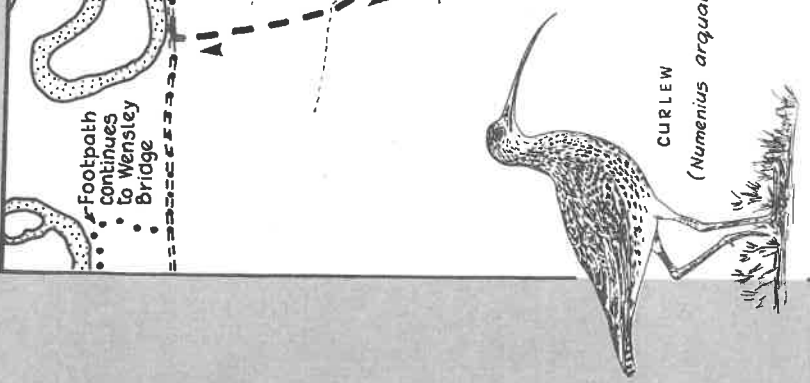
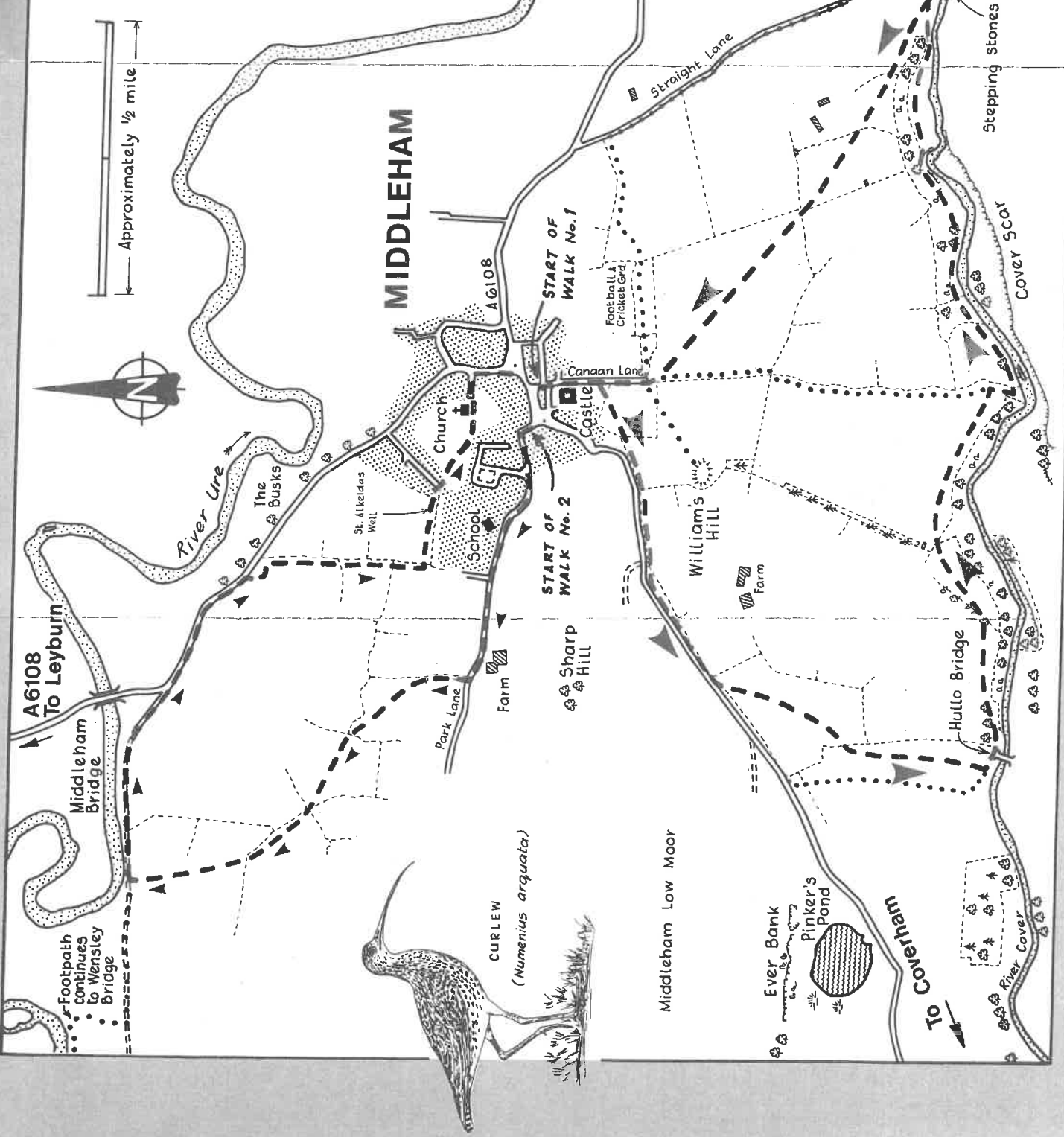
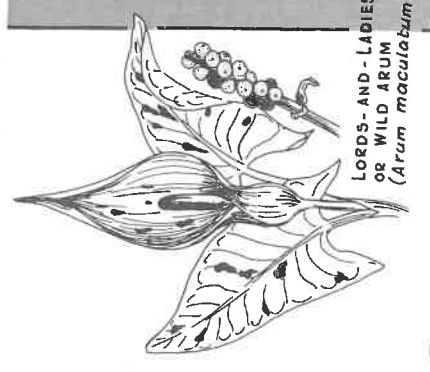
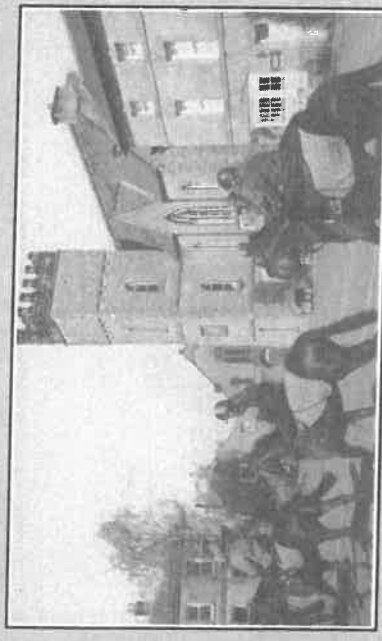


