

Try a Trail...

Pennine Bridleway
NATIONAL TRAIL

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Hebden Bridge ride

13 miles (21 km) – moderate/challenging circular bike ride

Riding from Hebden Bridge

1 The ride starts in Hebden Bridge and follows the A6033 out of the town towards Keighley.

2 At the sign for *Hardcastle Crag*s turn left and follow the road until it reaches the car park for Hardcastle Crags.

3 Just past the car park take the right hand fork in the track and climb uphill, first on tarmac and then onto gravel.

4 Take the left hand turn up Shackleton Hill and follow the track for several miles until you reach the arched bridge that crosses Hebden Water.

5 Cross the bridge and follow concrete track to the second junction. Bear left across the cattle grid and follow the tarmac road to the green estate gates and turn left onto the minor road.

6 Go through the gate next to the second set of green gates on the right signposted *Pennine Bridleway Gorge Reservoir*. Follow the track uphill and then across the Dam of the Gorge Reservoir.

7 Just past the reservoir houses turn right through a set of green gates and follow the track over Heptonstall Moor.

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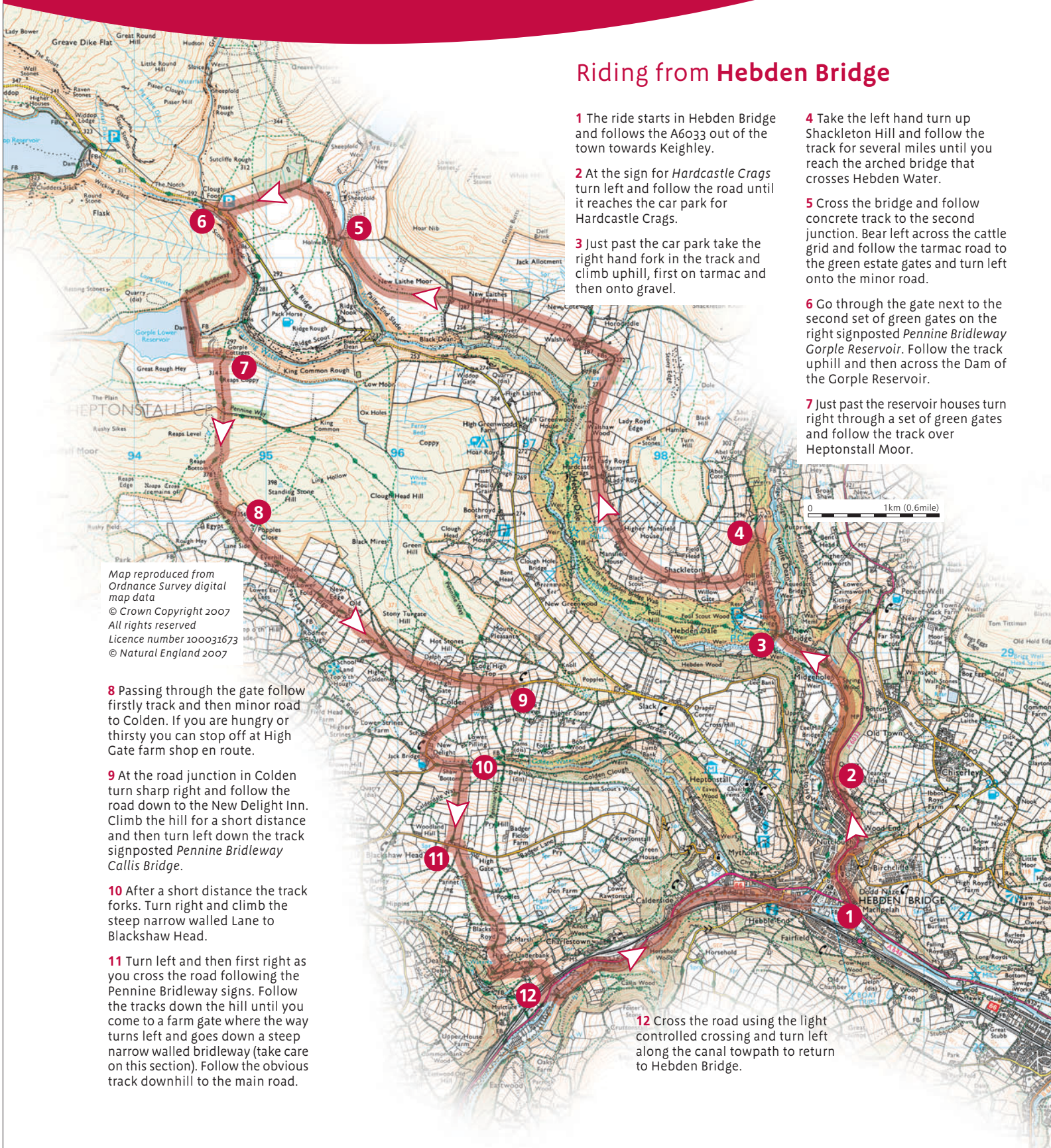
8 Passing through the gate follow firstly track and then minor road to Colden. If you are hungry or thirsty you can stop off at High Gate farm shop en route.

