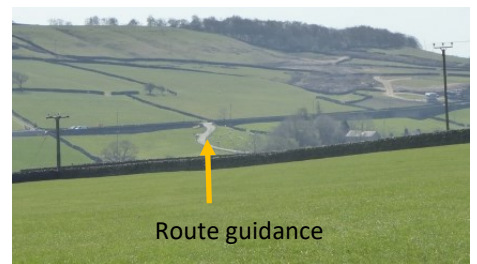
Spending the winter on coastal estuaries and water bodies, curlews come to the uplands to breed on moors, rough pastures, unimproved hay meadows and bogs, arriving in February/March to select their nest sites, and nesting and rearing their young between April and July.

They like to choose rough ground and tussocky vegetation, so the unimproved reedy pasture on Counter Hill to the right of this path rising up to

Draughton Moor beyond with its heather and tussocky grass suits them. It also provides good nesting sites for Lapwing.

Over the stile and straight ahead to the next stile. Go over the next stile in the wall on your right, then veer slightly left aiming for the track in the distance between the power line poles as shown here for route guidance.

At the wall go over a field stile, turn left and over another wall stile into Parsons Lane. Walk up Parsons Lane to your right for about 50m then left through the gate. Veer slightly right heading for a wall ladder stile, go over the stile and bear left down the field keeping close to the wall and heading for a metal gate.



As you walk down the field look to your right and note the newly planted trees—see below.

EW/SW 6 Lower Marchup



You have now come to Marchup Beck. Marchup is the name given to Town Beck in its upper reaches above the village. Two small headwater tributaries come together here. They look identical but the one on the left looking upstream is in poorer ecological condition as it suffers from pollutants coming from the Lower Marchup hamlet.

Further upstream on the right-hand tributary just beyond the modern barn the sides of the beck have been very recently planted with native trees. These are best seen from the field you have just walked down (see above).

The side of the beck has been fenced off both to protect the trees from livestock and to prevent livestock damaging the banks of the beck. The trees are intended in time to provide a wildlife habitat, store carbon and help to slow the flow of flood water. Funds for the project were provided to the local farmer by the Environment Agency through its Water Improvement Funding Riparian Tree Scheme.

Continue past Marchup Beck, through a gate and head for the bus stop that can be seen on the main road ahead. At the main road take the pavement downhill to the roundabout and cross over to Silsden Road. Take the pavement down Silsden Road for about 75m and go across the road through the entrance to the Daniel Palmer Nature reserve.

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[EW/WFA 6 Daniel Palmer Nature Reserve](#)

Opened in 2004 the nature reserve was created on land owned by the Parish Council, on the site of the village domestic waste and ash tip, which is thought to date from the late Victorian era. Parish Councillor, the late Daniel Palmer, was instrumental in creating the Reserve.

His family, together with Garden Friends and AEG volunteers help the Parish Council look after it.



Follow the path through the nature reserve down to the stepping stones across the beck.

[EW/SW 7 Marchup Beck Stepping Stones](#)



This is one of the most attractive parts of Marchup Beck. The tributary joining the beck flowing under the footbridge at this point has no formal name. Informally we call it the Darkwood Beck.

It rises on the Moorside at Sea Moor Tarn (sometimes called Brown Bank Marsh). For much of its length, especially in its upper reaches, it is culverted through farm fields. Lower down it flows through Darkwood, is culverted under the bypass and then emerges into the short but deeply incised valley you can see here.

Water quality in Marchup Beck at this point is moderate. It is polluted by runoff from agricultural land and from road drainage upstream. Pieces of old glass and pottery washed out of the former ash tip can sometime be seen in the bed of the beck.

Cross the stepping stones and turn left. Follow the path along the beck to Big Meadow Drive. The valley sides are wooded providing a habitat for wildlife and shade for the beck.

[EW/SW 8 Big Meadow Drive](#)

Big Meadow Drive is the road that crosses Marchup Beck at this point and is the name often given to the housing estate it leads to. The estate was built in the 1990s and the road sits on top of an impoundment created at the time both to provide access to the estate but also to control the flow of water down through the village.

In normal conditions the beck flows through the impoundment in a concrete culvert. However, in very high discharge events after severe storms water-flow through the culvert is restricted by a narrow opening at its upstream end. Only rarely is flow sufficiently high to cause water to back up behind it but twice in a week in February 2020 after successive storms, such a situation arose.



Water quality in the beck deteriorates further downstream from this point as nutrient-rich surface runoff from the housing estate enters the beck here.

Head straight across Big Meadow Drive to the footpath opposite. Veer to the left down the slope towards the beck.

Addingham Environment Group Environment Walk - Sustainable Water and Wildlife Friendly

[EW/SW 9 Townhead](#)



Half-way along the path to the Townhead Trading Estate you pass a number of mature alder trees. These are quite easy to identify, even in winter, from their brown cones which usually remain on the tree after seeds have been released. It is one of the most characteristic and valuable trees in the riparian zone. It can grow in very wet habitats with its roots submerged in water and thereby it helps to stabilise stream banks, protecting them from erosion.

Unfortunately the bank sides in this field are in very poor condition as the land is overgrazed and sheep are allowed to access the beck causing soil erosion and nutrient pollution. The main beck is also further polluted by the inflow of two small tributary becks that enter just upstream of the Trading Estate. These carry poor quality surface water from the Moor Lane and Moor Park Drive housing estates.

Stay on the path beside the beck and through a gate into the Townhead Trading Estate, then straight ahead to Main Street. Continue down Main St., and as you pass The Sailor pub take the footpath behind the houses slightly to your right.

[EW/SW 10 Wells Cottage](#)

This is the only place in the village where there is direct public access to the side of the beck (here now called Town Beck). The bankside vegetation is being carefully managed by the Environment Group. Birch and field maple trees have been planted along the narrow bank and in the small grassy area close to the footbridge.



Trout, bullheads and sticklebacks have been seen in the beck at this point. However, water quality is quite poor. The water is well-oxygenated because it is fast flowing but it suffers from pollutants entering the beck upstream (see above). The freshwater shrimp (*Gammarus pulex*), an indicator of good water quality, is quite rare here (and downstream) and the species of algae growing on the stones in the beck include a number that are tolerant of nutrient pollution.

Continue over the small footbridge back onto Main St. You are now just 50m from your starting point.

We hoped you enjoyed the walk. More information for each of these Points of Interest can be found on our website using the links on this page. If you can add to or correct our story in any way please get in touch via aeg@addingham.info

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