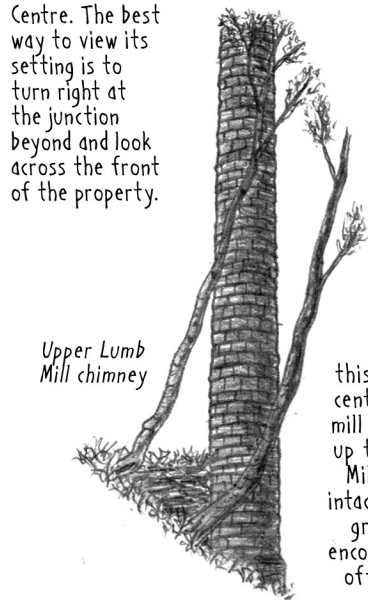


③ Before the bridge, bear left along the river to the site of **Upper Lumb Mill**, which has another fine chimney rising through the trees. Bear right at a sign before an arched cellar to climb diagonally up the slope, then double back right on a higher path. Bear left onto a wider path at the next junction, climbing beneath a large quarry face. Near the quarry end, turn right at a waymarker down some steps and descend to join the old track of **Lumb Road**. Follow this up the hill to pass above **Lumb Bank**, the former mill-owner's house Hughes acquired in 1969, now an Arvon Writers' Centre. The best way to view its setting is to turn right at the junction beyond and look across the front of the property.



Upper Lumb Mill chimney

Ted Hughes wrote many poems set in the Colden Valley, including *Lumb Chimneys* about Lower and Upper Lumb Mill, and *A Chinese History of Colden Water*. There were once twelve cotton mills in this short valley in the 19th century. Some of the narrow mill dams can be seen further up the clough, as well as Bob Mill, whose walls were still intact until the 1960s, when a group of young men were encouraged by their probation officers to demolish them.

② Join the road at the side of the **Stubbing Wharf** to cross the river, then turn left along the main road past the site of Hughes's grandfather **Crag Jack's** house. Turn first right up **Savile Road** and continue to the top. Turn left as far as the bend, then bear right past some garages and follow the left fork, a lovely path through the heart of **Dill Scout's Wood**. Bear right at the end to drop down to join the large track of **Colden Road**. Follow it left then keep right to reach the bridge by **Lower Lumb Mill's** impressive chimney.

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.2km)

**Ascent:** 230m **Time:** 2-4 hours

**Public Transport:** Hebden Bridge is on main Calderdale train and bus routes.

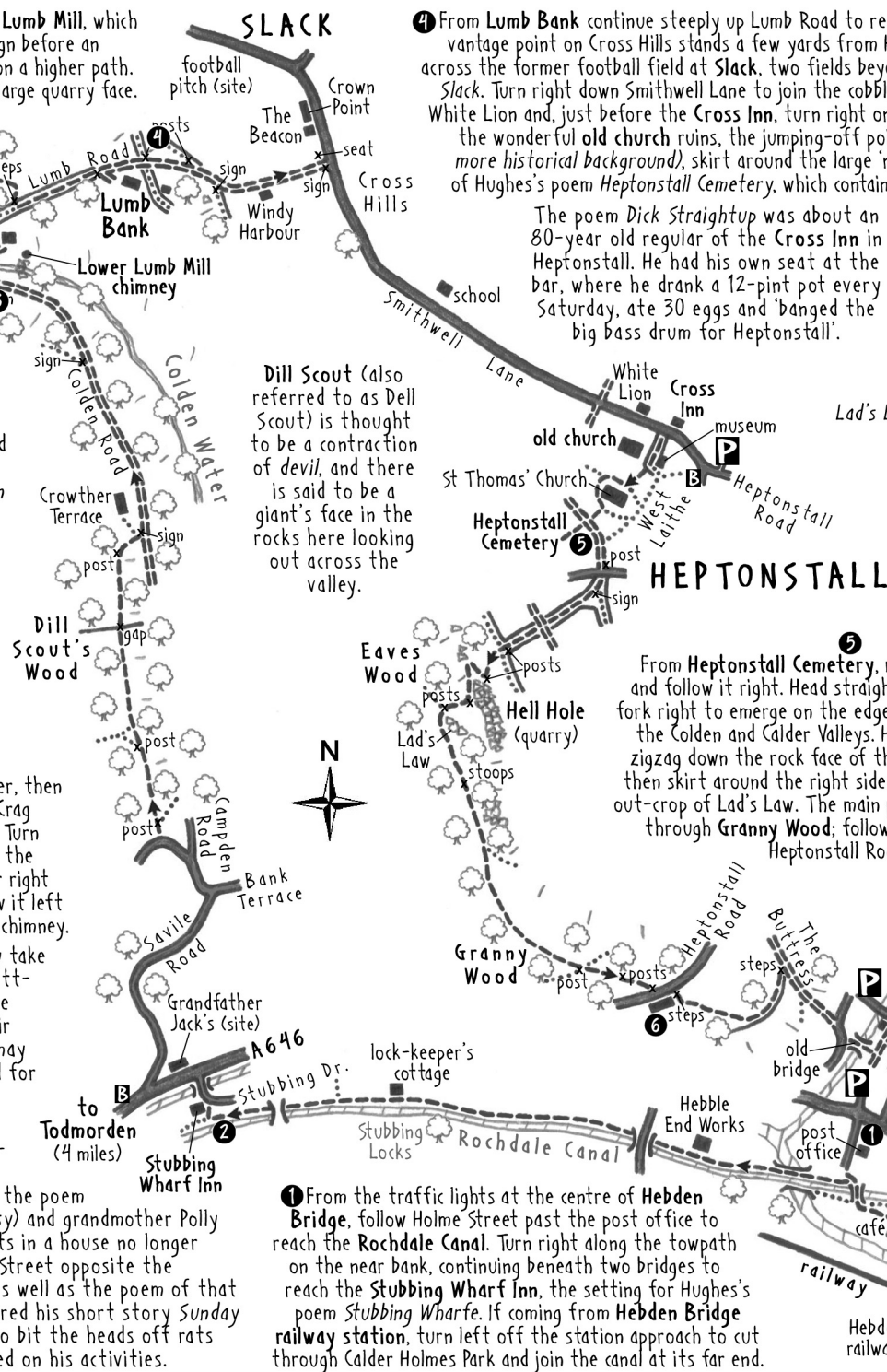
**Parking:** Several pay car parks in the centre of Hebden Bridge and small free car park in Heptonstall.

