

## 1. Railway Station

The impressive station building was constructed by the Great Western Railway in the 1920s, as an extension to the town's original 1864 station. The first floor once housed a dance hall.

*Cross Alexandra Rd. Follow Terrace Rd to junction with North Parade (opp. Barclays). Turn L and continue into Great Darkgate St.*

## 2. Great Darkgate Street

Halifax stands on the site of the 'Dark Gate' of the early town wall which gave its name to the town's main shopping street. The post office across the road features impressive mosaics.

M&Co stands on the site of an old coaching inn. In the early 1810s, catching the *Lord Hill* from here at 7am would be the first stage of a 48 hour journey to London.

The clock tower at the top of the street is the second to stand on this site. The mechanism of its 1856-1956 predecessor can still be seen working in the Ceredigion Museum.

*Continue uphill and past clock tower to reach Market Hall on L.*

## 3. Market Hall

Open Mondays to Saturdays, the Market Hall houses a handful of small businesses.

In bygone days, this was the town's meat market. Prior to its construction in 1823, much meat had been sold in the open air around the town hall.

*Turn L and pass Market Hall, then L into Princess St and R into Bridge St.*

## 4. Bridge Street

The Hen Lew Du pub is fronted by a small patch of original

cobbled paving.

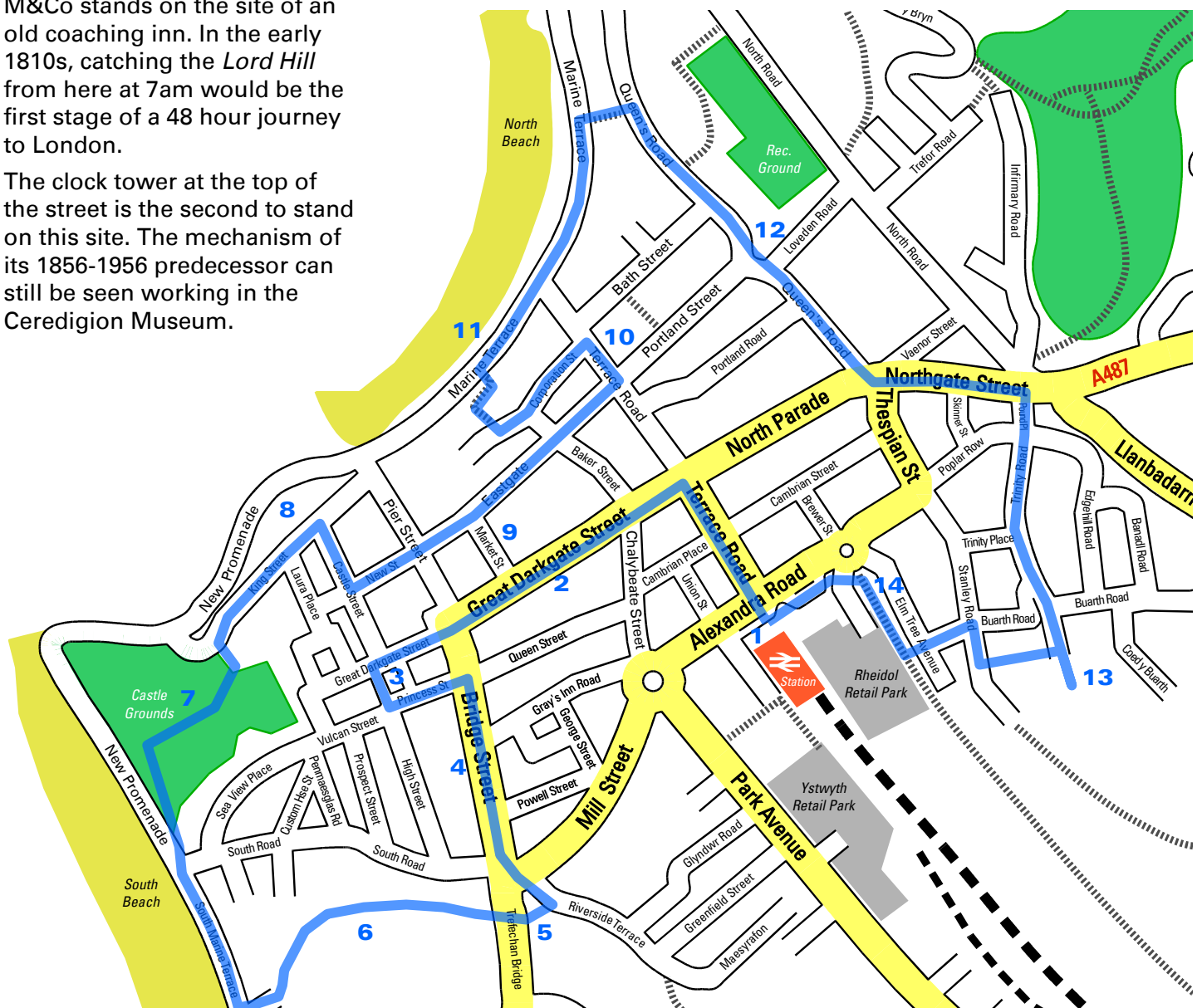
*Banc y Llong* (the Ship Bank) was founded at number 43 in 1762 and is believed to have been the town's first bank—and also perhaps the first in Wales.

