

# Rail Walks

in Knutsford and surrounding villages

2020  
UPDATE



A MID CHESHIRE COMMUNITY  
RAIL PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATION



The Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership and the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association (MCRUA) welcome you to a collection of walks from local railway stations within the beautiful countryside of Cheshire East, which can be accessed by public transport without the need for a car. The circular walks start and finish at the stations of Plumley, Knutsford, Mobberley, Ashley and Chelford.

The walks vary in length, but some have options for short cuts or extensions. All offer options for rest and refreshments. There are no toilet facilities on these walks, but each route features at least one public house offering a range of snacks and meals as well as toilets. All walks relate to either OS Explorer Map, sheets 267 or 268, scale 1:25,000. Apart from the Knutsford walk, the routes are not accessible for those with pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters as they feature several stiles and kissing gates as well as uneven ground in places. The Ashley and Chelford walks have no stiles, only gates.

For details of further walks within Cheshire, of which some are suitable for all abilities, search "Walking in Cheshire" at [visitcheshire.com](http://visitcheshire.com)

For the Plumley, Knutsford, Mobberley and Ashley walks, connecting train services run hourly Monday through to Saturday and two hourly on Sundays. Northern Timetable 17 features all the train times for the Mid Cheshire Line and can be downloaded from

[www.midcheshirerail.org.uk](http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk)

Train times for Chelford can also be downloaded from

[www.midcheshirerail.org.uk](http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk)

For bus services phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** or visit

[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

You can also contact Cheshire East Council on **0300 123 5500** or visit

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

The Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership can be contacted at [www.midcheshirerail.org.uk](http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk) or email [railofficer@midcheshirerail.org.uk](mailto:railofficer@midcheshirerail.org.uk)





## Countryside Code

### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared – take a map, appropriate clothing and footwear
- Follow advice and local signs

Information on the maps is shown as follows:

Suggested route		 Pylon
Motorways		
Major roads		
Other roads		
Footpath		
Railway line		
Railway station		
Woodland		
Ponds		
River/streams		



Whilst every effort has been made to make the walk details as comprehensive as possible, no responsibility can be taken for any changes to the routes or facilities which occur after the publication of this booklet. (March 2020)

## Enjoy a Day Out by Train

The Mid Cheshire Line offers people the opportunity to leave the car behind and enjoy a day out by train.

Aside from interesting rail walks there is plenty to do along the Line:

- Eating out at one of the many excellent pubs, cafés and restaurants
- Visiting National Trust properties at Tatton and Dunham Massey
- Learning about the salt and canal heritage at Northwich
- Shopping in Chester, Knutsford, Stockport and Manchester
- Visiting the Market House and ice skating in Altrincham
- Visiting museums in Chester, Northwich, Stockport and Manchester
- Cycling and walking in Delamere Forest



## Mid Cheshire Rail Users' Association (MCRUA)

The Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association with over 400 members is the rail user group for the Mid Cheshire Line. MCRUA is active in representing the interests of passengers on the Mid Cheshire Line from Chester to Manchester and those travelling between Crewe and Liverpool on the West Coast Main Line. They work to improve the service and its usage, and provide information on timetable changes and news on future developments.

For more information on MCRUA activities or joining the group, please look at **[www.mcrua.org.uk](http://www.mcrua.org.uk)**.

If you can't find what you are looking for then email **[enquiries@mcrua.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mcrua.org.uk)** for more information.

## The Crewe-Manchester Community Rail Partnership

The Crewe-Manchester Community Rail Partnership aims to promote usage of the Crewe-Manchester via Stockport and Airport rail lines, and improve the services and facilities along them. The Partnership, which

brings together transport providers, local authorities, major employers and the local community, was launched in May 2007 and continues to highlight the role of the services in a local and regional transport context.

For more information and updates on the progress of the Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership in achieving improvements to the rail service, please visit the website at [www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk](http://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk)

## The Mid Cheshire Line

The line links the cities of Manchester and Chester running through the scenic Mid Cheshire countryside. There are 16 stations along the line including Delamere, Northwich, Plumley, Knutsford, Mobberley, Ashley, Altrincham and Stockport.

The line has a Community Rail Partnership founded in 2003 to promote increased usage and to develop and improve facilities along the route. Enthusiastic volunteers are always welcome to get involved at stations and events along the line.

