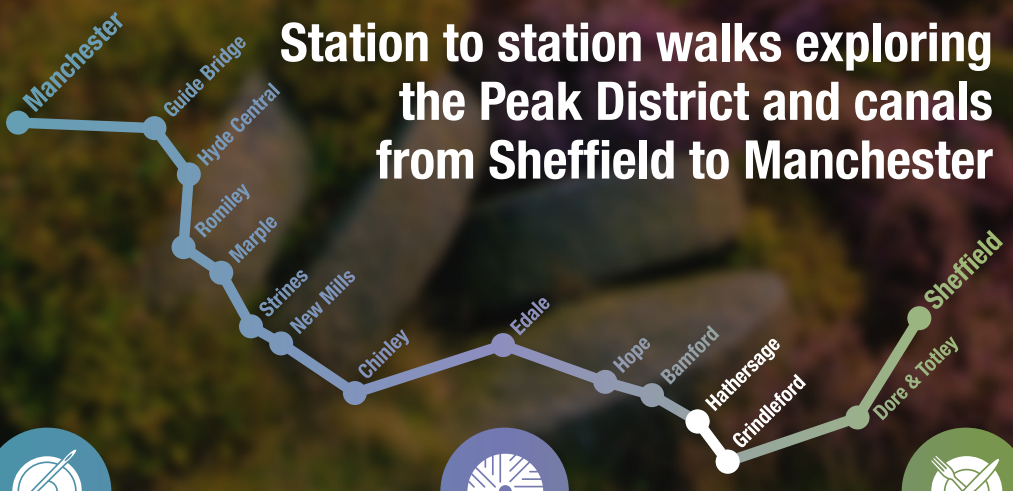
THE STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL

Grindleford Hathersage

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



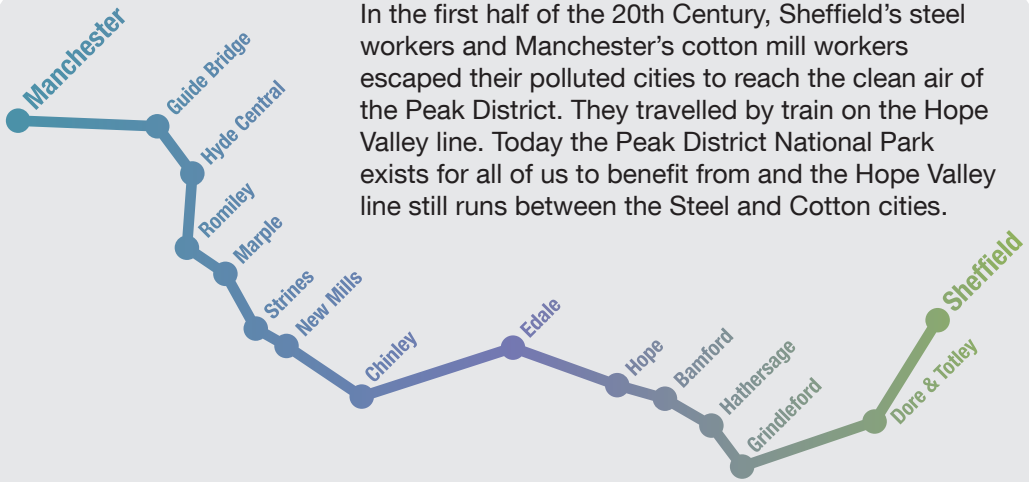
Thread your way along the Steel Cotton Rail Trail across the Peak District, from city to city and station to station.

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.

Grindleford to Hathersage

Pretty Grindleford station lies about a mile uphill from its small village and just below the magical ancient oak woodland of Padley Gorge.

This section of the Steel Cotton Rail Trail offers you historical gems, protected woodland filled with birdsong and a gentle riverside path through low-lying meadows.