LORDS-AND-LADIES or WILD ARUM (some may know it by other names - Cuckoo Pint, Wake Robin, Jack-in-the-pulpit) usually grow in shady hedges and damp woodlands. Very easily identified because of its yellowy-green "hood", poker shaped spike (which has a foul smell to attract insects) and arrow-shaped shiny leaves, usually dark blotched. After the outer spathe has withered the spike of orange-red berries is revealed. The whole plant is poisonous as it contains aroine.

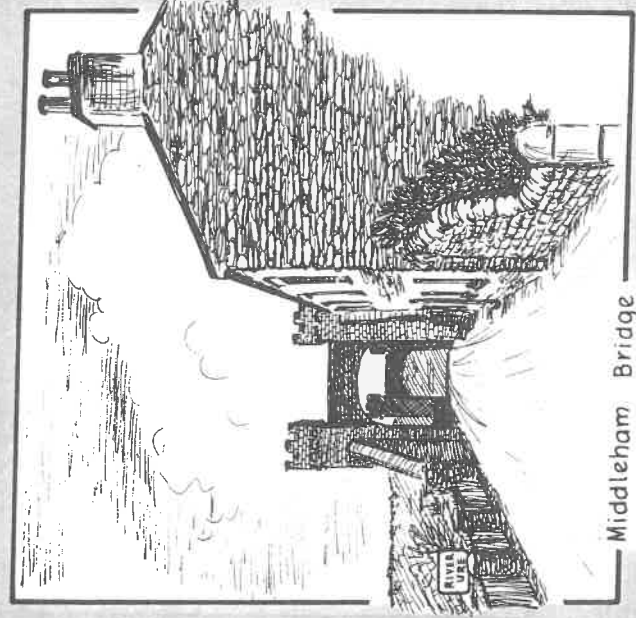
LORDS-AND-LADIES OR WILD ARUM (*Arum maculatum*)



**ROUTE 2** - Approx. 2½ miles (1-1½ hrs. easy walk)  
A pleasant circular walk across fields to River Ure, then return by the church.  
**WARNING:** there is an unavoidable length of busy roadside walking. Please take extra care and keep well in, with close control of children and dogs.  
This walk starts from the west end of Middleham near the Swine Cross. Nearby is the old school with its "Gothic" tower, built in 1869. It no longer houses pupils but as the unusual sculpture at its front suggests, it is a gallery and arts workshop.



Take the road to the left of this building, passing houses and the primary school. Continue along the lane (now a public bridleway and farm access track) until just past the farm and turn right through a gate, at the bridleway sign. Follow this waymarked track and it opens out into a sloping field from which there are excellent views across towards Leyburn. Harmby and Spennithorne whilst in the foreground Middleham Bridge can be seen as it crosses the River Ure.  
Cross diagonally over the field, then curve across the next field towards a metal gate in the corner. After passing through this, keep to the edge of the next field with a wall on the right and follow along until reaching a gap in the wall where it curves off to the left. Pass through and then head directly across the large open field in front - this is often cultivated but there is a definitive path through. As the field drops down towards the river, a gate in the wall ahead becomes visible and through this the path emerges onto a track running at the side of the Ure. To the left there is a pleasant walk to Wensley Bridge but for our circular route, turn to the right.