To find out more about the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership and the opportunities for travelling on the Mid Cheshire Line, go to [www.midcheshirerail.org.uk](http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk)



MCRUA and the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership hope that you enjoy these rail walks around the lovely Cheshire East countryside.



## Plumley Rail Trail Route

This circular walk explores the beautiful countryside around the village of Plumley, within the parishes of Plumley with Toft and Bexton.

The landscape is dominated by fields (for arable and dairy farming), hedges and large numbers of deciduous hedgerow trees with a scattering of small woods. There are two lakes, numerous field ponds and the delightful Peover Eye trout stream within the parish.

The walk takes you through some magnificent scenery, from streams and farmland to woodland and leafy lanes.

Situated within the Parish is Holford Hall, a magnificent large moated timber house built in 1620 for Mary Cholmondeley, the last heiress and survivor of the Holford family, on the death of her husband Hugh. It suffered from neglect and fell into disrepair in the nineteenth century. Owned by ICI for much of the last century, it is now restored and in private ownership.

**DISTANCE:** approximately 7 miles (11 kilometres) with an option for a short cut to halve the walk.

Allow 3½ to 4 hours for the full walk.

**MAP:** OS Explorer Map, sheet 267, scale 1:25,000.

### **GROUND CONDITIONS:**

The route is mostly flat but has numerous stiles. There are some wet and boggy areas and walking boots are a necessity.

**STILES AND GATES:** (on full walk) approx. 17 stiles and several gates.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Available from the Golden Pheasant public house in Plumley at either the start or end of the walk.



## The route

1. Leave the railway station and turn left onto Plumley Moor Road, towards the Golden Pheasant public house. Continue along the road for a further 250 yards (225 metres) until you reach a farm on your left, where you take the footpath signed opposite.
2. Turn right and walk in a straight line towards Trouthall Lane passing some small ponds on your left.
3. On reaching Trouthall Lane, turn right and then almost immediately left onto a road by Trout Hall Farm.
4. Cross over the Peover Eye stream and after 250 yards (225 metres) take the stile on your left. Keeping the hedge on your right-hand side, you will cross a wooden bridge.
5. Bear slightly left past the end of a hedgerow and head for a stile behind and to the left of a clump of trees ahead of you in the field.
6. Turn left on the road and cross the bridge over the Peover Eye again and continue on to the crossroads, ignoring the lane off to the left.

7. With care, cross straight over into Pinfold Lane and carry on ahead until you reach the black and white Holly Hedge Cottage on your left where the road turns right (approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile /  $\frac{3}{4}$  kilometre).



8. Turn left here down a dirt track and in 50 yards (45 metres) climb a high stile on your right and proceed with the hedge on your right through the first field, crossing a sleepered track. Follow the same direction through the second field to the railway embankment. Climb the embankment via the stile and steps and cross the tracks with great care – look and listen for trains – before descending the steps directly opposite and over a stile into the field.



9. Bear right to gain a brook on your right and follow it to the stile on to Sudlow Lane.
10. Turn left on the road, past Parkside Cottage and over a stile on your left into a field. The path heads towards a large oak tree and then skirts Royd Wood for approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile ( $\frac{3}{4}$  kilometre). Turn left at a field entrance with a red 'No entry' sign on your right and a hedge on your left and keep this hedge on your right before crossing Benstall Brook to reach White House Farm.
11. Pass through the farmyard and in 300 yards (275 metres) along the lane go into a field on your left at a footpath sign.
12. Keep the hedge to your right and turn right to cross a bridge over a deep ditch.
13. Carry on to reach Plumley Moor Road.  
(At this point you can shorten the walk by about a half, by turning left along the road, passing the village shop to return to the station).
14. Continue the longer walk by crossing the road into the right-hand field. Keep the fence and hedge on your left and in the second field, after a small

pond, bear slightly right past a post and a tree to a small bridge. Keep ahead, with the hedge now on your right, to reach the busy A556.

15. Turn left, staying on the same side of the main road, past Holford Farm and then immediately turn down a narrow tarmac lane on your left (once the main road between Plumley and Pickmere).



