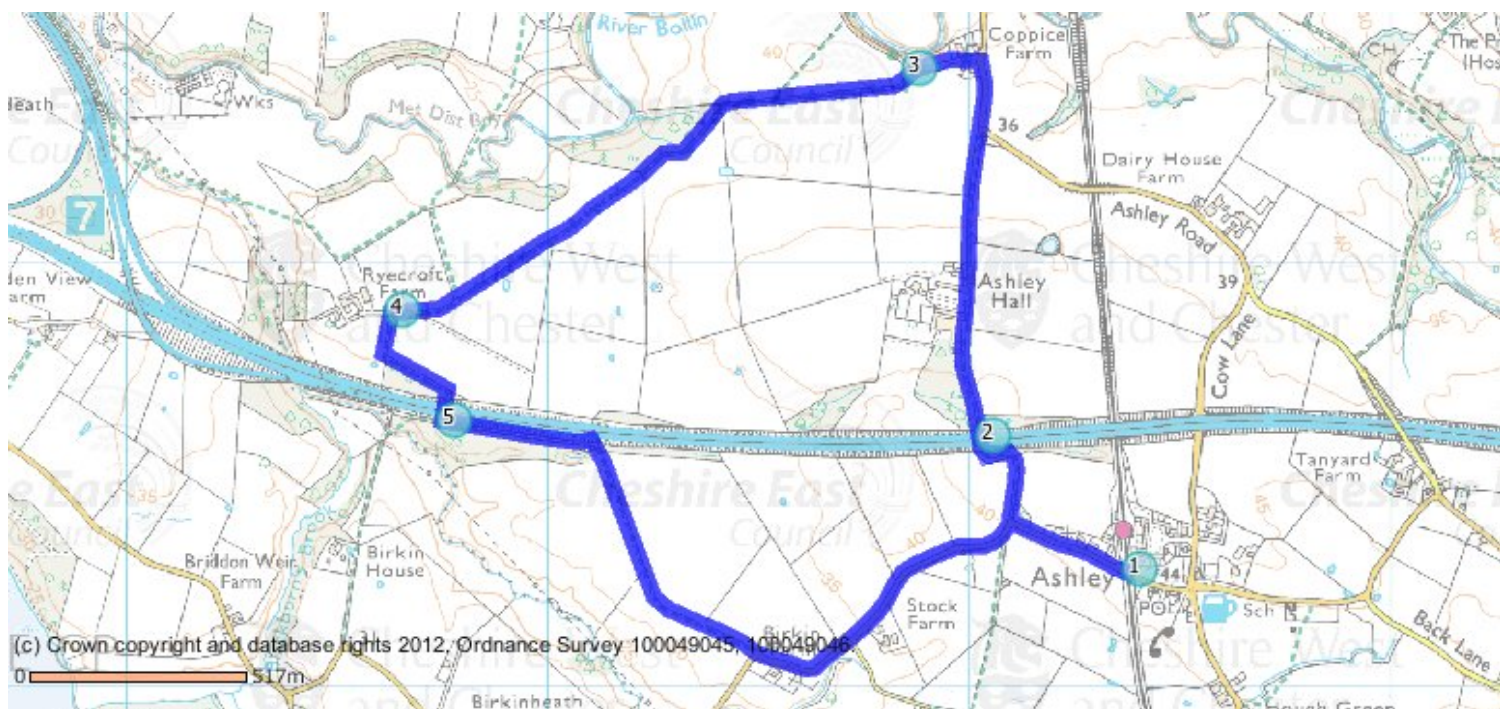


Ashley Rail Trail Route

Despite its proximity to the airport and M56, Ashley retains a rural charm.

Grade	Easy
Distance	3 ¾ miles / 6 km
Time	1 ¾ to 2 hours
Start	Ashley Railway Station
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Almost flat, surfaced tracks and unsurfaced footpaths
Barriers	0 stiles, 3 kissing gates
Toilets	None on route, but available for patrons of the Greyhound Pub
Contact	Public Rights of Way tel. 01270 686029



Route Details

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. The walk is mainly level and offers contrasts of the rural and the major transport links which pass through and over this corner of Cheshire.

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

Barriers: 0 stiles, 3 kissing gates

Toilets: There are no facilities on the route, but toilets are available to patrons of the Greyhound pub.

Refreshments: There are no facilities on the route, but refreshments are available at the Greyhound pub (tel: 0161 941 2246) which welcomes walkers and is also dog friendly. It serves real ale and food. 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.

Open Monday to Saturday 11.30am - 11pm

Food served 12 noon - 2.30pm and 6.00pm - 9.00pm

(Please note that no food will be served on Monday or Tuesday evenings)

Sunday 12 noon - 10.30pm Food served 12 noon - 7.00pm

Contact: For queries relating to the walk or public rights of way, please contact: Public Rights of Way, Phoenix House, Clough Road, Winsford, CW7 4BD. Tel. 01606 271830.

This route forms one of the Knutsford Rail Walks leaflet which is a collection of local walks from railway stations in the Knutsford Local Area Partnership. The leaflet was developed by members of the partnership and the Mid Cheshire Rail Users' Association.

Directions

1. Proceed from the station up to the road at the top and turn right into Ashley Road. After approximately 100 yards, passing the church on your right, turn right on a sharp bend, through a gate onto a surfaced farm track heading north.

2. After a short distance, the track crosses the M56 via a bridge. Continue along this track, passing Ashley Hall Farm on your left. Shortly after the farm, the track becomes tarmac and 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 there is a fork where you take the lane on the left, signposted for Ryecroft Farm. Follow this road for nearly a mile until Ryecroft Farm is almost reached. There is a lone oak tree about half way with a conveniently placed picnic table beneath it which makes for an excellent refreshment stop!

4. Turn left 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 a fifth of a mile 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.