

THE LYDIATE LOOP

Starting and finishing at Sumners Turn Bridge on Bells Lane. The nearest bus stop is on Southport Road, just a short walk from the start. The walk is generally level throughout.

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WALK - MODERATE

Walk along Bells Lane, just past the pub turn left and follow the footpath signed Green Lane around the field edge, crossing Maghull Brook at the footbridge and continue straight on to Green Lane. Turning right, walk along Green Lane and after 600m turn right to follow the track at Maukin Farm to reach the Cheshire Lines Path/Trans Pennine Trail.

Heading right (north) this path is part of the 215mile (346km) Trans Pennine Trail and was the trackbed of the former Southport and North Liverpool Extension of the Cheshire Lines Railway, which was opened in 1884 and closed for passenger traffic in 1952.

The site of the former Lydiate Station is reached after 1.25miles (2km) where there's a car park and an information panel on the Trans Pennine Trail. The mosslands here are particularly productive for wildlife which attracts birds of prey such as Kestrels and Buzzards to the area.

Carry on across the car park and follow the trail to the next path on the right. Follow this path to Acres Lane, turn left, then cross over the road and join the footpath on the right. Follow the footpath signs around the field edges, passing the ruins of Lydiate Hall which are visible through the trees, before reaching the busy A5147, Southport Road.

A short detour to the right brings us to two interesting buildings. The ruins of St Catherine's Chapel, which was the private place of worship for the Ireland family of Lydiate Hall, probably dating from the early 15th Century, and next to the chapel is the cruck-framed Scotch Piper Inn, built around an oak tree and reputed to be the oldest inn in Lancashire. An injured highland piper soldier returning from a battle in the Jacobite Rebellion, c.1745, supposedly stopped off at the inn and married the landlord's daughter. The inn was renamed the Highlander, and later the Scotch Piper.

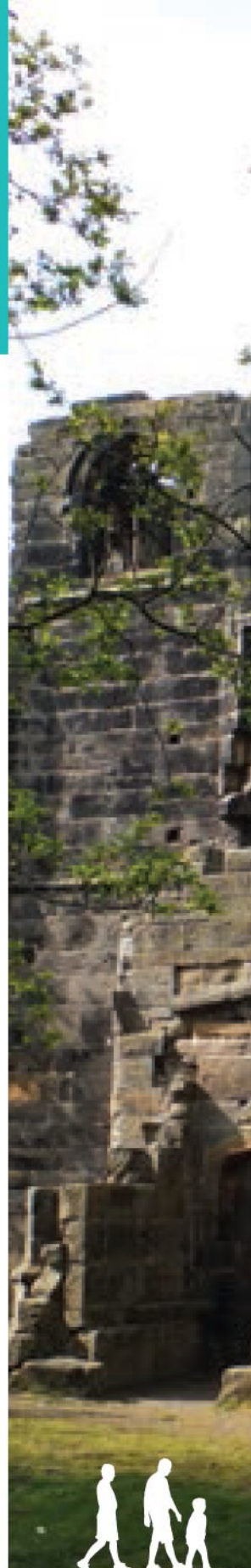
Returning to where the footpath meets the main road, cross over and into Hall Lane. After 0.75mile (1km) we reach



Scotch Piper public house



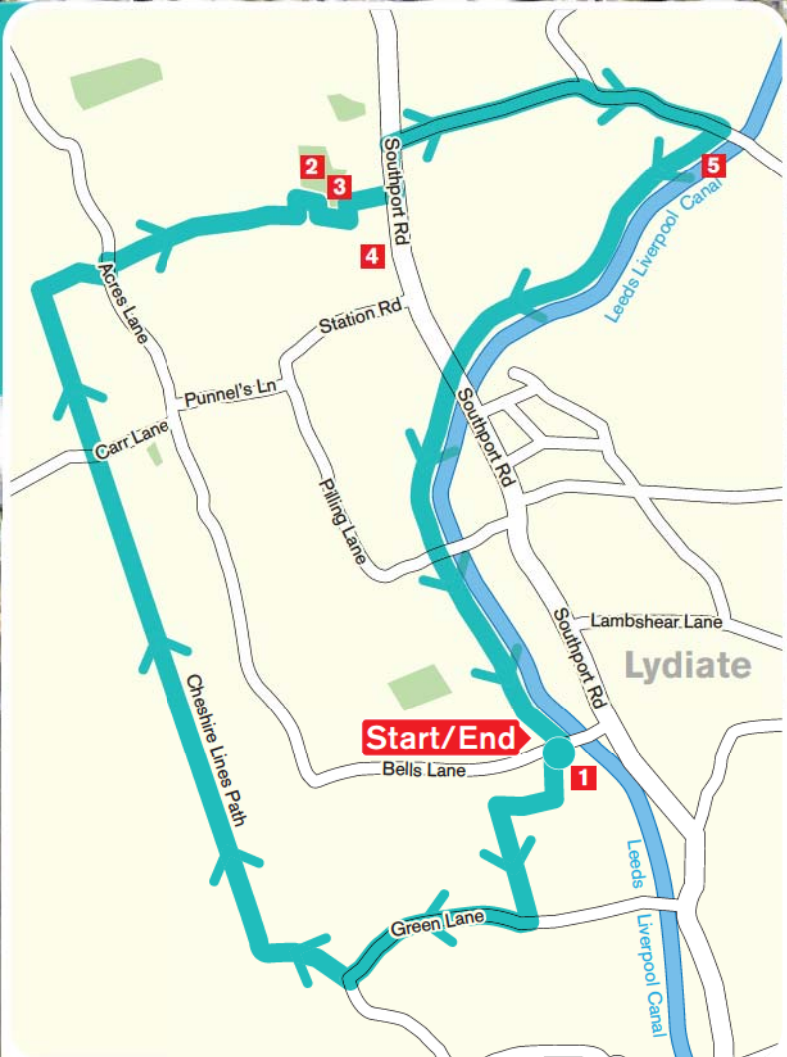
Running Horses public house



Keypoints

Distance - 6 miles (9.65km)

- 1 The Running Horses Public House
- 2 Lydiate Hall
- 3 Hay Loft Coffee Shop
- 4 The Scotch Piper
- 5 Leeds Liverpool Canal



the Leeds Liverpool Canal at Jacksons Bridge. Turn right onto the canal towpath and pass the canal bank cottages nearby, typical examples of canal side architecture.

Taking almost 40 years to complete the Leeds Liverpool Canal at 127.25miles (206km) is the longest canal in the country. Continue along the canal passing under Lydiate Bridge and 0.75miles (1km) further on we return to our starting point.

St Cathrine's Chapel