16. Cross the Peover Eye once again and turn right through a gate (the original footpath has been diverted here and the new path is clearly signed).
17. Continue on the new path through woodland, with wire fences on either side. Holford Hall is visible to your left.
18. Continue on the path through a kissing gate and turn left onto a track. Stay on this track with Holford Hall visible on your left. Where the track swings right, there is a short, dead-end length of footpath directly ahead through a



gate, leading to an information board about Holford Hall and a view over the moat. Retrace your steps back to the track and continue along the track to leave the woodland.

19. Proceed through a gate or adjacent stile into the next field.
20. Carry on along a well-defined track past a series of small ponds on your left. At the end of the large field bear left down a track between hedges.
21. Carry on down the hill to a stile to the left of a gate and after a few yards turn left over a bridge to cross the Peover Eye. At the top of the incline turn right by a thatched cottage and proceed along Truthall Lane (no road sign).
22. Continue under the railway bridge until you see a footpath marked on the left (approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile/1  $\frac{1}{4}$  kilometres from the thatched cottage) opposite Truthall Farm and make your way back through the fields until you reach Plumley Moor Road at Beech House Farm.
23. Turn left to reach the station.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### REFRESHMENTS

#### THE GOLDEN PHEASANT

Tel: 01565 722261

#### Opening Times

Mon – Sat 12.00 noon – 11.00pm

Sunday 12.00 noon – 10.30pm

#### Food Serving Times

Mon – Sat 12 noon – 9.00pm

Sunday 12 noon – 8.00pm

# Knutsford Rail Trail Route

This circular walk explores the beautiful and historic town of Knutsford as well as the grounds of Tatton Park. For more information about the Knutsford area, visit [www.visitcheshire.com/explore/knutsford](http://www.visitcheshire.com/explore/knutsford)

Knutsford was recorded in William the Conqueror's Domesday Book of 1086 as Cunetesford ("Canute's ford"). King Canute (Knútr in Old Norse) was the King of England (1016–1035) and later King of Denmark, Norway and parts of Sweden as well.

## **DISTANCE:**

5 miles (8 kilometres).  
(2-3 hours plus stops) with an optional extension.

**MAP:** OS Explorer Map, sheet 268, scale 1: 25,000.

## **GROUND CONDITIONS AND STILES/KISSING GATES:**

The route is flat and without stiles or kissing gates and can be accessed by wheelchairs and pushchairs, although patches of the parkland can be muddy. Good walking shoes are advisable.





Knutsford was the model for Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Cranford*. She lived in the town for some time and is buried in the Unitarian Chapel graveyard. Many of the places and people described in her books can be identified as being based on places and people in the town. In 2007 the BBC adapted the novel and produced the popular TV series, *Cranford*.

Tatton Park is one of the UK's most complete historic estates. The Mansion, Gardens, Farm, Old Hall, 1,000 acre deer park and speciality shops offer something for everyone. Tatton Park is one of the North West's most popular heritage attractions. It has a history dating back to Bronze Age farming and has been home to herds of deer since the 13th century. In the

late Tudor period Tatton was acquired by the Egerton family who owned the estate until the last Lord Egerton died without heirs in 1958. Maurice Egerton bequeathed the estate to the National Trust and in 1960 a lease was drawn up with Cheshire County Council who managed and financed the property on behalf of the National Trust until April 2009, when responsibility transferred to Cheshire East Council.

The walk combines a leisurely exploration of Knutsford Town and clearly defined footpaths through the grounds of Tatton Park where a range of optional, additional short walks highlight the beauty and history of the park.



## The route

1. Coming from the Chester direction, leave the station at the ticket office and turn right, down through the car park and turn left into King Street.

Coming from the Manchester direction, leave the station on the level, through a small car park and turn left into Adams Hill and left again under the railway bridge into King Street.

This delightful route passes numerous attractive shops, cafes and restaurants.

2. As you leave the town head towards the gate ahead, as this is the pedestrian entrance into Tatton Park.
3. There are several tracks through the park which head towards the Mansion and the one to the right of the main drive affords beautiful views of Tatton Mere. Keep parallel to the main drive as it bears left and you pass Melchett Mere on your left hand side.

