



**Starts:** Timothy Lane, Batley

**Ends:** Dewsbury Minster

**Length:** Four and a half miles.

Start by heading along Howley Mill Lane, (unsigned but waymarked Kirklees Way), which runs along the bottom of the valley. Within a short distance a railway tunnel comes into view. At this point there are two ways forward. One is to turn left just before the tunnel and follow the path which leads to a railway crossing. After passing over this crossing the route goes straight ahead and then uphill.

*Alternatively, for those who are wary of level crossings, a second route is to walk through the tunnel and, immediately on emerging from the other side, turn left, cross a stile and head up the path which merges with that from the crossing.*

The route continues uphill and, just before the old spoil heaps, turns right to climb gently up a path and reach a broad track at the top of the rise.

Move forward and when the ruins of the old Howley Hall come into view veer slightly left off the main path and on to a subsidiary path to reach them.

*The few piles of stones are all that remain of Howley Hall built in the late 1500s by members of the Savile family at a cost of £100,000, an enormous sum of money in those days. It was started by Robert Savile and completed by his son John who was not only MP for Yorkshire but the man elected, on the suggestion of the king, as the first Alderman of Leeds. Sadly the hall was demolished in the 1730s by the Earls of Cardigan, to whom it had passed, because it was costing too much to maintain – and they did not like to maintain the Savile influence.*

The one remaining archway at the ruins of Howley Hall, the once impressive home of the Savile and Cardigan families.



After exploring the site move through the archway in the middle of the ruins, continue forward down the perimeter wall and straight ahead to cross a field which has a golf course on the left. At the far end of the field the path swings left to a metal kissing gate. Pass through and move along the clear field path straight ahead which has a line of trees to the right and open ground to the left.

Continue along this path and through an old gateway (with no gate) beyond which the path swings to the right, levels out

and emerges into a small tarmacked area which is dotted with large stones at the exit to Quarry Lane. Walk to the road, turn right and head towards a Public Footpath sign.

Take the path indicated into the trees and follow it until it emerges into a clearing which has the view of an electricity pylon straight ahead. The path veers slightly left towards a tall metal-link fence and then turns sharp left and up a steepish rise to reach a T junction of paths.

At the top of the rise go left and then immediate right on a less distinctive path. On a clear day Alverthorpe Church can be seen straight ahead in the distance. Eventually the path forks. Ignore the left hand fork, marked by a small brick structure, and take the right hand path instead which drops downhill and winds its way between trees. Where it levels out another path crosses from left to right. Turn right to join it, head towards a high metal link fence about 20 yards away.

Go right and left through a narrow corridor and then through a wooden gap stile into a field with a metal fence on the right. The path soon veers away from the fence and crosses the field diagonally left to reach the last in a line of bungalows. As it does so the path swings round a bush and leads to a stile by a metal gate.

The path continues ahead to reach Soothill Lane (B6124) opposite Croft House Veterinary Clinic. Turn right for about 30 yards, cross the road, go through a way-marked gate and head half left across the field. Gawthorpe



Metallic gate featuring pewees or teewits whose numbers, at one time, were so great that the people of Hanging Heaton were labelled Teewitlanders.

water tower can be seen in the distance. Follow the path forwards (pylon on right, farm on left) to the field end and pass through a metal gate. Avoid the metal wire across the apparent gap alongside it.

Turn right (Hanging Heaton Church should now be straight ahead) and continue along this path, ignoring other footpaths going to the right and left, to reach a metal gate. Move straight ahead and, passing Grange Farm on the right,

go down the track to reach another broad track at the bottom.

Cross straight ahead to a metal gate and stile. Pass over, head straight ahead (towards metal lamppost) and slightly uphill to discover another stile in the boundary hedge and fencing which gives access to the busy Challenge Way (B6128).

Cross over the road and climb the steps on the opposite side to negotiate

another stile. Go straight ahead into a field and, with Hanging Heaton Church in front, keep going diagonally uphill to reach the far left hand corner. Climb over another stile and turn left uphill to reach High Street.

Turn right for a short distance before crossing the road towards Hanging Heaton C of E School and reaching the start of Kirkgate. Follow it along its full length to reach the Fox and Hounds public house. A little way below the pub's car park is a footpath (signposted Kirkgate 10A and 10B) which is part of the Kirklees Way.

*Go straight along and pass a gate decorated with life-sized metal teewits or pewees a reminder that, at one time, so many of these birds nested in this area that Hanging Heaton was called Teewitland.*

*While walking along this hillside, Caulms Wood as it is known, walkers can enjoy a tremendous panorama of the local scene. This is the valley which 50 or so years ago was punctuated with more than 60 mill chimneys which disgorged their clouds of thick, black smoke every hour on the hour on to the local scene.*



Dewsbury Town Hall.



*The chimneys identified the places in the valley where cloth, especially uniform cloth, and blankets were manufactured for customers around the world. This was the reason the area was known as the Heavy Woollen District. The present view now enables walkers to see the layout of the town - Batley to the right and Dewsbury to the left - and some of the remarkable buildings which they possess.*

Further along the route, which has the golf course to the left, pass a stile made of scaffolding pipes. Carry straight on and at a fork in the footpath bear right and descend to join the main path. Keep left and keep left again at a post carrying various yellow arrows. In a short distance the route crosses over a wooden stile into woodland.

After about 75 yards bear right and go down some steep stone and concrete steps. Follow steep path downwards. Don't take any path to right but keep straight on. At the sculpture (created by James Robison) turn left and go forward into Leeds Road.

There turn left to cross the road at a pedestrian crossing. Turn left again and immediately right into Sugar Lane. After about 50 yards bear right into a green path and continue until a tarmac road, Hollinroyd Road, appears. Head straight down to the foot of the hill and take the second right turn into Old Bank Road.

Descend the footpath to reach Wakefield Road and continue downhill to reach the pedestrian crossing. Cross Wakefield Road to reach Dewsbury Town Hall with Dewsbury Minster- the start and end of the Centenary Walk - straight ahead.

