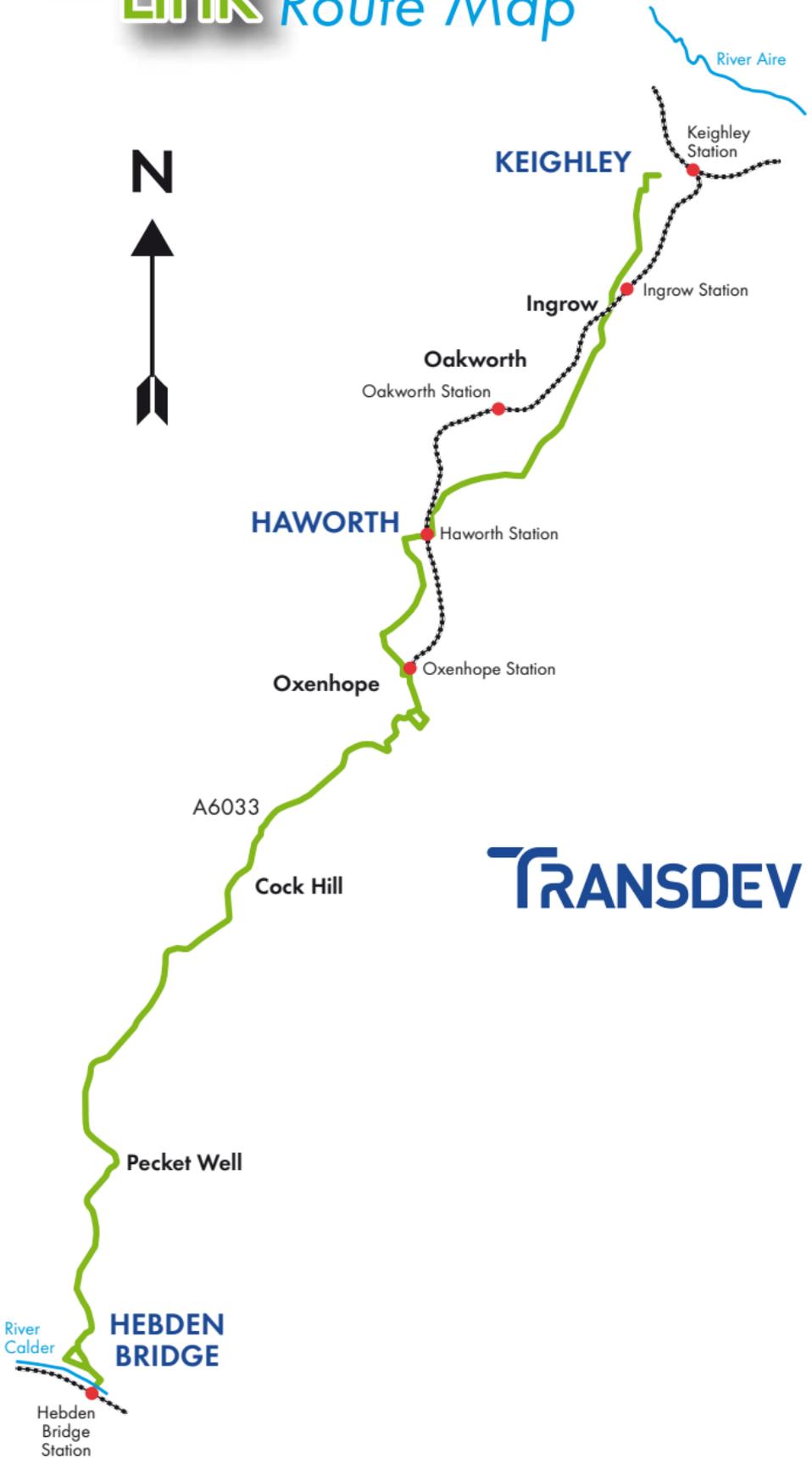


# the 500 Brontë Link



TRANSDEV

# the 500 Brontë Link Route Map



**TRANSDEV**

# the 500 Brontë Link Bus Service



***The 500 Brontë Link is the name of the scenic bus service that operates every hour across the high Pennine moors between Keighley, Haworth and Hebden Bridge.***

Whilst this is an important local bus service which links a number of communities in Yorkshire's South Pennines, the 500 also provides a quick and easy way to travel to and from Greater Manchester from the Aire Valley. Buses meet trains at Hebden Bridge Railway Station for a fast and frequent rail service to the centre of Manchester.

Likewise residents of Manchester can take the Calderdale Line train to Hebden Bridge Station to catch the 500 across the Brontë Moors for the literary shrine of Haworth, the historic Keighley & Worth Valley Railway and the bustling market town of Keighley.

The bus journey itself is part of the pleasure. This 14½ mile trip is one of the highest bus routes in the Pennines, climbing to 432 metres (1,418 feet) above sea level, from where there are extensive views across Calderdale, Airedale and as far as the distant peaks of the Yorkshire Dales.

This booklet suggests just some of the many things to do and see from the 500 Brontë Link bus. There's a guide to what can be seen out of the bus window, a choice of five beautiful self guided walks, and details of the top places or attractions accessible by the bus - Keighley, Haworth, Hebden Bridge and the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

And it is all so easy with a range of bargain travel tickets - the top value K-Day ticket, a Metro Day Rover, and above all the new Brontë Link combined and bus ticket. Holders of English National Concession Passes can also use the 500 at weekends and Bank Holidays and at any time after 0930.

# **the 500** **Brontë** **Link** *A view from the bus window*

*- a guide to your journey from Keighley Bus Station to Hebden Bridge on the Brontë Link 500.*

The best way to enjoy a trip on the Brontë Link 500 bus is from north to south, from Keighley to Hebden Bridge, so if coming from Hebden Bridge save this description for your return trip. What begins as a pleasant but fairly ordinary urban bus route through industrial suburbs, gradually becomes increasingly rural and interesting, before making an exhilarating ascent over a high moorland pass, and ending in a splendid finale as you twist down a narrow road into the spectacular, wooded gorge of Upper Calderdale.

This is a great trip to make at any time of the year, perhaps even more spectacular in the winter months when less tree cover allows you look down into the deep valley of Crimsworth Dean. Sit on the right hand side of the bus to enjoy the best views.

From Keighley Bus Station the 500 soon presses its way, usually in heavy traffic, through the centre of Keighley, edging its way past the fine War Memorial by the Town Hall, the fine stone Victorian shop frontages along North Street, by the Parish Church, and finally heading due south into Bridge Lane and South Street.

