

Starting point: Walsden Library

Distance: approximately 4.5 miles

This is a point to point walk from Walsden Library to Todmorden Library that takes in a wide range of habitat including clough woodlands and moorland. The route has a number of steep ascents and descents and particular care should be taken in wet or icy weather.

1. Starting at Walsden Library, carefully cross over to St Peter's Gate and thence to Lock 28 of the Rochdale Canal at its end. The canal is a great corridor for wildlife, linking oak woods and marshy pastures and other habitats along its length. Turn right at the lock and walk along the tow-path for 500m approx. Turn right at the footpath sign into the field before bridge 36. Follow the patch along the side of the ditch line which has been planted with fruit tree saplings. After 80m the ditch ends. Bear left until you see a white gate to the right at the railway crossing. Take care to look and listen out for trains and cross the line when safe over to some steps leading up to the Rochdale Road. Turn right and cross to the pavement on the other side of the road.
2. After 350m turn left up Ramsden Wood Road, just after the Waggon and Horses pub and before the Border Rose Inn. Follow Ramsden Wood Road to the new housing estate. On the right is a bat house built as part of the housing scheme. Follow the road over the stream and take the left fork up the hill.
3. After about 150m take the path off to the right, which follows the edge of an angling pond. Continue along the path and follow into Ramsden Clough Wood. Take great care in the woods as the path drops steeply down to the stream on the right and is very narrow and muddy in wet weather. The humid conditions in the woods are ideal for the development of luxuriant growth of mosses and liverworts, growing on the rocks and trees as well as a great variety of flowering plants.
4. Continue to the wooden Bridge over the stream and follow the path up the steps on the opposite bank. Again there are some precipitous drops to the stream below – so take care! Reaching a gate turn sharp right up the hill and follow the path through a gate to farmhouses at the edge of Inchfield Moor. There are fine views across the moors behind you.



5. Follow the path between the farm buildings, cross over the farm track and cross the moor following the blue marked posts, starting with a small pond on the left. The path is very wet in parts and runs alongside ditches filled with bog-mosses and rushes. Look out for moorland birds like curlew and meadow pipits. Exposed rocks on the moor have a wonderful variety of upland lichens on them. The moor is grazed by cattle, so dogs must be under close control.



6. Continue along the path until meeting a more substantial track at the corner of a dry stone wall. Turn left on to the track and follow it along the length of the wall as it descends the hill. Fine views over Todmorden and Stoodley Pike are to be had over the wall to the right.

7. The track starts to descend steeply and is surfaced with tarmac and concrete. As it reaches a sharp bend the hillside has been invaded by Rhododendron bushes. Although these are very attractive in flower, they do suppress the native vegetation below and can spread very rapidly.

8. Continue along the path down the hill until reaching the Bacup Road by a mill. Cross the road carefully and take the path immediately opposite up some steps and to the left of the houses. After traversing a still take the path along a terrace of the hillside. This field supports flowers typical of unimproved acid grasslands such as heath bedstraw, and the pretty yellow-flowered tormentil. The path passes below some oak trees. Continue to where it runs between old stone walls below some large sycamore trees and continue past ruined farm buildings

9. At the next gate cross the large field to the far right hand corner, where there are a couple of young pine trees. At the corner of the field, go through the gap in the wall, below the pines and cross by the stables to a track. At the track turn right until reaching a wall after 70m. The wall has a gap and steps built into it on the other side. After negotiating these, follow the path, going through a small wooden gate and cross the track that meets it and drop down through the heather to the sharp hairpin bend on Stones Road visible below.



10. Follow Stones Road down hill for 180m approx to its junction with Dobroyd Road and Pexhill.

Take Dobroyd Road to the left past the gatehouse to Dobroyd Hall. Continue until the road meets the railway line. Cross the railway with care on to the main road. In Todmorden. Turn left and either continue along the main road until reaching Todmorden Library in 320m, or turn left on to Salford Street after 160m to join the canal. Stop to look at the 'Great Wall of Todmorden' - the impressive retaining wall between the railway and the Rochdale Cana, said to contain 4 million bricks. Looking carefully you can see a range of different plants, including ferns growing in the mortar.

11. To return to Waldsden Libarary, walk back along the canal for one and a half miles to Lock 28.