

Forty One TODMORDEN – A LOOK AT THE TOWN.

Todmorden is an attractive stone built town in the Calder Valley providing great variety in this short walk round. The many cafes, old fashioned shops and the market hall make shopping and browsing a pleasure.

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 left. *On your left is where the coal staithes were sited.*

Curve left onto Ridge Road and under the viaduct. Follow the steeply rising S bend of the road then turn right along Mount Pleasant. *There is a fine view of the valley here.*

Go left along Well Lane. At the fork take the left-hand path upwards so that you have a wall and fence on your right. *There are also good views from here.*

In the woodland a setted footpath that comes down the hillside crosses the path. Turn sharp right onto this to descend steeply. Then go down the steps ahead of you. *The attractive stone vicarage is on your right, and the lych gate of St John's Church is on your left.*

Continue onwards with the graveyard on your left. *Notice the sharp pinnacles on the Victorian church school building.*

Cross the main road to the shops and go right towards the town. *The river is underneath you!*

Go through the Patmos gardens on your left and then back onto the road you were on. Follow this between the shops, with the cinema and college on your right.

Go under the viaduct and there is a lovely little Victorian market hall on the left. *Do go in! There is an excellent tea and coffee bar plus the usual range of market stalls. It is open on Monday, Tuesday is a half-day, but the full town market is on from Wednesday to Saturday inclusive.*

Outside the Market Hall front door turn left along Brook Street and cross the main road.

Go left then right onto Union Street South to join the Rochdale Canal. Go right up the lock and follow the canal along.

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.*

Cross the road and fork right along Water Street with its little shops. *Ahead of you is the front of Todmorden Town Hall. This is an extremely grand classical building. Unfortunately it is not routinely open but there is a free tea dance 14.00-16.00 every Monday (except bank Holidays).*

Cross to the town hall and go along the left-hand side of it on Burnley Road. *There is a very attractive church on your left.*

Cross Burnley Road and go towards the White Hart (*real ale*) and in front of it. Then U-turn left behind it onto the station approach.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT MODERATELY EASY (*BUT ONE STEEP UP AND ONE STEEP DOWN – THIS COULD BE SLIPPERY WHEN WET*). COUNTRYSIDE, VIEWS, ARCHITECTURE, MARKET, SHOPS, CANAL, CAFES AND TEASHOPS.
RAIL FARE: category two.

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