You are now making your way along the heavily industrialised Worth Valley, the little River Worth below and hidden to your left. In a huddle of low industrial buildings before Ingrow lies one of Yorkshire and England's most famous independent regional breweries - Timothy Taylors, home of celebrated Landlord Bitter. But well worth a visit nearby is the little station at Ingrow West on the Worth Valley Railway, where in a long carriage



shed close by the station is the fascinating Museum of Rail Travel operated by the Vintage carriage Trust

Beyond Ingrow, the 500 begins to climb steadily, between rows of stone cottages, past the evocatively named suburb of Hermit Hole. As the valley opens out to your right, there are intriguing views between the rows of terrace houses, down and across to the mills and green spaces of the Worth Valley. At weekends and during the school holidays you may well see the silver smoke trail of a steam locomotive hauling its coaches along the valley floor.

At well named Cross Roads, the 500 leaves the main Halifax road to descend to Haworth, calling first of all at the village's busy main station (and Museum - with a picnic area where steam buffs can observe trains at close quarters) before climbing up Bridge Lane to Central Park. To explore this celebrated Pennine town alight where the bus turns sharp left into Sun Street at the bottom of the famous cobbled Main Street.

Heading due south the 500 soon passes the last few cottages and into rural parts of Haworth, past scattered farms and open pastureland, still gaining height above the now green and fertile Worth Valley.

After a mile, 500 turns left from Marsh Lane down into the scattered village of Oxenhope, calling at Oxenhope Station, the southern terminus of the Keighley Worth Valley Railway, before turning into the main road and doing a loop around this former mill village to the bus stop in Lower Town. It soon rejoins the main road at the junction passed five minutes previously but this time continuing uphill towards Hebden.

Now follows the start of a long climb - past the Bay Horse Inn and Church, beyond the isolated cemetery and then around a long sweeping bend soon leaving most signs of habitation behind, past the isolated but welcoming Waggon & Horses Inn (Walk 3). There are panoramic views to your right, as far as the Yorkshire Dales (Ingleborough summit is visible on clear days). These views perhaps best enjoyed on the north bound journey. The bus finally ascends to the flat summit of Cock Hill, marked by a wireless mast and white brick building (Walk4).

At 432 metres above sea level (1,418 feet) this is wild and remote moorland. During the winter months the road is often closed and the 500 has been known to be forced to turn back at the Waggon & Horses. In snowy condition the roadside posts are often the only indication of where the road lies.



As the bus takes the great summit curve, suddenly the views change. You are now looking across down into a steep gorge to the right and below, which soon forms Crimsworth Dean. Above the valley the church on the hilltop is the village of Heptonstall (walk 5) and beyond on the skyline is that remarkable memorial to the battle of Waterloo, Stoodley Pike.

This is a bleak but austere beautiful Pennine landscape of scattered farms. Many of these farms date from the 17th century, typical Pennine "long houses" a narrow house and barn, a style which has its roots in Anglo-Saxon times.

500 gradually begins to lose height, the Crimsworth Dean valley now thickly wooded. You soon reach the hamlet of Pecketwell, with its cottages and inn, and cross roads to the village of Old Town.

It's a steep and dramatic descent from here into Calderdale. Note on the right on a ridge above the valley below a gritstone obelisk - this is Wadsworth War Memorial. The road follows a narrow shelf, with Hebden's tall and narrow houses perched on the hillside, the bus having to squeeze between parked cars as it descends sharply and steeply into the centre of Hebden Bridge.

Hebden with its cafés, shops and marina, is a town well worth exploring. But if you are catching a train back to Manchester or points east or west, stay on the bus as it heads beyond the town, across the Rochdale Canal and River Calder, for the historic and beautifully restored Victorian Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Station.



# Hebden Bridge

*Heart of the South Pennines*

Hebden Bridge is situated where two fast flowing tributary streams, Colden and Hebden Water, twisting through their narrow, thickly wooded valleys, merge with the River Calder.

The ancient stone packhorse bridge over Hebden Water that still survives in the town centre, gives the town its name. These streams and their many small tributaries provided that key component of the early Industrial Revolution - water power. From Jacobean times onwards, water wheels powered mills for wool and later cotton weaving. The coming of the Rochdale Canal and later the railway led to expansion of textile and clothing manufacturing in the valley. The town became home to the world's first producer co-operative. Lack of physical space in the valley floor forced the local people to build the remarkable "double decker" twin storey stone houses on the hillsides, now such a feature above the town.

Hebden Bridge has become a popular place for people to commute to both Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. But it also a vibrant Pennine shopping and cultural centre, known for green ideas and both artistic and musical events. There are specialist shops, galleries in converted mills, a cinema, traditional and alternative cafés and pubs, annual arts and music festivals, all housed in fine Victorian buildings in and around the pedestrianised town centre. The old canal basin is now a fashionable marina, next to the excellent tourist information and exhibition centre. A popular starting point for scores of magnificent walks, Hebden Bridge was also Britain's first Walkers are Welcome town.



# Haworth

## *A literary shrine*

When, in 1820, a young parson, Patrick Brontë, moved with his family of six children to the rapidly expanding industrial village of Haworth, few people could have imagined how three of his daughters, all to become hugely popular and influential writers, were to transform this ordinary Pennine town into one of Britain's top tourist destinations.



All of the children were to die young, victims of the polluted, insanitary conditions of their home, their village and the harsh Pennine climate. But Charlotte, (1816-1855) author of *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*, Emily (1818-1848) with *Wuthering Heights*, and Anne (1820-49) with *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, despite their tragically short lives, were to become among the most frequently read novelists in the English language.

Millions of people over the last century and a half have made their way to Haworth, by steam railway (as they still can), bus, car, cycle and on foot, to visit the celebrated Parsonage Museum, (opening times - [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk) or 01535 642323) which carefully preserves both manuscripts and relics of their brief lives, (their father Patrick outlived them all) and the church, restored in Victorian times, where Charlotte and Emily lie buried.

Above all it is their writing, particularly Emily's poetry and her novel *Wuthering Heights*, that captures the essence of the raw, harsh but often indescribably lovely Pennine landscape - see Walk 1.

Haworth, has since the time of the Brontës, taken on a life of its own. The patina of age has given its cobbled main street the illusion of quaintness that brings new generations of visitors to this typical Pennine hill village. Tea shops, pubs, boutiques, souvenir, antique and book shops all cater for their needs, even for people with only the vaguest knowledge of Heathcliffe or Mr Rochester.



# Keighley

Keighley, the northern starting point or terminus of the 500 Brontë link (depending on your direction of travel), is a busy industrial and market town in the centre of Airedale, surrounded by open hills and rugged moorland.

