

**Forty six      TODMORDEN – MANKINHOLES CIRCULAR**

Essentially a minor road walk, this is easy underfoot. It provides good views, variety, and takes in two typically Pennine hamlets. There are ample opportunities for refreshment. A circular bus route follows the general route round for those who've walked far enough!

Catch the train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria and change onto a Bradford train. Alight at Todmorden.

Go via the underpass to leave the station. *The Friends' group has improved this station. There is now an art gallery on platform one and name signs based on the old British Transport badge.*

Outside the station go down the right hand side of The Queen's Hotel.(Rise Lane) and turn right onto the main road. *Notice the Todmorden Industrial Co-operative Society Shop on the left. Upstairs is The Bear Café, a good place to call in at the end of the walk.*

Cross the canal and bear left at The Golden Lion and U turn up the lane behind it (Longfield Road).

The lane curves back to the right at a bus stop. Around this corner go left up some steps between the flats and a row of houses.

This path meets a hairpin bend on a minor road. Go upwards (not down) to the left and follow this lane through the farmland with a stone wall on your left.

Zigzag through the cottages and the road heads straight across the fields towards some gate posts.

Turn left along the minor surfaced road. *On your left is the isolated Shepherd's Rest Free House (real ales and food – restricted winter opening hours).*

Follow the road ahead. *In front you can see Stoodley*

Pike on the summit of the Pennine way walk. This was built by French prisoners of war in the Napoleonic wars.

You will arrive at Lumbutts *(a lovely hamlet with millstone grit cottages and remains of an old mill on the right.)*

Follow the road through and up out of Lumbutts. *The Top Brink Inn is on your left through a car park. It serves Casque-Mark real ales and food through out the day.*

Continue along the road *(you will pass the Methodist Church on left. Wesley 77*

*and Methodism were important in this area) and you will come to Mankinholes.*

Follow the road as it curves left to go through the hamlet. *Notice the stone water troughs on your right. Why are they like this?*

Further on your right is the Wesleyan Sunday School 1833.

Follow right as the road becomes Cross Lane. *There is a splendid view of Stoodley Pike here. Notice all the new houses built on the sites of two hospitals.*

Follow the road left at Cross Farm. *(Bed, Breakfast and camping.)*

Eventually the road drops to meet another road. Go left at the road sign. *(You now descend through a lovely narrow, steep sided wooded valley.)*

At the bottom turn left across the canal bridge *(Shawplains Lock No. 15.)*

Go left along the canal towpath to return to Todmorden. *This is the Rochdale Canal that links Manchester with Leeds.*

On the right you will see a stone railway viaduct *(Stephenson – Manchester and Leeds Railway).*

At bridge 27 on the left there is an old tall stone mill. *(In a classical style now converted to flats.)*

As you come into Todmorden, on the right is a foundry. *(This is the modern Weir foundry, which makes pumps).*

Go through a short pedestrian tunnel then U-turn right to join the main road. *Golden Lion Square is on the right with a fine church building.*

Go left into the town. *On the right notice the Todmorden Industrial Co-operative Society shop, and Wibley, Claydon Solicitors.*

Go left up Rise Lane to the railway station.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM. MODERATELY EASY (*BUT ONE STEEP UP AND ONE STEEP DOWN*)  
COUNTRYSIDE, VIEWS, ARCHITECTURE, PUBS,  
CANAL, CAFES.  
RAIL FARE: category two.

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