

Calderdale Way, walk route – dramatic West Yorkshire!

Heptonstall, Hardcastle Crag, Pecket Well, Jerusalem Farm (Luddenden Dean), Causeway Foot / Upper Brockholes

(9.75 miles; start satnav HX7 7NB)

The section after Pecket Well includes exposed moorland and magnificent views.

From Heptonstall centre by the Cross Inn, go on Northgate for approx 100 yards and opposite Northfield Terrace, bear right down a narrow track.

Descend passing a cottage, keeping to the main path until you reach the main road. Go straight across and follow the path continually down through the wood passing cross tracks until you reach the River Hebden at Midgehole. Continue ahead and right, across the river road bridge and up to the junction (left is car park) at **Hardcastle Crag** (0.75 miles).

At junction, turn right to just past the public conveniences. Turn sharp left to follow a track uphill. At house, continue steeply uphill (not around the house) following the sign to Pecket Well.

Bear right, avoiding steps on left, and continue uphill until the route levels out through beech trees. It then drops to a stream and bridge. On the other side of the bridge, climb to a cross track and turn left up a cobbled path and emerge on the A6033 near to **Pecket Well** (1.5 miles).

Cross straight over this road then climb to the road above. Turn right along this road (*good views across right to the Smeakin Hill War Memorial*). At the second turning on the left go up Shaw Croft Hill, to a small group of buildings.

Turn left alongside the houses, following a grassy track upwards. At the top go straight across the junction and up a walled track to Slack Farm. Continue up this track over a wooden stile, then turn sharp right at the top. Follow the wall and continue on the main broad path ignoring stiles on right. Shortly, an equestrian centre and reservoir appear down right. Ignore path down to and through it. Continue around to the left of the equestrian centre. Follow the track closest to it and then on towards another farm ahead.

Go through the gate and angle left away from the farm to the entrance of Warley Moor. Enter through the stile to follow this round, keeping to the right ie the lower edge of the moor. After approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Hebden Bridge Golf course is reached.

Follow this path, avoiding sharp left, up to quarry. Stay on main path to curve around the back of the clubhouse. Follow this further onto the Moor itself. Go over a stile to follow a track towards two distant trees. On reaching the trees, there is a stile on the right, ignore this and continue on the path close to the wall to its corner. To the left up a short detour is Churn Milk Joan, a stone post. *According to legend it marks the spot where a milkmaid, caught in a blizzard, froze to death.*

From the wall corner, take the path diagonally right, downhill, following the marker posts. As this levels, bear left to follow the bottom edge of the moor. A Calderdale Way sign is reached on the left with a stile on the right. Ignore the stile and continue on the path around the moor edge. Ignore the second stile on the right and continue the curve around the moor with Ovenden Moor windmills on the horizon. Go right over a stile to leave the moor.

Join a tarmac access road and go left and downhill. This then bears right (ignore dirt road left) and at a minor junction, go left down Dry Carr Lane. On descending note the third house on the right. It has a

footpath gate on the right of the building. Turn sharp right down the drive and then through the gate onto a field path, which angles left down to Jerusalem Lane. Turn right and follow this downhill for approx 100 yards to a stile on the left.

Dry weather: go down through the wood to Wade Bridge picnic area.

Wet weather: continue down the road to **Jerusalem Farm** (4 miles) and left down to Wade Bridge picnic area.

Cross the bridge over Luddenden Brook, then angle up right in the wood. Stay on main path. After approx 50 yards uphill, at junction, take path sharp left and continue ahead. Keep straight on avoiding steps right (Saltonstall).

At wall corner, keep ahead to join track. At gate go through stile into lane on left keeping to left edge of wood.

Follow uphill to go around left of a house (Hullet) and up steps into Hays Lane. Continue right, up the road and just around bend take rough track on left, uphill. Pass farm on left and after bends before another farm ahead, go right to join lane. Turn right on and up this walled lane to junction with Castle Carr Lane

Go over the road and over a stile with Calderdale Way fingerpost. Angle half-right and follow path upward in a mainly straight line. Cross brook bridge and Follow the track above the wall to stile into lane.

Turn right and then left into a farm access and then go right to cross a short field and stile into narrow path alongside edge of dam.

At road (and cottages), turn left for short distance then right into field over stile. Cross field going down to small bridge over brook. Continue uphill half-way, go right over stile and left alongside the wall. Pass to left and curve around building (Nolstar Boarding Kennels and holiday cottage) and emerge on Cold Edge Road.

Turn left 30 yards and right at stile and gate. Go down track at Hunter Hill with quarry on the right. At a junction of broad paths, go ahead and through a wooden gate. This descends with Mixenden reservoir appearing ahead in the distance. When the whole of the reservoir is seen, angle left down a disintegrating walled track. At the end this opens and becomes a steep field descent.

At the bottom, turn left on a lane for approx 50 yards and then right, through a wooden gate. Go down through two fields to Stod Fold. Continue straight through the centre and follow the road down to and over a bridge, then up to a junction.

Turn right up Lane Head Lane and continue up ignoring Rocks Lane on left. approx 150 yards on is Croftmount 'pet resort'. Just after, on the left are steps.

Go up these and over stiles and a short path to emerge at Mount Zion Church..

The tarmac road is Per Lane. Turn left along it to emerge at the main Keighley Road (A629), at Park Lane Ends. The Moorlands Inn is 100 yards left towards Keighley, Halifax is to the right. This section ends opposite Blind Lane (half-right) at **Upper Brockholes** (3.5 miles).

(the bus service to Halifax is infrequent here, however, another half-mile to the Illingworth housing estate provides frequent buses)