

Fifty three. TODMORDEN – PORTSMOUTH & BACK
This is a varied trek through a distinctive moorland area, and the industrial aspects are interesting. Well worth it for good walkers. There is an ideal refreshment opportunity half way along.

Catch a train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria and change onto a Leeds or Bradford stopping train going via Rochdale.

Alight at Todmorden.

Turn left outside the front of the station and then left again to go under the viaduct. Climb steeply up Ridge Road. *You pass a small row of cottages called Doghouse Lane.*

Where the road forks, take the left fork, not the one down into the park, and then keep along this road. *When you pass High Barn farm there is a good view of the Calder Valley to the left and of Bridestones Moor across to the right. Behind is a view to Stoodley Pike.*

Keep straight ahead past the closed Country Friends Inn and over the cattle grid just beyond it. *Eventually on the left is a view of Todmorden Moor where there were many small coal pits. Ahead you can see a wind farm, Pendle Hill and the Bowland Hills beyond. At the right time of year there are still many skylarks twittering high above this moor.*

You will come to some power lines. *Note all the mining or quarrying waste on the right. Notice also the winding Copy Pit railway line - it used to be a major goods route between Lancashire and Yorkshire.*

Follow the road as it winds down into Portsmouth. *(A mystery of a name!)*

At the main road turn right and follow it into the town. On your right is the Glen View Inn. *This is the halfway point – ideal! It sells good quality real ales and food (12.00 – 21.00).*

Continue along the main road under the railway then under the railway a second time. Turn left to go under the railway yet again onto Pudsey Road.

Take the right fork uphill in the factory area. You are heading towards Shore. *(Another mystery name!)*

Bend right onto Shore New Road. The road goes by the left-hand side of Cornholme service reservoir. Follow it on - ignore the road to Shore Green.

Curve right onto Shore Lane. Next do a hairpin left turn along Gall Lane (*ignore Bluebell Lane*). On your left you can now see the wind farm more closely.

Turn right along the Bridleway at the finger post. *On your left is the ancient stone cross and the rocky edges of the moors behind.*

As you pass Lower Intake Farm go straight on taking the route marked for Cross Stones. You go through a ruined farmstead.

Eventually go onto a stone causeway through some boggy ground heading towards a scree promontory. Follow the stone track below this and gradually drop down to pass a farm building on the right.

Then at the T-junction just past the farm turn down right so that you walk with a substantial stone wall on your left.

There is next a little hamlet/farmstead astride a stream. Turn right along the road by the stream to descend into Todmorden. (This is Holebottom Road – there are some very attractive habitations.)

Go right under the railway bridge and walk straight ahead. Turn left at the front of The Weavers' Institute. *There is a fine church on the right.*

Go under the railway viaduct and curve right. *You see the splendid town hall on your left.*

Turn right and then U-turn left around The White Hart to go back on the station. The nearer platform is for trains back to Manchester.

CATEGORY: LONG. MODERATE (some steep stretches).
 COUNTRYSIDE, FINE VIEWS, HILLS, OLD
 INDUSTRY, PUB, ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category two.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 103