

11. Society Rooms (Wetherspoons). The site of 3 shops owned by the Stalybridge Good Intent Industrial Co-operative Society. Only part of the Tailoring Department, built 1901, survives on the right. When this area was redeveloped in the 1960s the butcher's & pharmacy were replaced by a Co-op late shop until 2002. *Go left down Bennett Street at the end of the pedestrian precinct, turn right on High Street.*

12. Stalybridge Methodist Church. In the 1950s moves to amalgamate the various Methodist denominations began & this church was planned to replace three earlier churches. Opened 1966, the church was extended 1969. Inside is a mosaic panel made by Mr Powell.

13. Wharf Tavern on the right. Opened as a beer house in about 1850, now closed (2024). *Next to the Methodist church is the entrance to Gorse Hall. Follow the path uphill.*

14. Beatrix Potter plaque. Her mother was Helen Leech, daughter of John & Jane Leech of Gorse Hall. Beatrix visited often until her grandmother's death in 1884. *Follow the path to the right up hill.*

15. Board describing Leech's Grosvenor Street Mills. Leeches, very early mill owners in Stalybridge, expanded throughout the 19th century becoming the largest mills in the town by 1861. Problems in the 1920s led to a takeover by the Lancashire Cotton Corporation in 1929 & closure. Most of the buildings demolished 1934. *Long stretch up hill with views over the town - look out for small stone sculptures of Beatrix Potter characters.*

16. *Steps on the right lead to the remains of Gorse Hall Fernery. Turn right after this.*

17. Gorse Hall was built c.1835-6 for John & Jane Leech. Left empty on Jane's death until bought by the Storrs family, local builders. The murder of George Harry Storrs, 1909, remains unsolved. Building demolished 1910. Gorses can be seen on the right, down a slope, including remains of an inglenook fireplace. Earliest reference to Gorses 1621, demolished 1950s. *Turn right down hill passing the remains of stables, rejoin previous path at the fork & continue down hill. Turn right at the exit. Cross High Street & turn left at Leech Street, follow the road round to the right with Aldi on left. As the road curves to the left there's a tiny alleyway straight ahead. This leads to Melbourne Street. Turn left at the end of the alley.*

17 (continued) *Turn right at Corporation Street. The former Natwest Bank on the right of Melbourne St (beyond the turning), said to have been built using stone from Gorse Hall.*

18. Left on Corporation St is the site of the Newmarket Tavern (now replaced by part of the Conservative Club, showing a plaque marked Newmarket Garden), opened as a beer house c.1866, closed 1932, demolished c.1980.

19. Plaque from the Newmarket Tavern, now on Stalybridge Conservative Club marks the writing of the song 'It's A Long Way to Tipperary' by Jack Judge in 1912. On the other side of the road is what's left of the Grand Theatre where the song was first performed. Plaque unveiled 1953. *Turn left down Trinity Street*

20. On left is the Fish Market, originally a row of 12 lock up shops built 1881.

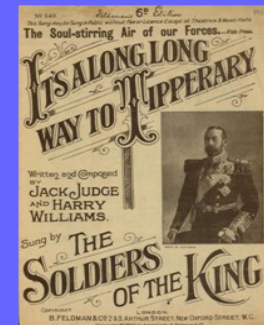
21. Congregational Church Sunday School, now part of Melbourne Court. A Sunday School existed from 1851, but became too small so this building was opened in 1906. *Back to the Town Hall site for the end of the walk*



This Leaflet is funded by TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM



Stalybridge- Local History Walk



History on Your Doorstep

Key :