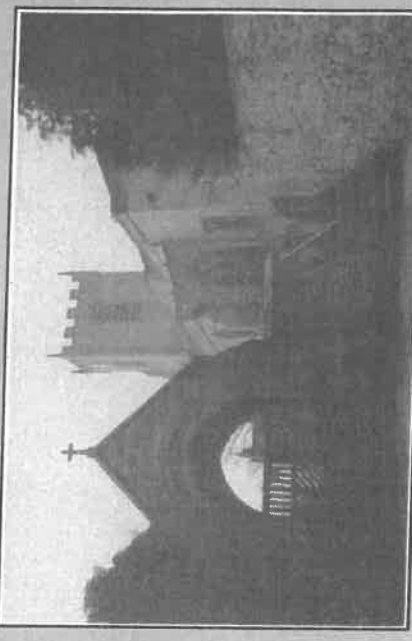


Middleham Bridge

The track soon joins the A6108 road from Leyburn just south of Middleham Bridge.  
In 1829 a simple suspension bridge was erected to replace the ford at Western Willows, but after only a year it collapsed under the weight of a herd of bullocks crossing. It was repaired and soon a toll was charged to help with the upkeep. In 1864 the bridge was replaced by an iron girder one, remaining as a toll bridge until 1880 when it was taken over by the County highways.  
Unfortunately the roadside has to be used here for about 1/4 mile and there is only a very narrow verge, so great care needs to be taken as it is a rather busy road at most times. After a right-hand curve, opposite The Busks, cross over a small area between bungalows using the waymarked stiles, then keep to the field edge and head uphill slightly, crossing through two gaps in the fences ahead. Upon reaching a high stone wall, turn left over a stile and walk along the top edge of the field with lovely views to the side. Almost at the end of the field, is St. Alkelda's Well, a natural spring which unfortunately has dried up in recent years. Over a stile onto the small estate road, cross over to follow round the back of some houses and the path emerges onto ground at the back of the Church. Use the path through the churchyard to Church Street, then turn right into Kirkgate and head back into the Market Square.

Map based upon the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.

The Parish Church of Middleham, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Alkelda, is well worth a visit. There are many interesting reminders of the town's history. "Mary of Middleham" was a descendant of the first Lord of the Manor, Ribald, and she is said to have established the Church after her husband (Robert de Neville) died. Alkelda probably comes from the Saxon word for Holy Well (Hal Keld) as the Church is sited near an old well, but legend has it that a beautiful Saxon noble woman called Alkelda was strangled to death with her own long hair by two pagan Danish women in 800 AD. This was apparently because of her Christian beliefs and so it is said that a small Church was built on the site of the present one as a shrine to her. The Church which now stands is of 13th Century origin, but most of the present building is from the 14th and 15th centuries.



The Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Alkelda

Middleham was referred to in the Domesday Book as "Medelai". The most prominent and historic feature of the town is the Castle, built around 1170 - it has a massive keep, one of the largest in England. To Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later to become Richard III) Middleham was an important base.  
Married to Anne, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, Richard lived at the Castle for many years, earning his title of "Lord of the North" by keeping law and order in the region and defending the Country against the Scots. He earned much respect in the town and it was his devotion to the Church that led him to begin the process of turning Middleham into a place of learning, taking the first steps towards founding a Collegiate Church in 1478 and obtaining a Royal licence three years later.





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These walking routes have been stiled and waymarked with the co-operation of the landowners - please do keep to the paths.

The two routes described are shown with dashed lines on the map - some alternative paths are shown dotted.

The lower Wensleydale town of Middleham lies just outside the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park between the Rivers Cover and Ure. It is an interesting place to wander around and spreading out from the town are several public footpaths and bridleways which can be used to explore some of the delightful surrounding countryside.

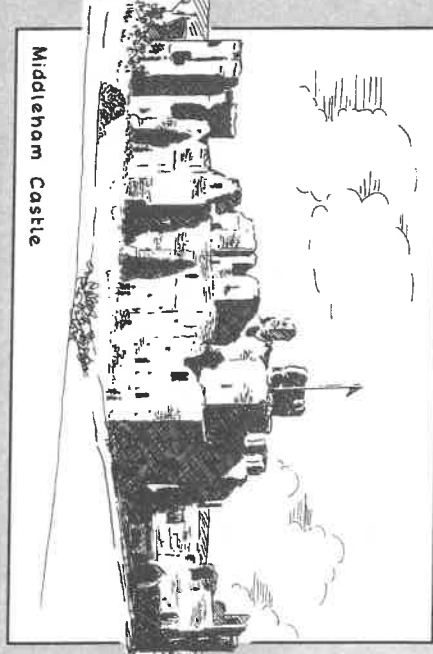
If any problems are encountered, please contact the Area 1 Rights of Way Officer at the above address.

