

# POP OUT WALKS

## Town Trail 1, Todmorden



### **Length**

About 1450 steps: x miles.

### **Start and finish**

Starts and finishes at the front of Todmorden Town Hall.

### **How strenuous?**

Easy going, gentle slopes.

### **How uneven?**

Pavements and asphalt paths.

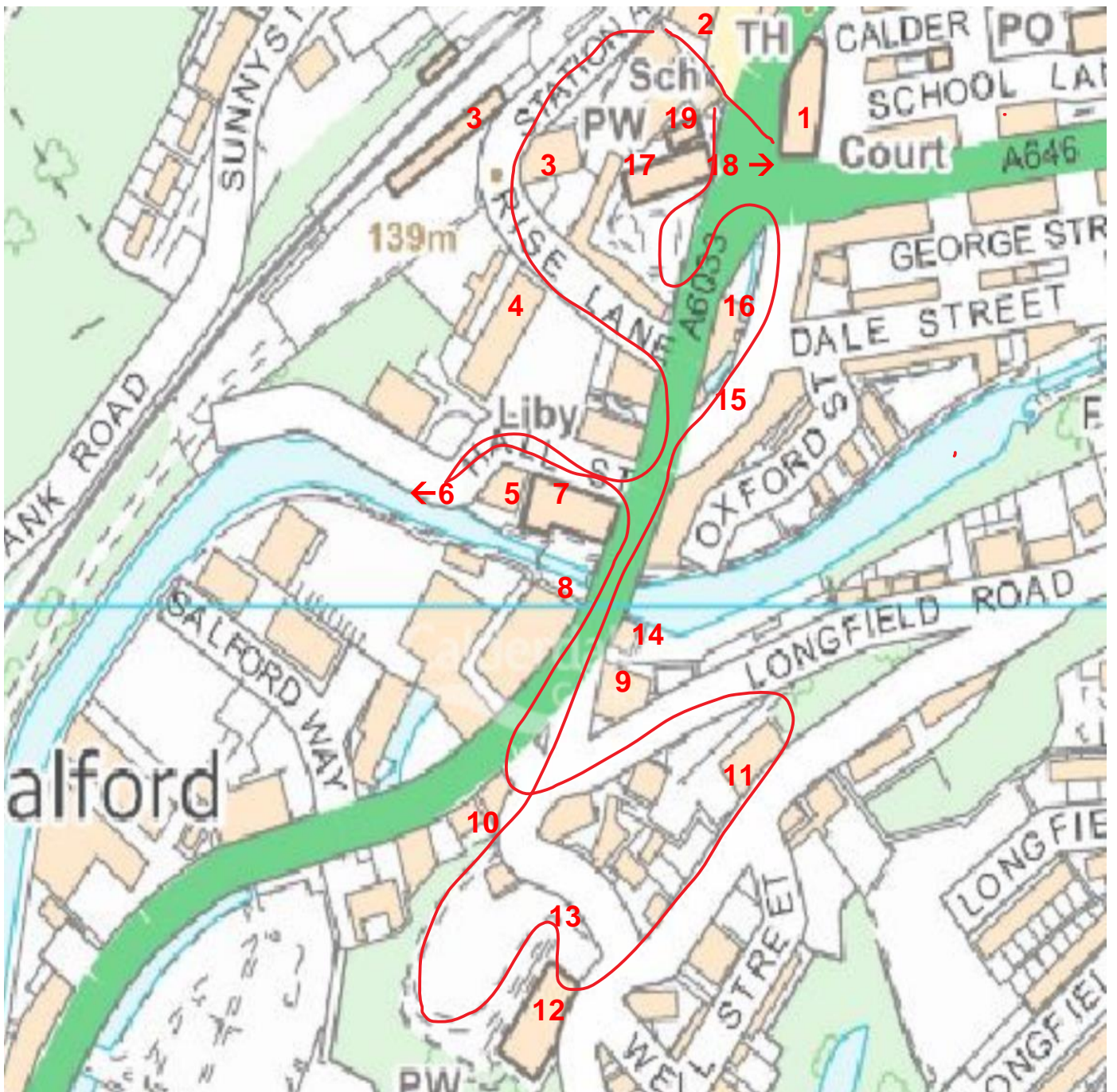
### **Obstacles**

Two sets of steps.

