

MTL Link Walk

Map and services guide walk linking the Mary Towneley Loop



It's time to explore the great outdoors

Introduction

The MTL Link Walk is a perfect outdoor activity for anybody who wants to experience a bite sized sample of the Mary Towneley Loop. The walk begins in the Yorkshire town of Hebden Bridge and provides stunning views from the hill tops of the Upper Calder Valley. The route itself follows a combination of footpaths, bridleways and sections of the Mary Towneley Loop before returning to the tourist town of Hebden Bridge.

Fact File

Distance: 5.2 miles.

Time required: 1 hour 30 mins to 3 hours on foot. This route is not suitable for mountain bikes.

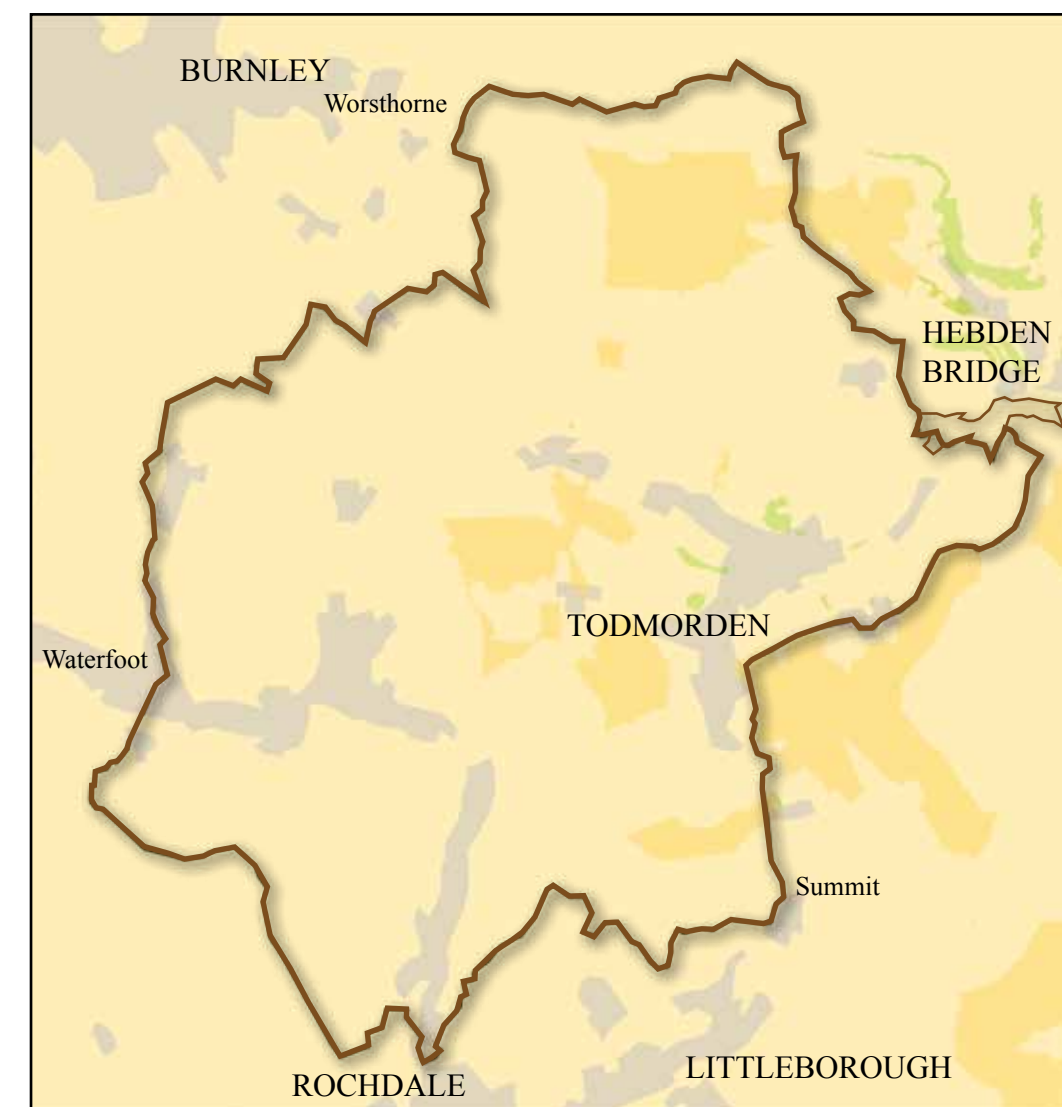
Start Point: Hebden Bridge town centre. The route can be walked in both directions, heading clockwise takes you straight to the hills whereas starting anti-clockwise covers some flat ground before the first hill. The route is physically challenging and consists of hilly sections.

