

## High Above Addingham

### A walk linking two World War II aircraft crash sites

4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles (7.6km) circular walk

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#### START/FINISH

The turning circle at the bottom of Heber's Ghyll, on Heber's Ghyll Drive, Ilkley (GR SE 100473).

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Limited Bus service from Ilkley Bus Station to quite near the walk start point. Contact Metroline 0113 2457676 for details.

#### CAR PARKING

Plenty of room for on street parking (please do not block the turning circle).

#### WALK INFORMATION

A lovely walk with a bit of history where the short length of the walk should not be seen as an indication that it's going to be easy. Although starting on the level, on easy to follow field paths and tracks these soon give way to steep hill climbing and rough moorland terrain with the occasional stile and a steep descent to finish.

The route has primarily been devised to link two WWII aircraft crash sites at Windgate Nick and High Crag, but also includes a little information about Ilkley's first golf course.

Walkers should be confident they can walk the distance and should be fit enough to contend with the rough moorland terrain and the hills both up and down which make up the majority of the route.

Strong footwear along with outdoor clothing to suit the season is essential, a packed lunch is recommended. This walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and people with limited mobility.



*The walk start point - looking west along Heber's Ghyll Drive*

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#### THE ROUTE

Starting from the road side at the turning circle near the bottom of Heber's Ghyll facing west looking along the tree lined "Heber's Ghyll Drive" ignore the first footpath with the steep steps immediately on your left to take the second path under the trees across the footbridge to the bottom of Heber's Ghyll. Here in front of the small stone built building (formally public toilets from a bygone era) the path divides, our route takes the path off to the right along the side of the building and straight ahead as it meanders beneath the trees parallel with the road on your right.

After only a short distance the path starts to climb steeply up into the woodland lookout here for where the path divides, our route follows the path off to the right keeping near to the bottom edge of the woodland still walking parallel to the road below.

Eventually the path starts to climb for a second time, here again lookout for where the path divides our route bears to the right keeping on the level and still following the road to eventually go through a wide gap through a stone wall which will soon become obvious.

Through the gap it's straight ahead the short distance across the grass verge to join a narrow surfaced private road. Bear left along the road passing on your left the entrance to "Brackenwood" to continue straight ahead through the wide gateway to where the road divides.

Here our route bears left for a short distance until you reach the lamp post on your left at the rear of "Briery Wood Farm Cottage". leave the surfaced road here to take the narrow grass track off to the left and up a slight incline to reach a field gate with stile which can be seen ahead.

Over the stile and in the field the footpath divides, our route follows the path as it bears slightly to the left straight ahead across the centre of the field heading in the general direction of the large outcrop of rocks which can usually be seen, weather permitting, on the far distant skyline to find a stile through a short length of isolated stone wall.

Through the stile the path continues straight ahead crossing the next field heading for the next stile which is situated to the right of a large gateway. Through the stile its straight ahead following the old post and rail fence on your left and soon joining several worn paths as you pass behind the trees on your right before crossing a small stream to reach the wall corner.

Continue by following the wall on your left up a slight incline to eventually find a stile hidden from view in the wall corner 4yds / 3.6m to the left of the gate which can be seen ahead.

Over the stile the path bears right and is easy to follow as you make your way the short distance across the boggy ground to the small gate leading into "Hardwick House Farm" go through the gate and through a second gate into the farmyard, turn left across the farmyard walking in front of the house before joining the obvious vehicle tracks as you leave. Eventually the track will lead you to a cattle grid, here use the gate at the side to enter the yard at "Hardwick Cottage"



Hardwick House Farm

Continue following the track past the building and through a gate and up a slight incline before eventually reaching a second gate leading into a quite a large farm complex at "Crag House Farm". On entering the farm complex turn immediately left to continue following the rough track which after a short distance changes to a surfaced road.

Continue to follow this quiet country road for approx. 800yds / 731m or so passing "Uppergate Croft" on your right and up the steep incline passing the large building on your left at the top of the hill, then it's on past "Sunnybank and Lumb Beck Farms".

Just beyond "Lumb Beck Farm" lookout on your left for the stile in the wall directly opposite the driveway on your right which leads down to Beck House Farm and Stegg House Farm. Here leave the road by turning left to go through the stile and across a small stream before

starting a long steep climb up the boardwalks and between the Gorse bushes walking as close as possible to the wall on your left as you make your way up to the disused quarry working high above on the skyline..

