Hyde Central Guide Bridge

Station to station walks exploring the Peak District and canals from Sheffield to Manchester

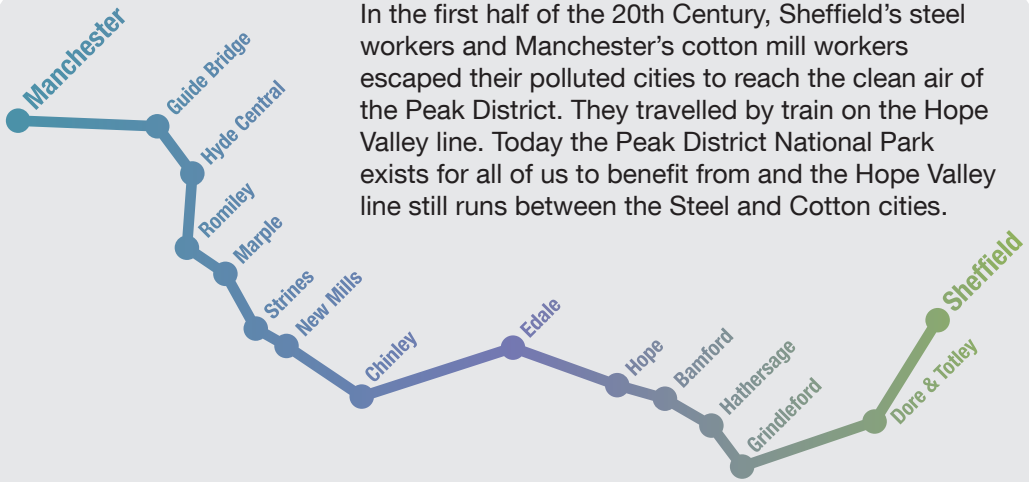
Thread your way along the Steel Cotton Rail Trail across the Peak District, from city to city and station to station.

Walk over the hills and down into the majestic sweep of the Hope Valley, alongside Manchester's canals, through woodland and meadows. Discover fascinating heritage highlights along the way on this route through the industrial past.

Plus, you always have the option to stop at the next station and catch a train back home.

Do as little or as much as you like.

All practical steps have been taken to ensure the accuracy of these routes, but all walks are taken at your own responsibility and we advise that you take a map with you in addition to this booklet.



In the first half of the 20th Century, Sheffield's steel workers and Manchester's cotton mill workers escaped their polluted cities to reach the clean air of the Peak District. They travelled by train on the Hope Valley line. Today the Peak District National Park exists for all of us to benefit from and the Hope Valley line still runs between the Steel and Cotton cities.

Look out for the Steel Cotton Rail Trail waymarkers along the route to guide you.

Hyde Central to Guide Bridge

This route from Hyde Central station to Guide Bridge station offers a gentle canal walk from a town which grew rapidly from being just a cluster of houses in the 18th century, due to the impact of the Industrial Revolution and the cotton industry. Hyde's growth had been especially enhanced by the Peak Forest Canal which was opened in 1800.

Passing through countryside to the Portland Basin at the junction of the Ashton, Peak Forest and Hudderfield Narrow Canals, this Portland Basin conservation area is a highlight of the walk as the impressive Portland Basin Museum comes into view, housed within the restored nineteenth century Ashton Canal Warehouse.

Take a look inside to discover more about the area's industrial heritage before turning onto the Ashton Canal to reach Guide Bridge station.

About the walk

This canal walk is mostly level with hard surfaces but the entry point to the canal is stepped and narrow leads to a steep cobbled ramp which is unsuitable for wheelchair users or those with reduced mobility. Portland Basin Museum is accessed by crossing over two bridges, one of which is stepped. The route follows a shared path for walkers and cyclists.

Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer 277 Manchester and Salford map covers the whole route.

Practicalities

There are no facilities at Hyde Central station although the town centre is less than 10 minutes' walk away and there is an Aldi supermarket next to the station.

Along the route there is a picnic site at Jet Amber Fields and the Bridge View Café with canal side seating is situated within the Portland Basin Museum. The museum is well worth a visit for its interesting exhibits, and it is open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm, with free entry. The café is open between 11am and 3pm.

At the end of the route there is an accessible toilet in the car park at Guide Bridge station.

The Boundary pub is just across the junction from the canal exit point for Guide Bridge station. It serves food and has a canal side beer garden (*closed Mondays, hours vary*).