### **Points of interest**

This walk is based on the first half of "The Todmorden Trail". It passes many of the notable buildings of Todmorden, including the Town Hall, Unitarian Church and St Mary's Church.

POP OUT WALKS take under an hour and are ideal for popping out for a summer evening or taking a break from work or being indoors.



## POP OUT WALKS: Town Trail 1

Start outside Town Hall

1 Town Hall Grade 1 listed; started in 1860 and intended as a public hall with a market, bought 1866 by the Fieldens and completed 1875; architect John Gibson; presented to the town 1891 as a public hall and ballroom; when town charter granted in 1896 became Town Hall, but council offices built on Rise Lane. The scene in the pediment at the top represents Lancashire (left) and Yorkshire (right).

With your back to the Town Hall turn right...cross road...

2 White Hart Fold opened 1728 as an inn by John and Tamar Fielden; site of town market in 19<sup>th</sup> C; current inn built in early 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Up the steps at the side...turn left...

3 Station and Queen Hotel railway opened 1840; surveying by George Stephenson; viaduct across town, viaduct across canal at Gauxholme, Summit Tunnel towards Littleborough all fine examples of railway construction; plaque to inventor John Ramsbottom up steps to platform 1. Queen Hotel about 1840 had a connecting footbridge to station.

...down lane by the side of the hotel..

4 Todmorden Hall 15<sup>th</sup> C but substantial rebuild 1603; records of a building on this site late 13<sup>th</sup> C; many original features extant; private house, with Royal Mail use of rear section.

...continue to main road... turn right...  
turn right into Hall Street...

5 Union Office 1901 to serve as offices for the joint local townships; now private housing.

...continue around corner...view of...

6 Great Wall of Todmorden railway embankment; four million bricks?; (alternative view available along towpath after library).

...return to main road...turn right...

7 Free Library 1896 gift from Tod Co-operative Society.

...continue...

8 Rochdale Canal fully open 1802; part of Pennine Ring connecting Manchester to Sowerby Bridge; towpath tunnel under road; river in culvert below all this; library lock gate a metal guillotine – restricted space; (can divert up towpath for better view of Great Wall).

...continue...see across road...

9 Golden Lion Inn late 18<sup>th</sup> C; early postal and coaching station; site of first post office in Tod.

...continue...cross road to Longfield Rd

10 Fielden House (on the corner) 1881 coffee tavern or “temperance hotel”; became the Conservative Club 1913; now private ownership.

up Longfield Road...100 metres steps on right...

11 Unitarian Sunday School opened 1824 as meeting house; converted to Sunday School 1869; note - plaque on wall to Fielden Brothers.

...continue to road (opposite Wellfield house)...turn right...downhill

note - grave of John Fielden in graveyard (set back on the right)

...continue to Honey Hole Court...enter church gate

*12 Unitarian Church 1865-9; funded by Fieldens; Grade 1 listed; architect John Gibson.*

*13 Hillside views Whirlaw Rocks, Rive Rocks, Cross Stone.*

*...exit down path...*

*note - memorial stone to martyrs*

*...gate...cross road...pass Golden Lion*

*14 Fielden Wharf 2008*

*...continue...bear right into...*

*15 Water Street mention in 1730 of “Old Shop” on here; variety of architectural styles.*

*...continue till opposite Town Hall turn left...bear left to...*

*16 Royal George Inn originally “Ship Inn” 18<sup>th</sup> C; an old archway just beyond the Inn lead down to the river for cattle watering.*

*...cross road...enter church grounds...*

*17 St Mary’s Church oldest church in Tod; registers back to 1662, oldest existing grave 1633; tower dating back to 15<sup>th</sup> C, but major alterations since.*

*view down Halifax Road to...*

*18 Stoodley Pike built 1814-15 marking surrender of Paris in Napoleonic Wars; weakened by lightning strike in 1854, rebuilt 1856; 120ft high; restoration 1889.*

*...continue to the right...round back of the church to...*

*19 Endowed School (“Endowed 1713-Rebuilt 1851”); founded by Reverend Richard Clegg, Vicar of Kirkham; up to 100 scholars; classical languages taught.*

*...exit church yard...cross road to finish or continue with*

**Pop Out Walk Town Trail 2**

**POP OUT WALKS are still being developed. Please help by emailing any comments, especially corrections or confusions to [gelliott123@gmail.com](mailto:gelliott123@gmail.com) Thanks.**