9 At the road junction in Colden turn sharp right and follow the road down to the New Delight Inn. Climb the hill for a short distance and then turn left down the track signposted *Pennine Bridleway Callis Bridge*.

10 After a short distance the track forks. Turn right and climb the steep narrow walled Lane to Blackshaw Head.

11 Turn left and then first right as you cross the road following the Pennine Bridleway signs. Follow the tracks down the hill until you come to a farm gate where the way turns left and goes down a steep narrow walled bridleway (take care on this section). Follow the obvious track downhill to the main road.

12 Cross the road using the light controlled crossing and turn left along the canal towpath to return to Hebden Bridge.



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Hebden Bridge has seen great change in recent years. Traditional industries are no longer a major force, but buildings have been stone-cleaned and revitalised, the Rochdale Canal has been restored, and the locality has become a desirable place to live and visit.



Known as the 'Pennine Centre', Hebden Bridge takes its name from the packhorse bridge over Hebden Water. The town developed in late medieval times as a river-crossing and meeting point of packhorse routes.

Textiles have been important in the Upper Calder Valley for centuries, but it was not until mechanisation and steam power were introduced from the late 18th century that Hebden Bridge began to grow significantly.

The arrival of the canal and railway attracted industry to the valley bottoms, but with limited flat land and a growing army of textile workers, dwellings were ingeniously built on the valley sides, giving the town its characteristic 'double-decker' housing.

Rochdale Canal - The completion of the Rochdale Canal in 1804 revolutionised the movement of bulk goods in the area reducing the price of coal by half. This was most important with a greatly increased demand for coal to fuel a growing number of mills. 1880 was one of the busiest years for the Rochdale with goods weighing 686,000 tons being transported. The equivalent to the movement of about 50 boats a day. The completion of the railway in 1840 resulted in a decline in canal traffic and the last loaded barge travelled the whole length of the canal in 1937. It finally closed in 1952. Following initial ideas in 1974 the Rochdale Canal Society was formed and the canal was reopened in July 2002.



Hebden Bridge Ride

Start Hebden Bridge, grid ref. SD 991,270

Distance 13 miles (21 km)

Height Gain 1962 ft (598 m)

Terrain Short stretches of road, but mainly gravel tracks, one short steep technical descent for mountain bikes and some canal towpath

Time 3.5 hours by bike, 6 hours on foot

Refreshment & public toilets Public toilets, shops and cafes in Hebden Bridge. Mays farm shop in Colden, which sells food and drinks. Also public toilets in Hardcastle Crag car park. For bike spares etc, try Blazing Saddles in Hebden Bridge

How to get there Rail and bus services to Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Todmorden and Rochdale

Route profile



www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway