

Heptonstall Moor Trig Point.



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Starting Point: Clough Hole Bridge car park.

Finishing Point: Clough Hole Bridge car park.

Walk Profile: 5.82 miles / Ascent 1006ft / Descent 1004ft.

Required Time: 3 - 3.5 Hours (2.5mph).

Difficulty: 

Transport: Widdop summer service bus service only.
Ample at Clough Hole Bridge car park.

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1....From the car park, turn right on the Widdop road. After a few feet, turn left up the farm track towards Clough House Farm (point 1).

2....Follow the farm track up the hill and just before the farm house, and on the left, you will see a footpath marked with a sign post leading of in to the left (point 2). Turn left here, and follow grassed over farm track proceeding through the next metal farm gate that you arrive at (point 3).

3....Proceed through the metal gate, and continue on this footpath to the next metal farm gate (point 4). After the second metal gate continue to follow the farm track that you are on and head up hill. This path soon deteriorates as it climbs up to a disused farm house. Proceed through the two small wooden gates just to the right of the wall until you reach the derelict farm house (point 5).

4....The footpath runs around to the right, and to the rear of the derelict farm house (the footpath here can be a little hard to find). From here, the direction that you are heading for is directly ahead, and is towards where the stone wall drops down into a small dip where there is a stile (point 6).

5.... After arriving at a stile, turn right and head up onto the Pennine Way, where you will be travelling North West for approx. 0.6 miles. This stretch of the Pennine Way can be very muddy underfoot.

6....After 0.6 miles and to the left, and if are carefully looking, you will see a medium size hollow. To the left of this hollow there is a narrow footpath heading off up hill. This is your que to leave the Pennine Way and travel uphill on an unmarked footpath. To start with, the footpath is very faint, but will become more clearly defined the further up hill that you travel, especially where it passes through the heather higher up (point 7).

7....This footpath will take you directly to the white painted trig point on the top of Heptonstall Moor (point 8) which is marked as Standing Stone Hill on the OS. Maps of the area.

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8....Proceed South West from the trig point along the same footpath, and once at the crown of the hill you will see a farm house in the distance and down at the foot of the hill. Walk down to the stile in front of the Popples House farm. Cross the stile (point 9), and continue heading downhill following the footpath close to the wall until you arrive at another stile. This stile has been fenced in and it appears that it cannot be used, but from here, join the farm track just to the right, and head downhill to the track at the bottom (point 10).

9....Once on the track, turn right passed the dis-used farmhouse. Head towards the gate and sign post that you can see in the distance (point 11).

10...Pass through the gate and continue to follow the track as it bears off to the right as it climbs the hill. The track shortly heads down towards Lower Gorple reservoir. Continue directly ahead at the next gate (point 12).

11...At the bottom of the hill and just to the right of some houses, you will arrive at some green metal gates. Pass through the gates and join the reservoir access road (point 13).

12...Here, turn right and for approx. 1.1 miles follow the access road East and back to where it joins Widdop Road (point 14).

13...Cross the road, and immediately opposite and to the right, you will see a sign post with a small gate at the side (There is also a National Trust sign post here). Pass through the gate and turn right heading towards a wooden bench. **The footpath from here has a very steep downhill section.** From the wooden bench you can briefly take in the views overlooking the valley below, and in particular, look out for the remains of the large foundations of a large wooden trestle bridge that used to span this gorge ([see here](#)).

14... At approximately half way down this very steep descent you will come across a marker post (point 15). Here, turn right and follow the footpath high above the valley floor. This footpath can vary wildly from a very narrow footpath to a wide woodland trail, and is occasionally paved in places. This is an enjoyable 1.3 mile walk through the woodlands at Hardcastle Crags.

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15...Eventually, you will drop down to the river bank, and having passed by the side of a large pond (point 16) you will arrive at the historic Gibson Mill. This is a 19th century former cotton mill, refreshments and toilets are available here. Take a moment to have a wander around the former mill and its amenities on offer (point 17).

16...Carry on the track that you are on passing just to the right of the toilets facilities, and following the sign post which directs you back to the car park at Clough Hole. After approx. 400 yards the track doubles back on itself and starts to climb the hill out of the valley (point 18). The track up the hill is a steady but gradual climb on a wide track which provide good walking.

17...At the first wooden gate, continue straight ahead and on to the second gate further on up the hill. At the second gate, you will notice a series of steps of to the right. Climb these steps and you will find yourself back at Clough Hole car park and the finish point.

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Heptonstall Moor Trig Point Map.

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