This former wool and cotton spinning town, now a centre of light industry and engineering, is well worth a visit. There are some fine public buildings, including a handsome parade of Victorian shops, a popular indoor shopping centre and fine traditional market (early closing Tuesday) and a good choice of local inns and cafés. There are pleasant open spaces around the handsome Victorian church, built on the site of a former medieval church. Unusually, it is shared by both Methodists and Anglicans. Ten minutes' walk or two minutes' bus ride (services 25, 66, 762, 765) from the modern bus station is Cliffe Castle, a handsome Victorian mansion set in a beautiful hillside park, now one of the region's most fascinating museums of local history, geology and wildlife. This has been superbly refurbished and reopened in Spring 2013 ([www.bradfordmuseums.org](http://www.bradfordmuseums.org); tel. 01535 628231).

# the Keighley Worth Valley Railway

One of the most popular and delightful heritage railways in the north of England, the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway was first opened in 1867 as a 5 mile (8km) branch operated by the Midland Railway from Keighley to the Pennine mill village of Oxenhope, to serve the many busy mills and communities of the Worth Valley.

But like many other small branch lines suffering from bus and car competition, it was finally closed to passengers in 1962. That was not the end of the story, as group of enthusiasts managed to acquire the line from British Railways and after years of effort reopen the branch in 1968 with carefully restored steam locomotives and vintage carriages.

The line, almost entirely run by volunteers, now carries over 100,000 passengers a year and is one of the region's top visitor attractions. The superbly preserved stations such as Oakworth and Haworth itself are frequently used for the filming Victorian, Edwardian or later period dramas and television series, from Sherlock Homes to A Touch of Frost, but most notable of all perhaps, for the celebrated film The Railway Children in 1970.

Steam and vintage diesel trains provide a full service of trains every weekend and during the main school holiday periods, and there are special dining trains and an award-winning real ale bar. There are also remarkable museums of steam locomotives, rolling stock and travel history at Ingrow, Haworth and Oxenhope Stations, and a locomotive viewing gallery at Haworth. A trip on the line can easily be combined with your day on the 500 Brontë Link bus, which calls at both Oxenhope and Haworth Stations and runs close to both Ingrow and Keighley Stations. Café at Oxenhope Station. For details of train times and fares log onto [kwvr.co.uk](http://kwvr.co.uk) or ring 01535 645214.



# Walk.1

## Brontë Falls & Top Withins

**Start & Return:** Sun Street Bus Stop at the bottom of Haworth Main Street.

**Distance:** 6 miles (9km) to and from Brontë Falls; to Top Withins 8½ miles (13km) Both routes can be shortened by 2½ miles (4km) by catching 664 bus (hourly - weekdays only) from Stanbury back to Haworth or Keighley.

**Terrain:** Moderate but with some steep sections, mainly moorland paths and tracks.

**Time:** 3-4 hours to Brontë Falls.

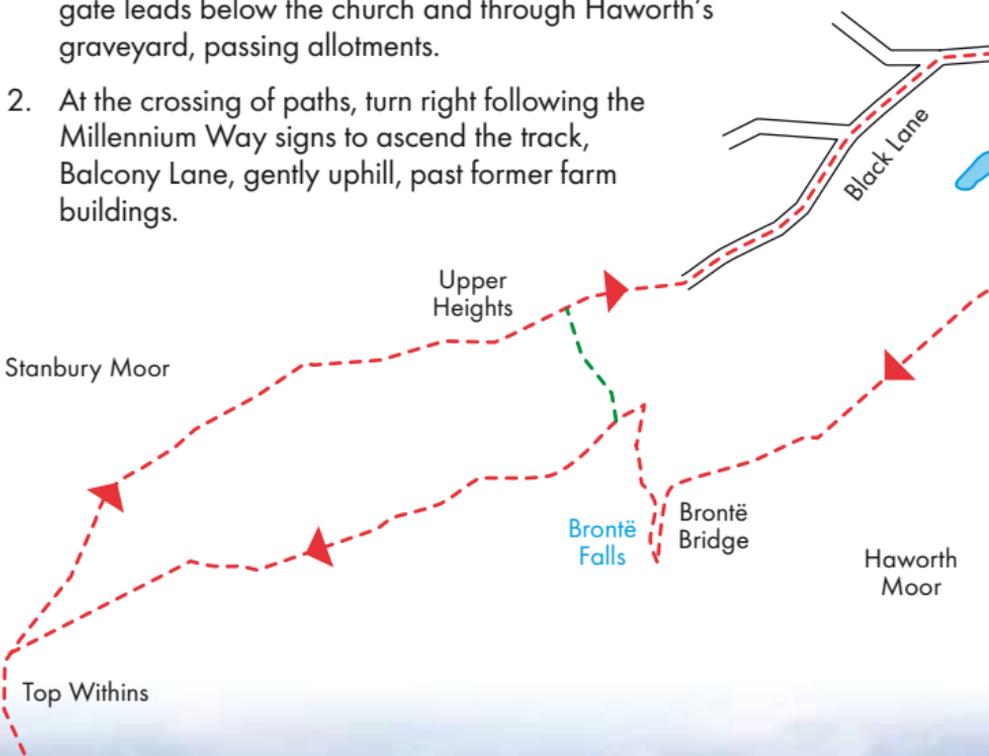
**Refreshment facilities:** Cafés and inns in Haworth; two inns in Stanbury.

**Toilets:** in Haworth, Penistone Hill.

**Map:** OS Explorer OL 21 South Pennines.

The classic walk for all Brontë lovers, in the footsteps of the famous sisters, all of them keen walkers, to their favourite waterfall, and up to ruins of the high moorland farm whose location is reputed to have inspired *Wuthering Heights*.

1. Walk up Haworth's cobbled main street turning left immediately past the Black Bull Inn. Take the flagged path through the metal kissing gate leads below the church and through Haworth's graveyard, passing allotments.
2. At the crossing of paths, turn right following the Millennium Way signs to ascend the track, Balcony Lane, gently uphill, past former farm buildings.