After approximately 225yds / 205m up the hillside and just above the last of the gorse bushes look out for the stile through the wall on your left . Climb the stile turning immediately right on the opposite side of the wall crossing a boggy section of path as you continue uphill now with the wall on your right.

After only a short distance 100yds / 91m or so just where the wall turns right our route continues straight ahead uphill across another boggy section of path as we make our way over open country following a faint but obvious path leading to a ladder stile over the wall which separates the rough moorland grassland and Addingham Moor.

Over the stile the path bears to the right and continues uphill between the bilberry bushes and heather heading in the general direction of the rocky outcrop which can be seen ahead on the skyline above.

Take extra care as you near the top of the hill as you need to pick your way carefully over the rock strewn path before eventually walking through a wide gap cut into the hillside to reach the stone built cairn on the level open moorland.

Turn right at the cairn to walk in a westerly direction along the ridge of the moorland following the well worn path for approx 300yds / 274m to find the memorial stone to the crew of the WWII aircraft which crashed near this location.

Here down to your right, at approximately 9pm on the 23rd March 1943 an R.A.F MK II deHavilland Mosquito aircraft crashed into to the hillside then somersaulted over the ridge where you are standing and eventually came to rest near the wall which separates the field and the trees over to your left.

*From this vantage point looking north across the Wharfe valley to Beamsley Beacon tragedy also struck on the 5th November 1945 when an R.A.F Avro Lancaster bomber crashed into the hillside, but that's another walk for another day.*

To continue, turn left down the slight incline away from the moorland ridge to the stile in the wall. Here, turn left ignoring the stile and passing the gate to walk in an easterly direction with the wall on your right along the strip of grass which separates the heather from the wall.

Follow the grassy strip along the wall side for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile / 1.2km or so as you make your way to the highest part of the walk, the trig point on the top of Addingham High Moor 1260ft / 384m above sea level which can eventually be seen ahead on the sky line.

On nearing the trig point the path goes up an incline and the wall on your right which you have been following is joined on the left by another wall causing the path to become enclosed as you make your way uphill to a squeeze stile at the top where the walls meet. Through the gap in the wall turn right to continue uphill still following the wall on your right along the green perimeter path.

After only a short distance look to your left to see the trig point, here leave the perimeter path by turning left across the moorland heather on a very well worn path to the trig point. From here continue in a easterly direction by taking the left hand path of the three paths which leave the trig point walking straight ahead and slightly to the left heading for the ladder stile over the wall ahead.

Over the stile the path is faint at first but soon becomes more obvious as you walk straight ahead in an easterly direction following the contour of the hillside along "Long Ridge End" where after only a short distance you reach two small pits dug into the hillside. Here the faint path drops down the side and along the bottom of the pits and continues straight ahead soon bearing slightly to your right regaining height as you make your way across the level moorland eventually meeting a path which crosses our route from left to right noticeable by the nearby boulder which partially blocks our way straight ahead.

Continue along the level path still walking in a easterly direction soon crossing a second path which again crosses from left to right. Here our route continues straight ahead on the level on what has now become a much wider and easy path to follow eventually passing "High Crag" a large out crop of rock on your left.

From here its only a short distance along the path to the memorial stone marking the crash site of an "Halifax Bomber DK 185" which crashed here at approximately 1730hrs on January 31st 1944. Nearby are a few fragments of what remains of this once great aircraft.

From the memorial stone continue straight ahead still in an easterly direction soon passing on your left a large standing stone boundary marker as you make your way across the level moorland heading towards the dry stone wall which can be seen in the near distance. Nearing the wall at the junction with another path our route bears slightly to the right and continues straight ahead now walking parallel with but some distance from the stone wall over on your left.

After 300yards / 273m or so notice the gate in the wall, ignore this gate and continue along the path a further 200yds / 181m to find a second gate which is not as obvious as the first.

Here leave the path you are on by turning sharp left to walk across the rough grass a heather to go through the gate. Through the gate the faint and quite steep path meanders down the hillside keeping reasonably close to wall over to your right as you pick your way through the bracken and grass as you make your way downhill to the sandstone track which can clearly be seen at the bottom of the hill, passing on your way a "tee" and a "green" just two of several remains of what was Ilkley's first golf course.