Access: There are excellent public transport links into Hebden Bridge town centre either by train or bus. The train service links directly to Leeds, Manchester, Preston and Blackpool and the regular bus service provides access to Halifax, Burnley, Rochdale & Keighley. By road the A646 and A6033 provide main rd access, however parking in Hebden Bridge town centre can be a premium on busy weekends.

Terrain: a variety of surfaces including grass tracks, stone setts, stone causeways, aggregate paths and some quiet roads. User-friendly gates, Pegasus crossings at main roads. The route is hilly and steep in places.

Maps & Guides: The OS Explorer (1:25000) South Pennines (Sheet OL21) and OS Landranger (1:50000) Blackburn & Burnley (Sheet 103).

Location



— MTL Link Walk
— Mary Towneley Loop (Pennine Bridleway)



Stoodley Pike



Rochdale Canal Hebden Bridge



Pennines from the Bridgewater Canal at Castlefield Basin in Manchester to join the Calder and Hebble Navigation at Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire.

As originally built, the canal had 92 locks. Whilst the traditional lock numbering has been retained on all restored locks, and on all the relocated locks, the canal now has only 91 locks. The former locks 3 and 4 have been replaced with a single deep lock (Tuel Lane Lock), which is numbered as 3/4.

5. Blackpit Lock and the joining aquaduct. The start/finish point on the MTL walk provides some interesting viewing. Blackpit Lock is often used a viewing spot by tourists to watch narrow boats travel through the lock. It is also home to an impressive aquaduct that carries that Rochdale Canal whilst the River Calder runs underneath. Slightly upstream the Rover Calder and Hebden Water meet creating a mass span of water that flows beneath the aquaduct arches. During and after heavy rainfall this can be an impressive sight.

6. Hebden Bridge Town Centre a tourist hot spot lies 8 miles west of Halifax and 14 miles east of Rochdale and has a little bit of everything. From a variety of shops, cafes and B&B's to superb natural scenery and traditional stone buildings. The town provides a great base to explore the great outdoors whether your walking, cycling or just relaxing.

Points of Interest

There are a number of interesting points along the MTL Link Walk from spectacular natural scenery to interesting man made features. Look out for the following points of interest along the route.

1. From Horsehold views of the historic village of Heptonstall can be seen on the opposite side of the valley. The village is easily recognisable with Heptonstall church dwarfing the village buildings. Historically a centre for hand-loom weaving, it was also the site of a battle in 1643 during the early part of the English Civil War.
2. Just above Cruttonstall the MTL Link Walk meets the Pennine Bridleway, this is the 2nd highest point of the walk at 220m above sea level.
3. Blackshaw Royd is the highest point on the MTL Link Walk at 268m above sea level. If you look back across the valley Stoodley Pike Monument is situated high on the opposite hillside. Stoodley Pike 400m above sea level and standing 121ft 'The Pike' dominates the moors above Todmorden in West Yorkshire. The monument was designed in 1854 by local architect James Green, and completed in 1856 at the end of the Crimean War.
4. The Stubbing Wharf pub located 1/2 a mile from the end of the walk makes a perfect spot to enjoy some fine ales and traditional pub grub. The pub has a cosy feel in winter and outdoor seating for summer backing onto the Rochdale Canal.
5. The Rochdale Canal is a navigable "broad" canal in northern England, part of the connected system of the canals of Great Britain. The "Rochdale" in its name refers to the town of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, through which the canal passes.

The Rochdale is a Broad canal because its bridges and locks are wide enough to allow vessels of 14ft width. The canal runs for 32 miles (51 km) across the

Local Amenities

Coffee Cali 9 Bridge Gate Hebden Bridge HX7 8EX 01422 842978

Mooch Cafe Bar 24 Market St Hebden Bridge HX7 6AA 01422 846954

Coffee Station The Old Loading Bay Hebden Bridge Railway Station Hebden Bridge 01422 844743

The Stubbing Wharf King St Hebden Bridge HX7 8AD 01422 844107

Nelsons Wine Bar Crown St Hebden Bridge HX7 8EH 01422 844782

Moyles Hotel Restaurant & Bar 4-10 New Rd Hebden Bridge HX7 8AD 01422 845272

Blazing Saddles Bike Shop 35 West End Hebden Bridge HX7 8UQ 01422 844435

Valley Private Hire Taxis 1 Picture House Buildings New Road Hebden Bridge HX7 8AD 01422 844070

Hebden Bridge Picture House (Cinema) New Road Hebden Bridge HX7 8AD 01422 842807

Hebden Bridge Visitor and Canal Centre Butlers Wharf New Road Hebden Bridge HX7 8AF 01422 843831 hebdenbridge@ybtbic.co.uk

Calder Holmes Park & Skate Park, Hebden Bridge

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Map



Key

	MTL Link Walk
	Mary Towneley Loop (Pennine Bridleway)
	Rochdale Canal
	River Calder
	A Road
	Railway & Station
	Urban Area
	Rural Openspace
	Common Land

7. At this point take the narrow footpath to the left and follow until you reach Household Rd.

8. Turn left onto Household Rd and follow the road uphill. Take the right hand bridleway and follow along the top of Household Wood for 1/2 a mile until you reach the Pennine Bridleway.