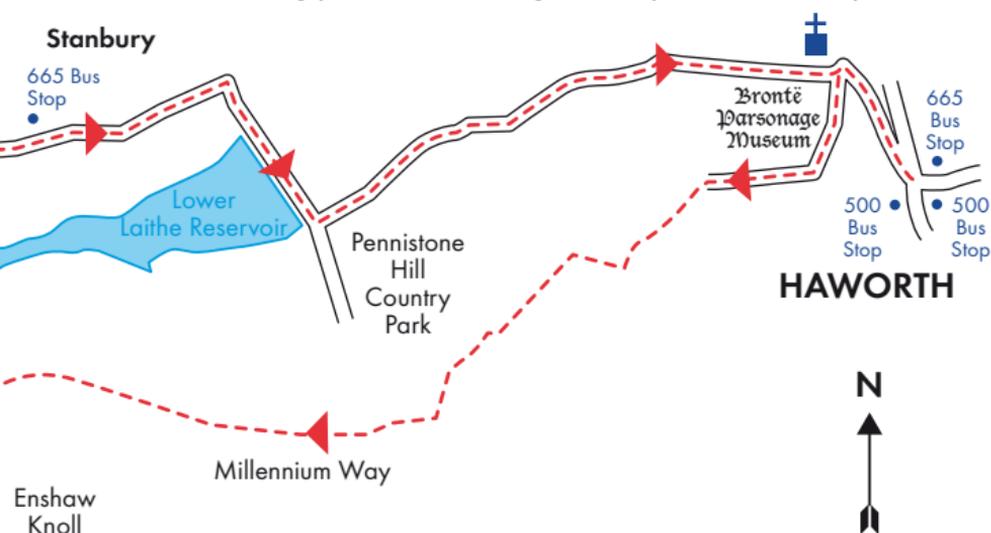


3. At the lane, cross, to a junction of paths at the entrance to Penistone Hill Country Park.

Penistone Hill Country Park is an area of splendid open countryside, 179 acres (72 hectares) of heather and rough grassy moorland just above Haworth village. There are splendid views from the summit over the Worth and Sladen Valleys, and onwards to the crests of the South Pennine hills.

4. Take the left of two signed paths towards Brontë Falls. This follows a moorland path gradually ascending. Ignore the first path that branches off, but take the second, also signed to the Falls, close to a single plank bridge over a streamlet. Follow this up to the summit of the moor, over a crossing path where directly ahead you'll see the white concrete triangulation station (014 367) ahead.

Though no longer required for navigation or mapping purposes, these OS measurement points make valuable landmarks. A 314 metres or a little under 1,000 feet, and marking the highest point of the moor the trig point offers a magnificent, panoramic viewpoint.



5. Your way is now along the narrow path, slightly right, which slopes north-westwards down the crest of the hillside to a much broader crossing path below. Left here, following the path as it winds below the former quarry workings. Keep ahead to Moorside Lane by the car park.
6. Cross the lane and follow the path (Millennium Way) opposite heading across the moorland. This path gradually descends to join the main Brontë Way track below at Lower Intake- it can be wet and muddy in places so in wet conditions the lower track can be used. Continue along the brow of the hill before descending the rocky path to Brontë Falls

This little waterfall is described in both letters and poems by Emily and Charlotte Brontë as one of their favourite walks from the Parsonage, now, with Top Withins, a key place of pilgrimage for Brontë worshippers worldwide. The stone clapper bridge was washed away in recent storms but has been replaced by Bradford Council.

7. Follow the path steeply up the hillside, heading up gritstone steps to a kissing gate. At the junction the path directly ahead leads to Stanbury - for shorter walk see description from \* below. For Top Withins turn sharp left and head below fields through a gap stile,

## Walk.1 *continued*

across a field towards a ladder stile, then long ascent, winding up across open moorland up the shoulder of the valley, soon fording a shallow stream at stepping stones. The ruined farm building and sole sycamore tree is your destination ahead - a steady climb, past the junction with the Stanbury path, and then a final pull to the summit at Top Withins.

The location of this old farmhouse was a likely inspiration for the Earnshaw's home of Wuthering Heights in Emily's Brontë's great novel, though the building described in the book was almost certainly inspired by several local Elizabethan and Jacobean farmhouses. With its solitary tree and splendid views, this evocative ruin on the Pennine Way is now a world-famed Brontë icon.

8. You are now on the Pennine Way. Return the way you came downhill for 200 metres, before forking left with the Pennine Way along a narrow path which gently contours then descends the hillside past the ruins of Lower Withins, before becoming a track skirting the hillside before ascending a low knoll. Straight ahead with the signs towards Stanbury the tracks broaden as it reaches Upper Heights\*.
9. Take the left fork here, again keeping due east with the Stanbury signs keep ing ahead where the Pennine Way bears off northwards, sharp left. The track descends to a metal gate at a junction of paths leaving the open access area - with magnificent views of Lower Laithe Reservoir ahead. This becomes a tarmac lane, Back Lane, which emerges at the bus stop (service 664) at west end of Stanbury village  

Stanbury is a typical Pennine linear hill village, with a little Victorian school, two inns, and several attractive 18th and 19th century cottages and barns. The village once housed workers from outlying farms and the long vanished water powered wool and cotton mills along little River Worth in the valley floor.
10. From Stanbury follow the main road, before turning right 200 metres below the village to follow the lane (keeping right to face traffic) across the dam of Lower Laithe Reservoir.
11. Turn left just beyond the Reservoir at the Waterworks entrance along a tarmac track to the right of the works. This climbs along the side of the Sladen valley, with good views. Your way becomes a gravel and grass track. This emerges on the lane by Haworth Cemetery. Left here into Cemetery Road, soon picking up the path along the verge on the left to avoid walking on the road.
12. At the cross roads keep straight ahead towards Haworth, but before the village look for a stone gap stile and kissing gate on the right which leads into a field with a flagged path. Follow this path over fields, and along a short enclosed way behind to emerge by the Parsonage Museum and Church to Main Street, continuing down to the 500 and other bus stops.

**Start:** Waggon & Horses Inn, Dike Nook (on A6033 Hebden Bridge Road 1 mile north of Cock Hill summit).

**Return:** Oxenhope or Haworth.

**Distance:** 3½ miles (6km) to Oxenhope; 5½ miles (9km) to Haworth.

**Terrain:** Moderate - moorland tracks, lane and field paths, one steep section.

**Time:** 2-3 hours.

**Refreshment facilities:** Inn at start of walk, shop in Oxenhope, café in Oxenhope station (when train run) excellent choice of cafés and inns in Haworth.