4. Take the footpath on your left towards the Mansion which can be seen in the distance.
5. Proceed past the Mansion and enter the courtyard, where there are excellent café and toilet facilities, as well as a chance to buy tickets to visit the Mansion and gardens.
6. At this point, a number of optional extensions can be added to the walk and maps showing the routes can be picked up from the shop or Stables Restaurant. There is a nature trail which starts in the Stableyard and then follows numbered wooden posts (2–19) painted with an orange band, and if you chose this route you can leave the trail at point 17, where it joins your original route towards the Knutsford Gate.
7. Rejoin the route signed Knutsford Gate and exit the park. Turn left into Drury Lane and then bear right down the hill. You will pass the Ruskin Rooms. There is an inscription on the building which commemorates General Patton's use of the building during a stay in Cheshire, which reads 'Welcome Club for officers of the Third Army opened by General George Patton on 25th April 1944 prior to participation in the Liberation of Europe'.
8. Carry on past the attractive pastel cottages and admire the name plates which include 'Linen House' and 'Tower House'.
9. Bear right at the bottom of the hill and follow the road with a brook to your right and glimpses of the Mere on your left. This brook is actually the River Lily, reputed to be the smallest 'river' in Europe and to have been the waterway forded by King Canute. However, it is more likely that if he did pass through Knutsford it was the nearby Birkin Brook which he forded. The road opens out as it passes the Moor, a popular site for families with a large children's play area.
10. At the end of the road you will meet the junction with King Street and the Railway Station is in front of you.
11. As an alternative, you can return around the far (east) side of Tatton Mere but note that this route has 2 large kissing gates. Keep the Mere on your right hand side and when you reach the first exit gate continue up the stone track ahead to a second gate and a bridge over the railway leading to Mallard Close. Turn right into Teal Avenue and right again onto Mobberley Road. Continue for about 200 yards and turn right down Moordale Road and left at the bottom beside the railway. Turn right under the railway and cross the Moor ahead, passing the southern end of the mere on your right to emerge on Moorside and the River Lily. Turn left to rejoin the route above.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### TATTON PARK

General Enquiries Tel: 01625 374400  
 Infoline: 01625 374435 [www.tattonpark.org.uk](http://www.tattonpark.org.uk)  
 (Please note the park is closed on Mondays in low season.)

There are many opportunities for refreshments both in Knutsford and Tatton Park, where toilet facilities are also available.

# Mobberley Rail Trail Route

This circular walk explores the beautiful countryside in the Parish of Mobberley, one of the oldest parishes in England. The area is rich in history and the route passes the church of St Wilfrid and St Mary which dates back to 1245 and is certainly worthy of a visit.

The railway station was built in 1862, followed by the establishment of the Railway Inn which was no doubt much appreciated by weary travellers! With another public house on the route, the Church Inn, excellent food and toilet facilities are readily available.

The walk combines a range of footpaths through pasture and arable fields, as well as country lanes and an impressive stretch which crosses the approach to the runway of Manchester Airport. Here is where the incoming planes loom at what feels like just a few feet overhead!

**DISTANCE:** approximately 3.7 miles (6 kilometres). Allow 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 2 hours.

**MAP:** OS Explorer Map, sheet 268, scale 1: 25,000.

**GROUND CONDITIONS:**

The route is mostly flat but has numerous stiles. There are some wet and boggy areas and walking boots are a necessity. Some fields of sheep.

**STILES:** Ten.

**KISSING GATES:** Nine.





## The route

1. Leave the railway station by the platform for the Chester train and walk uphill a few metres to a gate and footpath sign on the left through a field.
2. Enter the field and follow the footpath along the left-hand field margin until you come to a short hedge at a right angle in front of you in approximately 218 yards/200 metres. Turn right and follow the hedge a few metres until
- its end. Then head diagonally left across the middle of the field, to the far corner, passing a lonely oak tree on your right.
3. Proceed ahead to the corner of the field where the path leads through a small copse down to a stream.
4. Cross the stream by the bridge and proceed across the field and over the stile on to a lane.



5. Turn right along the lane.
6. At a road sign on the left indicating a double bend just past Owen House Farm, take the footpath to the left over a stile and bear slightly right across the field.

A narrow gap in the fence indicates the route, which proceeds across a track into a second field. Cross this field towards a footpath sign on the far side.

7. Cross the bridge over a stream between two ponds and carry on across the next field to a gate to the left of the pylon.
8. Enter this field and, skirting the right-hand side of the pond, head across the field to a stile (to the left of the gate).

To your right you will see the lights of the airport runway and may like to

spend some time watching the succession of planes as they roar overhead! Please take note that the runway is only in use at busy times of the day, (i.e. breakfast and tea time) so you may not always see the departure and arrival of the planes.