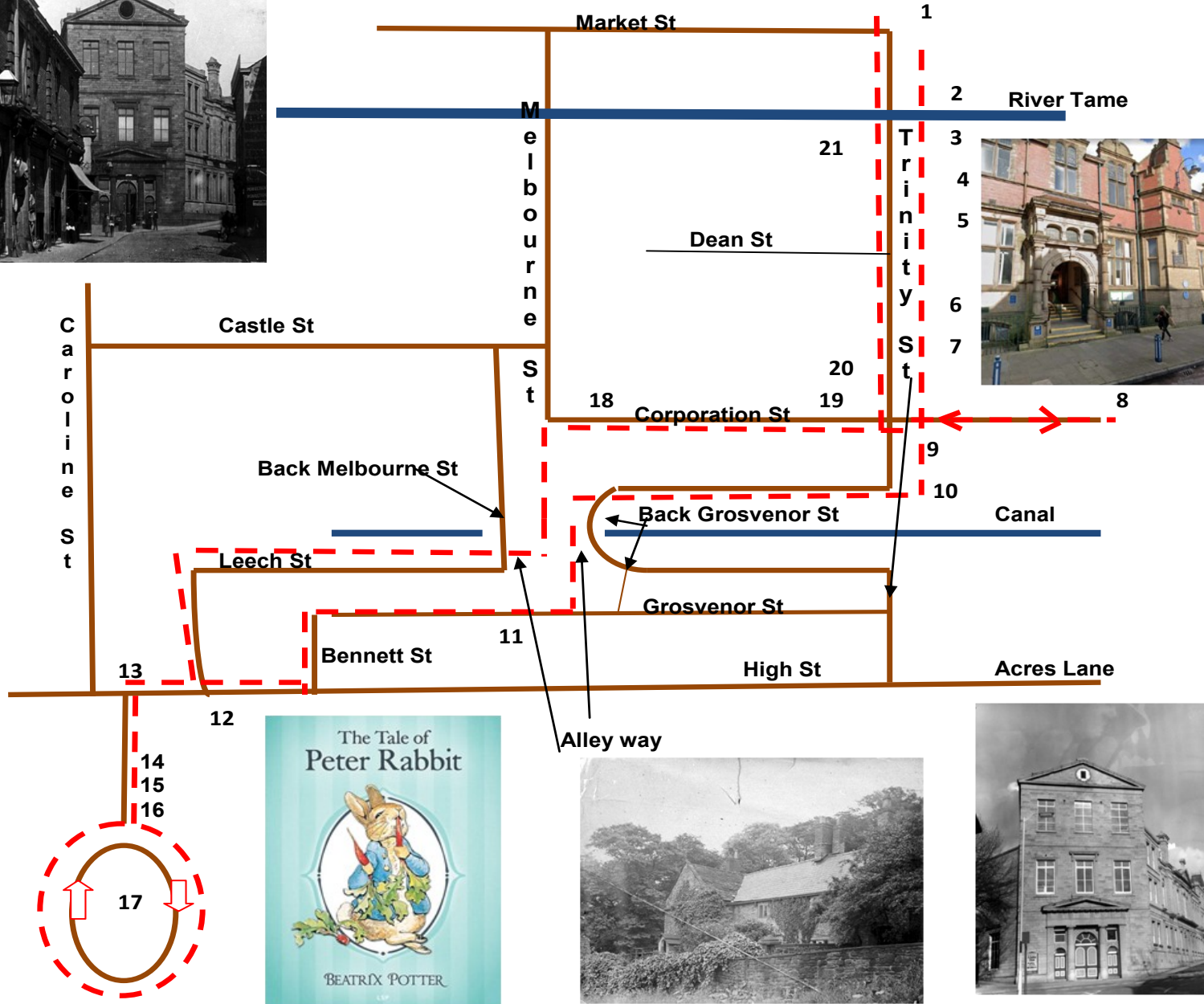
Walking Route to follow:



Time:



Town Hall



1. Stalybridge Town Hall. Built in 2 stages, 1831 & 1882, demolished 1989. Remaining section is 1831 Market Street entrance. *Walk up Trinity Street*

2. War Memorial. Designer Ferdinand Blundstone, unveiled 1921, extended 1950 marking the Second World War.

3. Victoria Bridge. Built to form an approach to a separate market hall in 1866.

4. Post Office. Opened 1901. Designed by J Medland Taylor to form a group with the Library.

5. Stalybridge Library. J F Cheetham, local mill owner, funded a new library, opened 1901. In 1932 an art gallery was added. If open it is possible to see carved shelving which came from the Cheethams' house & marble busts by John Warrington Wood (1871) of Mr & Mrs Platt who funded Stalybridge Baths.



6. Civic Hall. Previously the Market Hall (currently under renovation, 2024). Opened 1868, designed by Amos Lee. Built on the Plantation Ground where Wakes fairs were held. A statue of Jack Judge is outside the Civic Hall, not visible during renovations.

7. Crown Pole, marking the Golden Jubilee of Elizabeth II in 2002.

8. *From here it is possible to detour left along Corporation Street alongside Tesco car park to the junction with Corn Mill Lane where the pediment from Stalybridge Baths commemorating the opening of the Baths in 1870, can be seen.*

9. *Back on Trinity Street is Holy Trinity, 1852, architect E H Shellard. Interior was remodelled in 1995. The church is often open.*

10. Lockgate Sundial sculpture. Designer Alan Dawson, 2008, featuring lock gates angled to create a giant sundial it commemorates the re-opening of the Huddersfield Canal. *Turn right here to go over the canal, then through a small alley straight ahead on to Grosvenor Street, turn right.*