**Toilets:** in Oxenhope Station or in.

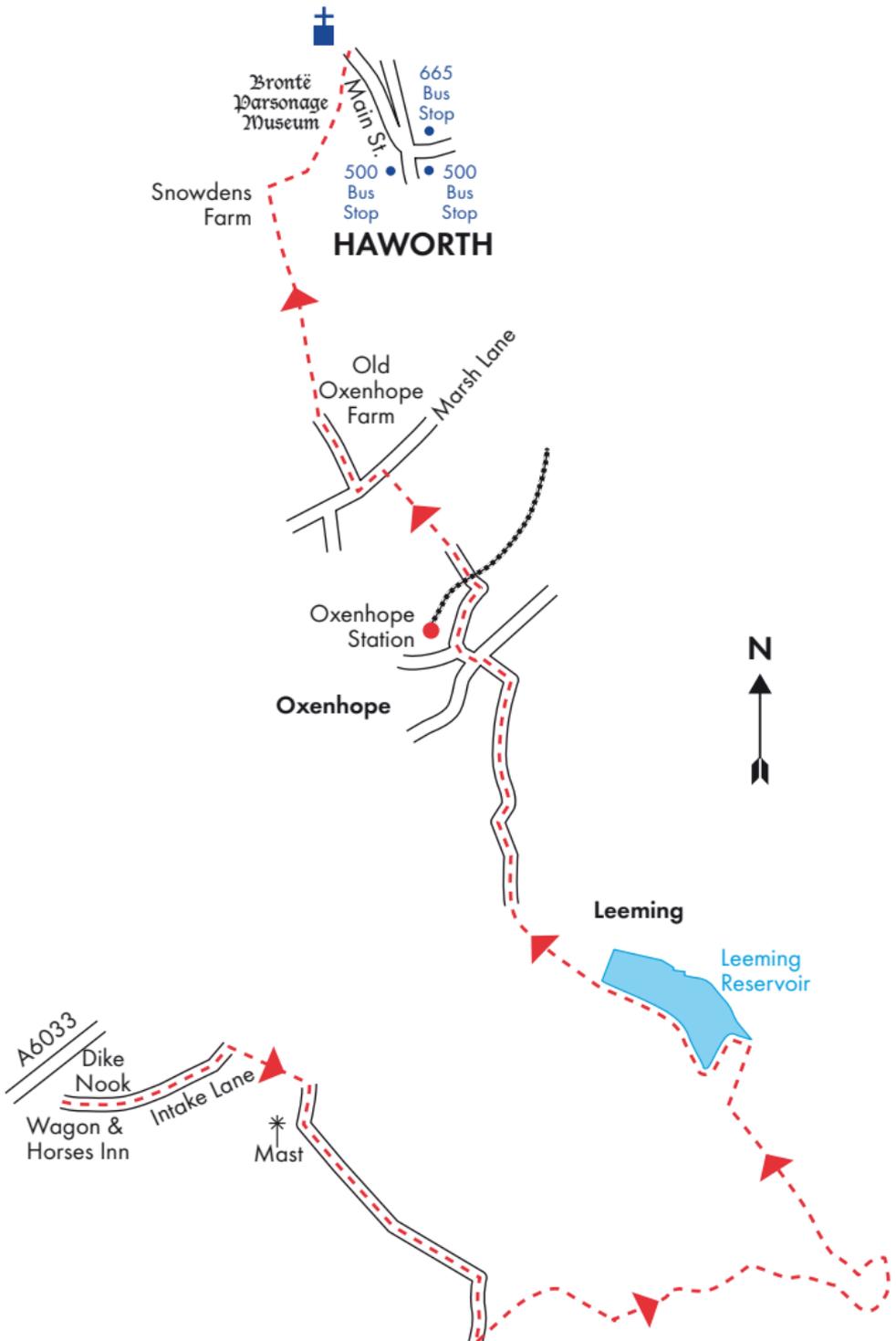
**Map:** OS Explorer OL 21 South Pennines.

A walk of spectacular, contrasting views across the Worth Valley and the South Pennines; it is best done in clear weather to enjoy a very characteristic landscape of scattered moorland farms and former mill villages, using part of the 43 mile (66km) popular Brontë Way path between Leeming and Haworth.

1. Alight at the bus from in either direction at the Waggon and Horses bus stop. Take the sign footpath to the north (valley side) of the Inn, which follows a grass and stony track, Intake Lane. entering a deep natural gully, Dike Nook. The path soon opens out to give superb panoramic views across to Oxenhope and Haworth villages and the Brontë moors beyond.
2. After 500 metres, where the path has started to descend past patches of heather, look for a gap stile in the wall corner on the right. Cross, and turn sharp right to follow the wallside along two fields.
3. Cross the stile in the wall corner to enter Nab Water Lane below the telecommunication mast. Turn right and follow the lane uphill for 1 km (half a mile). Ignore paths leading off left.
4. Soon after crossing and going alongside a narrow gully, take the track left signed Calder Aire Link to Bingley. This becomes a stony track known as White Moor Lane which contours the hillside with superb views down to Leeming. Keep ahead with waymarks between trees where this becomes Sawood Lane and climbs sharply to a junction of paths.
5. Turn left here for 60 metres but at junction, take the track forking left, signed Brontë Way. This track zigzags left then right alongside walls, then becomes a less well defined fieldpath down the hillside alongside old walls. Head towards reservoir below alongside old walls.



6. Look for ladder stile marking the Way across the catch water drain. Keep same direction downhill, alongside narrow gill, Stony Hill Clough, to finally join a track by a bridge. Turn right here to reach the head of Leeming Reservoir.
7. Through field gate at the reservoir to follow the permissive path alongside the Reservoir edge at Yorkshire Water signs. Fine views across to old mill (now apartments) and cottages - this former large mill pond is now part of the public water supply. Follow the path around the reservoir. At the reservoir dam keep straight ahead over tarmac track to descend to a cottage.
8. Follow the paved path through the cottage garden to the track and accommodation road which climbs to join Jew Lane and eventually Station Road in Oxenhope.



## Walk.2 *continued*

9. At the junction by an old mill chimney turn left along Low Town to the 500 bus stop (in both directions) for Keighley or Hebden Bridge. For Haworth turn right up Yate Lane - a tree lined lane. At the T-junction turn left into Dark Lane down to the A6033. Cross and head into Harry Lane.
10. Turn right before Oxenhope Station by the overflow car park to join the track signed Brontë Way which becomes a path alongside the stream and railway carriage sheds. At the footbridge and junction of paths turn left to cross the stream but keep ahead up the stone steps to cross the railway (watch out for steam trains) and keep ahead up the steep path up the field side, to join the track leading to Marsh Lane. Right here.
11. Take the first turning right, Old Oxenhope Lane. Walk uphill, but where the lane bends left follow the signed path through the farmyard right, keeping the same northerly direction to the metal gates ahead.
12. 100 metres past the gate look for the waymark to enter a narrow path enclosed between stone walls. Keep the same direction alongside the wall, crossing to the other side of the wall, past a line leylandii trees, across a farm entrance and through more fields and stiles to Sowden.
13. Turn right here through a pedestrian gate into a narrow path between enclosed walls. This zigzags before eventually meeting the flagged path above the car park to emerge at Haworth's famous cobbled main street.
14. At the bottom of Main Street cross the road to the 500 bus stops in Sun Street straight ahead. Additional buses to Keighley (665) leave from the bus stop by the park (Rawdon Road), on the left.

