

On their camping trip, Gerald and Ted hunted rabbits, fried up a bacon and egg breakfast and discovered a deadfall trap nearby. A 'deadfall' trap is one in which a heavy rock is propped up with a stick and bait placed beneath the rock. When the fox (in this case) takes the bait, it dislodges the stick and is crushed by the falling rock. It inspired Hughes's ghost story *The Deadfall* in which he is awakened from sleep in the tent by a spirit in the form of an old woman, who leads him to a fox caught in the trap. The morning after having this dream, Ted and Gerald found a fox with its leg trapped beneath the fallen deadfall stone.



Abel Cross (pictured on the cover) is actually a pair of stone crosses, nicknamed 'Cain and Abel' or 'Mourning and Vanity'. They probably served as wayside markers but legend says they mark the graves of two rivals who fought over a local girl, Katie of Cross Ends Farm. The two rivals, Heptonstall Jim and Oxenhope Jack, killed each other whilst fighting over Katie, and as murderers, could not be buried in consecrated ground, so Katie buried them here. It is said she was subsequently buried in the space between the two, having committed suicide by jumping from **Lumb Bridge** into the surging waters of the waterfall below. She is known as the White Lady, a ghostly apparition who haunts **Lumb Bridge**. Hughes's poem *Where the Mothers* was later retitled *Abel Cross, Crimsworth Dean* and is the first poem in the collections *Three Books* and *Elmet*.

One of the great pleasures of wandering the woods of the Upper Calder Valley is the frequency with which you come face to face with **roe deer**, before they bounce off through the trees flashing their white backsides. Though native to Britain, they were hunted to near-extinction in England by the 18th century, but were reintroduced in the Calder Valley in the mid-20th century. Roe deer are relatively small and reddish-brown (darkening in winter) and only the females have the white rump, while the males have short antlers. An encounter with two in Devon is recounted in Hughes's poem *Roe-Deer*.



Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire is a series of six route maps that will allow walkers to encounter the Yorkshire landscapes – Mytholmroyd and the Upper Calder Valley, Mexborough & the lower valleys of the Don & Dearne and Pattrington in East Yorkshire – that formed and inspired Ted Hughes, poet laureate 1984-1998.

In the period before the First World War, Crimsworth Dean was a local beauty spot and a favourite location for Sunday walks and camping trips. Ted Hughes's maternal uncles Thomas and Walter Farrar referred to it as 'the happy valley' and were joined on their jaunts there by Hughes's father William on at least one occasion. Inspired by accounts of these trips, Gerald Hughes began to camp in the valley, in the traditional Farrar/Hughes spot on a sheltered area of flat ground beneath the cliff of a disused quarry that was later used as a council stone dump. Young Ted accompanied Gerald at least once on one of these camping trips, spending three days there in the summer of 1937. It was on this trip that Hughes had 'the dream that later turned into all my writing' – an encounter with a fox and a mysterious old woman that he later worked-up into his ghost story *The Deadfall* – and he described the campsite as 'a sacred place to me'.

the Bukta Wanderlust tent Gerald and Ted camped in



The deadfall stone that was the inspiration for Hughes's story can still be seen in the woodland above the campsite. Hughes's childhood friend, the late Donald Crossley was guided to the site of the stone over fifty years after the event by Gerald Hughes, who wrote letters to him from his home in Australia, providing directions. Crossley renewed his acquaintance with both Ted and Gerald Hughes in the 1980s and through his questioning was able to develop a great deal of invaluable contextual information on Hughes's poems about Mytholmroyd and the Upper Calder Valley. Crossley's archive is open to the public at the University of Huddersfield's Heritage Quay.

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Walk devised by Donald Crossley, Nick Wilding and Ruth Crossley of the Elmet Trust based on information supplied by Gerald Hughes. Thanks to Carol Hughes for her help and support in the production of the map.

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DISCOVERING TED HUGHES'S YORKSHIRE

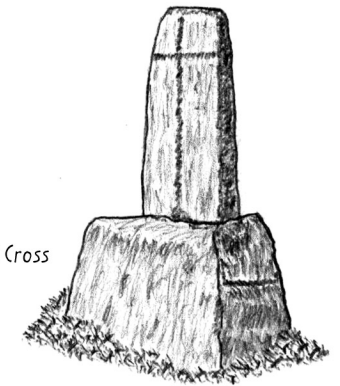
The Upper Calder Valley

MAP 2: CRIMSWORTH DEAN

A 3.5-mile walk around this beautiful rural valley where Ted Hughes camped as a boy, also taking in Lumb Hole and Abel Cross



Abel Cross



'Think often of the silent valley,
'for the god lives there.'

In Hardcastle Crag, that echoey museum,
Where she dug leaf mould for her handfuls of garden
And taught you to walk, others are making poems.'

(from *Leaf Mould*)



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