About the walk

This walk is mostly level with a few moderate uphill and mostly downhill gradients. Some narrow gates, stoney and muddy tracks and paths through woodland and along a riverbank. This route is not fully accessible.

It crosses the boundary between Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer OL1 Dark Peak and OL24 White Peak.

Practicalities

Grindleford Station Café is open daily *(cash only)*. There are no public toilets in the village. In Hathersage there are several cafés and pubs, the closest to the station being Hathersage Pool café and David Mellor Design Museum café. There are public toilets *(including accessible)* in Hathersage village centre.

Grindleford village

Hathersage Church

DIFFICULTY: EASY LEVEL

DISTANCE: 2.5 / 4.0 IN MILES / KILOMETRES

HIGHEST POINT: 170 / 52 IN FEET / METRES

Stanage Edge

Look up to spot the huge gritstone edge of Stanage Edge, famous worldwide for climbing and once a hive of industrial activity. Millstones were hewn from the rockface by hand to use in the mills to grind grains into flour.

Bolehill Wood

Bolehill Wood - now a peaceful woodland, in the early 1900s it was a busy quarry, producing stone for the massive Derwent and Howden dams. Remains of the workings can still be discovered among the moss and trees.

Padley Chapel

Padley Chapel was once part of Padley Manor, owned by the Padley family who offered a haven for persecuted Catholic priests during the 1580s. Two priests were found there during a raid in July 1588 and were arrested, along with the whole family and their servants. The priests were subsequently executed and the manor house seized; the 'Padley martyrs' are remembered in the stained glass of the chapel today.

Hope Valley

Grindleford to Hathersage

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

DISTANCE IN MILES / KILOMETRES: 2.5 / 4.0

HIGHEST POINT IN FEET / METRES: 170 / 52

1

Leaving Grindleford station, walk up the station approach towards the bridge over the railway.

Turn left at the top and walk along the track over Burbage Brook.

Continue round to the left with Padley Mill on your right.

Keep straight on, walking parallel to the railway with a row of houses on your left and Bolehill Wood on your right.

Continue along the track which passes Brunt's Barn to your left and Padley Chapel to your right.

i Padley Chapel Bolehill Wood

2

Continue to a wide wooden vehicle gate with a National Trust sign and as you go through it look carefully for a grass track (approx. 25m) which veers off to your left. Follow the grassy track past a large rock on your right, down to a wooden gate, leading into a wooded area.

Follow the path down, keeping a stone wall to your right, until reaching a gate. Cross over the railway bridge.

3

From the bridge, bear right and head towards the gate in the wall.

You will then enter Coppice Wood.

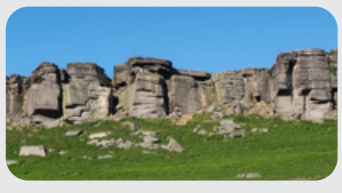
The path now descends further through Coppice Wood to meet the river Derwent and joins the riverside path coming from Grindleford village.

4

This is the Derwent Valley Heritage Way which the walk now follows towards Hathersage.

Keep the River Derwent on your left as you follow the path through a wooden gate and into open pasture.

i Stanage Edge



5

Continue along the riverbank until the next gate and then follow the path as it veers off slightly to the right and away from the river.

6

Soon you'll pass Harper Lees.

Walk along a tarmac road for a short stretch before re-joining the riverbank, passing a sewage treatment plant on the right before emerging onto the B6001.

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If you want to continue along the Hope Valley towards Bamford, cross over the road and turn left to rejoin the footpath following the River Derwent.

7

For Hathersage station turn right and follow the road under the railway bridge.

8

Turn right about 50m after the railway bridge to arrive at Hathersage station.

Find us at **www.peakdistrictbytrain.org**

This leaflet has been produced by
High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership.

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, Community Rail Network and Station Friends groups.
Our Partnerships are accredited by the Department for Transport.

High Peak and Hope Valley
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

SOUTH EAST MANCHESTER 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.