**Start:** Oxenhope.

**Return:** Hebden Bridge.

**Distance:** 8 miles (12½km).

**Terrain:** Mainly tracks - old packhorse ways and stony tracks, with several sections of footpath. Two quite long but steady climbs.

**Time:** 4-5 hours.

**Refreshment facilities:** Shop and Inn in Oxenhope. Choices of shops, cafés, inns in Hebden Bridge.

**Toilets:** New Bridge (Hardcastle Crags), Hebden Bridge.

**Map:** OL Explorer OL 21 South Pennines.

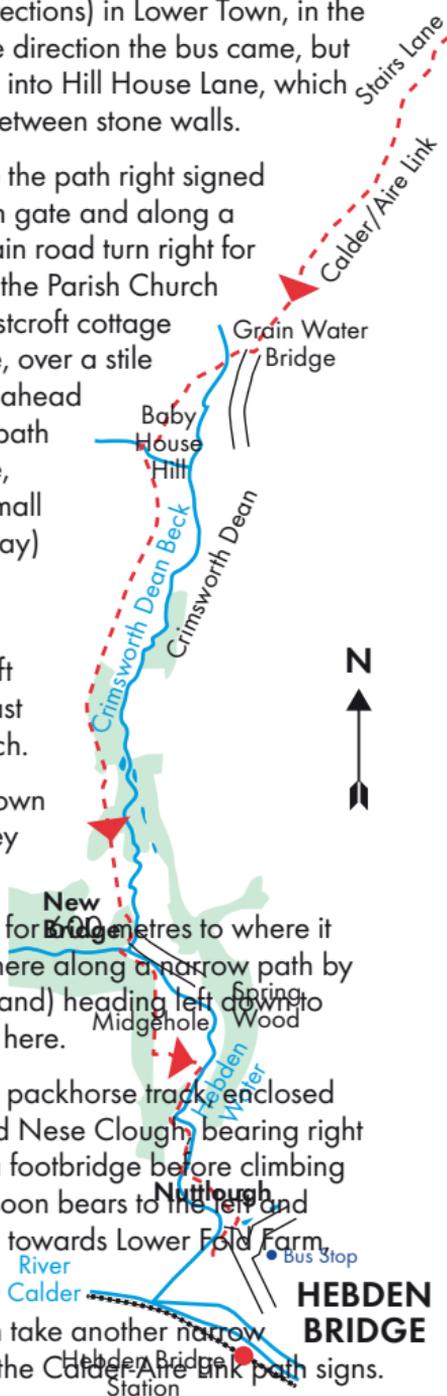
This is a classic walk across the watershed between Airedale and Calderdale, following some medieval packhorse ways and the old green road evocatively named Staircase Lane down to beautiful valley of Crimsworth Dean.

1. Alight at the main bus stop (in both directions) in Lower Town, in the centre of Oxenhope. Walk back in the direction the bus came, but continue straight ahead at the junction into Hill House Lane, which soon narrows past houses to a track between stone walls.
2. About 80 metres along this track, take the path right signed Millennium Way, through a pedestrian gate and along a paved way by the wall side. At the main road turn right for 30 metres, then cross the road before the Parish Church to head left along a lane towards Westcroft cottage ahead. Take the signed right, opposite, over a stile and along another paved path. Keep ahead in the same direction by gardens, the path narrowing to the side of a stone house, Old Cottage, bearing left through a small garden gate (this is a public right of way) which follows a narrow path via West Croft alongside a cypress hedge.
3. At the junction, take the higher path left alongside a wall. The climbs gently past heather and bilberries, passing a bench.

As you climb superb views open up down the hillside and across the Worth Valley towards Haworth.

Keep along this attractive hillside path for 600 metres to where it descends a shallow gully. Turn right here along a narrow path by the wall through the heather, (access land) heading left down to a join a broader track below. Turn left here.

4. Now follows a beautiful section of old packhorse track, enclosed between stone walls, descending Hard Nese Clough, bearing right down the bottom of the clough, over a footbridge before climbing sharply uphill. The old enclosed way soon bears to the left and becomes a broad farm track, heading towards Lower Fold Farm, with its lovely 17th century buildings.
5. Keep ahead past High Fold Farm then take another narrow packhorse way sharp right, following the Calder/Aire Link path signs.



This is a deep sunken way which climbs sharply uphill along the wall side. This eventually emerges at Bodkin Lane, a spender paved track. Turn left here. A steady climb now for the next half mile.

If the weather is clear there are glorious views behind you as you ascend - across Leeshaw Reservoir, the Worth Valley and beyond Haworth and Keighley to the hills that frame the central parts of Airedale, the eye leading up to the edge of Rombalds Moor with its moorland plantations directly ahead.

The track now soon becomes even steeper as the appropriately named Stair Lane, crossing bleak moorland and catch water drains leading to local reservoirs, before eventually reaching a flat plateau of a summit, 420 metres above sea level, called, appropriately enough Top of Stairs, another fine viewpoint.

You soon begin a gentle but gradually steepening descent, past the shallow crags of Stair Dyke, eventually joining a tarmac farm lane which dips steeply down into the gully formed by Paddock Beck.

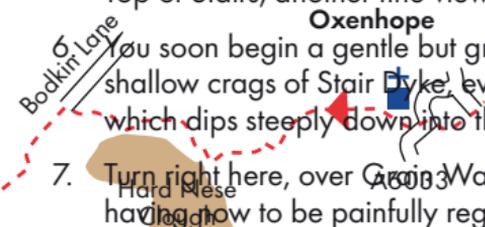
7. Turn right here, over Grimsworth Water bridge, the height you have lost has now to be painfully regained as you climb the sheep track along the side of the Shepherd's Lodge Rough. The gradient levels at Hardibut Clough. You are now walking above Crimsworth Dean - a steep and narrow Pennine valley, a densely wooded gorge, through which Grimsworth Dean Beck forces its way. The next two miles of the walk are easy, following the long the track above the Dean - old English word for a wood. Keep on the main track through more National Trust woodland. This finally becomes a tarmac lane and emerges at a junction in woodland below the main National Trust car park for Hardcastle Crags.