*Continue to Trefechan Bridge, at the bottom of hill.*

## 5. Trefechan Bridge

The current Trefechan Bridge dates from the 1880s, although it is thought that a crossing has existed here since mediaeval times.

In 1962, the bridge witnessed *Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg's* first protest about the lack of



official status and support for the threatened Welsh language.

*Join path signposted off Riverside Terr, on left hand side of bridge. Pass under bridge, continue to Harbour.*

## 6. Harbour

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The harbour's development properly began after the town successfully petitioned for the Customs House to be relocated to Aberystwyth in 1763, though bringing the harbour up to a suitable standard was a long and expensive process with many false starts.

Steam packets to Liverpool, Bristol and elsewhere appeared in later years, and in 1848 you would also have been able to sail direct to Quebec for eight pounds.

*Proceed to seafront and turn R, then continue along promenade and enter castle grounds through picnic area.*

## 7. Castle

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The castle was begun in 1277, following Edward I's defeat of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd.

In its time, it has seen capture by Owain Glyndwr in 1404, served as a prison and been the home of a royal mint.

The grounds now include a magnificent war memorial from Italy and a bardic circle of standing stones, erected during the 1916 Eisteddfod.

The ruined vestry of the second St Michael's Church stands at the King Street exit to the grounds. Its replacement stands across the car park and was consecrated in 1890.

*Leave grounds through the church ruins and turn R on to King St.*

## 8. Old College

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Started in 1864, the building was first used as a hotel, but failed after barely one season and was put up for sale before it was even fully completed.

In March 1867, the committee

aiming to establish a university for Wales was able to purchase the site for just £10,000. Hard work and determined fundraising allowed the first students to start their studies in 1872.

*Enter Castle St opposite Old College, turn L into New St, cross Pier St and walk along Eastgate.*

## 9. Market Street

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Market Street dates from 1832, when a new corn market was built at the corner of Eastgate.

Later rebuilding saw the site also house entertainment halls, and then the Palladium cinema from 1923 until destroyed by fire in 1934.

*Continue along Eastgate and downhill to Terrace Rd, then turn L.*

## 10. Coliseum

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The county museum is housed in the Coliseum. Built in 1904, this impressive building was first used as an entertainment hall seating 1,000 patrons and later as a cinema.

Open Mondays to Saturdays and with free admission, the museum is well worth visiting for its displays of historical items and local paintings, as well as regular exhibitions.

*Turn L and follow Corporation St. Continue straight ahead past Baptist church, turn R along Crynfryn Row then down steps to reach seafront.*

## 11. Promenade

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Across the road and to the left is the pier, now just 90 metres long after various accidents and rebuildings. Completed in 1865, over 7,000 people paid to walk the original 242 metre pier on the first day it was open.

At the opposite end of the main Promenade is Constitution Hill. Still home to Britain's longest cliff railway and the Camera Obscura, it was first developed as 'Luna Park' and featured walks, gardens and an open air

dance floor.

*Turn R and follow promenade past snack bar until crossing by Richmond Hotel. Go through alley adjacent then turn R along Queens Rd.*

## 12. Town Hall

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This attractive building is in fact a reconstruction of the older town hall which was destroyed by fire in 1967.

No longer the home of local government, the building now houses the town library and Ceredigion Archives, both worth a visit for those with an interest in local history.

*At end of Queens Rd cross Vaenor St and Northgate St. Turn L then take second R into Pound Place, continuing to end of Trinity Rd and School of Art.*

## 13. School of Art

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This grand 'Wrenaissance'-style building was built to house the University's chemistry lab, but has been the School of Art since the mid 1990s. Public galleries open on weekdays, showing a selection of works from the archives.

*Exit by same route, turn L and follow unnamed track downhill. Turn R at end onto Stanley Road, then next L. Pass through gap in hedge visible at end of street on to Plascrug Avenue.*

## 14. Plascrug Avenue

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This quiet, shady avenue links the town to nearby Llanbadarn, the local leisure centre and one of the town's cemeteries.

*Turn R and exit through gates onto Alexandra Rd. Start of walk is to your left, past the bus station.*

## About the walk

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Total distance: 4 km / 2½ miles  
Allow about an hour, plus time to visit castle, museum and other attractions, if you wish.