

# Calderdale Way, walk route – dramatic West Yorkshire!

## Todmorden, Blackshaw Head, Heptonstall

(9.2 miles; start satnav 0L14 6NU)

*This part of the walk includes steep climbs and exposed moors. It is the most strenuous section of the walk, but has some magnificent views.*

From Todmorden centre, turn left along Rochdale Road (A6033) to the end of Morrison's supermarket. Then go right, up Dobroyd Road to cross the canal and railway line. Bear left to continue along this steep road uphill to reach the entrance of the gatehouse of Dobroyd Castle.

Continue forwards up Stones Road around the hairpin bend. Keep following this road up past the 'Private Road' sign. There are views of Dobroyd Castle down to the right. Keep climbing the road to the top and then right at the Calderdale Way sign. Go along this track and over the stile at the end.

*Fine weather:* angle left up the meadow to the top right hand corner. Then follow the level contour along the wall side through stiles to reach the road at the dwelling Todmorden Edge South.

*Wet weather:* continue ahead and rise up with the wall on the right to join a gravel track and follow to the end to reach a road. Turn left, up to the dwelling Todmorden Edge South, at the right-hand bend.

Continue up the road for a short distance then turn sharp right at the next junction. Go down approx 100 yards then right as signposted along a grassy track and downhill to Buckley Wood. At the bottom go left down Ewood Lane. the descent passes the sports centre on the right to emerge on the Todmorden Road (A646).

Turn left and then cross the road. Go left along the main road to just past the playing fields. On the right, go along Stoney Royd Lane which goes under the railway bridge and up to Stannally Farm. Continue around the farm building to follow the steep track further uphill to the gate at the very top. Here the track heads right uphill towards Rakes Hey Farm.

Take the track to the farm and along the back of the building. Follow the track which bears left and then right. Bear right along a walled bridleway to reach Whirlaw Stones and further along East Whirlaw Farm on the right and Cally Hall Farm sign.

At this junction, follow the road downhill towards a small bridge across Wickenberry Clough. Head forwards and up for about 50 paces, to go left over a stile. Follow this path straight ahead through fields and stiles to emerge at the edge of the Golf Course. Keep to the left edge of the course to emerge onto Hey Head Lane

Turn left for approximately 50 yards then right along the access to East Hey Head Farm. Follow the path through the farm to a stile where the route continues onto Law Hill.

Following the way-markings, bearing gradually left over the brow of the hill. The path then descends down to a stone stile before bearing right and then immediately left to follow the fencing to Killup Farm.

Ignore gate on the right and continue ahead with dwelling on the right below. Continue to a stile where the path now takes you around a hillside over a stream and left uphill and above the farm. Keep the farm on the right and go left up the old walled track, then right to reach a main road. Go uphill to the junction then right along the road to reach Great Rock.

Take the signed path to the left of Great Rock then keep alongside a wall to emerge at a ladder stile at the end. Follow the path down to the road bridge. Cross the bridge and bear right to follow the track in front of Hippins.

The track then bears left between farm buildings to a stile which then follows a line of electricity poles further uphill through fields and stiles. Go through the gate at the top, bearing right to finally emerge at **Blackshaw Head** (6.8 miles).

Look for a stile in the corner of the field, where the path bears half-right to the next five stiles. Then head right to a gate in the side of the wall, which turns left steeply down to Shawbottom House below.

At the house bear left and then immediately right on a path behind Shaw Bottom. This surfaced track then becomes a rough lane as you head in the direction of Hebden Bridge. A little further on, a sign post on the left-hand side of the track points towards the River Colden and Hebble Hole.

At the bottom of these steps, cross the bridge and bear right uphill. Ignore the first stile at the top and continue to the right along an ancient paved track. to the next stile at the top corner of Foster Wood.</o.

Go through the stile, bearing right to follow the path through fields and stiles, to reach a wider track. Turn left uphill to the junction and then bear right to take you behind some cottages, through more stiles and along a paved way to reach the final stile by a bench.

Continue to follow the track ahead and downhill, keeping the wall on the left to emerge onto the road. Follow this uphill for a short distance to a gap in the wall on the right. Carefully follow the top path, on the left. Avoid the path gradually sloping down right. Emerge at the top of the trees, giving a better view of the surrounding hillside. Take care on this path as tired legs and steep drops don't mix. The path eventually accesses a track left into **Heptonstall** (2.4 miles).