8. Bear left to New Bridge (toilets on right). Cross New Bridge over Hebden Water, but turn sharp left once over the bridge through the car park at Midgehole Working Men's Club to the riverside path. Where this path forks keep left along the riverside signed to Hebden Bridge, Cross the footbridge and head to an old mill access track. Turn left here uphill back to the main road.

9. Right here, but avoid this busy road without a pavement, after 120 metres look for the metal National Trust sign on the left on below which are steps into Spring Woods (National Trust) look for stone steps the climb into the wood. After 10 metres bear right along an overgrown path between trees (look for waymarks or section of boardwalk/footbridge). This parallels the road through the wood for 200 metres, emerging at stone steps back to the road.

10. Cross the road, but almost directly opposite by a double garage, turn left onto the track along a high terrace below the road (signed Hebden Bridge). Before you reach a house with stone parapets, take the path sharp right alongside its sloping garden down steep stone steps. Keep ahead at the drive to the riverside, bearing left right along an old, narrow raised mill race walkway.

11. Cross the next footbridge to follow the narrow riverside path behind a bowling green and recreation ground to a fine old packhorse bridge. This leads into Spring Grove and new houses. Keep straight ahead going first right into Windsor Place, then left along Victoria Road and Valley road into the centre of Hebden Bridge. Turn left through the pedestrian area into Albert Street leading to Hope Street for the 500 bus, or walk through the town park (see map) to the Railway Station.



**Start:** Cock Hill.

**Return:** Hebden Bridge.

**Distance:** 7½ miles (12km).

**Terrain:** Moorland tracks - old packhorse ways and stony tracks, but some rocky section within Hardcastle Craggs. One quite long but steady climb.

**Time:** 4-5 hours - but allow an hour to explore Gibson Mill and the Craggs.

**Refreshment facilities:** Café and picnic areas at Gibson Mill (closed weekdays winter) Choices of shops, cafés, inns in Hebden Bridge. **Toilets:** Gibbs Mill, New Bridge, Hebden Bridge.

**Map:** OL Explorer OL 21 South Pennines.

A spectacular walk from the highest point on the 500 bus route to take in the breathtakingly beautiful, thickly wooded valley of Hardcastle Craggs (National Trust), perhaps the loveliest valley in the whole of the South Pennines, rich in scenic, historic and wildlife interest.

1. Alight at Cock Hill, the summit of the high moorland road between Hebden Bridge and Oxenhope, marked by a wireless mast and creamy white brick building on a wide bend. Immediately behind the north bound bus stop is a fieldgate, at the start of a green track signed as a bridleway. This curves down evocatively named Halfpenny Hole Clough, descending above Roms Clough and Red Dike towards Lane Head Farm - take the track that forks right in the farmyard (look for blue arrow waymark). This leads into a tarmac lane.
2. Turn left here, descending steeply down to the stone Grains Water Bridge and a junction of tracks. Yours way is right to the next bridge over Paddock Beck then a long and steady climb up the hillside above the valley which is to form Grimsworth Dean (see walk 3 ). Continue to where the track levels out by a gate and stream at Hardibut Clough. Continue still climbing gently to a ruined 17th century farm and barn called The Nook.
3. Turn right just past the farm signed Aire Calder Way and Pennine Bridleway for a short but steep ascent to the next junction of paths.
4. Turn left here alongside the wall, a grassy path which curves westwards below Shackleton Knoll. Follow the waymarks where the path goes to the lower side of the wall and starts a long, curving descent through long pastures to the little farming hamlet of Walshaw.
5. At the junction of tracks before the hamlet turn sharp left down the stony track, which curves south around a bend above a wooded valley. At a fork, take the lower track right which enters lovely pine woods.

This is Hardcastle Craggs, the spectacularly beautiful National Trust property that takes its name after two grassy knolls, half hidden by trees on the right as you descend through the woods.

You soon reach Gibson Mill, an 18th century textile mill. Its mill pond once powered a great water wheel. Heat and light for the mill, including the kitchens and café, now comes from a modern turbine, solar panels and bio fuels, making this a demonstration project showcasing uses of low carbon, renewable energy. Exhibitions tell the

story of the Mill as well as many other aspects of this fascinating mill complex and its communities

6. You can either continue down the valley on the main track, or take the much more spectacular riverside walk, marked by red NT waymarks, over gritstone steps and rough paving, with several up and down stretches as you climb to and from the peat brown stream side of Hebden Water.

These woodlands of pine, beech, and holly and oak are the home to a variety of birdlife and small mammals, but most notable as the stronghold of the rare (stinging) northern hairy wood ant, whose large conical ant hills can be seen at various points.

Follow the red way marks for almost a mile until by some picnic tables where the a cottage comes into view, leave the waymarked trail to follow the narrow, gravelly path straight ahead which leads to New Bridge at the end of Hardcastle Craggs estate.

7. Cross New Bridge over Hebden Water, but turn sharp left once over the bridge through the car park at Midge Hole Working Men's Club to the riverside path.
8. Where this path forks keep left along the riverside signed to Hebden Bridge. Cross the footbridge and head to an old mill access track. Turn left here uphill back to the main road. Right here, but avoid this busy road without a pavement, after 120 metres look for the metal National Trust sign on the left below which are steps into Spring Woods (National Trust). Look for stone steps that climb into the wood. After 10 metres bear right along an overgrown path between trees (look for waymarks or section of boardwalk/footbridge). This parallels the road through the wood for 200 metres, emerging at stone steps back to the road.
9. Cross the road, but almost directly opposite by a double garage, turn left onto the track along a high terrace below the road (signed Hebden Bridge). Before a house with a terraced garden, take the narrow path sharp right alongside garden down steep stone steps. Keep ahead at the drive to the riverside, bearing left along an old, narrow raised mill-race walkway. Cross the next footbridge to follow the narrow riverside path behind a Bowling Green and recreation ground to a fine old packhorse bridge. This leads into Spring Grove and new houses. Keep straight ahead going first right into Windsor Place, then left along Victoria Road and Valley road into the centre of Hebden Bridge. Turn left through the pedestrian area then right into Albert Street bearing right again to Hope Street for the 500 bus, or walk through the town park (see map) to the Railway Station.

**Start:** Pecket Well, near Hebden Bridge. Alight at the turning circle.

**Finish:** Heptonstall or Hebden Bridge.

**Distance:** 2 or 3 miles (3-4½km).

**Terrain:** Mainly footpaths, which can be muddy after wet weather, and steep in places - two steep descents and one steep climb.