9. Turn right picking up the Pennine Bridleway signs. Follow the bridleway track downhill through Callis Wood until you reach the main rd (A646). Continue to follow the PBW signs up the other side of the valley for 3/4 of a mile.



10. At Blackshaw Royd turn right off the Pennine Bridleway and follow the bridleway east towards Knott Wood.

11. After 200m fork right on the bridleway and follow the track through the houses. The route continues through Knott Wood before reaching Turret Hall Rd.

12. At the junction of Turret Hall Rd, Turret Royd Rd, Stony Lane and Oakville Rd keep left following Oakville Rd east towards Hebden Bridge. Pass the old stone houses on your left and immediately turn left taking the stepped footpath up through the woodland.

13. Follow the footpath until it reaches a tree lined single track road. Follow the road for 250m until you reach Saville Rd.

14. At Saville Rd turn right and follow the road to King Street A646. Turn left and then right onto Stubbing Drive bypassing the Stubbing Wharf pub on your right.

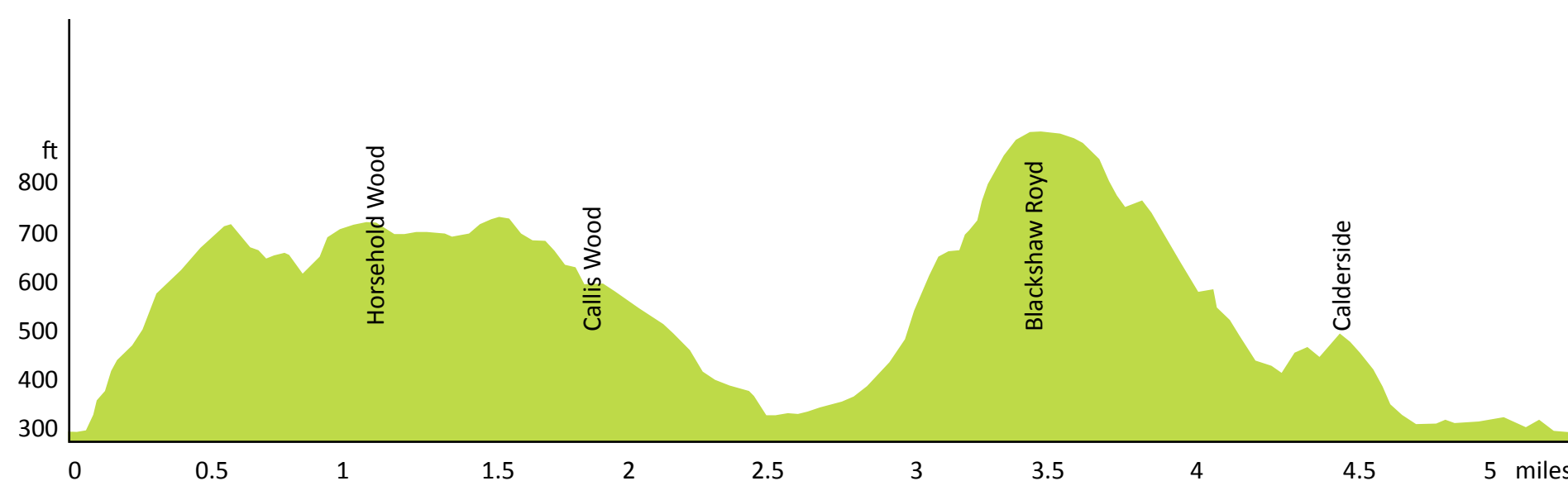
15. Access the canal towpath behind the Stubbing Wharf pub turning left towards Hebden Bridge.

16. Follow the canal towpath for just over 1/2 a mile reaching Blackpit Lock and the start/finish point of the MTL Link Walk.



Gradient Profile

Gradient Profile starting from Blackpit Lock (clockwise)



Route Guide Clockwise

1. Start the walk standing on the bridge at Blackpit Lock situated off Holme Street at the entrance to Calder Holmes Park, Hebden Bridge.
2. Turn right onto the footpath, Blackpit Lock should be on your right. Follow the path up the steps until you reach Shelf Rd.
3. Turn left and follow Shelf Rd into Palace House Rd over the railway bridge. Pass Stanleigh Croft and turn immediately right onto track.
4. Follow the track uphill taking the right hand fork, the track becomes a footpath, continue on the footpath until you reach a cross road of footpaths.
5. Turn right and follow the path through the woodland for 1/4 mile. Passing through an old gate the path heads to the top right hand corner of the wood.
6. Climb over the old stone stile and turn right onto the track. Follow the track for 1/4 mile until the track turns sharply right.