On reaching the sandstone track cross straight ahead and down the rough bracken covered moorland terrain a short distance to find a metal kissing gate through the wall on your right. Go through the gate where almost immediately the path divides in many directions here take the path bearing slightly to the left walking in the general direction of the reservoir which can be seen in the distance. Take care along this short section of bracken covered path as it soon becomes very rocky before eventually emerging onto the main well trod path flanked by the metal railings at the top of Heber's Ghyll. Here turn left at the railings to go through the metal kissing gate to start your steep descent through the woodland crisscrossing Black Beck via several footbridges as you make your way down to your start point on Heber's Ghyll Drive.



*View from near Windgate Nick*

### Crash site near “Windgate Nick” Addingham High Moor

On March 23rd 1943 at approximately 9.00pm an RAF MKII deHaviland Mosquito aircraft (affectionately known as the wooden wonder) DD750 of 25 Squadron RAF Church Fenton crashed into the hillside near to Windgate Nick at a height of 1247ft (GR SE 069471) at Addingham High Moor, the aircraft then somersaulted over the moorland ridge finally coming to rest against the stone wall which divides a field and White Crag Plantation. Both crew members, the pilot Sgt John Hudson Staples and navigator Sgt Ralph Ernest Andrews were killed.



*RAF MKII deHaviland Mosquito aircraft*

The aircraft was returning from RAF Coltishall in Norfolk to its home base at RAF Church Fenton near York. Why it was flying 28 miles west of its base is unclear but from local reports the aircraft had already circled and was thought to be searching for recognisable landmarks.

Local landowner and farmer Mr Alan Fothergill 76 has boyhood memories of the WWII Mosquito aircraft that crashed on his father's land.

As a boy of 9 he recalls that on the evening of March 23rd 1943 at approximately 9.00pm he was in bed and could hear aircraft circling above the farm followed by a very loud explosion causing his bedroom door to blow open, his first thoughts were that the Germans had arrived to invade England but soon found out when neighbours, Mrs Clark of Black Pots Farm and Mr Shuttleworth of Ghyll Grange arrived at his home and could be heard talking to his parents downstairs about the crash.

Unfortunately for the 9 year old he was not allowed out that evening but at first light the next morning when the moor was swarming with soldiers he saw the crashed aircraft. The moorland was still on fire and the sound of exploding ammunition could still be heard. One of the wings of the plane had come to rest against the stone wall which divided the field from the White Crag Plantation giving the first indication from the wing marking that it was a British plane.

Unfortunately the two crew were killed their bodies found lying together a short distance from the main wreckage on the opposite side of the wall.

Most of the wreckage of the wooden built aircraft was burnt on site but some salvaged by his father, of which 67 years on in 2010 one small piece remains.



### Crash site “Long Ridge” Ilkley Moor

On January 21st 1944 at approximately 5.30pm an R.A.F Mk.V. Handley Page Halifax Bomber of the Heavy Conversion Unit based at R.A.F Dishforth near Ripon North Yorkshire crashed into the moorland at Long Ridge 1149ft up on Ilkley Moor.



*R.A.F Mk.V. Handley Page Halifax Bomber*

Of the crew of seven, six crew members of the Royal Canadian Air Force were killed in the crash. The seventh member, an R.A.F Flight Engineer, died later from his injuries in High Royds Hospital, Menston.

All the Canadian crew members are buried at Stonefall cemetery Harrogate.

The aircraft had left its base to go on a night navigation exercise but for reasons unknown the aircraft was flying 40 miles south of its intended course when it is thought that the aircraft descended through low cloud to find navigational landmarks to help locate R.A.F. Yeadon Aerodrome now renamed Leeds/Bradford International Airport. There has also been speculation that the crew thought that they were over water as dinghies from the aircraft were found on the moor.

A memorial stone marks the location at G.R.SE. 093467 and nearby fragments of the aircraft can be seen.

### THE CREW OF HALIFAX BOMBER DK185

**Donald George McLeod** R.C.A.F Pilot Officer - *Pilot*

**Felix Byrne** R.A.F. Sergeant - *Flight Engineer*

**Lewis Riggs** R.C.A.F. Warrant Officer - *Navigator*

**Robert Henry Rahn** R.C.A.F. Sergeant - *Bomb Aimer*

**William George King** R.C.A.F. Warrant Officer - *Wireless Operator / Air Gunner*

**George Martin** R.C.A.F Sergeant - *Air Gunner*

**Albert Lorne Mullen** R.C.A.F Sergeant - *Air Gunner*



Memorial Stone, Windgate Nick



### Ilkley's Moorland Golf Course

Nearing the end of your walk as you make your way steeply down the north facing side of the moor adjacent to the Swastika Stone the route crosses what was once Ilkley's first golf course. Some remains of the "greens and tees" can easily be found amongst the bracken and grass of the hillside as nature reclaims what is left of this 9 hole course.