Grateful thanks to Mr Peter Hibbard for his help with the background historical information.

Copies of this leaflet are available (S.A.E. please) from:  
North Yorkshire County Council, Environmental Services,  
County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AH.

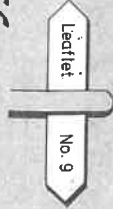
This is one of a series of walk leaflets produced by North Yorkshire County Council. The aim is to promote the use of the many public rights of way in this large and attractive County.

Grateful thanks to Mr Peter Hibbard for his help with the background historical information.



Middleham Castle

## Short Walks Around Middleham



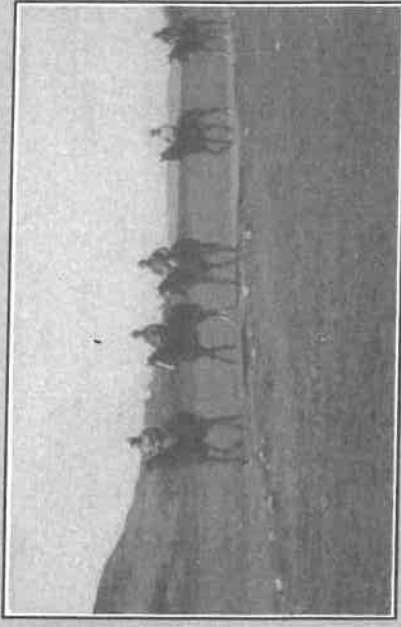
### ROUTE 1 - Approx. 3 1/2 miles (1 1/2 - 2hrs steady walk)

A scenic circular walk south of Middleham, mainly through fields and by the wooded banks of the River Cover. In the woodland, there are several steep-sided sections of path which may also be muddy at times, so extra care should be taken at these points.

From the centre of Middleham, take a path between the houses near the Castle Keep tearoom/giftshop which heads in a southerly direction onto Canaan Lane at the side of the Castle. After passing by the Castle, look for a small gap in the wall on the right and then head diagonally across the fields using the stiles provided. The path then runs alongside a high stone wall at the side of the Coverdale Road until, by a stone sheepfold, it passes through the wall onto the wide roadside verge.

On this first stage of the walk, Williams Hill can be clearly seen - this is the site of a traditional motte and bailey fortress known to have been there during the reign of Edward the Confessor when it was the residence of Ghilpatrick the Dane. Legend has it that if one runs around the hill seven times without stopping a door will open to reveal great treasures!

Follow the road for about 1/4 mile. On the opposite side is the start of Middleham Low Moor where horses from the many racing stables in and around the town are taken for their daily exercise.



Racehorses on Middleham Low Moor

A wooden signpost indicates our path to the left through a small-gated stile in the wall. Cross the field diagonally and once over the brow of the hill the next gap should become visible in the wall ahead, well down the field. After passing through this, turn to the left but gradually veer to the right on descending so as to meet up with the correct path to Hullo Bridge, also avoiding a steep drop.



Hullo Bridge

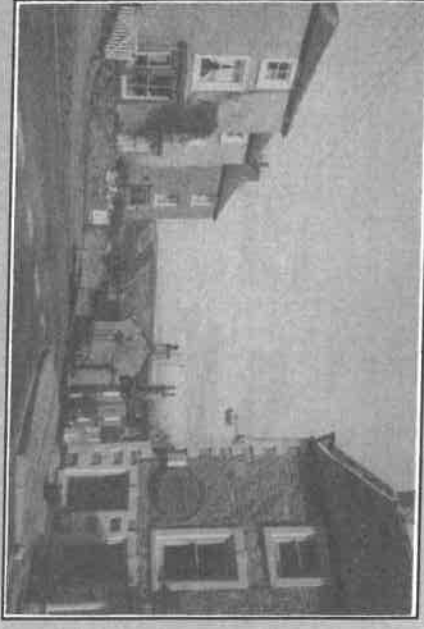
There are fine views up Coverdale to the west, the flat topped Penhill being easily recognisable in the distance and ahead across the valley are the Witton Fells. The River Cover cuts its way through the bedrock as it passes under Hullo Bridge.

