

Plumley Rail Trail Walk

Explore Plumley's countryside direct from the train station!

Grade	Easy/Moderate
Distance	7 ¾ miles / 12 km (with option to half the length)
Time	4 hours (for the full walk)
Start	Plumley Railway Station
Map	OS Explorer 267
Terrain	Mostly flat, but with numerous stiles
Barriers	12 stiles, 1 kissing gate
Toilets	At refreshment stops
Contact	Public Rights of Way tel. 01270 686029



Route Details

This circular walk explores the beautiful countryside around the village of Plumley, within the parish 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.

Terrain: The route is mostly flat but has numerous stiles and is therefore unsuitable for those with mobility problems. There are some wet and boggy areas and walking boots are a necessity.

Barriers: 12 stiles, 1 kissing gate

Toilets: Toilet facilities are available at the refreshment stop.

Refreshments: The Golden Pheasant Tel: 01565 722125 Monday to Saturday 11.30am – 11pm Food served 11.30am-9pm Sunday 11.30am – 8pm Carvery served until 4pm

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. Leave the railway station and turn left onto Plumley Moor Road, towards the Golden Pheasant public house. Continue along the road until you reach Beech House Farm, where you take the footpath signed opposite (approximately 300 yards).
2. Turn right, over the stile and walk in a straight line towards Trouthall Lane.
3. On reaching Trouthall Lane, turn right and then almost immediately left onto a road (signposted Lach Dennis).
4. Cross over the Peover Eye stream and after 300 yards, take the stile on your left. Keeping the hedge on your right hand side, you will cross a wooden bridge.
5. Keep walking in the same direction and head for a gate to the right of a white house. Exit the field by a stile onto Back Lane.
6. Turn left on the road and cross the Peover Eye again and continue on to the crossroads.
7. Go 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 (approx half a mile).
8. Turn left here down a dirt track and in 50 yards climb a high stile on your right and proceed with the hedge on your right through the first field. Follow the same direction through the second field to the railway embankment. Climb the embankment and at the top turn right and then descend the next embankment. Great care must be exercised crossing the railway – look and listen for trains before crossing.
9. Carry on in the same direction, with a brook on your right, 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Bear left and keep the hedge on your right before crossing Benstall Brook to reach White House Farm.
11. Pass through the farmyard and in 300 yards along the lane go over a stile to your left.
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 via a stile (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 and climbing a stile ahead, passing between two electricity poles, through fields in the same direction and crossing three further stiles 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 stream once again and turn right through a gate (the original footpath has been rerouted 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 bear left onto a track. Stay on this track bearing left with Holford Hall on your left and then turn right. Ignore other footpath signs (although there is a short diversion on a bend over a stile, where a short path will afford wonderful views of Holford Hall and the surrounding moat).

19. Proceed through a metal gate into the next field.

20. Carry on along a well defined path and follow the path as it bears left between hedges.

21. Carry on down the hill to cross the Peover Eye stream. At the top of the incline turn right by a thatched cottage and proceed along Trouthall Lane (no road sign).

22. Continue under the railway bridge until you see a footpath marked on the left (approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the thatched cottage) opposite Trouthall 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.