**Time:** 2-2½ hours allowing time to explore Heptonstall.

**Refreshment facilities:** Pecketwell Robin Hood Inn; Heptonstall - café and two pubs.

**Toilets:** roadside near Hardcastle Craggs entrance; Hebden Bridge.

**Map:** OS Explorer South Pennines OL21.

This short but dramatic walk from the former mill hamlet of Pecket Well to Heptonstall, explores the steep wooded slopes of Crimsworth Dean and Hebden Water, the twin side valleys that lead into the main valley of Calderdale and Hebden Bridge. From Pecket Well, the route passes below the striking gritstone Wadsworth War Memorial on Smeakin Hill into the Hebden Valley (Walk 4) before a steady climb is made to the spectacular hilltop village of Heptonstall.

From the 500 bus stops in the centre of the village, go 60 metres down the road towards Hebden Bridge (taking care to face oncoming traffic as there is no pavement).

1. Take the footpath on the right side, leading steeply down hill on flagstones. At the next signpost turn right down the track which leads to a footbridge and path between tall beech trees.
2. At the next footpath junction by the house, head downhill to join the road. At the road turn right (pass the WC) and take the lane left before the Hardcastle Craggs car park entrance, down to and across New Bridge over Hebden Water.
3. Turn left across the bridge, and passing the Blue Pig Working Mens' Club/Pub at Midgehole, follow the riverside path. At the next fork take the path to the right which climbs up the hill.
4. Cross the road and continue taking the path opposite up the slope. Cross the second road and at the next fork take the right hand path.
5. Entering the village of Heptonstall turn left on to the main street and follow the road to the village centre.

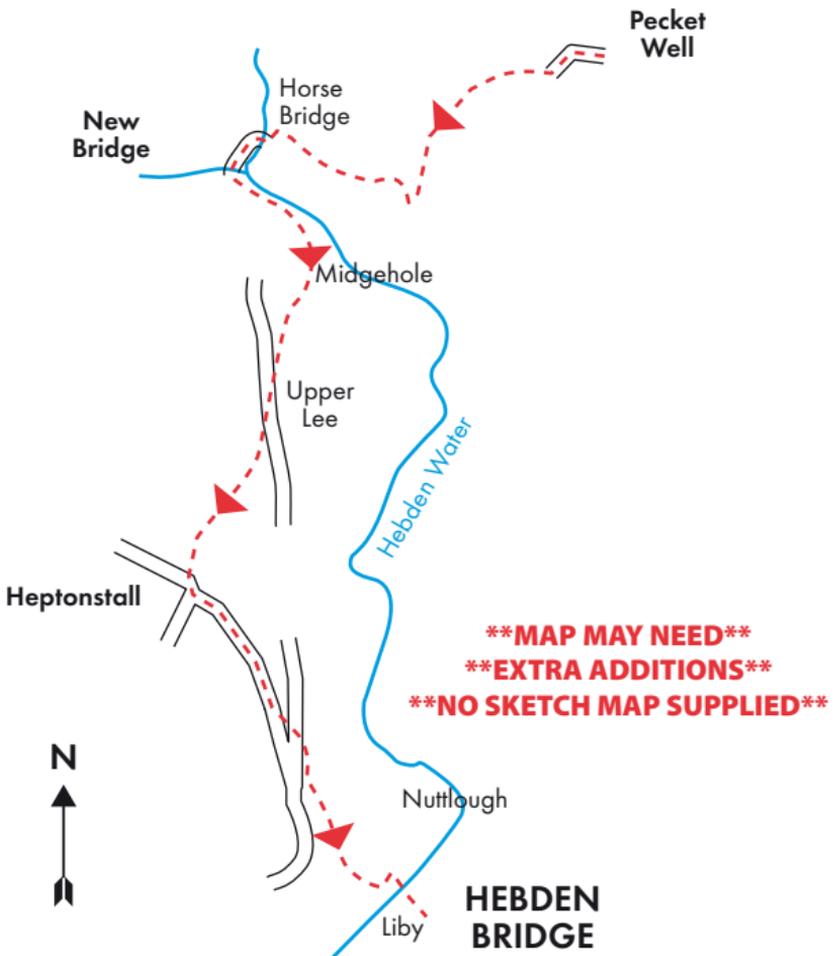
Heptonstall is a rare example in the Pennines of a true hill village. It was for many centuries a centre for hand loom weaving, as its rows of 17th and 18th cottages with weaving lofts testify. There is small local museum in the old Grammar School. Heptonstall's medieval church with its cottage window was abandoned in Victorian times and is now a picturesque ruin. The notorious 18th century Cragg Coiner "King" David Hartley is buried here after being hanged in Tyburn, York in 1774. Coining was the clipping of coins to make forged coins from the metal an offence which carried the death penalty. A more famous grave in the nearby "new" churchyard is that of Sylvia Path (1932-1963), the celebrated American poet, wife of Ted Hughes, (1930-1998) former Poet Laureate, who was born in Calderdale and much of whose verse was inspired by the Pennine Landscape. The village also has a unique Octagonal Methodist Chapel dating from 1764.

Go down to the next junction before the village centre for the bus stop for regular local buses down to Hebden Bridge.

- To continue to down Hebden Bridge take the main road down the valley from the village centre and take the second path left. Follow the stone path down a series of steps to the junction.
- Turn right and follow the road for 130 metres before taking the next footpath leading off downhill on the left. Follow this steep, cobbled lane down the hillside. It can be slippery in wet or icy weather - use the handrail.

This is the medieval packhorse way between Hebden and Heptonstall known as the Buttress. There are superb views across the valley dominated Hebden Bridge's double decker houses.

- Cross the Tudor stone bridge over Hebden Water that gives Hebden Bridge its name, into the pedestrianised town centre, turning right into Albert Street and Hope Street for the 500 bus stop or walk through the Park to the railway station.



# Great Fare Deals

1-day **Silver tickets** are available for unlimited travel on all bus services mentioned in this guide - just buy them from the bus driver on the first journey you make.

Adult	£6
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The country walks described in this booklet require strong trainers or boots. Carry rainwear, a spare sweater, water and refreshment with you at all times, and a large scale map (OS Explorer OL41 and OL2 are recommended) for pathfinding.

Follow the Country Code - keep to public paths, and your dogs on a lead; take only photographs, leave no litter and close gates behind you. These are recommended easy to moderate walking routes, but Transdev can take no responsibility for any accident or loss when out on a walk.

# TRANSDEV

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