Our route stays on the northern side of the river, passing over a stile and then bearing slightly left uphill through the trees until it emerges into a large field. Follow the edge of the field for a short distance, then cross through a line of shrubs and trees and head slightly uphill towards the top corner of the wood, where there are some tall pine trees. Cross the stiles then continue along the field edge with the wood on the right side. Soon the path starts to drop downhill and once again it turns towards the River Cover, joining another footpath which runs down the field side from Middleham. Across the river there is now a quite spectacular steep cliff with trees clinging to its side and top.



DIPPER  
(*Conchus cinclus*)

Down by the waters edge, keep a look out for the Dipper as fast flowing rivers and streams are its habitat. Easy to identify with its white "bib" and plump dark brown body on strong legs, it is smaller than a Blackbird and its shape is rather like that of a large Wren. Against the dark rocks and moving water it is well camouflaged - it bobs" up and down usually whilst standing on a rock in mid-stream and flits about between the boulders or wades in the shallow water, sometimes diving underneath in its search for food.



Kirkgate, Middleham from Market Place.

However, Richard as Lord Protector was forced to move south eventually to become King, and he only returned to Middleham once again when his young son Edward died in 1484, the year before his own death at the Battle of Bosworth Field.

(For more details of Middleham's history, an excellent small booklet is "Castle, Kings and Horses" by Stephen V. Brown.)

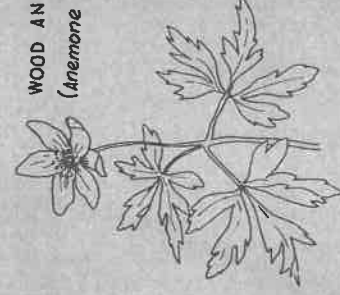
The racing industry is very important to Middleham - about a dozen training stables are spread around the town (The number of horses stabled equal approximately half of the towns human population.) The moors to the west of Middleham provide ideal conditions for exercising the racehorses and each day numerous fine thoroughbreds can be seen and heard as they are taken along the road leading towards Coverham on their way to the gallops. In earlier times race meetings were actually held on the moors, but the last one recorded was in 1837.

The visitor to Middleham is well-catered for in the way of cafes, gift shops, public houses and hotels. There are public toilets just off the Market Place. Nearby Leyburn has a Tourist Information Office in the town centre and additional facilities not to be found in Middleham. There are many other public rights of way in this area. Those to the south of the River Cover and west of Hullo Bridge are in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and can be linked to those described in this leaflet, so lengthening the walks.

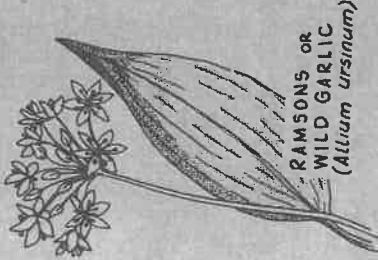
Appropriate O.S. maps are Outdoor Leisure Series sheet no. 30, Pathfinder no. 630 (1:25,000) or Landranger no. 99 (1:50,000).

At the fence line a waymark shows the route through a rough grassy area and then into the woodland following the course of the river. There are one or two steep and perhaps slippery sections of the path through the wood, so please take care.

WOOD ANEMONE  
(*Anemone nemerosa*)



RAMSONS OR  
WILD GARLIC  
(*Allium ursinum*)



Some of our best loved wild flowers bloom in the shady woodland in the Spring and Summer months - bluebells, primroses, violets, wood anemones, celandines and wood sorrel to name a few. Ramsons, or wild garlic, which are often smelt before they are seen have pretty clusters of white star like flowers, and their leaves (which can be used to flavour fish and steaks) are similar to those of hilly-of-the-valley.

As the river course takes a sharp right-hand curve, our path leaves the trees and crosses the inner side of a field. Pass a broad track which bears left at the end of this field and continue to follow the riverside until a stile is reached. There are several options to choose from at this point (as shown on the map) but our route does not cross over the stile - it heads back uphill to skirt the edge of the woods for a short distance. There is an attractive view across the valley to include Harmby, Spennithorne and Uishaw Bridge over the River Ure. To the west of Harmby is the larger market town of Leyburn. There is a stile to cross at the edge of a field, then start to walk diagonally towards the next hedge where at one point there is a short section of stone wall with a waymarked gap through it. Now take a diagonal line to the corner of the next field and continue in the same direction over the very large field which slopes gradually. As it rounds off, the splendid Castle comes into view and soon the gate leading back into Canaan Lane and our starting point is reached. Before heading back into Middleham, a small detour to view Williams Hill can be taken by passing through a gap in the wall shortly after entering the lane.