Founded in 1890 the course had a limited life span as the work soon started on its replacement in 1898 on the present day 18 hole course along the side of the River Wharfe.

#### Footnote

We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
Countryside and Rights of Way Service  
5th Floor, Jacobs Well,  
Bradford BD1 5RW

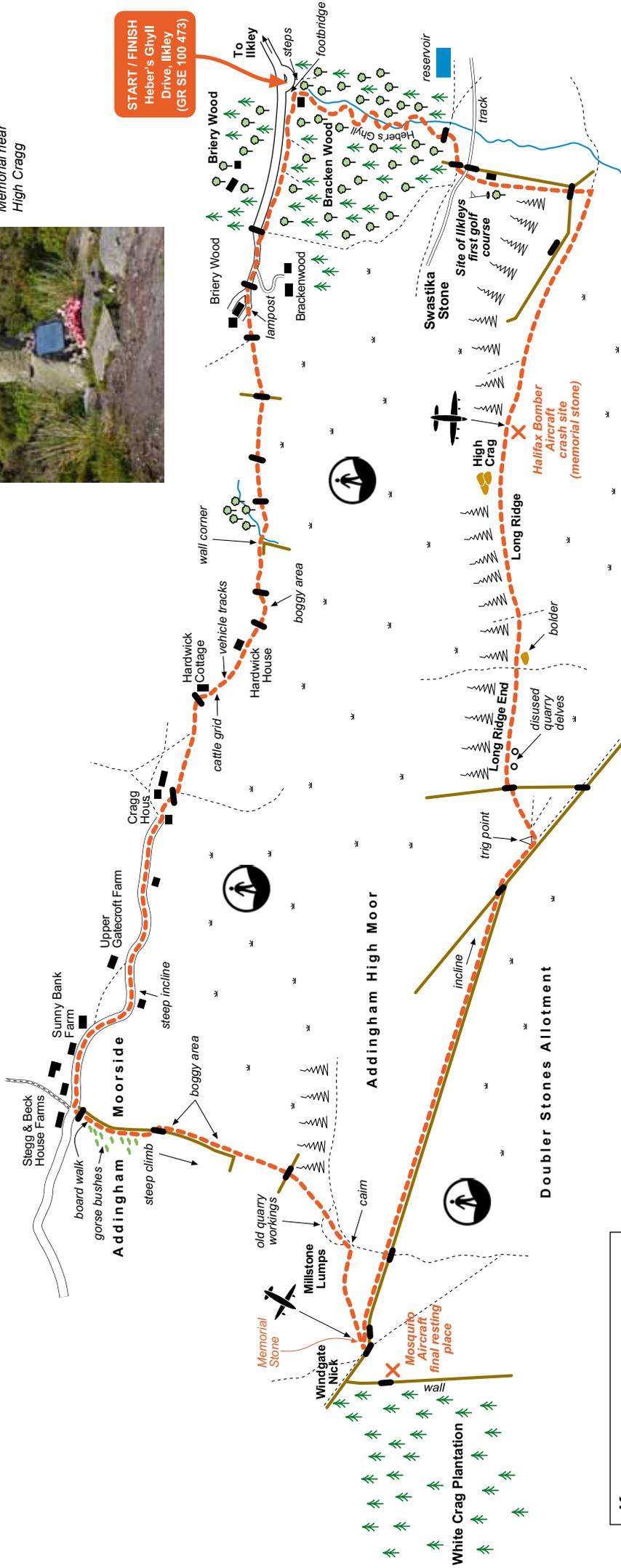
Tel: 01274 432666  
[www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside)

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4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles (7.6km) circular walk



Memorial near High Cragg



**START / FINISH**  
Heber's Ghyll  
Drive, Ilkley  
(GR SE 100 473)

Key	
	Route
	Other paths/tracks
	Stile/Gate/Gap
	Walls
	Open Country

Map not to scale