9. Cross the stile and then immediately cross a second stile to then cross a tarmac track and short stretch of grass to yet another stile. Crossing this stile leads to a path bordered by high hedges of dog rose, hawthorn, blackthorn and willow.
10. Keep following the path, with farm buildings to your right to join Lady Lane.
11. Turn right along the lane and take the first turning on the left (Davenport Lane). Immediately after Willow House, take the footpath to the right, through a kissing gate.

12. Proceed through 3 fields via 3 kissing gates keeping to the boundary which, after the second gate, is on your left. Mobberley Church can now be seen in the distance.
13. At the end of the 3rd field, inside the field boundary, turn right along the edge of the field towards a double kissing gate at the adjoining boundary. Go through the gate and continue along the footpath towards the church, passing Mobberley Primary School playing field on your right.
14. Exit the field at the kissing gate into the car park of the Church Inn.
15. Turn right onto the road, taking time to visit the beautiful Church of St Wilfrid and St Mary.
16. Carry on a short distance along the road to a right-hand bend, and then take a footpath on the left-hand side of the road between a dairy farm and a bungalow.
17. Climb 2 stiles in quick succession onto a track between hedge and fence across a field and over a further stile into the next field.
18. Continue until the end of the next field. Climb a stile on the left just before a gate and walk along the field boundary towards a factory complex. At the end of the field, on the right, climb another stile into the next field.



19. Proceed to the farmyard fence, then turn right in that same field to the end of the fence. Turn left and keeping the farmyard on your left, carry straight on (ignore stiles on your left near the farm building and further on under the wires between the electricity pylons).
20. Proceed to the far end of the field, taking care as the ground is boggy in parts. Pass over a stile in the fence on your left, through a boggy overgrown area and skirt the boundary of a private garden, crossing boggy land with a pond to your right.
21. Proceed to a tarmac driveway. Turn left through a small gate in the wall of the property and walk along the drive-cum-road.
22. Turn right onto a road with a river to your left and walk slightly uphill, passing Leycester Drive on your left, to a main road.



23. Turn left at the main road (signposted Ashley).
24. Take the first turning on the left along Station Road (signposted Mobberley Station) and return to your starting point, close to the Railway Inn.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### REFRESHMENTS

#### **THE CHURCH INN** (Dog friendly)

Tel: 01565 873178

Opening times:

Sun – Tue 10.30am – 10.30pm

Wed – Sat 10.30am – 11.00pm

Food served:

Sun 12.00 noon – 08.45pm

Mon – Thu 12.00 noon – 09.00pm

Fri – Sat 12.00 noon – 09.45pm

#### **THE RAILWAY INN** (Dog friendly)

Tel: 01565 873155

Open from 12.00 noon daily

Food served Monday to Friday

12.00 noon–2.30pm & 6.00–9.30pm

Saturday 12.00 noon–9.30pm

Sundays 12.00 noon–8.30pm

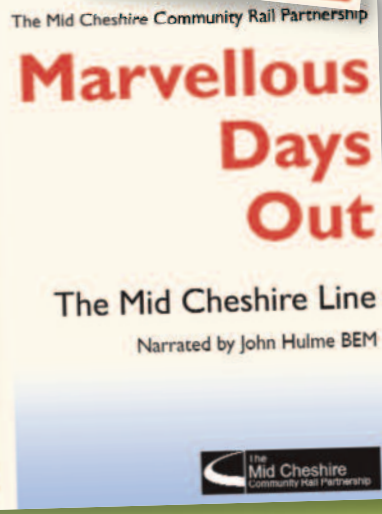
Special Senior Citizen menu

Monday to Friday lunch.

Find out more about our visitor attractions on the Mid Cheshire Line, connecting Chester to Manchester via Northwich, Knutsford, Altrincham and Stockport in our...

# Marvellous Days Out on the Mid Cheshire Line publication

Inspired by Nicky Thompson's successful railway poster artwork, this 36 page full colour booklet is your ideal companion guide to this rail walks booklet.



AVAILABLE FROM OUR STAFFED STATIONS AND LINESIDE ATTRACTIONS

DOWNLOADABLE AT [MARVELLOUSDAYSOUT.ORG.UK](http://MARVELLOUSDAYSOUT.ORG.UK)



## Ashley Rail Trail Route

The village of Ashley lies very close to both the M56 motorway and Manchester Ringway Airport, but retains a rural charm whilst serving a strong farming community.

