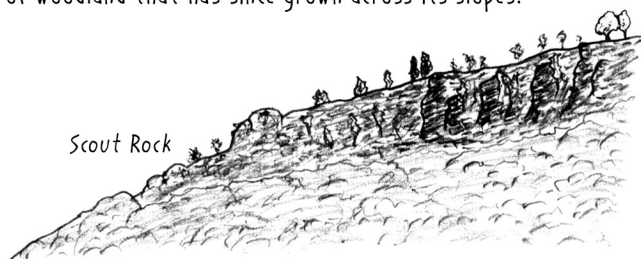


The terrace on **Aspinall Street** was built in the 1920s and the road in front was not paved until 1938 – there was no tarmac, setts or pavement when Hughes lived there, just mud. In the copy of *Wolfwatching* he presented to Donald Crossley, he alluded to this in his inscription, 'When thee and me played in t'muck, little we knew our marvellous luck'. The view from his bedroom in the attic was dominated by two imposing walls of stone: Mount Zion and Scout Rock.

Mount Zion Methodist Chapel was a huge edifice that was built in 1887 and towered over the house on Aspinall Street. It inspired the poem *Mount Zion*, and was only torn down in 1970 after dry rot had caused its closure. **Scout Rock** stands on the other side of the valley, but was similarly domineering. It formed the subject of Hughes's essay *The Rock*, in which he referred to it as 'both the curtain and backdrop to existence'. Its savage, crumbling face was originally formed by an ancient landslide and later scoured out further to provide the stone to build some of Halifax's finest buildings. It has changed character in the intervening years, softened now by the cloak of woodland that has since grown across its slopes.



Scout Rock

Young Ted Hughes's world on Banksfield was a small one, with several extended family members living close by. Aunt Hilda and Uncle Albert lived at 13 and 19 Aspinall Street respectively and Granny Farrar lived on nearby Albert Street. At the top of the road was Mount Pleasant Mill, where his Uncles Walter and Thomas owned a clothing factory in partnership with Josiah Sutcliffe. On the other side of the canal was Empress Foundry; now a car park, *Under the World's Wild Rim* recounts Hughes and his friends smashing this old factory's windows. Beyond, there were allotments and sheds on Royd View that were captured in *Cock Crows*, and then the woods. Gerald, Ted and their friends climbed every tree in **Redacre Wood** and tried to excavate a large buried rock that people locally said was an **Ancient Briton's Grave** – this is recounted in *The Ancient Briton Lay Under His Rock* and the mound that covered the rock can still be seen. Other poems are set within a mile of 1 Aspinall Street, including *Out*, *Mill Ruins* and *Sacrifice*.



the Ancient Briton's Grave, Redacre Wood

Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire is a series of six route maps that will allow walkers to encounter the Yorkshire landscapes – Mytholmroyd and the Upper Calder Valley, Mexborough & the lower valleys of the Don & Dearne and Patrington in East Yorkshire – that formed and inspired Ted Hughes, poet laureate 1984-1998.

Edward James Hughes was born at 1 Aspinall Street, Mytholmroyd, on 17th August, 1930, the third child of William Hughes, a joiner, and Edith Hughes, a part-time textile machinist. Along with his siblings Olwyn (two years older) and Gerald (ten years older), young Ted experienced an idyllic upbringing on the Banksfield estate, which was also home to aunts, uncles, grandmother and several close friends. He would play Cowboys and Indians in nearby Redacre Wood, fish for loach in the Rochdale Canal and camp out in nearby fields. With Gerald as his mentor, Hughes roamed the hills as a hunter, or Native American tracker, shooting, trapping and observing the local wildlife. He developed a love for the moors and remote wooded side-valleys of the area and an antipathy towards the industrialised and built up towns of the main valley.



Ted Hughes's birthplace on Aspinall Street

Hughes wrote many poems about Mytholmroyd and the surrounding area – seven are set in 1 Aspinall Street alone – and this map will allow you to encounter several of them as you walk through his childhood landscape. Hughes lived in Mytholmroyd until August 1938, when the family relocated to Mexborough in South Yorkshire, where his parents had bought a newsagent's shop. However, Hughes frequently returned to the Upper Calder Valley and it preoccupied him poetically all his life.

This map was commissioned by the Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire Consortium, the Ted Hughes Network, University of Huddersfield and enabled by generous funding from Hebden Royd Town Council.

Walk devised by Donald Crossley, Nick Wilding and Ruth Crossley of the Elmet Trust based on information supplied by Gerald Hughes. Thanks to Carol Hughes for her help and support in the production of the map.

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DISCOVERING TED HUGHES'S YORKSHIRE

The Upper Calder Valley

MAP 1: MYTHOLMROYD

A 4-mile walk around Ted Hughes's childhood home in Mytholmroyd, also taking in Churn Milk Joan on the edge of Midgley Moor



Churn Milk Joan

'A lonely stone
Afloat in the stone heavings of emptiness
Keeps telling her tale.'
(from Churn-Milk Joan)

