

MYTHOLMROYD TO BREARLEY CIRCULAR

This walk starts off through woodland coming out into open pastures and returns to Mytholmroyd by walking along the canal towpath.

Length and time

About 3 miles, taking about 1½ to 2 hours.

Gradients – how strenuous

Nearly all flat with three short gentle inclines

Terrain – how uneven

All on tracks and lanes, after rain, the canal towpath can get a bit muddy in places.

Obstacles – stiles, steps etc.

None

Facilities

There are a good selection of pubs and cafes in Mytholmroyd

Points of interest

The meadows on the River Calder are fabulous in Spring and summer; watch out for the Chapel buildings at Brearley and the weir at Brearley.

DIRECTIONS

Either walk to Mytholmroyd (see there and back routes) or get the bus (5 mins ride)

From the bus stop at Mytholmroyd, cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, then go over bridge over the River Calder. Pass the train station and just past the railway bridge you take the sloping path (with red painted railings) that leads up to the station platform. At the top of the first slope you will see a Mytholmroyd Walkers Action Board showing three longer walks in Mytholmroyd. Take the path to the right of our board.

After a short time, you come to a fork with the cycleway going to the left and a path going to the right, keep to the cycle way. The cycleway has a good surface following the railway line in between two wire fences for about a mile.

The path then becomes a lane and crosses the railway line on a metal bridge. The lane goes downhill for 100 metres and then turns sharply to the right where it becomes a tarmac surface and you pass the fine buildings that used to be Brearley Baptist chapel, school and Manse (built around 1840). Continue on down the lane until you reach a cross roads.



Brearley Lane crossroads

It is about 1½ miles back to Mytholmroyd, but if you are feeling fit you can go straight across on the cycle path to Luddendenfoot (just under a mile). When you reach Luddendenfoot, turn left down the road and either pick up the canal towpath after The Old Brandy Wine or, if you have had enough, go on to the main road and get the bus back to Mytholmroyd (the bus stop is a few yards up the main road to your right)

To walk back to Mytholmroyd, you turn left at the crossroads, immediately coming to a fine stone bridge over the River Calder. It is worth a look over both sides of the bridge (but listen out for traffic). To your left is a quiet rural view of meadows and the River Calder, while on your right, the river has been tamed with a weir and sluices for the mills. These two views sum up the landscape of the Upper Calder Valley – time and again you will trip over bits of industrial archaeology in what first appears to be a very rural landscape.

Having crossed the bridge, you have a short incline to go up past the hamlet of Brearley and you turn left on to the canal towpath (watch out for the post with yellow waymarks on it).



The turning on to the canal towpath at Brearley

You will now stay on the canal towpath until you reach Mytholmroyd, but three things to watch out for:

- A fine view of Brearley Chapel buildings on your left
- The remains on an old mill on your right
- The playing fields on your left which were to be the site of the 1986 Yorkshire wind surfing trials (probably not a serious suggestion, but the playing fields do flood quite regularly).

At Bridge number 9 you have to go off the towpath up a short incline (the path to the left is less steep), which brings you on to an access road. Cross the road and you will see a gap in the hedge where there is a path that takes you back on to the canal. As you pass some industrial units you are nearing Mytholmroyd (watch out for one very short uneven surface on the towpath).

Go under bridge number 10 with some dwellings on the top and then you can reach the centre of Mytholmroyd by coming off the towpath at The White Lion or at bridge number 11 up a short flight of steps and left down Midgley Road.

If you've enjoyed this Gentle Walk around Mytholmroyd, why not try Mytholmroyd Walkers Action walks for children called **Making Tracks**, great for adults too!

Or you could try some slightly longer routes that take you up onto the hillsides.

Mytholmroyd Walkers' Action have produced leaflets with maps, photographs and clear guidance for three waymarked trails. These are:

- *Wood Top (easy, 2.5 miles)*
- *Scout Rock (moderate, 2.5 miles)*
- *Churn Milk Joan (more strenuous, 5 miles)*
- *A Riverside Walk Between Cragg Vale and Mytholmroyd along the river (moderate 3.5 miles)*

All these leaflets can be found in at the Tourist Information Centre in Hebden Bridge or from the [Heart of the Pennines on-line shop](#).