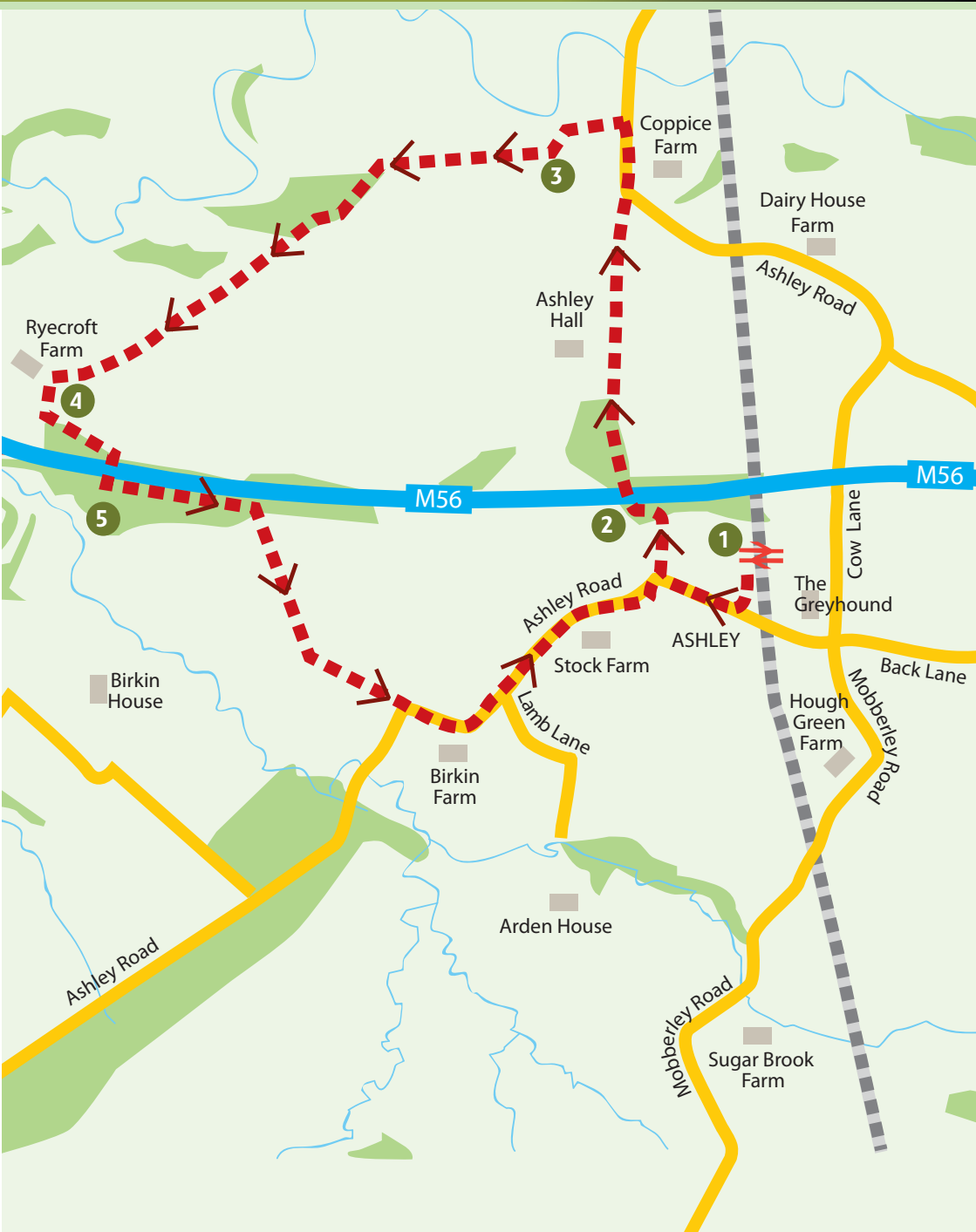
**DISTANCE:** 3.6 miles (5.7 kilometres)  
Allow 1 ¼ to 1 ½ hours (plus stops).

**MAP:** OS Explorer Map, sheet 268,  
scale 1: 25,000.

**GROUND CONDITIONS:** The walk is almost flat and is on surfaced tracks except between Ryecroft Farm and Birkin Farm, which are just clearly marked footpaths.