**Refreshments:** Cross Inn, White Lion and Towngate Tearoom in Heptonstall, and various in Hebden Bridge.

**Character:** A short route out of Hebden Bridge to several sites around Colden Clough and Heptonstall. As well as Ted Hughes's house at Lumb Bank, the route takes in The Beacon, Heptonstall Old Church and the Stubbing Wharf. The paths are good throughout.

The **Buttress** may take its name from a buttress (a place where archers rested their butts), though it may also be a local word for the steep nature of the hillside.

Ted Hughes's grandfather 'Crag Jack' Hughes (subject of the poem *Crag Jack's Apostasy*) and grandmother Polly lived and sold sweets in a house no longer standing at 4 King Street opposite the **Stubbing Wharf**. As well as the poem of that name, the pub inspired his short story *Sunday* about Billy Red, who bit the heads off rats while others gambled on his activities.



④ From **Lumb Bank** continue steeply up Lumb Road to reach a seat by the junction with the road at the top. This fine vantage point on **Cross Hills** stands a few yards from Hughes's parents' former house **The Beacon** and offers a view across the former football field at **Slack**, two fields beyond The Beacon and the setting for Hughes's poem *Football at Slack*. Turn right down **Smithwell Lane** to join the cobbled approach into the village of **Heptonstall**. Continue past the **White Lion** and, just before the **Cross Inn**, turn right on a path past the museum into the churchyard. After exploring the wonderful **old church** ruins, the jumping-off point for Hughes's poem *Heptonstall Old Church* (see overleaf for more historical background), skirt around the large 'new' church to a gate facing the current cemetery, the setting of Hughes's poem *Heptonstall Cemetery*, which contains the graves of Sylvia Plath and several members of his family.

The poem *Dick Straightup* was about an 80-year old regular of the **Cross Inn** in Heptonstall. He had his own seat at the bar, where he drank a 12-pint pot every Saturday, ate 30 eggs and 'banged the big bass drum for Heptonstall'.

After moving back from Mexborough, Hughes's parents finally settled in **The Beacon**, 'the house on the hill' between Heptonstall and Slack. The poem *Wind* is about a storm Hughes experienced while staying in the house and *Football at Slack* was inspired by the view of a football match from the window. **Crown Point Pensioners** portrays Hughes's father and his friends, who would sit on the benches at **Cross Hills**, just above **Crown Point**.

The huge boulder below **Hell Hole** quarry known as **Lad's Law** was described in the 1830s as 'a singular and magnificent rock'. It was never quarried because it was used as a backstay for the crane with which stone was hauled up out of the delf. The name refers to a rock burial place, and it has been suggested it was used as an altar for sacrifice associated with Druidic practices, like the other **Lad Law** on nearby **Boulsworth Hill** (aka the 'hill of slaughter').

⑤ From **Heptonstall Cemetery**, return to the lane and follow it right. Head straight across a road and fork right to emerge on the edge of crags overlooking the **Colden** and **Calder** Valleys. Head straight on to zigzag down the rock face of the **Hell Hole** quarry, then skirt around the right side of the large natural out-crop of **Lad's Law**. The main path angles left down through **Granny Wood**; follow it all the way to **Heptonstall Road**.

⑥ Follow **Heptonstall Road** left only to the top of the terrace opposite, then descend some steps into the trees again. A path crosses the hillside above **Hebden Bridge** to reach **The Buttress**, whose setts lead steeply down into town. Cross the **old bridge**, then turn left to reach **St George's Square**, where you keep right to join **Crown Street**. Ted Hughes's father's shop (W. Hughes tobacconist) was at No. 17, now occupied by the café next to the outdoor shop. At the end of **Crown Street** turn right to return to the traffic lights where the route began.

① From the traffic lights at the centre of **Hebden Bridge**, follow **Holme Street** past the post office to reach the **Rochdale Canal**. Turn right along the towpath on the near bank, continuing beneath two bridges to reach the **Stubbing Wharf Inn**, the setting for Hughes's poem *Stubbing Wharf*. If coming from **Hebden Bridge railway station**, turn left off the station approach to cut through **Calder Holmes Park** and join the canal at its far end.

**HEBDEN BRIDGE**

to **Mytholmroyd** (1 mile)

0 200 400 600 METRES