

AA

[Print this page](#) [Back to results](#)

Jumble Hole and Colden Clough

Textile history from cottage industry to the mills of bustling Hebden Bridge



Distance 5.5 miles (8.8km)

Minimum time 3hrs

Ascent/gradient 722ft (220m)

Level of difficulty Medium

Paths Good paths, 13 stiles

Landscape Steep-sided valleys, fields and woodland

Suggested map aqua3 OS Outdoor Leisure 21 South Pennines

Start/finish SD 992272

Dog friendliness Good most of the way, but livestock in upland fields

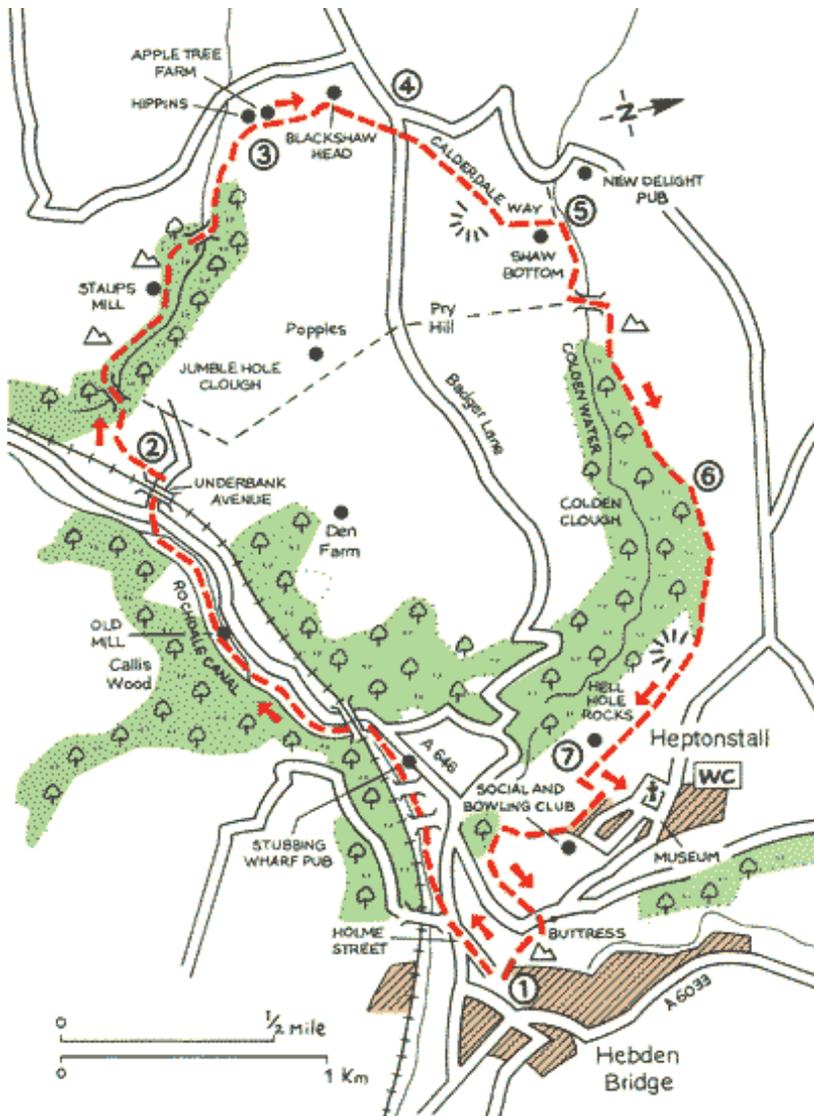
Parking Pay-and-display car parks in Hebden Bridge

Public toilets Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall

[Write a review of this walk](#)

- [Directions](#)

- [Background](#)
- [Information](#)



© The Automobile Association 2008. © Crown Copyright Licence number 100021153

1 From the centre of Hebden Bridge, walk along Holme Street to the Rochdale Canal. Go right to follow the tow path beneath two bridges, past the Stubbing Wharf pub and beneath a railway bridge. Beyond the bridge the canal broadens; 200yds (183m) further on and before the next bridge, bear right and join a track right, to the A646.

2 Cross the road and bear right for just 75yds (68m) to take Underbank Avenue, on the left, through an arch. Bear left again, past houses, to where another road comes through the viaduct. Go right on a track past a mill, and follow the beck up into the woodland of Jumble Hole Clough. Beyond a ruined mill, leave the track and bear left to cross the beck. Beyond a hairpin bend, climb steeply, passing a

dam. When the track wheels left, keep ahead, now above the beck. Take a gate and cross the bottom of a field, to re-enter woodland. Keep ahead uphill, to a gap in a fence. Walk downhill, past the ruins of Staups Mill, then steeply up to cross a bridge. Take steps and cross a field to a waymark. Keep left, following a wall to a gate in front of Hippins.

3 Join the Calderdale Way, bearing right up a track between farm buildings to a stile. Follow a path to the next stile; then between a fence and a wall. Cross the track to Apple Tree Farm, to follow a line of causeway stones across three more stiles, passing to the right of a cottage. Cross the field to a gate at the right corner, then follow a causeway over a stile, and along a track to Blackshaw Head.

4 Go right, along the road, for 20yds (18m), to take a gate on the left. Bear half right across the field to a stile, then follow the right edge of the next field. Cross four more fields, and stiles, to a gate. Go left down a path, to Shaw Bottom. Keep left of the house to a metalled track.

5 Go right, along the track (or left for the New Delight pub). When the track bears left, keep ahead on a stony track. Look out for a small marker post; go left here, steeply down steps, and cross Colden Water on a stone bridge. Climb up the other side, to follow a causeway to the right, at the top of woodland. At the second stile bear slightly left to keep following the causeway stones; your route is clear, through gates and stiles, as Heptonstall comes into view. Keep right at a crossing of tracks, passing to the left of a house. Keep straight ahead, on a walled path downhill, at the next crossing of tracks, by a bench. Keep left at the next fork to meet a road.

6 Go left here, uphill; just before the road bears left, take a gap in the wall to the right. From here your path meanders through woodland (it's a bit of a scramble in places). Emerge from the woodland, and follow a wall to Hell Hole Rocks.

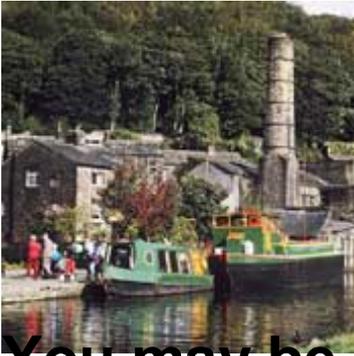
7 Bear left at a wall-end, and cross an access road. At the junction turn right to the Social and Bowling Club. Go right, on a walled path and follow the wall to your left, downhill, soon through a spur of woodland and on to a track round to the left. Past houses you come to a road junction. Go left for 50yds (46m) and take the paved track right. This is the Buttress, taking you steeply down into Hebden Bridge.

This walk links the little town of Hebden Bridge with the old hand-weaving village of Heptonstall, using sections of a waymarked walk, the Calderdale Way. The hill

village of Heptonstall is by far the older settlement and was, in its time, an important centre of the textile trade. A cursory look at a map shows Heptonstall to be at the hub of a complex network of old trackways, mostly used by packhorse trains carrying wool and cotton. And Heptonstall's Cloth Hall, where cloth was bought and sold, dates back to the 16th century. At this time Hebden Bridge was little more than a river crossing on an old packhorse causey.

Heptonstall's importance came at the time when textiles were, literally, a cottage industry, with spinning and weaving being undertaken in isolated farmhouses. When the processes began to be mechanised, during the Industrial Revolution, Heptonstall, with no running water to power the waterwheels, was left high and dry. As soon as spinning and weaving developed on a truly industrial scale, communities sprang up wherever there was a ready supply of running water. So the town of Hebden Bridge was established in the valley, at the meeting of two rivers: the Calder and Hebden Water. The handsome 16th-century packhorse bridge that gives the town its name still spans Hebden Water.

At one time there were more than 30 mills in Hebden Bridge, their tall chimneys belching thick smoke into the Calder Valley. It used to be said that the only time you could see the town from the surrounding hills was during Wakes Week, the mill-hands' traditional holiday. The town's speciality was cotton: mostly hard-wearing fustian and corduroy. With Hebden Bridge being hemmed in by hills, and the mills occupying much of the available land on the valley bottom, the workers' houses had to be built up the steep slopes. An ingenious solution to the problem was to build 'top and bottom' houses, one dwelling on top of another. They can be viewed to best effect on the last leg of the walk, which offers a stunning birds-eye view over the town. Few looms clatter today and Hebden Bridge has reinvented itself as the 'capital' of Upper Calderdale, as a place to enjoy a day out. The town is known for its excellent walking country, bohemian population, trips along the Rochdale Canal by horse-drawn narrowboats and its summer arts festival. Jumble Hole Clough is a typical South Pennine steep-sided, wooded valley. Though a tranquil scene today, this little valley was once a centre of industry, with four mills exploiting the fast-flowing beck as it makes its way down to join the River Calder. You can see remains of all these mills, and some of their mill ponds, on this walk; but the most intriguing relic is Staups Mill, now an evocative ruin, near the top of Jumble Hole Clough.



You may be interested in

- [🏠 Pack Horse Inn](#)
- [☀️ Hardcastle Crags & Crimsworth Dean](#)
- [🍴 Moyles](#)
- [🏌️ Hebden Bridge Golf Club](#)

Local information for

Find the following on:

- Places to Stay
- Food & Drink
- Walks & Bike Rides
- Events & Attractions
- Golf

Search



[Close](#)