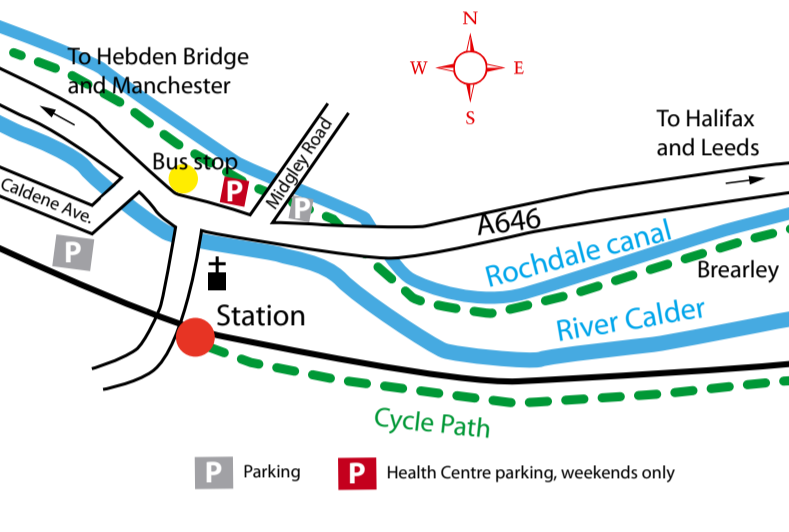


Mytholmroyd is a ‘walkers are welcome’ town. This means we try to ensure that footpaths and bridleways are in good condition, and that facilities for both local people and visitors wanting to walk in our beautiful countryside are welcoming.

## Welcome to Mytholmroyd

Mytholmroyd, like other small towns of the upper Calder Valley, is increasingly attracting walkers. All walks begin and end at the railway station: from here the steep hillsides can quickly be reached.

This is a landscape enriched both by its dense local history, and by its intimate associations with the writings of Ted Hughes, Yorkshire’s most iconic poet.

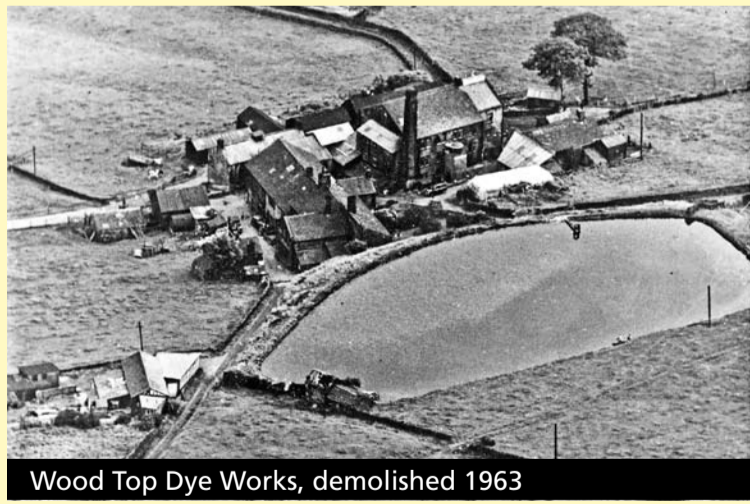


## Pick up a leaflet

Leaflets are on sale (50p) from local outlets in Mytholmroyd and from the Tourist Information Centre in Hebden Bridge. For each waymarked trail there is a map, clearly showing the route. This fully illustrated colour leaflet, with easy-to-follow guidance for walkers, complements the waymark signs along each route.

## Ted Hughes

The late poet laureate was born at 1 Aspinall Street, Mytholmroyd in 1930. Although he moved away when he was about seven, the local landscape inspired many of his later poems - with their powerful images of animals and nature. The Elmet Trust, formed in 2006, established the Ted Hughes Project to open up his birthplace home to organise walks plus festivals to celebrate the poet’s life and work. [www.theelmettrust.com](http://www.theelmettrust.com)



## Industrial heritage

Two of the way-marked walks lead through old textile hamlets. The Scout Rock route returns through rural Brearley, which once had at least three woollen mills. The Wood Top walk leads to an upland hamlet, once the site of an old dye-works for fustian, the hard-wearing cotton material that was key to local prosperity a century ago.



# Three waymarked walks from Mytholmroyd



## An easy walk to Brearley

From Mytholmroyd station, walk eastwards along the cycle-path (marked in blue) and past Brearley Chapel. Turn left down Brearley Lane and the canal path takes you right back to Mytholmroyd and the station.

This is a pleasant stroll on level paths, of about 1½ miles (approx 2 kms) in all. Returning by the canal path, (marked in brown) glance up left to Scout Rock – a view which powerfully shaped Ted Hughes’ childhood.

## 1. Wood Top

An easy walk of about 2½ miles (approx 4 kms), taking an hour. An ideal short route avoiding steep climbs, with excellent views across to Heptonstall and Old Town.

Wood Top was an old upland hand-loom weaving hamlet. Among its fascinating mullion-windowed houses is one with a 1657 date-stone.

A century ago, Wood Top produced fustian: hard-wearing cotton material. Its inhabitants included the Saltonstall family; John was a fustian dyer; and one of his daughters, Lavena, a fustian clothing machinist, later became best known of the local suffragettes.

## 2. Scout Rock

A moderate walk of about 2½ miles (approx 4 kms), taking 1½ hours.

Climbing steeply above the Methodist Church, this route then sweeps eastwards above Scout Rock. It soon gives wonderful views across the Calder Valley to Heptonstall and Old Town.

From his childhood home in Mytholmroyd, Ted Hughes looked straight across to the grim cliff-face of Scout Rock: it provided ‘both the curtain and back-drop to existence’. The return route drops down through Brearley, squashed between railway and canal, the remains of whose rural industrial past are still clearly visible.

## 3. Churn Milk Joan

A more strenuous walk of about 5 miles (approx 8 kms), lasting about 3 hours, and including some steep paths, taking in both moorland and woodland scenery. Take care: the weather on the ‘tops’ can be much colder and wilder than in the valley.

On the moor, the tall lone stone known as Churn Milk Joan is both a local landmark and the subject of a Ted Hughes poem. The stone itself dates from about 1600 and was probably erected to settle a boundary dispute. Hughes commemorated this stone in one of his many poems reflecting on childhood folk tales.

Walkers’ Action would like to thank the many local supporters who have helped make Mytholmroyd a ‘walkers are welcome town’.

The waymarked trails have been developed in partnership by Mytholmroyd Walkers’ Action and Calderdale MBC.