**STILES:** None.

**KISSING GATES:** Three.



# The route

1. Proceed from the station up to the road at the top and turn right into Ashley Road. After approximately 300 yards/275 metres, passing the church on your right, turn right on a sharp bend, through a gate onto a surfaced farm track heading north and signed 'Ashley Hall'.
2. After a short distance, the track crosses the M56 via a bridge. Continue along this track, passing Ashley Hall Farm (now a showground and event centre) on your left, where the track becomes briefly cobbled. The track eventually meets Ashley Road. Continue straight on along Ashley Road before taking the first turn left into Ashley Mill Lane.



3. In approximately 150 yards/137 metres there is a fork where you take the lane on the left, signposted for Ryecroft Farm. Follow this road for nearly a mile /1 ½ kilometres until Ryecroft Farm is almost reached.

4. Turn left at a footpath sign through a kissing gate, just before the farm buildings, to follow the hedge line towards the M56, then after a short distance turn left again through another kissing gate. The path then heads parallel to the motorway with woodland to your right, until it turns right and the motorway is crossed by an over bridge.



5. After crossing the bridge immediately turn left onto the Bollin Valley Way footpath, which follows the motorway for about 350 yards/320 metres and then turns right following a field boundary. Follow the path beside the hedge which will eventually curve round to the left. Keep following this until a surfaced road is reached via a kissing gate and carry on straight ahead to pass Birkin Farm on your right. Follow this road which winds its way until the station entrance is found on your left.



## VISITOR INFORMATION

### **The Greyhound** (Dog friendly)

Tel: 0161 871 7765

#### Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday 12.00 noon–11pm

Friday - Saturday 12.00 noon–12 midnight

Sunday 12.00 noon–10.30pm

#### Food serving times

Monday - Saturday 12.00 noon–9.00pm

Sunday 12.00 noon–8.00pm

The public house is found by continuing along the road at the end of the walk, rather than turning into the station, and is on the corner after about 200 yards/183 metres.





## Chelford Village Walk

Chelford is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Celeford. At that time, it was a very small village of only 80 acres. Chelford village today is surrounded by rural farmland and is situated 5 miles/8.5km southeast of Knutsford, close to the Capesthorpe Estate. The local church, St John's, was rebuilt in 1776 with the tower and spire added later in 1840. Chelford is also served by a village shop and the Egerton Arms public house.

**DISTANCE:**

4 miles (6.3 kilometres).  
Allow 2 – 2½ hours.

**MAP:** OS Explorer Map, sheet 268, scale 1: 25,000.

**GROUND CONDITIONS:**

The walk is fairly flat and includes well marked tracks and footpaths as well as country lanes. There may be muddy patches and walking boots are recommended.

**STILES:** None.

**KISSING GATES:** Ten.

**WICKET GATES:** Two.



## The route

1. Start from Chelford Station, facing away from the station building. Walk down Station Road (a short detour to The Paper Shop to get some sweets for the walk), turning right on to Dixon Drive.

Go past the end of Elmstead Road (on your left). After about 230 yards/ 210 metres, where the tarmac road ends and a short cobbled footpath links to the next road, turn right on to a footpath by a timber fence. Go under the railway line through the kissing gate and follow the footpath in an easterly direction through the next two fields to join Alderley Road by the old Chelford School. Turn left along Alderley Road (A535) and cross safely to go through the kissing gate into the field.





2. Look straight ahead for the oak tree in the field at the top of a small rise and go past this and turn left through the next kissing gate. The path now goes straight across the sand pit between two fenced pools.

(Note: the path across the sandpit may occasionally be flooded and impassable after prolonged rain. If you are faced with this you will need to retrace your steps to the road, turn left to the roundabout and left again on the footway alongside the A537 to rejoin the route between points 4 and 5).

3. Cross a gated track and after about 30 metres the path turns sharp right through a narrow-wooded path. Follow this path with a large sand pit lake on your left and through two gates. Keep on the path, with George's Wood (and its beautiful bluebells in spring) on your right, to pass through a kissing gate and turn right on to Stubby Lane, following this up the slight rise to Macclesfield Road.

