

Fifty six. TODMORDEN – HEBDEN BRIDGE (via Jack Bridge).

This walk is via quiet country roads and lanes – it will suit those who like a good length of walk without rough terrain. That said it is a surprisingly varied route. There is a country pub at Jack Bridge, then a gentle descent down the lovely vale of Callis Water to the lively town of Hebden Bridge. Well worth the effort!

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

Alight at Todmorden. Go via the underpass to leave the station.

Outside the station go along Rise Lane down the right hand side of The Queen's Hotel.

At the main road go a little right and cross. Then go left down the little lane (Water Street). *At the end of this lane you face the classical Town Hall.*

Turn right along the main road. Cross the main road and continue along it across the river. *Notice the sculpture of Stoodley Pike on the left.* Just beyond turn left to go up Cross Stone Road.

Go over the railway and then just after Petersfield Cottages turn right uphill by two garages and go along the hillside. *There are splendid views of the Calder Valley on the right now.*

You come to the hamlet of Carr House Fold. *(Delightful!)* At the end of the cottages turn left and facing the spring turn right up the steep path.

Turn right along the road. This becomes Cross Stone Road that you follow. You pass the gatehouse of Clough Farm on you left. Next take the left fork onto Crossley New Road. *This climbs steadily up the valley side.*

At the T- junction *(after a rest?)* turn right along a more level way. *On the left there is a house called Strathmore (?).*

Cross the grass in front of a great stone outcrop. *(You can climb it. The views are terrific and it's very comfy for a picnic!)* Then continue beyond along the road.

At the T-junction at the top of Davy Lane turn right into Blackshaw Head and proceed through. The road forks either side of a chapel building. Take the left fork to Jack Bridge.

Follow this road and eventually it S-bends down to Jack Bridge.

[OPTION: Just before the road curves to the left you can go straight ahead down a track off the right of it. *It's boggy, steep, rough and fun, and it's called HIGH STREET!* Go to left side of a house and then turn right when you rejoin the tarmac road.]

Just as you come to Jack Bridge the road bends left to go down hill.

[OPTION: Hidden just round this bend is The New Delight Inn. *It sells real ales – Cask Marque quality, and is open lunchtimes and evenings. Below it you see the area where there was a large mill – Colden Cotton & Commercial Company.*]

At the bend take the bridleway signed to Callis Bridge off to the right. Just keep descending along this. *It goes down and down and down gradually through a delightful wooded vale with pack horse bridges and ruins of old stone mills among the trees.*

Where the track comes out of the trees (*it's a great view ahead!*) go down Church Lane. *You pass the parish church of St James the Great on your left.*

At the main road turn left to walk into town. The Fox and Goose is just off on your left (*real ales – a good beer guide pub with its own charm.*)

In the town cross the road that goes left into the centre and then cross right over the main road. Go through the memorial garden just before the cinema, over the canal and then turn left through the park.

On leaving the park go right up to the railway station. Go down the steps through the underpass to the Manchester platform for the train back.

CATEGORY: LONG. MODERATE. Easy underfoot (but with some steep bits of road).
COUNTRYSIDE, FINE VIEWS, PUBS,
WOODLAND, OLD INDUSTRY, CANAL,
RAIL FARE: category three.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 103 Philip's Street Atlas West Yorkshire.