

Thirty nine MYTHOLMROYD – HEBDEN BRIDGE.

A small millstone grit built town in the East Pennines, a pleasant canal stroll through countryside and a wonderfully preserved railway station at Hebden Bridge make this an easy, enjoyable trip.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Manchester and alight at Manchester Victoria.

Change here onto a Leeds stopping train via Bradford. *You are now travelling along the Manchester and Leeds Railway of the 1830's. George Stephenson was the civil engineer for this line. There is much fine, Pennine landscape on the route and the long Summit Tunnel soon after Littleborough.*

Alight at Mytholmroyd. Take the steps down from the platform, go left along the lane to the road and then turn right. *This is a nice old-fashioned town with a number of cafes before you even start!*

On the right is St Michael's church (*with a crowded graveyard and Bowling Green behind it*).

Cross the bridge over the River Calder and cross the main road. Turn right at the war memorial and garden.

Continue right as far as Midgeley road. *Notice the very narrow building squashed between the river Calder & the road.*

Go left a short way up Midgley Road and left down the narrow steep steps between the houses and bridge.

Walk ahead along the towpath. *This is the Rochdale Canal running between canals in Manchester and the River Aire at Sowerby Bridge. It thus forms a link between the Irish Sea (once St George's Channel) and the North Sea (once German Ocean).*

Eventually on the left you pass an old mill and just ahead is a canal tunnel. *The building was Walkley's clog Factory – the last surviving clog maker.*

Fork left off the bank and with care cross this busy road at the 'Hebden Bridge' and '40mph signs'. *You are on top of the tunnel.*

Slightly to your right take the track down left to rejoin the canal. *A few years ago the tunnel wasn't there and the road had been built straight across so blocking the canal. On this next stretch the canal, river, railway and road are very close to 63*

each other. This is typical of this narrow valley.

At Mayroyd Mill lock No 8 go left along the road up to the bridge. At the bridge go left to the railway station. [OPTION: instead continue along the canal bank to look at Hebden Bridge (this is the next trip, number forty).]

Hebden Bridge railway station has a buffet, waiting room with small lending library, and toilets. *The station is very well preserved having escaped the 1970's institutional vandalism. (A rumour is that managers at BR York headquarters lived in Hebden Bridge at the time!)*

Go down the steps through the underpass to the Manchester platform for the train back.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY.
 HISTORIC RAILWAY, CAFES, CANAL,
 COUNTRYSIDE, ARCHITECTURE, SHOPS,
 RAIL FARE – category THREE

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