4. At the junction of Stubby Lane and Macclesfield Road (A537) turn right and continue for about 175 yards/ 160 metres before crossing the road with care to the Astle Farm access road.
5. Carry on down this lane, crossing Bag Brook then immediately turn right into a small lane and proceed for about 160 yards/ 145 metres. Just before Brook Farm house, go through the kissing gate on your left and take the field path ahead running westerly towards St. John's church through three more kissing gates. Look out for the magnificent oak tree, close to the path on your right. Look back to the east for a lovely view of the hills.



- Eventually, you will enter the church car park through the last kissing gate and follow the path by St. John's church (built in 1776) and the picturesque Church Cottages (note the 'windows' in the wall opposite) to turn right on to the A535.

Follow the footway and after about 160 yards/ 145 metres cross the road with care on the bridge over Bag Brook and follow the footway to Chelford Corner Shoppe.

The Shoppe opened in 1705 and was also a Post Office from around 1854 until recently. Here you can get all manner of light refreshments including ice cream and, on weekday mornings, freshly made bacon butties. There's even a bench opposite to have a rest.

- Once refreshed, turn down Peover Lane and after about 350 yards/ 320 metres turn right on to a footpath between two hedges (Gypsy Lane)



which runs roughly north-westerly towards Chelford Village Hall.

- At the junction with the A535 Knutsford Road, cross carefully over to the Village Hall and walk up the slight rise to cross the railway bridge to return to Chelford Station.
- If you still have any energy, walk west towards Knutsford, on the footway by the A537 for another ½ mile / ¾ kilometre for a well-earned pint or cup of tea at the Egerton Arms.

## VISITOR INFORMATION



### REFRESHMENTS

#### THE CORNER SHOPPE

Monday to Thursday 8.30am–6.30pm

Friday 8.30am – 7.00pm

Saturday 9.00am–5.00pm

#### THE EGERTON ARMS (DOG-FRIENDLY)

Tel: 01625 861366

Monday to Saturday

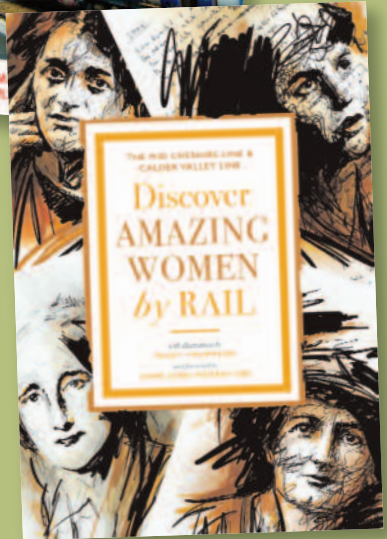
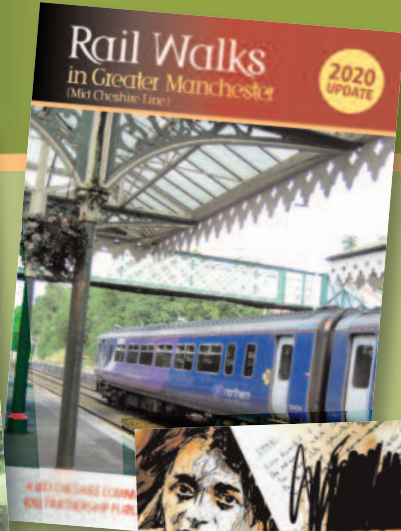
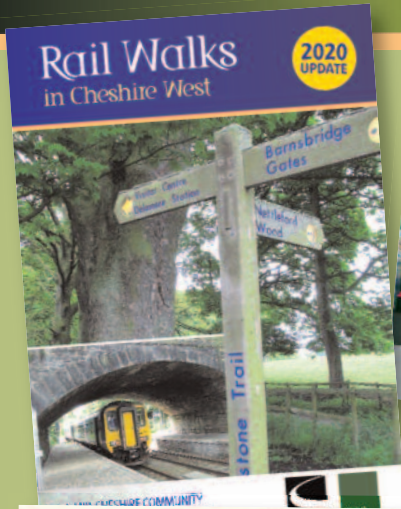
12.00 Noon–11.00pm

Food until 10.00pm

Sunday 12.00 Noon–10.30pm

Food until 10.00pm

# OTHER PUBLICATIONS



For further information on exploring Mid Cheshire by train including downloadable copies of the above booklets visit

- [www.midcheshirerail.org.uk](http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk)
- [www.marvellousdaysout.org.uk](http://www.marvellousdaysout.org.uk)
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