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

DISTANCE: 5.6 / 3.5 IN MILES / KILOMETRES

HIGHEST POINT: 335 / 102 IN FEET / METRES

THE STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL

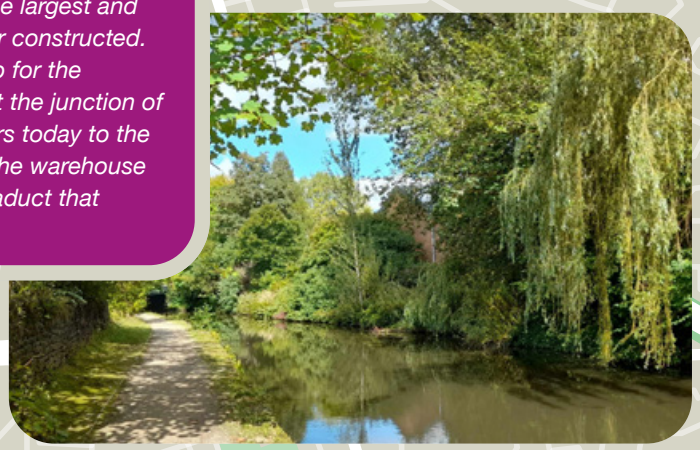
M60
A635
A635
A6104
A6017
A6017
Audenshaw
Guide Bridge
Guide Bridge
Ashton Canal
River Tame
Portland Basin Museum
Junction Mill Chimney
Mary Moffat Plaque
Peak Forest Canal
Jet Amber Fields
Dunkirk Ln
M67
Manchester Road
River Tame
Hyde North
Flowery Field
Hyde Central
Aldi
Hyde

Mary Moffat plaque at Plantation Farm

Mary Moffat was born at Plantation Farm in Dukinfield in 1975. She was a missionary in Africa who became a role model for women involved in missionary work. She was also mother-in-law to explorer and missionary, David Livingstone.

Portland Basin Museum

The Ashton Canal Warehouse was one of the largest and most expensive canal storage buildings ever constructed. It was built in 1834 by David Bellhouse & Co for the Ashton Canal Company. It stands proudly at the junction of Ashton Canal and Peak Forest Canal. Visitors today to the museum can marvel not only at the size of the warehouse but also at the three arched sandstone aquaduct that carries the canals above the River Tame.



Junction Mill Chimney

The octagonal 210 feet high Chimney was built between the Ashton Canal and Junction Mills Banquet Mill engine house in 1867. It is now the last remaining featured associated with Junction Mill and an important landmark structure both within the Conservation Area and on the Ashton skyline. Junction Mill ceased spinning and weaving during the 1930s.

Hyde Central to Guide Bridge

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1

Turn left from the station car park onto Great Norbury Street, passing under the railway and continuing along Great Norbury Street until you reach the junction with Manchester Road.

2

Turn left and continue for 150ft, passing the Aldi car park and bus stop, where you will then see the canal entry point on your left.

Go through the narrow entry point to the cobbled access slope and you will see a roving bridge to your right, which was designed crossing point for horses towing canal boats. Cross the roving bridge and descend the spiral path to reach the canal path which leads north.

3

Continue along the canal towpath passing through the long tunnel under the M67 motorway.

4

The next bridge, number 4, is at the junction of Dunkirk Lane where you can connect with Flowery Fields station.

To the east of the canal along this section there are several exit points to the Jet Amber Fields woodland and meadows, with a picnic area by the car park which is shortly after the bridge.

5

Continue for 2 miles until you reach the Plantation Farmhouse, built in 1790, set down to your left. Here you will see a plaque dedicated to Mary Moffatt, who was born at the farm in 1975.

Mary Moffat Plaque

6

Continue past the Stanley Lift bridge and for another 0.3 miles, eventually passing beneath the railway viaduct before the River Tame comes into full view on your left with the impressive site of the Junction Mill red brick octagonal chimney beyond.

Junction Mill Chimney

7

Cross the River Tame aqueduct which leads to the Portland basin stone footbridge dated 1835, both of which are Grade II listed.

After passing under this elegant footbridge, you will be greeted by the full view of the Portland Basin and junctions with the Huddersfield and Ashton Canals.

Portland Basin Museum

8

To visit the Portland Basin Museum, go across the stone footbridge and take the steps up ahead to cross footbridge 29 which leads directly to the entrance.

The museum is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10am - 4pm with free entry and a canal side café with outdoor seating.

After returning over the stone bridge, go straight ahead onto the Ashton Canal towpath towards Guide Bridge station.

9

After 0.8 miles you will see a zig zag ramped exit to your left. Go up the ramp and exit onto Guide Lane.

10

Turn left and you will see the red brick station building up ahead to your left.

Take the cobbled entry road to the Glossop/Hadfield and Rose Hill platform or continue over the railway bridge to the Manchester platform which can be accessed by the steps or entry road to the station car park.

Find us at **www.semcorp.org.uk**

This leaflet has been produced by
South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership.

THE STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL

The Steel Cotton Rail Trail is a joint project between High Peak and Hope Valley & South East Manchester Community Rail Partnerships.

The Partnership includes local authorities, train operating companies, the Peak District National Park Authority, Canal and River Trust, Community Rail Network and Station Friends groups.

Our Partnerships are accredited by the Department for Transport.

Canal & River Trust

SOUTH EAST MANCHESTER COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

High Peak and Hope Valley COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Northern Trains serve all stations along the Steel Cotton Rail Trail.
For information on stations, tickets, station accessibility and timetables visit **www.northernrailway.co.uk**

For Northern's Passenger Assistance call **0800 1385560**

For UK wide rail enquiries call **03457 48 49 50**
or visit **www.nationalrail.co.uk**

When you are walking in the countryside, please follow the Countryside Code:
Respect everyone, Protect the environment, Enjoy the outdoors.