



SECTION 1 BRIGHOUSE TO WEST VALE

Panoramic views, great mixed woodland, tranquil towpaths, Brighouse climbing wall and the canal basin at Salterhebble

Length and time

5½ miles (9km).

Should take you 3 hours

Gradients

The start along the canal is level then a steady climb through woods. After that gradients are mainly down or level, with two steep descents

Terrain

A mix of paths and tracks with some (relatively quiet) road walking. Crossing the dual carriageway near the end is currently difficult



Obstacles

Several stiles, an interesting crossing over the canal

Facilities

Brighouse has several places to eat and drink

Bus & train access

- To the start at Brighouse many buses run from Halifax and Huddersfield. Trains run from Leeds, Halifax, the upper Calder Valley and Manchester.
- From the end at Salter Hebble or West Vale various buses go to Halifax

Beginning at Brighouse:

Exit the railway station as signed on the platform then turn left to walk down the main road, across the river bridge, until you reach the canal (opposite Sainsbury's). Turn left onto the canal towpath.

Exit the bus station and follow signs for the railway station, pass to the right of Sainsburys and then turn right onto the canal towpath.

● With the canal to the left, follow the towpath under Anchor Bridge, passing the climbing towers to Ganney Lock (SE140229), a distance of about 750 metres.

● At Ganney Lock, cross the bridge and continue along the towpath for about 700 metres to the metal clad Camms Mill where you turn right over the road Bridge. Continue ahead to cross Elland Road (A6025) and take the track opposite, turning left through a metal gate and uphill through Freeman's Wood, keeping the wall on your left. There is a lovely display of bluebells in the spring.

● Stay on the main track for 500 metres, until reaching power lines. Turn left onto the path between the first two pylons and

go down the long flight of steps all the way to a farm. You have a good view of the valley and Cromwell Lake as you descend.

● At the bottom of the steps turn right and follow the grassy walled track into Cromwell Wood for about 2 km. It becomes a walled path for about 150 metres, when you reach a 4-way junction.



The path through Cromwell Wood

● Turn left down a setted path which goes over a stream and up to a farm lane. Turn right and almost immediately left, through a stile signed School Lane. Continue up the field-edge, following the wall on the right.

- At the top of the field go through the stile in the corner (hidden behind a tree) and turn right along a fenced path and continue ahead, uphill along the tarmac road. At the junction, turn right towards the Ashday Lane bus stop and turn left into the road called West Lane.

- Continue for about 1.25 km, passing Marshalls stone works on the left. As the panorama opens in front of you, the Wainhouse Tower on the edge of Halifax comes into view on the right. From here the view takes in Halifax and large tracts of Calderdale.

- Follow the road as it descends, passing Rosemary Lane on your right, and after about 1.25km from the Ashday Lane bus-stop, at a sharp right-hand bend in the road, bear left, onto a track to Wood Nook Farm. Immediately bear right onto a very short, narrow path leading to a stile into a field.

- Walk down the edge of two fields, keeping the field-wall to your right. Just before the bottom corner turn right over a stone step-stile (easy to miss) and bear left towards an isolated tree at the end of a wall.

- From the tree, walk straight on to the corner of a hedge, then continue straight on, now with a fence on your right, to a stile in the corner of the field. Cross the stile and continue downhill through another field to Exley Lane. Cross the stile and turn left along the road.

- Follow the road past the cluster of buildings called Upper Exley to a left-hand bend. Here, turn right over the stile into a field and bear left, passing behind a barn. The path gradually leaves the barn to a stile below a pylon. Cross the step stile and follow the wall (to your right) to a further stile in the field corner. Go through this stile into the wood.

- Descend the path, crossing a small stream on your right. At the waymark post, turn right and at a fork, bear left down to a pedestrian crossing over the main road.

- Cross the pedestrian crossing and then bear slightly right to cross the bridge over the canal.

Just before you reach the roundabout, you have two choices:

- 1 The main route carries straight on and

crosses over the main road on to the far side of the roundabout. There are no lights at this crossing, so you need to take great care. When you reach the pavement on the far side turn left towards the railway bridge. (See Map1 below) Or

- 2 You can take the canal-side link path to Halifax which bears off to the right. You proceed through a wonderful pedestrian tunnel and then double back onto the busy Stainland Road where you turn right to reach the main route. (See Map2 below)



The route off to the canal-side link path

- Continue walking in the direction of the railway bridge. About 300 metres after the railway bridge, a waymarked track goes off to the right, near a bus stop and car park. This leads to Clay House, West Vale (SE097214): the start of the next section.



1 Roundabout crossing option



2 Link path option

CONTAINS INFORMATION FROM OPEN STREET MAP, WHICH IS MADE AVAILABLE HERE UNDER THE OPEN DATABASE LICENSE (ODBL)